

With spring having come to our capital and with Easter upon us, I would like to make part of our RECORD Governor Coleman's Essay of April 5, 1997, "Reflections on Easter and Spring."

REFLECTIONS ON EASTER AND SPRING
(By Peter Tali Coleman)

Yesterday I came home to our family residence here in Hawaii after a stay at Queen's Hospital over the Easter holidays. While it's never fun to be in the hospital, this Easter was memorable because all our family gathered to be here with Nora and me in a big family lounge that the hospital set aside for us.

As I said the grace before we began our Easter meal, I could not help but think of the meaning of Easter and Spring, since the first day of Spring this year came only a few days before Palm Sunday, the traditional beginning of our Easter season after the long winter Lent.

Spring and Easter are about the renewal of life and new beginnings. Our Lord perished on the Cross for our sins, but was resurrected to give all of us hope for the future and a better life in eternity. So, too, does Mother nature awaken each Spring to begin a new cycle of life and growth. On the Mainland, the last of the snow melts away, the flowers begin to bloom and land is green again. Here in the Pacific where it's always green, the life-sustaining rains give way to the drier and warmer times of spring and summer and we go about all the chores we had put aside until better weather.

I could not help but think of family in the same way I think of Spring and Easter when I saw all of our family members on Easter, especially the little grandchildren and great grandchildren, great nieces and nephews, all with their wide eyes of expectation and excitement with Easter eggs and candy and Easter baskets, and bunnies and chicks and all the joys and traditions that go with a holiday which brings families together everywhere in the Christian world.

The presence of the little children is God's way of bringing renewal and new beginnings to our families. When we look out and see those bright and shining faces, eager to learn about the world around them and beyond, we can take comfort in knowing that this world will be in good hands when their generation takes over. We can find peace in knowing that when our own time comes to join our Lord, if we have done our job on earth, we will have our families to carry on and through them we will continue to live, for our very blood flows through their veins and their children's veins in a cycle which forever will renew itself.

My own life has been dedicated to service to the people and devotion to my family. Although my days of public service now have come to a close, the Samoan people and all the peoples of the Pacific Islands I have been privileged to know in my work and travels remain in my thoughts as a new generation of leaders and servants seeks to find a true path to renewal and new beginnings for our strong but fragile societies and cultures at the dawn of a new century and a new millennium.

God has allowed me to see so much dramatic change through the course of this century. As amazing as it seems, the Samoa of my youth no doubt much more resembled the Samoa of most of the millennium which preceded it than it does the Samoa of today, which is poised to enter the 21st century. The pace of change in this century about to close has been dramatic. As a child in Samoa after World War I, I could not begin to comprehend or imagine the things we take for granted today, from modern medicine to

computers to the Hubble Space Telescope. Nor can I begin to imagine now what the next century will bring.

Whether I will be here to witness the beginning of the next millennium and new beginnings it will prompt is in God's hands. But wherever I may be and whatever advances science and industry may bring, I know that the futures will be bright if we remain true to our values. Those values are love of God, devotion to family, protection of culture, and courtesy and respect towards one another.

For myself, it counts little what I may have achieved here on earth in 55 years of government service through war and peace. My failures were my own and my successes were the result of all the good colleagues and friends around me. But, for all of us, no matter what our calling in life, our truest legacies are the families which are asked to carry on when we are gone.

So, while my days in public service may be finished, I have come home now to be with my family. They bring me joy and inspiration as I think about the future. They are all here now and I take great comfort in their presence. They have come to be with Nora and me from near and far: from the Mainland to Saipan to our beloved Samoa. And because they are so scattered, I have agreed to a consensus of my family's wishes that I should lie in rest in Hawaii. But in so doing, they have assented to my wish that when the last of my children's children shall have joined me in heaven, that my final resting place shall be in the soil of my birth.

For now, when I think of spring and think of Easter, I thank God I have been given one more opportunity to reflect on life's renewal and new beginnings, and the love of family which bursts forth like the flowers of Spring. As the Easter season now ends and we move about in our Spring tasks, may God bless you and your families, too.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHORTER
COLLEGE

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in Rome Georgia stands a small liberal arts college that lives up to the true tradition of educational excellence: love of family, and love of God, combined with a commitment to community values and an educational experience that is everlasting.

The school that I speak of is Shorter College, now celebrating its 125th Anniversary. Mr. Speaker this is a critical period in American history; time when the value of morals, faith in God, and a sound education can no longer be taken for granted but are more important than ever.

Through this period of moral decline, Shorter has remained true to the values of its founder, Rome Baptist Church Pastor Luther Rice Gwaltney.

I am not alone in recognizing the excellence of Shorter College. For the second year in a row, Shorter has been listed in the "Student Guide to America's 100 Best College Buys." Moreover, Shorter is a member of the National Association of Schools of Music. The devotion of Shorter to the teaching of music cannot be overstated. Today, many more children rush home from school to play on their computers than on their pianos. Yet, the language of

music is universal and can be found in every nation around the world and bears a direct relationship to the progress of its culture.

In honor of Pastor Gwaltney and Alfred and Martha Shorter for whom the college is named, I congratulate Shorter on its first 125 years and wish it many many more.

ETHICS REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 1, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE ETHICS REFORM

Many Americans believe that Members of Congress have low ethics standards and that the overall level of ethics and honesty in politics has been falling over the years. Although most observers of Congress would say the opposite, the public remains unconvinced and broadly dissatisfied with ethics standards of Members.

Congressional ethics is one area where I have seen a great amount of changes since I have been in Congress. I've seen periods of enormous progress, but also, in recent years, have seen the entire process bog down in intense partisanship. Clearly we need to give greater attention to improving House ethics.

HISTORY OF HOUSE ETHICS

The House has the responsibility under the Constitution to police its membership, as Article I authorizes each house of Congress to "punish its Members for disorderly behavior and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a Member". This is an important responsibility because our system of representative democracy depends upon the confidence of the people in the integrity of their elected representatives.

The first disciplinary action against a Member was in 1798, when a vote to expel a Member for spitting on another narrowly failed. From then until the late 1960s, when the House became more active in ethics reform, the House took disciplinary action against Members only about thirty times, with the offenses ranging from dueling and treason to inserting obscene material into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Typically the House acted only on the most obvious cases of official wrongdoing, leaving many other transgressions up to the voters to weigh at election time.

When I came to Congress in 1965 there was no House ethics committee and no written code of conduct for Members. Members could accept any gift given by special interests, receive large sums of money at "testimonial dinners", and convert campaign funds to personal use. Members were rarely punished for personal corruption, and it was common for lobbyists to walk around Congress with envelopes of cash in their pockets to hand out to lawmakers. All that changed beginning in the late 1960s, when, prompted by a series of embarrassing scandals, the House created an ethics committee (the Standards of Official Conduct Committee), set up a tough Code of Conduct for Members, and began policing its membership in a more rigorous manner. The Code set up at that time is essentially the one we have today. I was pleased to have been involved in those efforts to improve House ethics.

Yet in recent years the system has fallen on harder times. Starting in the late 1980s,