

Plaques from organizations which had benefited from his midas touch.

We watched with admiration as Pope John Paul II thanked him for efforts on behalf of the people of Poland. Our hearts swelled as he was made a Knight of Malta, the highest honor the Catholic Church can bestow upon a lay person. His most treasured accolades were presented by the Italian government: Cavaliere della Repubblica D'Italia and the Cavaliere Officiale.

He was the first Italian American to receive the State of Israel Award, presented in recognition of his contributions to the brotherhood of nationalities. He also received the John F. Kennedy Library for Minorities Award, the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award, the Boys' Towns of Italy Humanitarian Award, and the National American Committee on Italian Migration Award. One of his final accolades—the Ellis Island medal of honor—was a fitting cap on his remarkable life. Given to Americans of ethnic origin who exemplify the ideals of our melting pot society, the Medal of Honor brought closure to a life spent living the American dream.

There is an old Italian proverb: Chi fa buona vita, fa buona morte. He who lives well, dies well. A good life makes a good death. Few people ever squeezed more life out of their time on this Earth than did my father. He was a Renaissance Man in the truest sense of the word. When he was taking pictures, he was an artist. When he was acting in films, he was an entertainer. When he fought for Italian American causes, he was a leader. Most importantly, to his family, he was a provider.

"His four girls"—he called us. "Ace and his four queens"—his friends would joke. Through all the years, his love and complete devotion to his family were his most admirable qualities. He lost both of his parents at a very young age. He grew up without the strong bond of a family. Somehow, he instinctively recognized the importance of family and his life became a testament to the limitless boundaries of a man's love for his family. I realize now the priceless gifts he has given me. Not only my appreciation for my culture and heritage, but also for the sanctity of family.

My father's love for "his four girls" was boundless and we knew we'd never want for anything while he watched over us. He regarded his grandchildren as gifts from God, beautiful children able to carry on his legacy long after he left this life. But if it is possible for one man to love someone even more than my father loved any of us, I believe his feelings for his wife would qualify. In "Paradiso", Dante described his love for Beatrice as a love that moved the sun and the stars. Ace and Josie had this kind of love. As you all know, he was at times a gruff man. And, he has even been known to raise his voice from time to time in order to make a point. But you should have seen the tenderness he displayed towards Josie in the quiet times. When they were alone, away from the spotlight, away from the responsibilities and the pressures. While fifty-five years is certainly a long time to spend with someone, I'm sure Ace would forego an eternity of Heavenly bliss for one more moment with his beloved Josephine. I hope each of you one day experiences the kind of love we each received for a lifetime from our father.

And he dreamed,

and beheld a ladder set up on the earth,
and the top of it reached to heaven;
and beheld the angels of God ascending and
descending on it.

I see this ladder going to Heaven. I see my father, not as he has been these past two years, crippled and betrayed by a broken body. I see him as he was while we were all

growing up. A man of boundless energy, enthusiasm and exuberance.

We see him as he rises up that ladder to see what's happening on the other side. I see my father photographing everyone from presidents and heads of state to athletes and entertainers. I see him laughing with his celebrity pals as he gave them a copy of the paper and set up another photo. When he saw an opportunity, he pursued it with uncommon zeal. Rarely did he ever miss a photo he wanted. My sisters and I used to tease him by saying that the only person he hadn't photographed was Jesus Christ. Well . . . by now I'm sure he's snapped Jesus, the Apostles . . . probably the entire Holy Family.

Now, with our blessings and prayers, may he rest in peace.

Good night, Daddy. Sleep well.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, in May of this year, I was proud to speak in support of Representative SMITH's bill to monitor and eliminate sex trafficking here in the U.S. and abroad. After an arduous six year struggle to address the problem of sex industries worldwide with my own bill, I was pleased to see Rep. SMITH's bill pass with strong bipartisan support.

As a result of this successful effort, the U.S. is now in a position to put pressure on other nations to adopt policies that will eradicate sex trafficking practices inside and between their borders. We are also in a position to prosecute and punish the traffickers themselves and thereby put an end to coordinated kidnapping and prostitution rings.

In the wake of this victory, however, there is still a great deal of work to be done. Over the past six years, it has become abundantly clear to me that the phenomenon of trafficking of women and children will never be fully eliminated until we develop safe shelters, psychological services and reintegration programs for returning sex trafficking victims. This amendment, offered by Rep. BERNIE SANDERS, strives to respond to this growing problem by granting assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who provide shelter and reintegration assistance to women and children victims of international trafficking.

Today, in many countries of transit or destination where victims are found, there is an immediate need for temporary and safe shelter, medical and psychological services, access to translators and appropriate NGO consultations and assistance. But the resources are limited or in some cases, nonexistent.

When there is no shelter available for these victims, governments will often place the victim in detention with criminals and then imme-

diately deport her the next day. The need to deport victims immediately due to the lack of shelter thereby increases the risk that the victim will return to trafficking or a dangerous situation back home. Returning these individuals to a threatening environment is a crime in and of itself, not to mention counterproductive and psychologically damaging to the victim.

Another challenge we face is how to effectively reintegrate victims into their families and community structures after being trafficked abroad. For many victims, they return home with the stigma of prostitution or suffer with HIV/AIDS—only to be rejected by their families and communities. In the worst case scenarios, traffickers anticipate this rejection and attempt to retraffic these victims at the border.

To prevent these repeat offenses and to provide victims with a fighting chance to improve their lives, I rise in strong support of the Sanders-Smith amendment. If approved, this amendment will provide international NGOs with a \$2.5 million increase to ensure that victims escape the trafficking world for good.

A TRIBUTE TO ARMANDO AND
BETTY RODRIGUEZ ON THEIR
FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Armando and Betty Rodriguez of Fresno, CA, who are this weekend celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. As life-long residents of Fresno and active participants in the community, Armando and Betty have had a tremendous impact on their friends, neighbors and fellow community members over the past 50 years, and have demonstrated a loving devotion to one another that make their successful marriage an inspiring example.

Betty and Armando Rodriguez were both born in Fresno and were high school sweethearts at Edison High School, where they graduated in 1947. They were married on July 15, 1950 and 2 years later, Armando joined the U.S. Air Force, serving for 4 years including a tour of duty in Korea. After being discharged, Armando reunited with Betty in Fresno and completed his undergraduate degree. After being accepted to Lincoln University School of Law in San Francisco, Armando began his legal studies while Betty supported both of them by working in a number of part time jobs.

Armando's deep commitment to serving the public interest through the legal system was demonstrated immediately after he passed the bar exam and returned to California's Central Valley to help establish the California Rural Legal Assistance office in Madera. His commitment to public service has been the hallmark of his career, having served as an elected member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors from 1972 to 1975, and on the bench as a Fresno Municipal Court judge for 20 years, from 1975 to 1995.

Though he officially retired from the bench in 1995, Armando continues to serve in his capacity as a judge when called upon. He has also been actively involved in the Fresno