

"The church has a long history of speaking out on justice and peace issues," he said. "Yet only in more recent times has the church made it clear that these teachings apply as well to the workings of its own institutions."

Where some religious leaders complain that they get caught up in scandal because they are unfairly held to higher standards, Higgins believed that higher standards were exactly the calling of those who claim the authority to tell others what to do.

It bothered Higgins to the end of his life that the cause of trade unionism had become so unfashionable, especially among well-educated and well-paid elites. For 56 years, he wrote a column for the Catholic press, and he returned to union issues so often that he once felt obligated to headline one of his offerings: "Why There's So Much Ado About Labor in My Column."

His answer was simple: "I am convinced that we are not likely to have a fully free or democratic society over the long haul without a strong and effective labor movement."

To those who saw collective bargaining as outdated in a new economy involving choice, mobility and entrepreneurship, Higgins would thunder back about the rights of those for whom such a glittering world was still, at best, a distant possibility: hospital workers, farm workers, fast-food workers and others who need higher wages to help their children reach their dreams. He could not abide well-paid intellectuals who regularly derided unions as dinosaurs, and he told them so, over and over.

It is one of the highest callings of spiritual leaders to force those who live happy and comfortable lives to consider their obligations to those heavily burdened by injustice and deprivation. It is a great loss when such prophetic voices are stilled by scandal and the cynicism it breeds. Fortunately, that never happened to Higgins. He never had to shut up about injustice and, God bless him, he never did.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL
WEBSTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Bill Webster and thank him for his contributions in the Colorado General Assembly. His hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated, and I am honored to pay tribute to him today in front of this body of Congress. He will long be remembered as an effective State Representative, and will continue to be known as a leader in the community. As he moves on in his career, let it be known that I, along with people of Colorado, am grateful for all that he has done for the Colorado General Assembly.

During his two terms in the Colorado State House of Representatives, Bill has served on a number of committees, including his two current committees, Agriculture, Livestock & Natural Resources, where he serves as vice-chairman, and Local Government. In addition, Bill served for eight years as the Weld County Commissioner, and worked at the Webster Land & Cattle Company.

Not only has Bill served the community effectively as a member of the Colorado General Assembly, he has also done his part as an active humanitarian. He is the past presi-

dent of the Greeley Chamber of Commerce, Greeley Rotary Club and the Boys and Girls Club of Greeley. He is also a past director of Safeway Stores, Inc., Colorado Water Congress and the National Cattlemen's Association, and serves on the Colorado Agriculture Commission and the Greeley Planning Commission. Perhaps most importantly, Bill is married to his wife Sylvia, and they have three children.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Bill Webster has served his state well by providing significant service during his distinguished tenure in the Colorado General Assembly. I am honored to be able to bring his hard work and dedication to the attention of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to be able to express to him, and to this country, my gratitude for all that he has done for our wonderful state, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

NOTIFYING TAXPAYERS REGARDING
THEIR POSSIBLE ELIGIBILITY
FOR EARNED INCOME
TAX CREDIT

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 4632 to help more low income workers seek tax rebates under the Earned Income Tax Credit program.

Under the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provisions, a person at least 25 years old, earning \$1 up to \$10,709 may qualify for a refundable tax credit of \$1 to \$364 depending on income earned.

A single parent, at least 25 years old, with one child, earning \$1 to \$28,280 may receive a refundable tax credit of \$3 to \$2,428 depending on income earned.

A single parent, at least 25 years old, with two children, earning \$1 to \$32,120 may receive a refundable tax credit of \$2 to \$4,008 depending on income earned.

In the year 2000, about 19 million low income families received Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds. The total refunds paid out in 2000 was \$30 billion.

28% of the families who received EITC had incomes below \$10,000. The refund for a single parent with two children earning \$10,000 was \$4,008.

In 1999 over 25% of the low income taxpayers who were eligible did not file for EITC.

With a million single parents being forced off welfare to work, it is of great concern that many, if not most, are not aware of the refund that they could apply for. The vast majority of the welfare mothers who are forced to work earn less than \$8,000 per year. The Administration and other defenders of the welfare to work program argue that in addition to the meager earnings, these poor families receive \$4,000 under EITC. The tragedy is that most don't.

H.R. 4632 is offered to make sure that information is given to these poor families informing them that this refund is due them.

If welfare to work is justified on the basis that low wages can be buffered by \$4,000 in EITC refunds, then we need to make sure that these monies are received.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM G.
SWENSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute today to a man who has embodied the spirit of the State of Colorado through his life-long dedication to serving his state. A member of the Colorado General Assembly, the hard work and dedication of William Swenson, known as Bill, is a testament to the Western pride and character of my state and its citizens. Bill is now leaving the Colorado State House of Representatives after selflessly serving since 1994, and I can think of no better way to celebrate Bill's retirement than to honor his many achievements before this body of Congress and this nation.

A resident of Longmont, Colorado, Bill has served in various local government positions before his election to the House, notably as a City Councilman and Mayor of Longmont. Elected to the Colorado State House of Representatives in 1994, he has served several committees, recently as a member of the Local Government committee and Chairman of the Transportation and Energy committee. During this time, he has been a valuable proponent for local government, tax relief, and water and natural resources conservation.

Bill is regarded as a loving husband and devoted father of four as well as a key member of the community. He is currently a member of Rotary International, the First Lutheran Churchmen and serves as the church treasurer. His work ethic is reflected in his membership in the IBM Quarter Century Club, an honorarium for his thirty-four years of service to the company.

Mr. Speaker, Bill has been a valued member of our Colorado community, both as an elected official and as a citizen. While I am sure he will be missed in the Colorado State House of Representatives, I know that he will undoubtedly succeed in his future endeavors, and will continue to serve his fellow Coloradans. Thank you Bill, for all of your hard work and efforts.

A WELL DESERVED TRIBUTE TO
HEITOR SOUSA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, last month, in Fall River, Massachusetts, a very impressive tribute was paid to Heitor Sousa, one of the leaders in the Portuguese American community. Heitor Sousa came to the U.S. in 1981 from the Azores, and he is an example of the way in which immigration enriches our country economically, culturally, and socially. I have been privileged to benefit from Heitor Sousa's friendship, advice, and wisdom for 20 years, during the time I have represented parts of Southeastern Massachusetts in this body. I want to add my own personal gratitude to him for the extraordinary service he has performed both for the people of Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island and for the residents of Portugal in general and the Azores in

particular. The tribute paid to him was extremely well deserved.

[From *Comunidade—Community*, April 10, 2002]

MUSIC

FALL RIVER.—Flanked by good friends and hundreds of admirers, Heitor Sousa, the founder of the Great Feast of the Holy ghost of New England, was honored yesterday in a ceremony that was described as “a happy and loving tribute.”

Guests traveled from as far away as Toronto and the Azores to attend the ceremony hosted by the Our Lady of Light Band.

Sousa, 63, immigrated to the United States in 1981 to establish the Banco Comercial dos Acores branch on Pleasant Street and within five years founded the annual Portuguese Battle of the Bands and the Great Feast. He has also been a strong advocate for the continuation of the bands and an increase in performances.

“Heitor Sousa is a ‘grand homem’ (a great man),” said Fall River Diocese Bishop Sean P. O’Malley as he opened the ceremony.

Rhode Island General Treasurer Paul Tavares told the large jam-packed crowd that he met Sousa in 1984.

“We formed a great friendship,” Tavares said. “I have a great deal of respect for this man, who is dedicated to his community, his homeland, this new land and his Azorean culture.”

Fall River State Representative Robert Correia told the crowd that Sousa’s life tale has been entered into the state’s official archives, “where it will be forever.” He added that Sousa helped him understand his culture better and even took him to the homeland to foster a better connection.

Turning to the crowd, Correia said that Sousa is very much like the Braga and Mount Hope bridges that many of the Rhode Islanders took to attend the hall.

“Heitor is a bridge from the Azores to Fall River,” said Correia. “He traveled the bumpy road from the Azores to here and took me and a few of us on the bumpy road from here to the Azores. He is not a man of words but a man of action.”

Rev. Luis Cardoso, formerly of Espirito Santo Church and now of Sao Miguel Church of Fall River, said it will never be known how many people Sousa has helped in his life.

“He has done so much for the community, but all he did was driven by his faith,” he said.

Mayor Edward M. Lambert, Jr. told the crowd that he was befriended by Sousa many years ago and despite a language barrier the two have worked well together.

“That’s because he has always spoken the language of the heart,” said Lambert. He added that if one could equate one’s spirit with song, then “the life of Heitor Sousa has been a beautiful concert.”

He praised the work Sousa has done in founding the feast, adding “it is a great source of pride for everyone in Fall River. No

other event brings so many people—so many eyes from all over the world to this great city. For this, you will always be remembered. Heitor Sousa you are a treasure in this community, which we value tremendously.”

The master of ceremonies for the event, Manuel F. Estrela, broke up the praise with his own humor. Saying that he could not stand by and see only good things said about his old friend, he joked that it was time to talk about Sousa’s shortcomings.

“He is a great ‘Sportinguista,’” he said to the roar of the crowd. A sportinguista is a fan of the Portugal’s Sporting Soccer team.

Sousa was also praised by two of the Azores top journalists. Jorge Nascimento Cabral, a retired publisher of *Correio dos Acores*, and Osvaldo Cabral of RTP-Azores.

Both men said they could not have missed the event.

“His roots are deeply planted on both sides of the Atlantic,” said Cabral of RTP. “I see in him the greatest recognition of faith, of fatherhood, of grand fatherhood, husbandry and community service.”

Cabral said that back in his village of Rabo de Peixe the youth all know of Sousa’s work.

“He is a great example for us who are older and for the younger generation,” he said.

Jorge Cabral, the featured speaker, talked about how Sousa rose from his small village to be a mountain of a man on two sides of the ocean.

“It is not easy for someone to come from an island, from Rabo de Peixe, and leave to go to a country where they speak a different language and lead a cultural revival,” he said. “But he has given a new meaning to the word ‘saudade.’ He has always been in the service of the people. And he has carried with him the greatest symbol of the Azores—people’s faith. This is a very dynamic man who has served his community, fostered many organizations, but never profited monetarily just through the peace of his conscious.”

On several occasions Sousa became choked up. Tears swelled in his eyes during a surprise performance by the Our lady of Light Band, which played a song Sousa once led while he was the director of the Banda Lira do Norte in Rabo de Peixe—“marcha de Cigano.”

After the speeches, Sousa was presented with a portrait by the Banda da Luz, which they said would hang in their club forever. He was also given a check for \$1,849, the profits from the banquet, but in typical Sousa fashion he donated it back, saying that he wanted it to be designated for a fund to be given to the top student of each of the 15 Portuguese bands of New England. Minutes later Carlos Andrade of Sharon pledged to give \$5,000 to bolster the very fund.

In a touching closing ceremony, Sousa was presented plaques by all of the bands that he has championed over the years. He also thanked those gathered, including Estrela, the Cabrals, all of the bands and their leadership, as well as Luis Silva and Antonio Carvalho of the Light Band.

Sousa also took the time to thank his wife, “who has been suffering me for 40 years,” he said.

He ended his speech with a challenge to the leaders of the community and in the Azores, saying that they must do more to support the bands. He added that the Azores should host an annual band performance, which incorporates bands from the United States and the islands.

“Our bands are often forgotten by our leaders,” he added.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GLENN E. SCOTT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the achievements of a member of the Colorado General Assembly, and thank him for all that he has done for the state. After two terms in the Colorado State House of Representatives, Glenn E. Scott is leaving the House in order to pursue other opportunities, and I can think of no better way to thank Glenn for his many years of service, than to bring his many accomplishments to light in front of this body of Congress.

A resident of Westminster, Colorado, Glenn received his Bachelors and Masters Degree in economics from the University of Colorado. An Investment Portfolio Manager for LBC Investment Advisors, he was first appointed to the House in 1999, then elected in 2000, and has since served on several committees working to improve the lives of those in Clear Creek, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Summit counties. He has served diligently on the Appropriations and Finance Committees, and as chair of the Local Government Committee. In addition he has served in several vital community positions in Colorado, including numerous advisory boards to benefit Aurora and Boulder counties, and is a former member of the Westminster City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I am positive that Glenn’s colleagues and constituents will sorely miss the leadership and compassion that he consistently gave to the State of Colorado, and I thank him for all that he has done for the state. I am honored to bring his accomplishments to the attention of this body of Congress, and wish him all the best in the future. His hard work and dedication truly embodies the spirit of the State, and it is with a great deal of pride that I thank him for his many years of public service.