

For the women: Chrissy Zaika, Eileen Gagnon, Vanessa Bain, Shannon Burke, Meghan Burgoon, Katie Donovan, Lindsey Moore, Jackie Griffin, Kendall Tupper, Lindsey Shirtz, Kelly Fitzgerald, Colleen O'Hara, Nicole Motondo, Katherine Kenneally, Juilie Fabrizio, Kelly Kuss, Katherine DelPrato, Beth Elmer, Lindsey Hamann, Meghan O'Connell, Katie Kozloski, Keelin Hollenbeck, Eileen Flynn, Head Coach Bob Elmer, and Assistant Coach Erica Gerber.

And for the men: Mike Malfitano, Dean Mancini, Jake Bebee, Zack Forward, Jeff Murphy, Jed Bebee, Alex Cost, Kevin Hennigan, Matt O'Connell, Andrew Hanover, Rob Lemos, Mike Conklin, Cheney Raymond, Mark Conklin, Pat McCormack, Chad Clark, Drew Dabrowski, Devin Burgoon, Kiel Moore, Mike Solamon, Jim Mullaley, Andrew Sugar, Bill Gleason, Casey Rotelia, Chris Bulawa, Brian Cummings, Matt Woolsbiager, Brian Calabrese, Bob Toms, Mike Malone, Andy Zysk, Matt Cassalia, P.J. Burns, Head Coach Mike Messere, Assistant Coach Bob Deegan, and Scorekeepers Melissa McCarthy, Shadia Nesheiwat, Monica Macro, Kim Fischmann, Danielle Wood, and Jessica Lebduska.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND SOLOMON
YOUNG-MIN KIM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Reverend Solomon Young-Min Kim, a well-respected leader in both the Brooklyn and Queens communities.

Rev. Kim was born in Pusan, Korea. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgy from Korea University and has studied at the New York Theological Seminary, the Korea New Church Seminary, and the Swedenborg School of Religion.

Rev. Kim is the pastor of The Mirral Church in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. He has helped solve ethnic issues between the Korean businessmen and the Black community, by getting the Korean businessmen to employ more residents from the Black community. He has also fostered relationships between the Korean community and the Caribbean-American, Haitian, and Italian communities. Rev. Kim's work with Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, as well as with the Brookdale Hospital Schulman Institute Nursing Home, has allowed him to spend time visiting the sick and the shut-in. He has also worked with the New York City Department of Correction by providing spiritual guidance and hope for a renewed life after prison to the population. Additionally, Rev. Kim helped organize the Census 2000 effort in the Korean communities of Bensonhurst, Bayridge, Flatbush, East Flatbush, Flushing and Queens, as well as in New Jersey.

Rev. Kim's activism is also evident in his attitude towards education. He formally supports an after-school program for Korean students in Bayridge and Bensonhurst who are having a tough time academically. But Rev. Kim's commitment to education extends to people of all ages. In addition to the Korean Youth Festival, he has established senior/youth intergenerational programs, aimed at initiating ongoing

dialogue, participation and education, as a team in the Korean community.

Rev. Kim's efforts have earned him numerous accolades and awards, such as the Asian American Heritage Award from the Borough President of Brooklyn, the Distinguished Ecumenical Award from the Wesley McDonald Holder Regular Democratic Club Women's Caucus, and the Community Service Award from Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr.

In closing, I would like to personally thank Rev. Solomon Young-Min Kim for his steadfast devotion to Brooklyn's Korean community and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly dedicated spiritual leader.

INTRODUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE
LAW ENHANCEMENT ACT
OF 2002

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced an important bill, the "Administrative Law Process Enhancement Act of 2002," that reforms the organization of the administrative judiciary within the Social Security Administration ("SSA") by establishing an Office of Administrative Law Judges (the "Office") within SSA that is administered by a Chief Administrative Law Judge ("Chief Judge") who reports directly to the SSA Commissioner.

The national ALJ hearings function and hearings field operation that presently is within the SSA Office of Hearings and Appeals ("OHA") would be transferred to the office by the proposed legislation. The Chief Judge would be in charge of the office, be appointed by the Commissioner for a term of six years that is renewable once, and be subject to removal only upon a showing of an enumerated cause. The Associate Commissioner of OHA would continue to administer the Appeals Council. The changes proposed in the bill provide for a reorganization of the SSA that will not result in any additional costs to SSA or the government.

Currently, the SSA is without a functioning Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge. The functions for both the adjudication of administrative claims by SSA administrative law judges ("ALJs") and the appellate process for the review of ALJ decisions by the Appeals Council are located within the OHA. The ALJ portion of the OHA is under the dual leadership of a Chief Judge and an Associate Commissioner of OHA. The position description of the Chief Judge places the Chief Judge in charge of the national ALJ hearings function and hearings field operation of OHA. The Associate Commissioner of OHA is placed in charge of the national ALJ hearing function and the Appeals Council, and has major policy-making and policy-implementation responsibilities for OHA. The Chief Judge reports to the Associate Commissioner of OHA, who in turn reports to the Deputy Commissioner for the office of Disability and Income Security Programs ("ODISP"), who in turn reports to the SSA Commissioner.

In the current organization of SSA, the OHA and the ALJ function are submerged in the bureaucracy and are far removed from the Commissioner. The Social Security Advisory Board

recently prepared a report on the Social Security disability system that expresses concern about the OHA functions being buried too low in the agency, the need to elevate these functions to direct oversight by the agency leadership, and the need for greater ALJ function independence. Charting the Future of Social Security's Disability Programs: The Need for Fundamental Change, January 2001, p. 19. The current structure prevents the Commissioner from having effective oversight of the ALJ hearing process. The ALJ adjudication function should not be treated as a staff responsibility in SSA. The ALJ adjudication function is a major program of the agency with every individual in this Nation being a potential claimant within the SSA system. The SSA ALJ hearing system protects a constitutional right of our citizens and provides a constitutionally protected due process hearing to members of the American public. This vital process should have direct oversight from the Commissioner and the Chief Judge should have direct interaction with the Commissioner.

Another major defect in the current OHA is created by the dual leadership responsibilities of the Chief Judge and the Associate Commissioner. Frequently, these two leaders are competing for power to control the administrative and/or policy decisions for the ALJ hearing component of SSA that has deprived OHA of strong, effective leadership. Several years ago, the Associate Commissioner attempted to reorganize the responsibilities of the Chief Judge and divest the Chief Judge of most of the powers of that office, leaving the Chief Judge with some minor duties relating to judicial education and staff support for the Associate Commissioner. The Associate Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of ODISP also tried to compel the Chief Judge to resign because he resisted the inappropriate diminution of his duties. This scheme was thwarted by the efforts of interested individuals and organizations together with the oversight action of the Congress.

The lack of effective leadership and direction of the OHA and reduction of the Chief Judge function also has resulted in an organization that has been deteriorating in its efficiency. For over 10 years, several reforms have been imposed on the SSA hearing process. Each attempt has resulted in failure. Subsequent to the latest reform, the HPI reorganization in the hearing office process that was implemented in January 2000, the number of case depositions have dropped while the case processing time and the case backlog have increased. The result has been poorer service for the American public.

Better service for the American public by increasing case dispositions, reducing processing times, reducing case backlogs, and improving decision quality will result from the proposed legislation, which will ensure effective leadership of the ALJ hearings component of SSA. The ALJ hearings component of SSA will be treated as an organization that is responsible for administering a major agency program. It no longer will be organized as a staff function within SSA. The Commissioner will have direct oversight of the ALJ hearings component of SSA, which is necessary to effectively administer this important program that provides constitutional due process hearings for the American public. The ALJ hearing component of SSA will have one individual responsible for administrative operations and policy