

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the Sesquicentennial celebration of St. Patrick's Church, one of Cleveland's foremost Catholic congregations. During its tenure, St. Patrick's has served as a foundation of faith and service for the religious community of our Ohio City neighborhood, and far beyond.

Irish immigrants founded St. Patrick's Parish on Franklin Street in 1853. The church was also home to the first Ursuline Community in Cleveland. In 1871, the cornerstone for a new church was laid on Bridge Avenue. A famine struck that year, which halted construction. Construction resumed, yet it was arduous and long. For two years, parishioners journeyed to Sandusky to obtain free quarry stone and deliver it back to the church site. Following six years of toil, focus and commitment, the new church was opened during the summer of 1877.

Since that time, St. Patrick's Church has stood as a monument of faith, hope and support for immigrants and generations of their descendants. Although the first wave of parishioners were mainly of Irish heritage, today, the fabric of St. Patrick's reflects a colorful blend of citizens descendant from all areas of the world.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute to and commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church in Cleveland. St. Patrick's Church stands as more than a stately and vital historical structure; rather, the leaders and members of this parish, past and present, reflect a lasting monument of faith and hope that has sustained our families, our neighborhoods, our cities and our nation, for more than a century.

THE WRONG WORDS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 30, 2003]

WHAT THE WORLD HEARS WHEN THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS; THE WRONG WORDS

(By Abdel Monem Said)

Probably no area of the world had a keener interest in President Bush's address on Tuesday night than the Middle East. And probably nowhere will there be greater disappointment. People in moderate Arab states will conclude that the president is

woefully misguided in his approach to the region's troubles.

First, the American government seems to have divided the Middle East into a set of separate problems, each in its own little box: Iraq, Iran, the Palestinians and the Israelis, fundamentalism, terrorism. To an Arab, these are all related issues. The United States should concentrate on the problem whose resolution would, ultimately, solve all the other problems. That problem isn't Iraq. In fact, tackling Iraq will worsen the situation in the Middle East. It is the Palestinian question whose resolution has the best potential for a positive impact on the region and beyond. Unfortunately, it received only a passing reference in the president's speech.

Second, Arabs do not agree with the rosy American view of an invasion of Iraq. Mr. Bush seems to believe that the Iraqi people will look at American soldiers as liberators. In three or four weeks Saddam Hussein and his cronies will be toppled. In a year or so, Iraq will be a shining example of a democratic and prosperous country.

Arabs have a drastically different view. Some Iraqis will look at Americans as new colonialists. Various Iraqi factions and ethnic groups will take the chance to settle old scores. Iraq will descend into chaos. Turkey and Iran will interfere. The fragile countries of the eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf will suffer. The Arab-Israeli conflict will become increasingly volatile as violence and fundamentalism cross national borders.

Third, Mr. Bush sees the war on Iraq as part of the global war against terrorism. In the absence of clear evidence of links between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda, Arabs see the Iraq campaign as a deviation and distraction from the real fight. Iraq, now greatly weakened, is incapable of threatening its neighbors. Terrorism remains a greater threat. By going after Iraq, the United States is taking the easy way out: a classic war where it can find a capital to bomb, a regime to overthrow and weapons to dismantle. The war on terrorism is a completely different one, with political and socioeconomic dimensions that call for patience and agonizing time.

The historical bond between the United States and the moderate Arab states and mainstream Arabs in general contributed to the stability of the Middle East. For half a century, the bond worked well—to thwart Communist expansion in the cold war, to contain the waves of Iranian Islamic revolution and to end in 1991 Saddam Hussein's radical and regional ambitions. Now, it seems for the Arabs, the major force for instability in the region is the United States itself, which is moving militarily to Iraq, ignoring the Arab-Israeli peace process, giving Ariel Sharon a free hand in Israel, and insinuating a radical program for change in the region without building strategic understanding for it.

REMEMBERING JOHN FERDINANDI, JR.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a resident of my district

who has made an impact on me, my staff, as well as the city of Fresno. His name was John Ferdinandi, Jr.

John was born in Rochester, NY, the son of Italian Immigrants. In 1945, he and his family moved to Fresno, CA where John attended San Joaquin Memorial High School, Fresno City College, and California State University, Fresno, then known as Fresno State. He served for four years in the Air Force and married his wife Sally in 1952. He returned to Fresno in 1954.

After thirty years of family and individual business, John retired, but found retirement wasn't his strong suit. He began a new career as a Property Manager and worked from 1989 to 1999, where his last assignment was in Santa Cruz, CA. John retired again in 1999, when he and his wife, Sally, decided to return home to Fresno where their children and family live.

In September 1999, when a seven freight car derailment occurred on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks near the west end of Browning, John took up the challenge to get those tracks moved, which had been talked about for 83 years.

John put together a Board of Directors of community residents, secured over 42 supporting agencies, political representatives, businesses, individuals and petitioners now totaling over 6,000 supporters of rail consolidation. On January 14th, 2002, Fresno Mayor Alan Autry appointed John to head up his Mayor's Fresno Rail Consolidation Task Force.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors appointed John to be the county's representative on the Fresno County Council of Governments Rail Committee. John also was Chairman of the Mayor's Downtown Revitalization 3RC Committee (Research, Review & Recommendation). He was working to revitalize Downtown Fresno.

John was a loving man who liked to help out at church, enjoyed playing charades, loved to sail and collect lighthouse replicas. He enjoyed fragrant flowers and high school father-daughter dances. Additionally, my staff and I had the pleasure of working with John's granddaughter, Sadie, for four years. John passed away of cancer on January 26, 2003. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember John Ferdinandi and all of his efforts working on the Fresno Area Rail Consolidation. I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering John Ferdinandi.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "BABES OF 1916" SENIOR CITIZENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the Twentieth

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