

After escaping prison, Posada continued to terrorize civilians, and even boast publicly about his crimes. In a 1998 interview with the *New York Times*, he claimed responsibility for organizing a series of bombings aimed at Cuban hotels, department stores and other civilian targets during the summer of 1997. The bombings killed an Italian tourist and injured 11 other human beings.

Perhaps realizing he had not helped himself or his cause, Posada later retracted his statements.

In November 2000, Posada was arrested in Panama for preparing a bomb to explode in the University of Panama's Conference Hall, where Fidel Castro was going to deliver a speech. Hundreds of people were expected to attend this event, and had Cuban intelligence not uncovered the plot beforehand, there would have been massive civilian casualties. Posada was convicted in a Panamanian court only to be pardoned by Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso just days before she left office in August 2004.

Moscoso's successor, Martin Torrijos, criticized the pardon, aptly noting, "For me, there are not two classes of terrorism, one that is condemned and another that is pardoned."

Similarly, in 1989, when the Justice Department was considering the asylum request of Posada's fellow Miami militant, and suspected co-conspirator in the Cubana bombing, Orlando Bosch, then-Associate U.S. Attorney General Joe D. Whitley said, "The United States cannot tolerate the inherent inhumanity of terrorism as a way of settling disputes. Appeasement of those who would use force will only breed more terrorists. We must look on terrorism as a universal evil, even if it is directed toward those with whom we have no political sympathy."

Aside from the United States' foreign policy regarding Cuba, our stated, official national security policy against terrorism is unequivocally clear.

On September 19, 2001, Mr. President, you eloquently reaffirmed our national policy against terrorism: "Anybody who harbors a terrorist, encourages terrorism, will be held accountable. I would strongly urge any nation in the world to reject terrorism, expel terrorists."

On August 26th, 2003 you said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you support a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the terrorists." The National Security Strategy of the United States, released in 2002 stated, "No cause justifies terror. The United States will make no concessions to terrorist demands and strike no deals with them. We make no distinction between terrorists and those who knowingly harbor or provide aid to them."

Not only must the United States reject the asylum application of Luis Posada Carriles, a known international terrorist, but Posada should also be returned to Venezuela for a proper adjudication of the case against him. Posada was a dual citizen of Venezuela and Cuba, he plotted terrorist crimes from Venezuela, including the bombing of the civilian airline flight that had originated in Venezuela, and he escaped from a Venezuelan prison. As a sovereign nation, Venezuela has the right to pursue justice in this case.

Posada's lawyer Eduardo Soto has objected to his client's return to Venezuela, arguing that he could be tortured there. To satisfy such concerns, the United States should abide by its standard policy on these matters, which according to William Haynes II, general counsel of the Defense Department, "is to obtain specific assurances from the receiving country that it will not torture the individual being transferred to that country." If this policy is applied in the transferring of prisoners to Syria, Morocco, Egypt

and Jordan, all countries whose abusive practices have been documented and condemned by the State Department's annual human rights report, then the United States must surely apply this policy to Venezuela, a nation with a Constitution that specifically prohibits torture and provides for the prosecution of officials who instigate or tolerate torture.

Many innocent victims who happened to be Cuban died at the hands of Posada, in a crime similar to that which killed innocent American victims on September 11, 2001. It is not only inconceivable to imagine the possibility of granting this terrorist asylum, but also of denying justice to all of the victims of his crimes. Such actions would go against everything that your Administration has claimed to stand for in the "War on Terrorism." It is our hope that for the sake of all the families of terror casualties in the United States and around the world that Luis Posada Carriles is not granted asylum in the United States, and that he is rightfully extradited to Venezuela where he will finally face justice.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich, Raul M. Grijalva, José E. Serrano, Barbara Lee, Cynthia McKinney, Maurice Hinchey, John W. Olver, Bobby L. Rush, James P. McGovern, Edolphus Towns, Donald M. Payne, Sam Farr, Lane Evans, Bennie G. Thompson, Carolyn B. Maloney, Ed Pastor, Tammy Baldwin, Sheila Jackson Lee, Lynn Woolsey, Maxine Waters.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEN. PETER PACE, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride in honoring an extraordinary individual, Marine Corps General Peter Pace, who was recently nominated to serve as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States Armed Forces. General Pace was raised in Teaneck, New Jersey, one of the largest municipalities in the Congressional District that I am privileged to represent. General Pace has risen to become the first Marine to lead the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an honor that he has earned through decades of hard work and determination. His story is a source of inspiration to every resident of the Garden State.

The son of an Italian immigrant, Peter Pace was born in Brooklyn, New York, and moved to Teaneck with his family the following year. After settling down in a home on Hillside Avenue, Peter quickly became involved in local youth athletics. While attending Teaneck High School, Peter worked hard and achieved academic excellence, which resulted in his acceptance to the United States Naval Academy in 1963.

Upon graduation from Annapolis and successful completion of The Basic School in Quantico, VA, Peter Pace was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam and served as a Rifle Platoon Leader. After returning from his combat duty in Vietnam, Peter served in a number of different staff and command positions, including Head of the Infantry Writer

Unit at the Marine Corps Institute, Security Detachment Commander at Camp David, White House Social Aide, and Leader of the Special Ceremonial Platoon.

In April of 1971, Peter was promoted to the rank of Captain, and was later assigned to a Security Detachment in Thailand. In the late 1970's, then-Captain Peter Pace held the position of Operations Officer and Division Staff Secretary at Camp Pendleton in Southern California, where he later served as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, First Marines Division following his promotion to the rank of Major in June of 1980. After heading up a Marine Corps Recruitment Station in Buffalo, NY and attending the National War College, Major Pace was promoted to the rank of Colonel in October of 1988, and advanced to the rank of Brigadier General in April of 1992. He was then appointed as President of the Marine Corps University before assuming various other commands. In recent years, as Vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Pace has been instrumental in shaping the Pentagon's efforts in the war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in giving our heartiest congratulations to General Peter Pace, the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States Armed Forces, and a proud example of the Teaneck Public School System. His remarkable achievements and tireless service to his country, the United States Marine Corps, and his fellow servicemen and women clearly are a tremendous source of pride for all Americans and especially all his friends and family from New Jersey.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to obligations in South Carolina, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, May 16, 2005.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 171 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 627—Linda White-Epps Post Office), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 172 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 266—Peace Officers Memorial Day), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 173 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2107—National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund).

IN HONOR OF ALICE YARISH

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alice Yarish of Marin County, California, who died at the age of 96 on May 9, 2005. Alice was a fixture of the Marin community for many years, known as much for her outspoken and occasionally flamboyant personal style as for her crusading journalism.