

1912, it was unfairly divided so that only half of the seven million Albanians who live in the Balkans today live in the State of Albania, with the other half living on her borders in five other jurisdictions. The State of Yugoslavia was created after World War I on the backs of the Albanian people and on their land. Then Communism again submerged the Albanian people—this time throwing them into a political and economic “black hole,” stretching from Belgrade to Tirana, for almost fifty years after World War II. It is a wonder that the Albanian people kept their language, their history, and their hope alive throughout the last six hundred years of occupation and resistance. It is a wonder that, amid all the national stress and personal sacrifice, that Gjergj Kastrioti has not been forgotten altogether. But he has not been forgotten, and it is a tribute to his greatness and to the besa of the Albanian people that, against all odds, Albanians are standing free today, in Albania and Kosovo, and that the sons and daughters of Skenderbeg continue to adore him as their national hero and liberator, and are building even more memorials to his past and present glory and significance—even, with a U.S. Congressional Resolution (H. Res. 522), in the capital of the only superpower in the world today, Washington, DC.

AUTHOR'S POSTSCRIPT

The battle of Apulia in the southern part of the Italian Peninsula, near Naples, is of special significance to me and my family. In 1461, after Skenderbeg and his elite cavalry helped save the Kingdom of Naples from French domination, the future security of the Kingdom was assured when Gjergj Kastrioti decided to leave two thousand horsemen there, while he returned to Albania to continue to defend the Albanian people from Ottoman Turkish domination. As an inducement for Skenderbeg to agree to what must have been a difficult decision for him, the King of Naples awarded the Albanian soldiers an area about forty miles east of Naples, including a high mountaintop village called Greci. Greci had been formed by Greek farmers and merchants in 535 AD and had since declined after most Greeks abandoned the area that they had controlled in the first millennium. Albanians changed the name of the village to “Katundi,” which is the name used today by the Albanian residents, even though the Italians still call it Greci. My father, Joseph, Sr. immigrated to America from Katundi in 1929 at the age of fifteen. His family is descended from one of Skenderbeg's two thousand soldiers, and this is a great reminder that the seeds of Skenderbeg are still spreading across the oceans of the world today.

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL BARRY
K. ATKINS, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Admiral Barry K. Atkins of Richmond, Virginia, who passed away on Tuesday, November 15, 2005. Admiral Atkins spent a lifetime in service to his country and should be honored today.

In 1932 Admiral Atkins graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and began his distinguished career as a Naval officer. During World War II, Admiral Atkins took over command of the USS *Melvin*, a Navy destroyer. Admiral Atkins and his men were stationed in

the Pacific and participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. In one engagement, the Battle of Surigao Strait, the USS *Melvin* fired a torpedo that hit the Japanese battleship *Fuso*, splitting it in half and eventually sinking it. According to historical reports, the USS *Melvin* was the only destroyer to sink a battleship in World War II. For his heroism and leadership aboard the USS *Melvin*, Admiral Atkins was awarded the Navy Cross. In 1959, Admiral Atkins retired after 27 years of faithful service to the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Atkins' bravery during the Battle of Leyte Gulf helped change the course of our Nation's history and I am truly grateful for his leadership and unwavering courage aboard the USS *Melvin*. I hope that you will join me in honoring the life and service of Admiral Barry K. Atkins and offering our most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

IN HONOR OF KEITH SHAFFER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Keith Shaffer, an influential and much beloved member of the community in the Santa Cruz area. Mr. Shaffer lived a life of dedicated and generous service to his community. He is survived by his wife Elinor Shaffer; his two sons, William and Richard Shaffer; daughter-in-law Alana Shaffer; and his two grandsons.

Mr. Shaffer was born in the San Joaquin Valley town of Atwater, on October 15, 1915. After serving as a naval aviator during World War II, he eventually moved to the Santa Cruz area in 1950, where he took over his brother's floral business. While Mr. Shaffer was a successful businessman, he also found time to give back to the community, by serving on numerous school boards, the Dominican Hospital Advisory Board, the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, and the California Automobile Association. Mr. Shaffer was a shining example of dedication and devotion to citizens of the community.

In 1937, Keith Shaffer married his childhood sweetheart Elinor George. Along with his wife Elinor, and his two sons, William and Richard, the other love of Mr. Shaffer's life was his orchids. Mr. Shaffer was well known within the floral community for his creation of several hybrid orchids, most notably his “Capitola Moonlight,” which was recognized by the Royal Horticulture Society with its highest honor, and perhaps his favorite, the “Elinor Shaffer.”

Mr. Speaker, the service of local members of the community are an asset to this Nation, and I am deeply grateful for the contributions of Mr. Shaffer. The passing of Mr. Shaffer is a painful loss for the community. It is clear that Keith Shaffer has made a lasting impact on the community, and I join the Santa Cruz area in honoring the memory of Mr. Shaffer.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW YORK
CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER GIFFORD MILLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Gifford Miller, Speaker of the New York City Council. Speaker Miller led the Council through four contentious years, winning on issues that are important to New Yorkers. He has been an exceptional City Council Speaker who has truly made New York City a better place to live. As a colleague, an ally and a friend, he has been one of the best public servants around.

Speaker Miller began his political career in my office. He rose quickly from an entry level position in my Washington office to running my New York district office. From the beginning his talents were obvious. He was hardworking and dedicated, drafting legislation to fund the development of pocket parks in urban areas and other matters. Recognizing his abilities, I soon promoted him to run my district office.

As Chief of Staff in my New York office, he established himself as a knowledgeable, committed leader in the community. Most of all, Speaker Miller clearly loves New York City, and wants to make this the best possible place to live. Thus, when he ran for City Council in a special election, he had enormous credibility and was able to defeat a well-known opponent.

I will never forget that election. Called for the dead of winter, petitioning took place on chilly street corners in dreadful weather. I joined Miller and his volunteers in standing out in freezing temperatures. People were impressed by his energy, drive and cheerfulness, even in appalling conditions. They saw clearly that he was going to work hard for his constituents, and he always has.

Miller quickly established himself as a smart and aggressive legislator, who was able to stand up for his district. He passed laws to reduce noise, increase voter participation and protect the environment.

On January 9, 2002, Miller was unanimously elected by his colleagues to the post of City Council Speaker. For the last 4 years, Miller has led the New York City Council, overseeing the passage of all new laws and the city's \$47 billion budget. As part of the budget agreement for FY2005, Miller fought for and won \$50 million in tax cuts for more than 700,000 workers through the passage of New York City's first Earned Income Tax Credit.

Under his leadership, the Council has passed more legislation than any previous council, including bills to extend a living wage to 50,000 workers, protect children from lead paint poisoning, provide training and education to people moving from welfare to work, require every city hospital to offer emergency contraception to sexual assault victims, provide more school nurses to more city students and establish tax credits to encourage greater energy saving and cleaner air.

Throughout his term as Speaker, Miller was forced to battle the mayor and Governor to preserve New York's priorities. He was remarkably successful. Miller led the Council in overturning mayoral vetoes 21 times, more