

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STATEMENT ON THE RETIREMENT OF FATHER ROBERT F. LEAVITT

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Father Robert F. Leavitt, S.S., commend him for his 27 years of service as President-Rector of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland, and wish him well in his retirement.

In 1962, Father Leavitt began his philosophical and theological studies at St. Mary's and has since remained fully dedicated to the spirit of the seminary. In 1968, he was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut and appointed to the faculty of St. Mary's.

His ability to articulate a compelling vision for the seminary led to his being elected the fourteenth President and first President-Rector of St. Mary's, a position he has held longer than anyone in the seminary's proud 215-year history.

Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of San Francisco, was once asked what a person had to do to lead a good life, to which he replied, "Preach the Gospel. Sometimes use words." Father Leavitt has done just that, preaching by example to generations of students.

As President-Rector, Father Leavitt has presided over construction and rebeautification efforts of the seminary as well as successfully enlarged the endowment to ensure the long-term viability of the institution. He has worked to expand the spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral resources necessary to prepare students for the priesthood.

As a philosopher, theologian, teacher, and preacher, he has re-energized the St. Mary's community and instilled a sense of principle and potential to our nation's first Catholic seminary.

It is an honor for me to congratulate Father Leavitt for his tireless commitment to education, faith, and leadership and recognize the truly exemplary impact he has made within our greater faith community. I wish him well in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM J. SHARROW

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor Brigadier General William J. Sharrow—a truly great American. Bill has tirelessly served this country for many years, managing some of our country's important military programs. Most recently, Bill served as my State Director, where he dedi-

cated himself to tirelessly working for the people of Alaska.

Born in Witherbee, New York on August 19, 1932, Bill entered the Army in 1952. He served with the 867th AAA Battalion at Fort Richardson, Alaska until his discharge in November 1954. He returned home to New York and joined an Army Reserve Unit. However, he realized his heart was back in Alaska and returned a short time later to make Alaska his permanent home. Bill joined the Alaskan Army National Guard where he served as First Sergeant of Company D, 207th Infantry Battalion until he was commissioned in November 1956.

Some of Bill's many roles in the National Guard include: radio repairman, supply officer, administrative assistant, personnel officer and Command Administrative Assistant to the Adjutant General. His military assignments range from platoon leader to battalion commander. He served as Chief of Staff for the Alaska Army National Guard from 1972 to 1974 and was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General on February 7, 1974. Bill's dedication to our Nation was federally recognized on June 25, 1974 when he was promoted to Brigadier General.

During his 20 plus years of service to Alaska and to his country, Bill remained a strong leader who set an example of achievement that was unmatched. He represented the United States with honor and dignity and continuously strove for excellence. The loss to the United States the day Bill left his post, was a great gain to me and to all Alaskans.

Bill worked for me for 24 years as my State Director. When I was unable to attend an important function or meeting, it was Bill that I always be trusted to represent me. We share a common love of Alaska and its people and it was comforting for me to know that when work forced me to remain in Washington, Bill would always be there to listen to the Alaskan people and keep them informed of our work.

Bill has been happily married to Margaret for 52 years and is the father of 3 sons: David who lives in Anchorage, AK; Phillip who lives in Auckland, New Zealand; and Steven who lives in Fairbanks, AK. He is also the grandfather to 6 grandchildren. I know that Bill is looking forward to spending more time with his family and traveling around the world with the love of his life, Marg.

Bill has always provided sage advice to colleagues and staff and done so with quick wit and much humor. Bill was an invaluable employee and he will be sorely missed but he continues to be a dear friend and confidant. I will miss his daily leadership and guidance but know that our friendship will endure. My wife Lu and I wish him and Marg all the best as they embark on this new chapter of their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THURMAN R. PAYNE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thurman R. Payne, a man who worked tirelessly at Brookpark Ford for 50 years and served diligently as the President of Local 1250 for two terms, as the Building Chairman of the Cleveland Casting Plant, and as President of the Foundry Council.

Thurman R. Payne is an advocate of worker's rights, supporting equality for all of his fellow brothers and sisters. Thurman's advocacy garnered enough national attention that the great civil rights leader Rosa Parks visited the Union Hall.

During Thurman's first term as President of Local 1250, challenging economic conditions caused layoffs and a decrease in morale. During these tough times, Thurman rallied his co-workers to take a stance against layoffs and to advocate for quality products in order to assure job security in the future.

Thurman R. Payne was an innovator in many ways. As President of Local 1250, Thurman began a program to help further the education of all of his brothers and sisters. He made educational opportunities accessible to these men and women of Local 1250 by placing a trailer on the Union's lot, where any member could go for various educational opportunities.

Thurman R. Payne retired on September 1, 2006 after 50 years of advocating for labor rights. Thurman is currently battling cancer. Though this is a different sort of challenge, we know that he will battle this disease with the same amount of energy and optimism as he had during his years at Ford.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Thurman R. Payne, a man that dedicated 50 years of his life to ensure that his fellow brothers and sisters were treated with equality, had opportunities to further their education, and had job security.

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE AND COMMENDABLE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MARY CODY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to share the story of a phenomenal public servant, Mary Cody of Blairstown, New Jersey. Mary has spent much of the last decade dedicated to saving the lives of unwanted canines and helping loving families find their perfect pets.

Mary starts from the principle that no animal is an unwanted animal and that every homeless dog is merely awaiting an introduction to

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their perfect family. She and the volunteers and staff who work with her give the dogs that come to their home, medical care, food and shelter, and, most importantly, love and comfort. They seek out the right family for each pet, and help new pet-owners adjust to their new lives with their pets. In fact, they are a one-stop clearinghouse of information for new and seasoned pet-owners alike, with answers to frequently asked questions about pet care, recommendations for veterinarians and grooming, and more.

The testimonials on her website, www.auntmarysdoghouse.com demonstrate her unparalleled talent to match families with pets that meet their needs and schedules and familial temperament. For instance, from a rescued dog named Dina: "Thank you Mary for my rescue and letting me get adopted by Sandy. For a large breed black dog with an unknown past I know I'm a very lucky girl that there are people like Sandy to love and care for me."

Earlier this month, Mary's extraordinary public service was recognized by the American Red Cross of Northwest New Jersey with the Red Cross Medal for Bravery. And, it is my honor to commend her spirit of service to my colleagues here in Congress.

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN
GUINEA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, with so many important and often vexing challenges competing for our attention throughout the world, it seems that the tendency in Congress is to focus our attention on a crisis only after it has evolved into an unmitigated disaster. Fortunately, that was not the case last week, when the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on prospects for peace in Guinea.

This hearing presented us with an opportunity to discuss not only our strategic, humanitarian, human rights, and economic interests in Guinea—particularly as speculation about President Lansana Conté's political future and the potential for even greater conflict mounts—but also to consider how the United States Government has positioned itself to respond to threats and mitigate crises before they have spun out of control.

The stakes are high. Western Africa historically has been beset by political instability and violence, where conflict in one country spills across borders and threatens the region as a whole. This has led to massive displacements, refugee flows, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the perpetration of some of the most heinous human rights atrocities known to man. If we fail to capitalize on the opportunity to address transformative, stabilization and reconstruction needs in support of a democratic transition in Guinea today, I fear that we may be headed for a much wider regional crisis down the road.

Experts have been warning for years that the "ground was quaking" in Guinea. Widespread dissatisfaction with the autocratic rule of an aged and ailing Conté, coupled with economic decline, high inflation, political cronyism

and corruption, has led to periodic episodes of unrest in Conakry. However, the union-led strikes of December 2006 through February 2007 took on a new dimension. For the first time since the country obtained independence in 1958, Guineans across the nation have taken to the streets en masse, demanding change and refusing to accept half measures.

Through solidarity, the unions, opposition parties and civil society gained strength, and in the end, they succeeded in exacting critical concessions from the government. But while this symbolizes a significant victory, the hardest part is yet to come.

While the naming of the new consensus prime minister, Lansana Kouyaté on February 27th is a significant step forward, the office of the Prime Minister is not constitutionally protected and Conté has a record of breaking agreements. In addition, substantial resources are urgently needed for economic and social programs that will address the root causes of social unrest and shore-up popular support for the Prime Minister. History has shown that Conté is unlikely to share power in a meaningful way, and the longer he keeps his hand on the tiller in his authoritarian style, the more likely a renewed and destructive political crisis will emerge.

That said, it is widely speculated that—one way or another—Conté will not finish his term in office. His health is extremely poor and his power appears to be waning. Even the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, which typically shy away from criticizing one of their own in public, have condemned Conté's violent response to protests and have suggested that this may be the appropriate time for him to step down. Experts are no longer talking about *IF* Conté will leave office, but *WHEN* and under what conditions he will leave.

Still, Conté has not designated a successor and, in fact, has sidelined a number of individuals who appeared poised to succeed him. The President of the National Assembly, who would be the successor to the President under the terms of the Constitution, is widely unpopular. It has been widely suggested that a military takeover may be the only option for a "soft landing" should Conté die in office or retire to his farm.

However, I would strongly contend that a military takeover in Guinea, no matter how "temporary" it is intended to be, should NOT be considered an appealing option. The military is divided along generational and ethnic lines. Neither Guineans nor the international community should assume that the military is a cohesive group capable or willing to deliver a smooth transition to a democratic, civilian-led government.

While the responsibility for fostering an environment of peace and security in Guinea rests with Guineans, the United States is in a unique position to help facilitate a non-violent, democratic resolution to this crisis. Guineans remember the fact that it was the United States who came to their aid when Guinea was attacked by the Revolutionary United Front rebels from Sierra Leone, with the support of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. We also have invested heavily in peace in Liberia, and have credibility in the region. Guinea is a predominantly Muslim country which is favorably disposed to the United States. The time to help is now . . . before the crisis spirals out of control.

HONORING SGT MICHAEL A.
MARZANO

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. JASON ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, Marine SGT Michael A. Marzano. Last Tuesday, March 20, I joined my colleague, Congressman Phil English, in introducing H.R. 1594, legislation to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Hermitage, Pennsylvania in Sergeant Marzano's honor.

In December 2004, Sergeant Marzano volunteered for a tour of duty in Iraq and joined Ohio's 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment of the 4th Marine Division. He served honorably as a member of a Mobile Assault Platoon. On May 8, 2005, Sergeant Marzano was killed by a suicide bomber while taking part in an offensive against insurgents in the city of Haditha, Al-Anbar Province, Iraq.

Sergeant Marzano was the first soldier from Mercer County to die in either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. He exemplified the core values of honor, courage and commitment to a grateful nation and community. This designation will honor his memory and recognize his bravery and sacrifice. He is representative of all of Mercer County's veterans who have worn the uniform proudly, upheld the military's traditions of courage and faithful service, and stood ready, if duty required it, to make the ultimate sacrifice.

HONORING TIBOR HOLLO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize someone who has contributed significantly to the growth of Miami for more than 30 years. Tibor Hollo is a wonderful man whose impact on South Florida can be seen from its skyline. Over the years, Florida East Coast Realty, which Mr. Hollo founded in 1952, has become an integral part of South Florida's development.

Today's skyline surrounding Brickell Avenue and Miami's financial district can be attributed to Mr. Hollo's vision. In 1972, he constructed Brickell Avenue's first high-rise building, which today is surrounded by countless others. In the years since, downtown Miami has changed drastically, many of its improvements a result of Mr. Hollo's entrepreneurship. It came as no surprise when Mr. Hollo received the Miami Visionary Award; he took chances, seized opportunity, and was rewarded for his determination.

Today, Mr. Hollo continues to be involved with many projects in South Florida. His company, Florida East Coast Realty, is celebrating its 55th Anniversary and continues to play a major role in South Florida's real estate market. Included among many noteworthy projects over the years has been the construction of two United States Treasury buildings and a United States Justice building. It was fitting