

improve the community of Ellwood City for its children.

TRIBUTE TO JIM RUPP

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent and dear friend, Mr. "Jolly" Jim Rupp of Decatur, Illinois who has recently passed. He was a devoted public official and my condolences and best wishes go to his family and all who will miss him.

Some of my Illinois colleagues may remember Jim as Decatur's mayor from 1966 to 1976 and state senator until 1986. But anybody who knew Jim, knew him as "Jolly Jim." He was always happy, rarely ever down in spirit. His smile would warm you up on the coldest of mornings, and his personality was genuine. Jim got along with anybody and everybody. This was his best quality not only as a politician, but as a person. He was cut from a different type of political cloth. Jim realized that politics relied on personal qualities, and paying attention to the grass roots. He would make visits just about everywhere he represented to arouse interest in issues, and gain support from constituents. In fact, he was once quoted that he loved making these visits so much, that he could rarely ever complete a personal house chore. Nevertheless, he took the concept of politician to mean personable, and in touch with his constituents, which is a quality public officials still need to follow.

Jim grew up in New Jersey, and served in World War II and the Korean War proudly for this nation. He married Florence Reineke in 1944, who unfortunately passed away last December. He moved to Decatur in the 1950's and became partner and later sole owner of Creighton-Jackson Insurance Agency. Jim was then elected mayor several years later in 1966. He also offered much of his time outside of public office in the Decatur community. Jim was a member of the Rotary International, VFW Post 99, Decatur Shriners Club and the American Legion Post 105. Moreover, Jim was a devout Christian and a charter member of Woodland Chapel Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his sons James and Jeffrey and their families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Jim Rupp, whose dedication to his community has had a profound impact on those who knew him, including myself. It has been an honor to represent him in the United States Congress. I will miss "Jolly Jim" immensely. His style was so unique and he was so humble. Many of our national and local leaders need to follow in his footsteps to succeed in politics and in life as he did.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK PALLONE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today at a meeting of the Congressional Caucus of India and Indian Americans a number of our

colleagues honored me by electing me Co-Chairman of the Caucus. In doing so, I am being asked to fill a pair of big shoes by succeeding the Caucus's founder and first Co-Chairman, FRANK PALLONE.

Mr. Speaker, the Caucus on India and Indian Americans was founded more than five years ago by FRANK. His district has a large and vibrant Indian American community, and FRANK decided their voice needed to be heard in the Congress. What began as a handful of Members five years ago has been transformed into a thriving Caucus of more than one hundred Members, making the Caucus one of the largest ethnic Caucuses in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, much of this success and growth is a tribute to FRANK PALLONE's leadership and energy. During his term as Co-Chairman, he has worked tirelessly in the House to improve relations between India, the world's largest democracy, and the United States, the world's oldest democracy. The Caucus has been a forum for important discussions between the Caucus Members and senior politicians, diplomats and industrialists from India. Outside Washington, FRANK also has been very active, traveling to cities around the United States where he has met with hundreds of Indian American community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, as the Caucus of India and Indian Americans enters its sixth year, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating FRANK on a job well done. I am certain the other Members of the Caucus agree with me that we are looking forward to his continued strong participation as a senior Member of the Caucus and to his strong support of the interests of the Indian American Community.

RESOLUTION REASSERTING U.S. OPPOSITION TO THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce with Representative JIM SAXTON and Majority Whip TOM DELAY a resolution calling on President Clinton to publicly and unequivocally state that the United States will actively oppose a unilaterally declared Palestinian state and that any such action would have severe negative consequences for Palestinian relations with the United States. Though the United States has traditionally oppose a unilaterally declared Palestinian state, recent statements by the Administration have been ambiguous, and contradictory to its previous policy. This shift in the attitude by the U.S. government has been followed by recent announcements by the Palestinian Authority of their intention to declare a Palestinian state unilaterally. Such a declaration would be a violation of the Oslo Accords. It would also pose a threat to Israel, and it would have a destabilizing effect on the entire Middle East. Therefore, it is urgent that the U.S. reaffirms its opposition to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

For decades U.S. policy has been to oppose steadfastly the creation of an independent Palestinian state irrespective of how it is declared. The Administration's evolving policy on Palestinian statehood is skillfully explored

in Robert Satloff's piece "New Nuances" that appeared in the July 13th New Republic. The author points to four sets of comments by Administration officials that have called into doubt the longstanding U.S. policy. (1) On May 7th, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton advocated the establishment of a Palestinian state. (2) On May 18th, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk refused to express firm U.S. opposition to the unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state, but rather restated traditional U.S. policy as a preference. (3) Also on May 18th, Vice President AL GORE made similar comments. (4) And finally, at a May 28th White House briefing, spokesman Michael McCurry refused to rule out the possibility that the United States would refuse to recognize a unilaterally declared Palestinian state. Mr. Satloff summarized the comments as follows: "The United States strongly prefers a negotiated outcome of final status issues between Israel and the Palestinians and will work to achieve that goal. However, if the two sides do not reach agreement by May 1999 and the Palestinians issue a unilateral declaration of statehood over Israeli objections, the U.S. may or may not recognize that state."

Since these statements by the U.S. government, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, his cabinet and the Palestinian legislature have repeatedly threatened to unilaterally proclaim the establishment of a Palestinian state when the Oslo Accords expire on May 4, 1999. In mid-July, Chairman Arafat stated that "there is a transition period of 5 years and after 5 years we have the right to declare an independent Palestinian state." Even more recently, on September 24th, Chairman Arafat's cabinet threatened to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state that would encompass a portion of Jerusalem: "At the end of the interim period, it (the Palestinian government) shall declare the establishment of a Palestinian state on all Palestinian land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian state." (The Columbian, Mark Lavie, Associated Press, September 25, 1998.) Chairman Arafat continued his push for statehood on September 28th in a speech before the United Nations, calling upon world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state:

I would like to call upon all of you from this place—the source of international legitimacy and peacemaking, the guardian of freedom, security and stability, and the source for the achievement of justice and prosperity for humankind—to stand by our people, especially as the five-year transitional period provided for in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements will end on the 4th of May, 1999 and our people demand of us to shoulder our responsibilities, and they await the establishment of their independent state.

A unilateral declaration of statehood would be a renouncement of the Oslo Accords and could ignite hostilities. The Oslo Accords make no provision for the creation of a Palestinian state and, in fact, prohibit the Palestinian Authority from taking any actions that would affect the sovereignty of the Israeli-administered territories. Earlier this week Assistant Secretary of State Indyk said that a declaration of statehood "becomes a recipe for an almost immediate confrontation . . ." (Hillel Kuttler, Jerusalem Post, October 4, 1998). The threat of designating Jerusalem as the capital

of a unilaterally declared Palestinian state is particularly offensive. It is also an affront to official U.S. policy. The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 codified that "Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel."

In light of Chairman Arafat's repeated threats to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state, and due to the lack of clarity in the Administration's position on this issue, it is important that Congress urge the President to state explicitly that a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood is in contravention to long-standing U.S. policy and is a violation of the Oslo Accords, and the United States will oppose and refuse to recognize such as action.

REGARDING THE "TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1998" (H.R. 3888)

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" (H.R. 3888).

Enactment of the "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" is critical to end the problem of "slamming," that effects more than 20,000 consumers a year, according to the General Accounting Office. This legislation imposes a set of requirements that, when implemented by the industry, will eliminate the financial incentive for any carrier to make illegal changes in a consumer's selection of his or her telecommunications carrier.

Equally important are changes that I pressed for and that were made to the bill when it was marked up by the full Commerce Committee. This legislation avoids imposing burdens that will be as extensive or intrusive as some traditional rules and regulations placed on the telecommunications industry, while taking away the financial incentive for a carrier to engage in "slamming."

The "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" takes the approach of encouraging telecommunications providers to abide by a code of conduct that includes a self-policing mechanism. While this type of code is a common practice in many industries, it has yet to be adopted by telecommunications providers in the context of protecting consumers from "slamming." H.R. 3888 encourages the industry, under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission, to put in place the requirements of such a code. Under the code approach, the Commission shall engage in limited and minimal regulatory oversight; it will serve as a backstop, ensuring the proper code provisions are in place and, where appropriate, punishing those who willfully violate the code. By agreeing to adhere to the code, carriers can avoid more burdensome regulation and the significant civil penalties that can be imposed against companies that fail to follow the code and "slam" unsuspecting consumers.

This bill strikes the proper balance and I believe it will stop the unacceptable practice of "slamming." I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF ROBERT E. CHASE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join the family and friends of Robert E. (Bob) Chase and commend him on his retirement at the end of this month as Assistant City Administrative Officer for the City of Los Angeles.

Bob, is retiring after 41 years of distinguished service during which he served the citizens of Los Angeles and four mayors—Norris Poulson, Sam Yorty, Tom Bradley and Richard Riordan. Soon after he first joined the city in 1957, Bob rapidly rose in the city administrative office, being named to the position of assistant city administrative officer and executive officer in 1971 in recognition of his management skills. These same skills earned him recognition within the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, which elected him president in 1975.

Bob's record tenure as Executive Officer of the city administrative office has been a source of stability and reassurance to the city's residents. Indeed, the office has been at the center of all of the major events and changes which have shaped the city of Los Angeles. Most importantly, the administrative office enjoys a nationally-recognized reputation overseeing the fiscal affairs of the nation's second largest city—due, undoubtedly, to Bob's talents and those of the fine staff he assembled.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Bob Chase is a constituent. He is an example of the high quality of public servants who serve the city and one of many who devote considerable time and effort to build a strong and stable community.

I know Bob is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Sallie, and their family. From time to time, I understand he will also hone his already formidable skills at golf. In all these future ventures, I wish him the very best and, again, join in thanking him for his service to the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

CELEBRATING BURBANK MIDDLE
SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to Burbank Middle School on their 50th Anniversary. This wonderful school has been serving the community of Houston, Texas faithfully for 50 years, and is well deserving of recognition and praise.

Burbank Middle School is truly a model school that has a distinguished student body and staff.

Burbank was dedicated on September 20, 1949, with 1,700 students, parents, teachers, and school administrators in attendance.

The building's original cost was \$2,250,000. This was a large investment in those days and demonstrates the commitment that the residents had for quality education.

The dedication of the cornerstone was performed by past school board president Ewing

Warlein. During the ceremony, he said: "This great structure is dedicated to education in the finest sense of the word and is not only a monument to education, but a monument to the American way of life, to free enterprise and our constitutional form of government. This building is dedicated not only to the education of the children in this district but also to the boys and girls of generations yet unborn."

Education is the key to our children's future and the key to our country's continued success. The teachers and staff at Burbank Middle School also believe this and have worked hard to ensure that all their students have an opportunity for quality education.

The twenty-first century will bring new challenges for our young people, and we have an obligation to educate them to deal with these challenges. With the leadership of the parents, teachers, and staff of Burbank Middle School, we can accomplish anything.

For years, families have known this school as a living monument in the community, making it a good place to study and learn. I am certain that the strength of this community would not be what it is today without the commitment of this school. I am honored to congratulate the members of the Burbank Middle School for making it a source of community pride for the past 50 years.

HURRICANE RELIEF FOR PUERTO
RICO RESIDENTS

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my deepest sympathies and offer my support to those on the island of Puerto Rico who have suffered losses due to the damage caused by Hurricane Georges. I would also like to clear up some confusion regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal agency currently working to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by the hurricane.

I recently learned that erroneous reports regarding the funding of FEMA have been circulating in Puerto Rico. Some in the Commonwealth have stated to the press that funding for the FEMA program is obtained from local taxes and user fees within Puerto Rico and thus, the inhabitants of Puerto Rico are being forced to fully fund the FEMA relief efforts on their own. These reports are completely untrue.

On the contrary, the funds for FEMA come from the U.S. Treasury general fund and are appropriated by the Appropriations Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The general fund is supported by the collection of federal taxes and federal user fees from citizens of the mainland of the United States. Thus the burden of FEMA relief efforts is not being incurred solely by citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

I urge all of my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in continuing efforts to aid our fellow American citizens in