

THE CINCINNATI OBSERVATORY:
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cincinnati Observatory in Cincinnati, Ohio, which recently received the National Park Service's designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The Cincinnati Observatory is a nationally significant historical site for its association with individuals, institutions and events related to astronomy. Its two structures, now on 11 acres, were designed by nationally recognized master architect Samuel Hannaford and built in 1873 and 1904.

The Cincinnati Observatory is the oldest functioning observatory in the United States. The original telescope was the largest in the U.S. and the second largest in the world at the time. The observatory was associated with the careers of such famous American astronomers as Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel (1809–1862), who published *Sidereal Messenger*, the first attempt to bring astronomy to the public and Cleveland Abbe (1838–1916), a meteorologist who instituted daily weather bulletins in 1869. Abbe's work became popular with the public and led directly to the creation of the federal agency National Weather Bureau in 1870.

Paul Hergert (1908–1981) the world's foremost authority on the commodation of planetary orbits, served as director of the Observatory from 1946–1978. Under his leadership, the observatory became the original location of the Minor Planet Center, which was founded in 1947 by the International Astronomical Union. For the work he initiated at the Observatory, Hergert was elected to the National Academy of Science in 1962.

The Cincinnati Observatory embodies the rich history of American astronomy. It has gained international prominence for its landmark work in field of proper motions, gravitational studies and sidereal astronomy, including double stars, nebulae and clusters. Today, it serves as a vibrant public resource on the history and practice of astronomy.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati congratulate the Cincinnati Observatory, the Cincinnati Planning Association and the Observatory Planning Committee for their hard work and dedication to preserve this window to the past and inspiration for the future.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK T. VOTTO,
Ed.D.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Frank T. Votto, Ed.D., Superintendent of the Nutley School District who is retiring after 16 years of service to the Town of Nutley.

Frank has been a public school and collegiate educator for 35 years in New Jersey. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Social Studies from Montclair State, a Master of Arts degree in Administration and Super-

vision from Kean College, and a Doctor of Education in administration, Curriculum, and Supervision from Rutgers University. He has served as an Adjunct Professor in Reading Studies at Middlesex County College, 1970–71, as Assistant Director of the Evening Division, 1971–72, also at Middlesex County College, and as House Principal of Plainfield High School, 1972–81.

Frank joined the Nutley School District in 1982, serving as Principal of Nutley High School. He served in this capacity until 1986 when he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Nutley. Ten years later he was promoted to Superintendent of Schools for the Nutley School District.

Frank is a representative of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and served as President of the Assistant Superintendents Roundtable for Essex County. Since 1978, he has also served as Adjunct Professor in Administration, Curriculum, and Supervision at Jersey City State College.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Frank's family and friends, and the Town of Nutley in recognizing the many outstanding and invaluable contributions Dr. Frank T. Votto has made to the Public School System of Nutley, New Jersey.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF TAI-
WAN PRESIDENT DR. LEE TENG-
HUI'S INAUGURATION

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Dr. Lee Teng-hui was sworn in as the ninth President of Taiwan, Republic of China after having been elected in the first-ever popular election held in this island nation. This year marks the second year of his inauguration into office.

In addition to being one of our closest associates in Asia, Taiwan has steadily matured as an economic stronghold. The last few years has seen the republic's economy grow at a spectacular rate. It is currently one of the United States' largest trading partners.

As the delegate from Guam, I recognize the fact that the island and people that I represent share deep cultural and historical ties with Taiwan. My constituency includes a substantial number of Taiwanese immigrants. As in numerous locales, Taiwanese immigrants have integrated themselves with our island community over the years and have emerged as a vital force in the development and growth of Guam. In addition, Taiwanese tourists contribute to the island's economy. Made possible by the visa-waiver program recently implemented for Taiwanese citizens, Guam has greatly benefited from the business they bring.

We applaud Taiwan's economic achievements and political progress. I am positive that their leaders, many of whom were educated in the United States, will continue to lead their nation towards prosperity and success.

On behalf of the people of Guam I would like to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui on the second anniversary of his inauguration as president. I join them the people of Taiwan in their celebrations and wish them continued prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER ROBERT
WALKER DURFEY, JR.

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding patriot, United States Coast Guard Commander Robert Walker Durfey, Jr. Today, in Corpus Christi, friends and colleagues will celebrate Commander Durfey's tenure, to date, in service to the United States. All of us wish him well as he continues his service in California.

During Commander Durfey's tenure at Group and Air Station Corpus Christi as Deputy Group Commander and Air Station Executive Officer, I have become familiar with his efficiency and uncanny ability to exercise good judgment in delicate situations. He was thoughtful about keeping my office apprised of situations as they occurred with regard to matters of security. He played a pivotal role in Operation Gulf Shield, the largest multi-agency counter-drug operation in the history of the United States.

As a former law enforcement officer myself, I am deeply aware of the price illegal drugs exact from our communities and our nation. Commander Durfey and I share a commitment to keeping drugs off the streets of our country. This warrior has been diligent and dignified in carrying out the policies of the United States; he is a true public servant.

But that is not the entire reason the Coastal Bend of South Texas will miss him. He is just an outstanding human being. He is a devoted Christian with a beautiful family. He is decent and dedicated to the service, to his family, but most of all to his men. He is thoughtful of the sailors in the ranks, and deeply respectful of his superiors.

He has the highest level of commitment and represents the height of integrity. If you are looking for an honest man, go meet Commander Durfey. He is always willing to go the extra mile for his duty; he is determined to do the job well. The Coast Guard is genetic with him. His father was Rear Admiral Robert Durfey (USCG, retired) and Commander Durfey readily admits to being in the Coast Guard "all his bloom'n' life."

We will miss him in the Coastal Bend, but we can find great comfort that he will continue his quality service in northern California, which is familiar territory to him. He attended high school in Alameda and now returns with a vast amount of experience under his belt. While I cannot be at his ceremony today, I hope all of you will join me in commending this outstanding public servant and dedicated Coastie.

REMEMBERING JOHN B. BENNETT

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the dedication of a plaque commemorating the service of Mr. John B. Bennett, which occurred in my District this past Saturday at the West Side Rowing Club.

Mr. Bennett, who passed away May 27, 1995, is a true legend in Rowing in every sense of the word. During an era when club crews were as powerful as those at some of the big Universities, he dominated the field as North America's winningest Coach. His eight-oared crews won the U.S. National Championships in 1947, 1949, 1950, and 1951. Those same crews went on to win the Royal Canadian Henley Championships in 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1956.

Coach Bennett also led a four-oar team to a National Championship in 1956, and represented our Nation in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia.

Even more important than his will to win and impressive records was Coach Bennett's leadership, involvement, and motivation of countless young men who were fortunate enough to be part of his teams.

Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, Coach Bennett served as a Member of the Buffalo Police Department for Thirty-three years, and attained the rank of Lieutenant.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the West Side Rowing Club, the Bennett Family, and our entire Western New York community in remembrance of Coach Bennett's service. I close with a caption from the newly dedicated plaque, which best sums up his amazing contributions:

"As remarkable as his coaching record was, his moral influence on hundreds of young men, many of who were war veterans, was stronger. He motivated his charges to be winners in life as well as on the water."

God Bless that unending commitment and Mr. John B. Bennett.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
MILLBRAE POLICE OFFICER
DAVID JOHN CHETCUTI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sorrow at the devastating loss last month of Officer David John Chetcuti of the Millbrae, California, Police Department. Officer Chetcuti, who was only 43 years old, was killed on April 25 while aiding another officer during an exchange of gunfire with a heavily armed man.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our most sincere condolences to his wife Gail, his three sons—David, Jr., John, and Rickey—and their friends and family in Millbrae and throughout the Bay Area. All of us have been touched by Officer Chetcuti's generosity, service, duty and commitment to his community.

Last month's tragedy hangs even more heavily in our hearts this week as we commemorate National Police Week. President Clinton's words proclaiming this solemn occasion ring especially true in reflecting upon Officer Chetcuti: "This week a grateful Nation pauses to honor the more than half a million dedicated law enforcement officers across our country who put their lives on the line each day to protect us. These courageous and dedicated men and women daily wage the timeless battle for right over wrong, peace

over conflict, and the rule of law over anarchy. . . . We lean heavily on this thin blue line, and it never breaks."

Officer Chetcuti honored this truth every day of his life through his extraordinary commitment to protecting all of us. As Mike Parker, Chief of the Millbrae Police Department, so eloquently remarked, "We lost Officer David J. Chetcuti when he was doing what he loved and did best, helping others."

David John Chetcuti was born in San Francisco on March 5, 1955. He was the youngest of seven children born to John and Lily Chetcuti. Dave graduated from Capuchino High School in San Bruno, and later joined the Millbrae Police Department as a Reserve Police Officer in November, 1983. In April 1987, Dave was hired as a Deputy Sheriff with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. He returned to the Millbrae Police Department in December, 1987, shortly after graduating from Alameda County's 91st Basic Academy.

Throughout his distinguished eleven-year career, Officer Chetcuti consistently performed as an outstanding officer and leader in many different service capacities. In 1992, he was the first officer from the Millbrae Police Department to receive recognition for the highest number of drunk driving arrests during the "Avoid the 23" campaign. In 1995, he received the Department's Lifesaving Award for initiating CPR on a heart attack victim. Over the years, Officer Chetcuti received more than 33 written commendations and was named in countless news stories reporting arrests, investigations, and outstanding achievements.

Mr. Speaker, 23 police officers have died in the line of duty in the history of San Mateo County, California. Behind each murder is a family grieving, a department devastated, and a community shaken. As we mourn Officer Chetcuti, and as we share our grief with his family, friends, and the people of Millbrae, I would like to pay tribute to these 22 brave men who preceded him in making the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and security of all of us.

These 22 officers are: Hugo Olazar, California Highway Patrol (1989); Joel M. David, East Palo Alto Police (1988); George L. Garrett, Jr., Redwood City Police (1981); Ralph Percival, California Highway Patrol (1974); Gordon Joinville, San Mateo Police (1968); Richard J. Klass, Daly City Police (1966); Charles Manning, Broadmoor Police (1964); Dale Krings, California Highway Patrol (1962); William E. Pitois, California Highway Patrol (1960); John W. Lyle, Menlo Park Police (1960); Eugene A. Doran, Hillsborough Police (1959); William Moyle, South San Francisco Police (1953); James Dalziel, California Highway Patrol (1945); Forrest Gerken, California Highway Patrol (1944); Herman G. Fleishman, Redwood City Police (1939); Jack Doyle, Daly City Police (1936); Pierre J. Larrecou, Sheriff's Department (1927); Albert D. Coturri, San Bruno Police (1924); Herbert W. Lampkin, Sheriff's Department (1924); Arthur G. Meehan, San Bruno Police (1924); William Phillip McEvoy, Sheriff's Department (1897); and George Washington Tallman, Sheriff's Department (1888).

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the courageous officers of the Millbrae Police Department and all other police officers across America who risk their lives every working day. As we mark National Police Week, let us all take a moment to honor them, and to remember Officer David J.

Chetcuti and his selfless contributions to the people of Millbrae.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL
STEEL

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel Steel, the first graduate of New Mexico Agricultural College, now known as New Mexico State University, who will be receiving his honorary degree during tomorrow's pregraduation ceremonies in Las Cruces, New Mexico at the university.

Samuel Steel was completing his last semester toward his Bachelor of Science Degree at New Mexico Agricultural College when he was shot on March 9, 1893. He would have been the first graduate of a New Mexico Territory institution of higher learning had he not been killed at the age of 17.

Steel entered New Mexico Agricultural College at the age of 13. Accounts of his abilities indicated a young man of genius or near-genius aptitude. He entered his senior year in the fall of 1892 as the only member of his class. He was a member of the Columbian Literary Society, which created the *New Mexican Collegian*, the first college newspaper in the territory.

President Hiram Hadley said of Steel: "It is rather more than 40 years since I consecrated my life to the work of education. In that period I have had under my care many brilliant youths, a large number of whom now fill exalted positions in their chosen callings; but taken in all, I have never known the superior, if the equal of Samuel Steel. Personally, I loved him with a paternal affection, and had planned for him labor in which he was sure to distinguish himself."

In the 100th anniversary year of his death, the Sam Steel Society was formed to carry on the scholarly tradition of Steel by inducting new graduates and honored individuals into the Society. Two years later, the frontage road on I-10 along the southern edge of the campus was named Sam Steel Way.

On May 15, 1998, 105 years after he would have been the territory's first graduate of a New Mexico college, an honorary bachelor of science degree in general agriculture is being awarded to the late Samuel Steel. On hand to accept the degree will be three nephews—Captain Gordon Steel of the United States Air Force, Ric Steel of El Paso, and namesake Dr. Samuel Steel of San Francisco.

The diploma reads: "Be it known that for his outstanding scholarship as the first member of a senior class in a college in the New Mexico Territory, which set a standard of excellence for those who followed as students at New Mexico State University, the Regents hereby confer posthumously upon Samuel Steel the honorary degree of bachelor of science in general agriculture with all the honors and distinctions appertaining hereto."