

right living and bright living without being suspected of preaching.' He concludes: 'If it can help to lift men or in any degree make better or cheerier or more wholesome the community with which its lot is cast, it will be glad and grateful for its opportunity.'

We remain grateful for that opportunity today."

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER KOULAKOVSKY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Alexander Koulakovsky and his company "Nafta Sib" which has undertaken an exciting new project in Russia. In September of 1998 at the beginning of the new school year, a traditional Christian School opened in Moscow. This school, which was built in one year, was funded by the company "Nafta Sib," which also engages in several charities and projects aimed at restoring old churches, and preserving icons and religious artifacts. Mr. Koulakovsky is currently in the process of putting together a Board of Trustees for the Christian School which will provide financial support and assist in maintaining high standards of education.

This new Christian School is the first since the communist revolution in 1917. Prior to the opening in September, the school would provide occasional lessons in a rented apartment. Two hundred and sixty students are now enrolled in the school, and the erection of the new building will provide the opportunity for one hundred and twenty more students to enroll in this outstanding educational program.

The school has received all of the educational licenses required, and is permitted to conduct lessons in accordance with the state school programs. For the past two years, many graduates were accepted by the most prominent Russian universities. The students are also receiving religious instructions as part of their curriculum. The school has an in-house church which is named after martyr St. Pytor, the archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church and close advisor to the Russian Patriarch in the 1930s and was killed during the Stalin regime. Regular religious services are conducted for the students. This church is also the first one to be named after a martyr of this century and be recognized by the Russian Orthodox Church.

I traveled to Russia last September, and visited this school on its opening day. I was impressed with the school's curriculum, and with the quality of the students who attended it. As a former school teacher and the father of five, I know that education is the key to the future. For Russia's democracy to succeed, they must look to tomorrow and educate a new generation of Russians in the tenets of freedom. I applaud Alexander Koulakovsky for schooling Russia's leaders of tomorrow and for taking steps to bring quality education and religious freedom to the children of Moscow.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CENTRAL MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, DR. ED ELLIOTT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Ed Elliott, who is retiring from his post as President of Central Missouri State University (CMSU), Warrensburg, MO, after serving there for nearly fourteen years.

During Dr. Elliott's tenure at CMSU, the University has seen tremendous growth in enrollment due to Ed's insightful university policies. There has been an expansion of the school's international and distance learning programs, increased admissions standards, a new general studies program, an emphasis in strategic planning and collegial governance, and an integration of a new teaching-learning-assessment model known as Continuous Process Improvement. In addition, numerous building renovations and new construction projects, including the James C. Kirkpatrick Library that will be dedicated in March, have added to student interest in CMSU.

Under Ed's leadership, the University has received dramatically increased state and alumni funding. He has also set academic priorities to develop all curriculum around a strong, liberal arts core, verifying quality through assessment and program-specific accreditation. In addition, he integrated technology into the curriculum and emphasized teacher education. Recently, Central has been named the state's lead institution in professional technology.

Dr. Elliott became Central Missouri State's 12th president on July 1, 1985, after serving for three years as president of Wayne State College in Wayne, NE. He came to Wayne State in 1971 as director of graduate studies and had also served as a dean and vice president before being named president there.

A native of Grain Valley, MO, Ed is a 1960 graduate of William Jewell College and started his teaching career in Harrisonville that same year. He earned his master's degree from Columbia University in 1964, and his doctor of education degree from the University of Northern Colorado in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ed Elliott has had an outstanding career in education, and he will surely be missed by everyone at Central Missouri State University. I wish him and his wife, Sandra, all the best in the days ahead. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in playing tribute to this fine Missourian.

IN HONOR OF FATHER BENJAMIN H. SKYLES

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Father Benjamin H. Skyles for his outstanding contributions to the community and citizens of Pasadena, Texas.

Father Skyles has served the community of Pasadena through his ministry as Rector of St.

Peter's Episcopal Church for 34 years. His social conscience is second to none. Throughout those 34 years, Father Skyles has been a tremendous asset to the Pasadena community. He has worked to protect the environment, care for and educate children and the elderly, train workers, and give a helping hand to those who are ill or living in poverty. He is also a dedicated husband and father.

His ministry has enhanced the lives of thousands of Pasadena citizens from birth to old age. St. Peter's Day School has nurtured and educated children for over 30 years. Its After School Program has been a safe-haven for latchkey children for over 25 years. For the elderly, St. Peter's offers low-cost housing. Additionally, St. Peter's has programs to confront social ills, such as alcoholism and hunger. St. Peter's also offers English as a second language program, Scouting Programs, and year round GED classes.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Father Skyles began his crusade to protect the environment. He became the first vice-president of the Channel Area Subsidiary Chapter for Help Eliminate Pollution. As Chairman of the Preservation of the Armand Bayou in 1972, he led the way in a complicated battle to save a beautiful natural resource so that it could be enjoyed by future generations. He chaired the Southeast Harris County Clinic Task Force in 1976 and 1977, which established the Strawberry Clinic and vital health services to the area.

In 1984, Father Skyles learned to speak and read Spanish to reach out to the Hispanic Community. Today, Father Skyles leads four services, including one in Spanish, each Sunday.

Father Skyles founded the North Pasadena Community Outreach Organization. In association with the Episcopal Health Charities and support from St. Peter's parishioners, the Community Outreach Center will house after school programs, a free community clinic, and a state of the art computer clubhouse. The Center, opened in January 1999, is a \$1 million investment in the well-being of Pasadena and is among the first church-school-community collaborations in this area.

Father Skyles was recognized as Pasadena's Citizen of the Year in 1973, awarded the Religious Service Award for the Greater Houston area, and appointed as Dean of the East Harris County Convocation of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas in 1993. He has also been a member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews since 1982.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Father Benjamin Skyles for his service to the Pasadena community. He is truly a man of social action. His deeds and contributions will not be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO STOP FRANKING ABUSE

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced H.R. 642, a bill that ends the most pervasive abuse of the frank—sending out unsolicited, self-promotional mass mailings. Today, I am reintroducing this bill. My bill specifically targets franking abuse by cracking down on the use of mass mailings.

Title 39 of the U.S. Code defines the types of mailings that are frankable. Included in this definition are the "usual and customary" congressional newsletter, press release or questionnaire. The legislation I am reintroducing would simply strike mailings of this type from the code, thereby disallowing future use of the frank for these purposes.

Other franking reform proposals have centered around dangerous numbers games that leave open the possibility of abuse. Rather than try to settle on some arbitrary formula, my legislation will get to the heart of the problem. Reducing the definition of "mass" from 500 to 100, or debating whether the franking allowance should be reduced by 50% or 33% misses the mark. The problem that needs to be addressed is the use of the frank as a campaign tool whose real "informational" purpose is to make constituents aware of how deserving we are of reelection.

I urge all members who are interested in real campaign finance reform to carefully consider cosponsoring this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF SRI LANKA'S INDEPENDENCE FEBRUARY 4, 1999

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Honorable Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (President of Sri Lanka), her government, and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, on the occasion of the 51st anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence.

Sri Lanka is a free, independent, and sovereign nation. This unique country has an extensive and rich history, dating back to its flourishing civilization of the 2nd century B.C. Throughout the years, Sri Lanka has developed its economy based on its agriculture, cultivation of semi-precious stones, and manufacturing industries.

Although Sri Lanka experienced invasions and rule by the Portuguese, Dutch, and British, Sri Lanka regained independence through a peaceful and constitutional process in 1948. After 51 years of independence, Sri Lanka has emerged as a key South Asian country committed to democracy, free market economics, and sound social and development policy.

Bi-lateral relations between the U.S. and Sri Lanka have always been strong. To date, Sri Lanka exports nearly \$1.5 billion worth of goods to the U.S. and the U.S. exports nearly \$370 million worth of goods to Sri Lanka. Trade and investment between the U.S. and Sri Lanka continue to grow, with some of the largest business links with Sri Lanka including companies such as Coca-Cola, Motorola, IBM and Hilton, to name a few.

The formation and development of the Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan-Americans will lead to increased constructive and educated dialogue between the U.S. and Sri Lanka. This will ensure progress between the two countries and the opportunity for Congress to gain greater knowledge and education about Sri Lanka.

As Sri Lanka celebrates 51 years of freedom, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to

pay tribute to all of her national heroes and freedom fighters who fought for independence. I am also happy to extend my congratulations to the approximately 100,000 Sri Lankans in the U.S., whose communities have made economic and social impacts throughout various cities across the U.S.

Sri Lanka's rich history of over 2500 years, and its tremendous progress as a nation in 51 years alone, proves Sri Lanka's strength and tremendous potential for the 21st century and years to come. Again, I join in commemoration of Sri Lanka's 51st year of independence and I look forward to working with the Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Americans, the Sri Lankan community in the U.S., and the government of Sri Lanka.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GOVERNOR MEL CARNAHAN OF MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Governor Mel Carnahan of Missouri is one of five public leaders nationwide to receive an Americans for the Arts' Government Leadership in the Arts award.

Governor Carnahan received the 1999 Americans for the Arts and The United States Conference of Mayors Award for State Arts Leadership. Governor Carnahan was recognized for his outstanding leadership in forging overwhelming bipartisan support of the arts, resulting in unprecedented cultural policy within the state of Missouri. He spearheaded and signed into law a provision designating 100 percent of an existing tax on non-resident athletes and entertainers to build a \$100 million state Cultural Trust over the next ten years. A portion of this designated revenue stream will also provide annual state budget increases for the arts. A number of other exemplary initiatives also characterize Governor Carnahan's leadership in the arts. Since taking office in 1993, Governor Carnahan steadily increased the annual appropriations for the arts in the state, ranking Missouri seventh nationally in per capita state funding for the arts. He established the Missouri Fine Arts Academy at Springfield, MO, providing 200 high school students each year the opportunity to participate in a three-week residence program to sharpen their artistic talents. His efforts also led to the statewide public school adoption of arts education as a part of their core curriculum.

Nominated by the Missouri Arts Council and Missouri Citizens for the Arts, Governor Carnahan was honored at the Mayor's Arts Gala at Washington, D.C., on January 28, 1999. The event was held in conjunction with the Conference of Mayor's Annual Meeting and the Urban Arts Foundation meeting, a gathering of more than 700 mayors and arts leaders from across the nation.

Governor Carnahan shares this honor with many key national figures including, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, of Massachusetts; Representative MICHAEL CASTLE, of Delaware; Mayor Joseph Riley, of Charleston, S.C.; and Jane Alexander, former NEA Chairperson.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Governor Carnahan, and

join the Americans for the Arts in commending his good work.

IN HONOR OF MR. FRANK AGUIRRE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize a wonderful American, Mr. Frank Aguirre, for his inspiration as a dedicated father, a hard-working professional, and a model citizen of our great nation. Frank Aguirre is a fitting example of someone living "the American dream."

Born and raised in Sonora, Mexico, Frank came to the United States in 1949 on a student visa. His interest was Engineering, and he attended Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. Later, at East Los Angeles College and California State University, Los Angeles, his major changed to Accounting.

Recognizing the value of hard work and the opportunities it opens in the United States, Frank became a naturalized citizen in 1956. While at East Los Angeles College, he met Rosie Padilla, and they wed in March 1957. They have four children: Victor, Cindy, Becky and Haydee and six grandsons: Alex, Ryan, Austin, Victor, Kellen and Brett.

After attending East Los Angeles College, Frank started as a stock boy in a wall paper hanging company. He worked hard, and his industry was noticed. Frank soon earned a promotion to the accounting department. Anxious to provide for his new family, Frank went on to work as an accountant at Global Van and Storage and opened an income tax business at home.

His dreams were big, and he worked diligently to offer his growing family more than he had ever had growing up. He accepted positions at Pacific Van and Storage, again at Global Van Lines and finally plunged into the moving business himself. Owning his own business had been his goal, but his Sun Moving & Storage company struggled through adversity for a year and a half before closing its doors. Several years later, he was joined by two partners and formed Merit United Moving and Storage. This business brought Frank prosperity, not to mention, high blood pressure.

Perhaps what is most notable about Frank is his love for his family. He worked hard, yet he always had time for his children. They have fond memories of impromptu Saturday mountain day trips, miniature golf games, road trips to Mexico and lots of family get-togethers. Frank is the most fortunate of men—he is deeply loved and respected by his family and peers.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 6, 1999, family and friends—and I am privileged to count myself among them—will gather at a special dinner to pay tribute and celebrate Frank Aguirre's accomplishments as a father, businessman, and model American citizen. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional human being.