

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S OF STRATFORD NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Reverend Anthony Kopka, members of the congregation, and the Stratford community in extending my sincere congratulations to St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church as they celebrate its 100th Anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and I am proud to help them celebrate this momentous occasion.

St. Joseph's was first organized in Bridgeport, Connecticut by a group of Polish Catholic immigrants in 1907 and later moved to Stratford, Connecticut after building a new church complex. St. Joseph's was born out of the congregation's desire to exercise more control over their parish. It was important to the Polish congregants that their church be led by a Polish priest, services held in Polish—in all, it was of the utmost importance to the congregants that their ethnic traditions and customs be preserved. In an effort to meet these needs, the Church became a part of the Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC)—a denomination which began in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The PNCC blends traditional Apostolic and Catholic teaching with American democracy which is governed by a constitution patterned after that of the United States. The Church established executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at national, diocesan, and parish levels. The result is a democratic Catholicism that among other things provides for ownership of parish property by the congregation, a voice and a vote for every member in most matters of the parish, and the election of parish delegates to meet with clergy at synods to elect bishops and determine church policy.

Since its inception in 1907, St. Joseph's has been an integral part of our community and has now grown to its current 300 parish members from 20 different Connecticut communities. Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. By strengthening our bonds of faith, St. Joseph's gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. The members of the St. Joseph's have also given much to the City of Bridgeport and the Town of Stratford. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did their commitment to the enrichment of our community.

For 100 years, the St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church has been a fixture in communities of Bridgeport and Stratford. Through their ministry and outreach efforts, they have left an indelible mark on our community and continue to enrich the lives of others. I am proud to stand today and extend my very best wishes to them as they mark this milestone in their history. Happy 100th Anniversary!

CONGRATULATIONS HELEN GALE FERGUSON ON HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Helen Gale Ferguson and wish her well on the occasion of her 75th birthday. Helen was born in Newfoundland, Canada in February 1932, where she grew up with her siblings as the daughter of a fisherman and boat builder who sailed the waters of the northern Atlantic.

Upon completion of high school, Helen began working for the U.S. Air Force at Ernest Harmon Air Force Base in Stephenville, Newfoundland. It was there that she met and married Mark E. Ferguson, Jr., during his active duty assignment at the base. Following his honorable discharge from the Air Force, they settled with their children in 1960 in Glen Burnie, Maryland. In 1966, Helen proudly became a U.S. citizen during a ceremony in Annapolis, Maryland. Helen and Mark were married for 41 wonderful years until his passing in 1997.

Helen is the proud mother of four children. Her personal life is one of grace, quiet strength, and love of family. Her values have been passed down to her children, as each of them have chosen a life of service to our Nation. Her daughters Pamela and Patricia both work for the Department of Defense. Her son, David, works for the Department of the Treasury, and her son Mark serves as a Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. Helen is adored by her seven grandchildren Alex, Hannah, Andrew, Eric, Ellie, Ian, and Seth.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending our very best to Helen Ferguson on the occasion of her 75th birthday and recognizing her as a role model for her strength, dignity, and support for her family. Coming from a family of immigrants myself, I am particularly proud of her as a role model to all who come to this country from humble beginnings, and contribute to the rich fabric of America.

**HONORING MISS GREATER SPRINGFIELD, CARESSA CAMERON**

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Caressa Cameron for her year of service to the Miss America Organization and Greater Springfield area.

Ms. Cameron won the title of Miss Greater Springfield 2006 on February 12, 2006. She has worked tirelessly with the Boys and Girls Club to promote her platform of AIDS awareness through behavior modification in the Northern Virginia area.

During her reign, Ms. Cameron made numerous appearances around Springfield, including a gala fundraiser at Greenspring Retirement Community. She also spoke to students at Erving Middle School about "Right Decisions, Right Now," a Miss Virginia program.

Last June, Ms. Cameron competed in the Miss Virginia pageant in Roanoke, VA and placed 2nd runner-up. She was then asked to represent Virginia at the National Miss Sweetheart Pageant in Illinois and placed 4th runner-up to Miss National Sweetheart 2006.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Ms. Cameron for representing the Greater Springfield area with great pride and respect. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this distinguished title and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

**TRIBUTE TO DR. MILTON GORDON**

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has been dedicated to higher education and who is a model community servant to my district, Dr. Milton Gordon.

As Chancellor of California State University, Fullerton, Dr. Milton Gordon has been a visionary for the students and faculty as he works to promote higher education for women and minorities.

On February 27th, 2007, Dr. Gordon will be honored by KinderCaminata, a non-profit community organization in Orange County, California that sponsors educational outreach to kindergarten-age children and their families, focusing on promoting literacy, celebrating cultural heritage, and career education. Dr. Gordon will be receiving the "Corazón" Award from KinderCaminata. The tribute is a much deserved honor and should be celebrated by everyone in Orange County, California.

Below are remarks that illustrate Dr. Gordon's outstanding commitment to all the students that Cal State Fullerton seeks to serve. These remarks are taken from Dr. Gordon's report to the University's Latino Faculty and Staff in October 2006:

We are here to strengthen our ties as a community that is working to make learning truly accessible and preeminent to all students and especially to Latino Students.

Cal State Fullerton feels that a large measure of our success is due to our campus outreach efforts and service to the community. While demographic growth has also contributed to the Latino increase, without college readiness programs offered by CSUF, such as Gear Up and ENLACE, the educational obstacles faced by large numbers of Latino students would not have been overcome.

But there is much more we need to do. We need to expand our efforts to work with parents and students in the middle and high schools of the county to increase the number of college ready Latino graduates. We continue to work with colleagues from Fullerton and Santa Ana Colleges to develop a work plan to improve county-wide Latino college readiness programs modeled after the Santa Ana Partnership and its ENLACE Program. We are in the process of creating additional programs in the sciences in collaboration with Fullerton College to increase the transfer of well prepared Latino Students into our Math-based programs in the sciences and engineering. We hope to expand such collaboration with transfer programs to Cal State Fullerton from all Orange County

community college campuses with high Latino enrollment.

We believe that our adhesion to the Cal State Fullerton mission to make this campus a place where "learning is preeminent" and our enforcement of rigorous academic standards have been keys to our success. By serving the learning needs of all students, we serve Latino students; by maintaining high learning expectations, we serve Latino students; by caring for the well-being of our students, we serve Latino students.

An activist community orientation defines the role the university will take in town grown partnerships. Such involvement better informs university personnel of the community's needs. These partnerships must engage students, faculty, staff, and campus administration in university-wide service commitments. The university must be a good neighbor and a good partner.

In working in the Latino community, campus personnel must be culturally aware and mindful of the central role family plays within the culture. We must have a clear and simple outreach message. In providing information on what students need to know to be college ready, make sure you know your audience. Our information must be available in straight-forward language that does not speak down to our audience and written in language understood by parents. We will be developing a Spanish-language campus website and improved, accessible messages in Spanish to reach out to our Latino parents and potential students.

All of the programs and services enumerated above define what it means to be a student-focused institution and are integral to making us a Hispanic Serving Institution in word and deed.

I personally look forward to our continued collaboration to make this a place where all students can be successful and achieve their dreams regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.

I look forward to Dr. Gordon's continued work for Cal State Fullerton and KinderCaminata and it is my pleasure to honor him today.

#### COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of House Resolution 99, congratulating the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Women's Volleyball team on winning the 2006 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship. December 16, 2006 marked the completion of a phenomenal year that resulted in a 33-1 record and the program's third national title, not to mention the largest audience ever for a woman's college volleyball game.

The hard work and determination of this team exudes the spirit of achievement that is reflected within the people of the great State of Nebraska. Junior Sarah Pavan has continued a Husker tradition of achievement in athletics and academics by being named the ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American of the Year. This honor brings the university's all-time total of Academic All-Americans to 234 and 29 for the program. These totals lead the nation in both categories.

Head coach John Cook, along with the entire coaching staff, should be commended for their training and dedication to a team that became only the third team in NCAA history to be ranked number one in the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll for an entire season. Also to the credit of Coach Cook, this is the second title that the team has earned under his direction.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to consider the great honor that the University of Nebraska Volleyball team has brought to themselves, their families, their university, and the State of Nebraska and vote for House Resolution 99.

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOR SECTION 511 REPEAL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today, pleased to introduce a piece of legislation along with my co-sponsor and esteemed Ways and Means colleague, Congressman WALLY HERGER, that will repeal a law that unfairly burdens local governments with annual procurement spending over \$100 million, which includes Miami-Dade County.

The legislation would repeal Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 which was slipped into the legislation without an up-or-down vote on the amendment.

Section 511 requires local governments that spend over \$100 million in procurements, primarily located in large urban centers, to deduct a 3 percent withholding tax from payments made to their vendors for federal income tax purposes. This legislation will become effective in 2011.

We have the opportunity with this legislation to help repeal Section 511 which unfairly burdens our cities and urban centers where many people living below the poverty line reside. If Section 511 is not repealed, the poor will be further squeezed as the cost of future increased procurement contracts will be passed on to the neediest people, while services and day-to-day operations may be jeopardized too.

According to Miami-Dade County officials, the withholding tax will raise the cost of purchases by 3 percent or more and Miami-Dade County would have to absorb an annual increase in the cost of goods and services in excess of \$57 million, given the annual value of contracts for goods and services awarded by Miami-Dade County will exceed \$1.9 billion.

Small businesses and companies pursuing government contracts, many of whom operate on tight margins or irregular cash flows, would also be adversely affected in this bid process, while large companies with established reserves could better absorb this withholding tax.

Devolution of taxation down from the federal government to state and local governments is a problem that we must fix. This is but one small, but very important step toward doing just that.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WITHHOLDING TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I have long championed tax relief for small businesses because I believe such firms are the life-blood of our economy. As a small businessman myself, I know how small business owners struggle to remain profitable in a highly competitive and extremely challenging environment. Yet they continue to be the drivers of much of our nation's economic and new job growth. It is for this reason that I have strongly supported increases to the current section 179 small business expensing limits, an end to the onerous death tax, and the reduced double taxation of capital gains and dividends. I am concerned, however, that a little known revenue raising provision, passed as part of the tax reconciliation bill last May, will hamper small business creative spirit by significantly and adversely changing the way governments pay for the goods they use and services they require.

Effective in 2011, section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 will require federal, state, and local governments to withhold 3 percent from payments for goods and services, excluding payments to non-profits and those made by governments with less than \$100 million in annual expenditures. This onerous provision will not take effect for just under four years. But I believe we have to begin addressing the impacts it will have on honest taxpaying businesses now, and actively seek alternatives to withholding.

Thousands of businesses and individuals across the country are reimbursed by governments for various reasons every day. In my Northern California congressional district, governments rely on local and regional businesses all the time to maintain public services—from the electrician who re-wires a city council chamber in Redding to the construction company that builds an interchange at a dangerous stretch of highway in Butte County. When the Feather River needs a new setback levee, or an existing levee in the network requires urgent repairs to protect the community, the Army Corps of Engineers employs local businesses for construction and materials. Similarly, when an escape route from a fire-prone community requires widening, the government turns to local sources to get the job done.

In 2011, however, firms providing these necessary goods and services to governments will see 3 percent of their payments withheld.

I am troubled that the withholding provision will effectively force firms to float a new interest-free loan to the federal Treasury if they do business with a local, state or federal government. In addition, unlike other income-based withholding, which is actually based on tax liability, the new government withholding provision is based on government payments with no relationship to a company's taxable income. This means that, while businesses will be deprived of much needed cash flows for day-to-day operations, the 3 percent provision could end up significantly over withholding for tax purposes. The Joint Committee on Taxation confirmed this in its description of the