

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL, "ATLANTIS"

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago our Nation's Capital was blessed with the arrival of the U.S. Oceanographic Research Vessel, *Atlantis*. Operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute of Massachusetts and brought to Washington, DC, in conjunction with the Office of Naval Research, the 288-foot *Atlantis* docked in Old Town Alexandria prior to leaving on a 2-year global research mission.

The *Atlantis* was built by the U.S. Navy and launched recently in Pascagoula, MS, at a christening ceremony including Members of the House, the Senate, and the administration. The *Atlantis* will be operated by Woods Hole, an outstanding institution that has been a leader in ocean science and research for nearly 70 years. Over the years, the findings of Woods Hole have benefited the United States and the world. Much of this work involves basic research sponsored by a number of Federal departments and agencies including the National Science Foundation, the Department of Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The results of the work of Woods Hole is far reaching and vital to our future affecting food production, earthquake and storm predicting, agriculture, medicine, and even our own national defense. This work is also critical to unlocking the mysteries that lie beneath the surface of the world's oceans which comprise two-thirds of the Earth's surface.

Mr. Speaker, the recent arrival of the *Atlantis* in our Nation's Capital served as a reminder of the importance of scientific research which is critical to our national economy and world leadership. I commend the leadership of the Department of Defense and the U.S. Navy for their continued work in this area and urge my colleagues to continue to support the fine work of both the *Atlantis* and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

MY GOOD FRIEND HOMER C. JONES—GET WELL SOON

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding man, Homer C. Jones. Homer is currently in the hospital and I would like to wish him well and introduce this fine man to my colleagues and the rest of the country. He is a dedicated man who has always helped his fellow neighbors and contributed a great deal to his community.

Homer was born in Galatia, IL, on July 30, 1908; his 90th birthday is just around the corner. He considers Benton, IL, his home, and besides his numerous volunteer efforts he served on the building commission for nearly 30 years. Homer is a well-rounded man, having won his division as a Golden Gloves boxer in 1925, and graduated from the Mohler Bar-

ber College in St. Louis. He then returned to Benton and started his career as a barber and is still giving people great haircuts today.

In 1928, he married his first wife, Helen Fisher, and they had two children, Kenneth and Richard. Sadly, Helen was stricken with cancer and passed away after several years of marriage. In 1969, Homer met Vorsa Henly of West Frankfort, IL, fell in love, and they have been a happily married couple ever since. They have been able to share the joy of raising her two daughters Becky Cook and Leslie Higginson.

As an active resident of Benton, Homer has held many elected offices, including precinct committeeman for four terms, president of the Lions Club for four terms, a former Elk Club and Moose Club member, and chairman of the Franklin County Zoning Board. He organized the first stock club in Benton, was elected for 36 years to the Benton Community Center Board, and is also a dedicated 60-year member of the First Baptist Church of Benton.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Homer has dedicated his life to serving his community. Now it is our turn to thank Homer for all of the energy and love he expended for so many years to make Benton, IL, a better place. Homer, I will be praying for your recovery and wish you well. It has been an honor to represent you in the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO FRED FARR

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago our colleague Sam Farr of California experienced the loss of his father, former State Senator Fred Farr, who passed away at the age of 86. Fred Farr was widely revered as an effective, compassionate leader who fought to improve the lives of Californians from all walks of life through his work in the State Legislature. Fred Farr's greatness emanated from his goodness and he will be sorely missed by those who knew him and benefited from his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Fred Farr, and extending our deepest condolences to his son and all his family, and request that the article from the San Jose Mercury News be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

At this time, I recall the poet's words . . . "and so he passed on and all the trumpets sounded on the other side."

[From San Jose Mercury News, June 11, 1997]

FRED FARR WAS GREAT MAN AND WORTHY REPRESENTATIVE

(By Lee Quarnstrom)

When my friend John Riley heard that former state Sen. Fred Farr had died Tuesday at the age of 86, he said, "Well, he won't be going to a better place, because Monterey is already paradise."

John, who was once Fred Farr's neighbor in Carmel, wasn't being facetious. He was, in fact, expressing in his own way his admiration for the man who represented the Monterey Bay region in the California Senate and whose son, Sam, now represents us in the Congress.

Let me get this on the record right now: Fred Farr was a great man.

For a tiny portion of this state, the Monterey Bay area has sent some remarkable people to the capitals of California and the United States. Fred Farr was among the best of them.

My first encounter with him was during a special election more than a quarter century ago. I was a reporter for the Watsonville Register Pajaronian, and Farr, who had been redistricted out of the state Senate, was seeking an Assembly seat that had opened up because the incumbent had died in a traffic accident.

As we motored along Highway I somewhere north of Castroville, where he was scheduled to give a stump speech and shake the voters' hands, Farr looked out across a field of row crops and softly told me, "There's what I'm proudest of, of all the things I did in the Legislature."

I asked him what he meant. He explained that he had written the legislation that mandates that sufficient number of portable toilets must be put in the fields when the farmhands who plant and tend and harvest the crops are working.

Before his bill, farm workers had to squat between rows of lettuce or cauliflower—or whatever—when nature called. His bill, he proudly told me, give those men and women who pick our food "some privacy and dignity when they have to relieve themselves."

"What a great man!" I said to myself. And I meant it.

Fred Farr did many things for many people. He saved the Coast Highway through Big Sur when the state Department of Transportation wanted to turn Highway I into a multilane freeway—a deed for which each of us should be eternally grateful.

He helped preserve the stone tower and home of the late and great Carmel poet, Robinson Jeffers. He was a founder of the Tor House Foundation, which helped raise funds so that Jeffers' heirs would not have to sell the house when they needed cash to live on. He was a stalwart liberal during the darkness of the McCarthy era and took stands that caused some Americans to be labeled as Communists.

The last time I saw Farr was when he invited me to lunch in Carmel a few years ago. After our meal he walked me to my car, where I discovered I had a flat tire. He drove me to his gas station and politely asked the mechanic whether he could solve my problem expeditiously. He was not demanding service as a former bigwig, he asked for the mechanic's help simply as the gentleman that he was.

His son Sam told me Tuesday that as his father lay dying, people came to his hospital room not only to pay tribute to Fred Farr, but to touch him, the way people touch those who possess great good souls or notable celebrity.

If there is place where good souls go after the body dies, it will no doubt be more beautiful and probably less crowded than the Monterey Peninsula. If that place exists, Fred Farr will grace it no less than he graced this region he called home and where he died.

HONORING JUDGE ROBERT KURTZ RODIBAUGH

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise today in appreciation of Judge Robert Kurtz Rodibaugh, the senior bankruptcy judge for the South Bend Division of

the Northern District of Indiana. It is truly an honor for me to recognize Judge Rodibaugh, who has consistently demonstrated generosity and selfless dedication to the citizens and legal community of northern Indiana.

On Friday, June 13, 1997, a new bankruptcy courthouse on the corner of Western and South Michigan Street in South Bend, IN, will be dedicated in honor of Judge Rodibaugh and his numerous contributions to the legal community. He is recognized by the community and his peers as an honorable man worthy of such a tribute. Judge Rodibaugh has served the citizens and legal community of the Northern District of Indiana wisely, efficiently, and honorably since his initial appointment as a referee in bankruptcy in November 1960 and throughout his legal career as a bankruptcy judge.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his tenure, Judge Rodibaugh has presided over the growth of the bankruptcy court from one small courtroom with a part-time referee and a clerk's office of two employees in South Bend, IN, to four different courtrooms in the cities of South Bend, Fort Wayne, Gary, and Lafayette, IN, with four full-time judges and a clerk's office of over 40 employees. Judge Rodibaugh has fulfilled his duties as a referee in bankruptcy and bankruptcy judge with patience, fairness, dedication, and legal scholarship which is most worthy of recognition. His high standards have benefited the many law clerks and judicial personnel who have served under his tutelage, the lawyers who have practiced before the bankruptcy court, as well as the citizens residing in the Northern District of Indiana.

At the beginning of the current Congress, I reintroduced legislation, H.R. 81, in the U.S. House of Representatives to designate this courthouse as the Robert K. Rodibaugh United States Bankruptcy Courthouse for the South Bend Division of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Indiana. As you may recall, I introduced identical legislation which was passed by the House of Representatives during the last session. Unfortunately, the measure was not considered by the Senate before the 104th Congress adjourned last September. I am honored to be the sponsor of H.R. 81 and pleased that the majority of the Indiana Congressional Delegation has cosponsored my legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for me to indicate that the firm of Panzica Development Co. with Western Avenue Properties, LLC, has graciously agreed to name the new privately owned courthouse building in Judge Rodibaugh's honor, owing to his unblemished character and numerous professional achievements in the bankruptcy field.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Robert Kurtz Rodibaugh United States Bankruptcy Courthouse is an appropriate title for the new bankruptcy court facility. Judge Rodibaugh is a shining example of the importance of public service, whose tireless contributions provide an invaluable service to our community. I am confident that Judge Rodibaugh will continue to play a constructive and important role in our community, and will continue to serve as a powerful inspiration to all of those who come into contact with him.

RABBINIC CABINET VISITS JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TUNISIA

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recommend the following article to my colleagues authored by Rabbi Israel Zoberman entitled "Rabbinic Cabinet visits Jewish community in Tunisia" which appeared in the March 14, 1997, edition of the Southeastern Virginia Jewish News. I commend Rabbi Zoberman for his efforts to promote peace in the Middle East.

[From the Southeastern Virginia Jewish News, Mar. 14, 1997]

RABBINIC CABINET VISITS JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TUNISIA

(By Rabbi Israel Zoberman)

Toward the end of January 1997, I traveled to Tunisia as a member of the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal in a historic mission, the first of its kind to represent all the religious movements of American Jewry. The 14 rabbis and three spouses visited the Tunisian Jewish community that is at least 2,000 years old. The Middle East peace process made it possible to visit this remarkable, moderate Arab state that never fought with Israel. Tunisian President Ben Ali has been an active and proud participant in the on-going grand venture to transform a region that has known the burden of costly wars and much suffering, yet is the cradle of human civilization and the birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions.

The Muslim country of Tunisia, which was freed from French rule in 1956, is located in North Africa in the southern Mediterranean with Libya and Algeria as neighbors. In a population close to nine million people, there are about 1,900 Jews, almost equally divided between the capital Tunis in the north and the island of Jerba in the south. The once flourishing Jewish community, which is still quite traditional, numbered over 100,000 members before the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

We witnessed first-hand the dedicated labor of faithful love of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (known as JDC and the "Joint"), led by Evelyn Peters, in maintaining human dignity for the old and young, ever ready to act on the highest principles and values of the Jewish legacy. As a young child who was born in Kazakhstan in 1945, my own family of Polish holocaust survivors benefited from the JDC's humanitarian services when we were in the Displaced Persons Camp of Wetzlar at Frankfurt, Germany, in the American zone of occupation, from 1947 to 1949, prior to moving to Israel.

We were warmly received by Chief Rabbi Haim Mador, the lay leaders and members of the Jewish community as well as by the officials of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry who were our kind hosts at a kosher dinner with which they broke the Ramadan fast! We also had an unforgettable reception in Tunis at the official residence of the American Ambassador, Mary Ann Casey. She and her staff were most gracious welcoming us and responding to our questions and insights. They truly made us feel at home away from home. Our nation ought to be proud of the high quality diplomatic team we have in that sensitive and volatile part of the world!

Joined by the affable Gideon Behar in the absence of Shalom Cohen, head of Israel's

Economic Interest Section, we learned of Israel's budding diplomatic presence which, to its discomfort and concern, is still housed at a hotel, and of its earnest desire to have a greater impact on building friendly and mutually productive relations with Tunisia.

Our Rabbinic delegation continued to Israel via Rome in the improved climate of renewed hope for the peace process following the signing of the Hebron agreement between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat. However, the tragic accident of the collision between two helicopters resulting in the death of 73 IDF soldiers on the way to their positions in Lebanon's security zone, united the entire small people in mourning, bringing out its unique sense of family. At the same time, it triggered an essential debate, though a heated one, on relations with Lebanon and Syria, particularly the pivotal role of the latter, being the real power broker in keeping alive (and deadly) the Hezbollah attacks on Israeli forces who are ultimately guarding the Israeli northern border and beyond.

The impressive presence of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt in Haifa Bay was a moving statement of the powerful bond between the United States, the world's last superpower, and its brave and reliable ally, the Jewish State. I was reminded of my privilege a few years back to speak in commemoration of the Holocaust aboard that Norfolk-based great symbol of American resolve and capability.

We met with Tunisian Jews in Israel and witnessed their accomplishments and sacrifices. In the southern town of Ofakim, we were in a synagogue modeled after the one left in Jerba. In the nearby Moshav Gilat our host was Aharon Uzon, a former Minister of Agriculture, whose soldier son Shelomo was killed in action and the settlement's synagogue bears his name. Our enchanting guide, Dr. Esther Schely-Newman of the Hebrew university, grew up there and received her doctorate from the University of Chicago.

We were delightfully exposed to the JDC's collaborative creative work in Israel reaching out to children of disadvantaged and problematic families as well as rejoicing with teenagers from the former Soviet Union who displayed through Hebrew song an admirable peace and spirit of absorption into the ancestral homeland which by their own heroic efforts they now proudly claim as their own.

JERUSALEM EMBASSY RELOCATION ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of moving America's Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and to require U.S. Government publications refer to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

I would also like to take this opportunity to urge the Palestinian Authority to increase its efforts to minimize the horrors of terrorism and encourage commerce between Israelis and Palestinians.

My support for moving the embassy is not to say that I do not support the peace process, it is merely to state that I feel Jerusalem should be Israel's capital and our embassy should be located there.

In every country in the world, in which the United States has diplomatic relations, we