

IN MEMORY OF BILL BAILEY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a legendary figure of San Francisco's waterfront, William "Bill" Bailey, who passed away on Monday, February 27, 1995.

Bill Bailey was born in Jersey City, NJ, and brought up in Hoboken and the tough Hell's Kitchen section of Manhattan. Shipping out to sea at the age of 14, he joined the Industrial Workers of the World—the Wobblies—and began his career as a labor activist from the day forward.

Active in the maritime unions, Bill was a member of the generation of young radicals who transformed the labor movement of our country. He participated in the walkout on the waterfront which became San Francisco's famed general strike of 1934. In 1935, Bill and a group of seamen boarded a German liner tied up in New York Harbor, the *Bremen*, and tore its Nazi flag from the bow mast. Accounts from that incident recollect that a security force of nearly 300 were unable to stop Bill and his group.

In 1937, Bill went to Spain as a member of the Abraham Lincoln and George Washington battalions. Wounded several times, he participated in almost all the major engagements of the war.

In 1939, after returning to the United States, he resumed his leadership role in the maritime industry, and was elected vice president of the West Coast Maritime Firemen's Union. In the early 1950's, during the height of the McCarthy era, Bill was kicked out of the union under a screening program imposed by the U.S. Coast Guard. He then joined the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, rising to the vice presidency of San Francisco Local 10.

After retiring from the waterfront in 1975, Bill began a second career as an writer and actor, working in a major TV series on the Spanish civil war and appearing in several feature films and documentaries. He published his memoir, "The Kid from Hoboken," in 1993. But he never retired from his lifelong commitment to social and economic justice, continuing his activism until his dying day.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Bailey was part of the proud waterfront history and tradition of San Francisco. On Sunday, March 20, Bill was remembered at a memorial service convened by the waterfront unions which he loved. On behalf of the Congress, allow me to express our condolences to his son, Michael, and pay tribute to his work as a labor and civic leader for San Francisco.

REMEMBER OUR "COLD
WARRIORS"

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago today, in Ludwigslust, East Germany, United

States Army Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr., 38, became a casualty of the cold war. Major Nicholson was shot, by a Soviet soldier, without warning while on a routine patrol in a clearly marked United States Army vehicle.

Since his death, the world has witnessed many changes: The Soviet Union collapsed; the Berlin Wall crumbled; and the United States, and its commitment to freedom and democracy, emerged victorious in the cold war. Today, thanks in large part to the dedication and commitment of the brave men and women of our armed services, America is less threatened and our children less fearful of the once ominous nuclear threat.

As we look back on our Nation's cold war years, we must never forget the cost of our Nation's current-day freedom and security, and the men and women like Major Nicholson who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their Nation.

On this 10th anniversary of Mayor Nicholson's tragic death, let us remember that he was more than just a soldier—he was a husband, a father, a brother, and a son. So on behalf of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend our continuing sympathy and gratitude to Nick's family, especially his wife, Karen, and his daughter, Jenny. Today, we pledge to them, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "that from [our Nation's] honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

We will never forget. And we will continue to fight for freedom in tribute to Nick and our Nation's other fallen heroes.

FALSE PRAISE FOR ANOTHER
AUTHORITARIAN

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an article that recently appeared in the Albany Times Union regarding France's warm welcome for Fidel Castro. The Mitterrands, who decry our cruel and barbarous treatment of Fidel the liberator, would do well to read up on their history before embracing another petty dictator. How quickly we forget that the socialist's dream of equality for all is nothing more than the tyranny of few in the name of many.

FIDEL CASTRO, FRENCH HERO

The Issue: He is hailed by the Mitterrands, who denounce the U.S. embargo of the island.

Our Opinion: They show an appalling ignorance of history.

Among many politicians and intellectuals in France there has been a tradition of viewing communist systems in an exceedingly favorable manner—no matter how brutally those regimes were in fact behaving. Mainstream French intellectual enthusiasms might shift from Moscow to Beijing or Havana, depending on the fashion, but they always had a red tint.

Against this history the Mitterrands warm embrace of Fidel Castro this week begins to make a little sense. For the Socialist French president and his wife, Fidel and the Cuban revolution never represented a threat to civilization as much as its promise.

Mrs. Mitterrand especially was effusive in her praise of Fidel and his work, singling out as his greatest achievement the "equality" he had "brought to the people." It did not seem to bother the president's wife that he had realized that goal at the considerable cost of liberty and fraternity.

We concede that equality has to a considerable degree been achieved in Cuba. Save for a small ruling class, the people are nearly equal in their poverty, equal in their ignorance (notwithstanding near universal "literacy"), equal in their servitude, and equal in their fear.

Furthermore, we cannot but agree with Mrs. Mitterrand when she says that the Cuban government has accomplished "the summit of what socialism could do." That, of course, is the problem. Communism promises paradise but is only able to deliver the gulag.

The French thinker, the late Raymond Aron, hit the mark when he called Marxism the opiate of the intellectuals. It is clearly a heady drug for many of them, an hallucinogen that induces cerebral giddiness and grossly distorts the senses. A lifelong imbibor like Mrs. Mitterrand can look across the Atlantic and see the American embargo as "cruel" and Fidel Castro as "nothing like a dictator."

Thankfully, the communist menace is almost wholly a thing of the past. Once, apologists of Marxist dictators posed a real security threat. Today they might give start to a good belly laugh.

YOUTH ART MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, we will soon celebrate Youth Art Month, an opportunity for our Nation to recognize the special role art can play in enriching the lives of children.

Artistic expression is one of the things which distinguishes us as human beings. By offering children the opportunity to express feelings and thoughts through creative expression, we offer them the opportunity to reach their full potential. While all of us may not have the talent of a DaVinci or a VanGogh, we have potential to express and enrich ourselves through art. Children in particular can learn much from education in the arts. They can learn about themselves and about the world around them.

What President Kennedy said of poetry is true of the value of all forms of artistic expression, "poetry [is] the means of saving power from itself. When power leads man toward arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the areas of a man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses. For art establishes the basic human truth which must serve as the touchstone of our judgment."

For these reasons, I commend Youth Art Month for the way it is enriching the lives of children today across America. I hope all Americans will take a little extra time next month to appreciate the contribution art makes to our national life.