

town lived on. Thanks to their efforts, the unique and colorful tradition of Morgan's Point will live on for future generations of Texans to enjoy.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN LEADERS IN
MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two great Italian-American community leaders in southeastern Michigan, Judge Michael Martone and Dr. Augustine Perrotta. Each has been named Metropolitan Detroit's 1997 Italian-American of the Year by the Italian Study Club.

Judge Martone, the son of a first generation Italian-American, was elected to the district court bench in 1992. He created the Court in the Schools-Critical Life Choices, a program that relocates his courtroom to local schools. Students witness defendants being fined, punished, or jailed for drunk driving, drug possession, and other crimes.

The second part of the judge's program includes an interactive dialog about what the students witnessed and the lessons they can learn.

Judge Martone, whose program has been copied by other States and featured on NBC's "Today Show," remains very active in the local community with his wife Martha and their two sons, Jonathan and James.

Dr. Augustine Perrotta, a first generation Italian-American born after Mount Vesuvius' eruption drove his family from their ancestral home in Arienzo, worked his way through college and medical school, graduating as valedictorian of his medical school class.

Named the "Top Doc" by Detroit Monthly Magazine in 1995, Dr. Perrotta is a leader in the medical community serving on the boards of numerous hospitals in southeastern Michigan.

His philosophy of practice has been to use humor as medicine and he is well known for maintaining Italian traditions in his home. His hospitality, warmth, and kindness are not only enjoyed by his wife Grace and their three children, but each and every one of his patients.

Judge Martone and Dr. Perrotta are outstanding community leaders. As we enjoy the 23d annual Festa Italiana, I want to recommend them and thank them for their long-time service and loyal commitment to our community.

DOGS HAVE MORE FREEDOM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, "Dogs have more freedom than us; at least they are not afraid to go outside." Mr. Speaker, this is the conclusion of a young Romani father in Slovakia who recounted his experience with growing skinhead violence in his country. His story is, regrettably, just one of the many documented in a January 1997 re-

port prepared by the European Roma Rights Center [ERRC] entitled "Time of the Skinheads: Denial and Exclusion of Roma in Slovakia." This study describes a grim pattern of violent assaults against Roma perpetrated by skinhead extremists; it also suggests that local police forces have been, at best, unwilling to fulfill their obligation to protect their citizens and, at worst, have themselves actually engaged in violence against Roma. Descriptions of a 1995 organized attack on the entire Romani community in the town of Jarovnice—something that reads like a pogrom from a bygone era—were especially chilling.

Since Slovakia became an independent state in 1993, a great deal of international attention has, rightly, focused on the status of the Hungarian minority in that country, a community that makes up approximately 10 percent of the population. Slovakia also has another large minority population which is less well known abroad. While the exact number of Roma in Slovakia is contested, it is estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands. These people—the survivors of Nazi efforts to eradicate the Roma altogether—now face increasing violent attacks against their homes, their villages, and their lives.

The problems of Roma in post-Communist European countries are many, and often defy easy answers. But at least three of the problems described in "Time of the Skinheads" do have obvious solutions. First, the Slovak Government has failed to demonstrate any serious effort to acknowledge and address the widespread problem of violent skinhead attacks on Roma. On the contrary, some public officials—members of the ruling coalition—have repeatedly made crude racist remarks about the Roma. As long as such remarks stand uncontested or unchallenged by Prime Minister Meciar, skinheads will believe that they can attack Roma with impunity. Clearly, local police officials take their cues from the top. Accordingly, any improvement in the situation of Roma in Slovakia must begin with the leadership of that country stating that racism and bigotry will not be tolerated.

Second, the ERRC report described a pattern of excessive use of force by the police against Roma. When the victims seek to bring a complaint against the police, the charges are, in effect, reversed and the Rom is charged with assaulting the police. Significantly, the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture released a report on April 3, which also documented a problem of police brutality in Slovakia.

That report, like the report of the ERRC, noted that the failure to ensure that those charged with a criminal offense have adequate legal representation has significantly contributed to this miscarriage of justice. One of the purposes of providing such representation is to guarantee a fair trial, consistent with the due process of law, and to ensure that those accused of crimes do not have confessions extracted from them by force.

The failure to provide the accused with defense counsel violates one of the most important provisions of the international human rights system—the right to an attorney, a right articulated in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as para. 5.16 of the OSCE Copenhagen Document. I hope the Slovak Government will take immediate measures to redress this problem.

Finally, the ERRC report on Slovakia indicates that Slovak localities continue to use a system of tightly controlled residency permits to restrict the freedom of movement of Roma. Not only does this practice offend the non-discrimination provisions of the Helsinki process, this system also harkens back to the rigid controls of the Communist days. If people are not permitted to move where the jobs are, how can a free market system flourish?

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this pattern of violence against Roma is not unique to Slovakia. The ERRC, which was founded to defend the human rights of Roma, has also issued major reports on Austria and Romania. In addition, its most recent newsletter reported on problems Roma face in several other European countries. Clearly, there is much more that many governments in Central Europe can and should do to address these problems.

I realize that Slovakia is in the midst of grappling with a very broad range of fundamental questions regarding its development and future. The basic human rights of Roma should be a part of that agenda. I see no better time. Will Slovakia enter the 21st century as a country which seeks to unite its citizens in achieving common goals, or will it lag behind with those countries which have permitted nationalism and racism to divide their people and weaken the very state they worked so hard to create?

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 2028 AND IRONWORKERS LOCAL 229: SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO LABOR TO NEIGHBOR AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize the Service Employees International Union Local 2028 [SEIU] and the Ironworkers Local 229 as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, for their strong support of the Labor to Neighbor program in San Diego and the Imperial Valley.

The Labor to Neighbor program educates and involves union members and their families in the campaign to protect jobs and the future of working people in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

The slogan of SEIU Local 2028 is "Politics is Union Business." This slogan embodies the essence of the Labor to Neighbor program. Local 2028 mobilized over 100 volunteers in the 1996 election and has also provided crucial support to the Labor to Neighbor Union Summer Program.

The Ironworkers Local 229 is being recognized for its leadership role in bringing Labor to Neighbor into the Imperial Valley. Local 229 also gave significant support to the Labor to Neighbor Union Summer Program and sponsored a golf tournament to help fund Labor to Neighbor's fall program.

For these activities, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, recognizes SEIU Local 2028 and the Ironworkers Local 229 with their Labor to Neighbor Award. I am pleased to join in honoring their contributions

to the working families of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF
THE INDIANA OPTOMETRIC AS-
SOCIATION

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my Indiana Senate colleagues and echo their resolution congratulating the Indiana Optometric Association [IOA] on their 100 years of service to Indiana. The IOA has provided invaluable service to Hoosiers across the State. Therefore, may I add my blessing to Senate resolution included below and add my voice to the chorus of those thanking the IOA for the wonderful work they have provided for eye care in Indiana over the last century:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A Concurrent Resolution celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the Indiana Optometric Association

Whereas, the Indiana Optometric Association (IOA) was founded in 1897 and will be celebrating its Centennial Anniversary during the year 1997, and

Whereas, the IOA is marking 100 years of successful advocacy for the profession of optometry in Indiana, and

Whereas, the IOA has provided 100 years of service in the public interest on behalf of the eye care and eye health of Indiana's citizens, and

Whereas, the IOA was instrumental in the decision of the Indiana General Assembly that established the Indiana University School of Optometry in the early 1950s, and has forged an ongoing professional relationship with the School of Optometry that is a national model, and

Whereas, the IOA commends the Indiana General Assembly for its continuing support of the profession of optometry and the patients it serves, and

Whereas, the IOA has historically distinguished itself as an exemplary professional optometric association in the United States, and

Whereas, the IOA rededicates itself and the profession of optometry to serving the eye health and vision care needs of the citizens of the state of Indiana for the next 100 years,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

SECTION 1. That, on behalf of the people of the State of Indiana, we extend our sincere appreciation to IOA for its dedicated service to the people of the State of Indiana and the profession of optometry.

SECTION 2. That the Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Indiana Optometric Association.

ONE CITIZEN CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask the House this question. Can an ordinary American citizen cause meaningful national legislation to be written and passed? Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. Mr. Tony Snesko, a resident of San Diego County, has recently proved that this is possible, provided you possess the dedication and endurance necessary. Tony demonstrated a persistent effort which resulted in the passage of an amendment to section 505 of the Telecommunications Act regarding the scrambling of sexually explicit adult video programming.

While the cable television industry has done some moderate scrambling of sexually explicit video transmissions in the past, these acts could still be seen. Additionally, the audio was clear and described the sexually explicit nature of the video. Unfortunately, this programming of slightly scrambled pornographic material was on a channel that was only one click removed from the programming that children normally watch. It was not uncommon that in their attempt to reach their favorite cartoons, children would often accidentally see the pornographic material that was broadcast 24 hours a day on the adjacent channel.

Upon learning of this, Tony, the father of two children and a deacon in his local church, protested to the city council of his home town and the city attorney. He was told that there was nothing that could be done to eliminate this blight. The San Diego district attorney, the U.S. attorney, and the Federal Communications Commission had the same response to his concerns.

Taking action himself, Tony taped the explicit material, requested that the American Family Association pay for 535 copies, which they did, and brought these tapes to Washington, DC. Already having in mind the type of legislation needed to end the airing of this pornography on television, my office aided Tony in having this language written and introduced.

Over the next month, Tony visited the offices of all 435 U.S. Representatives, providing each Member's legislative staff with a copy of the video and the proposed bill. Tony even spoke with then chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee JOHN DINGELL. After witnessing Tony's dedication and persistence, Chairman DINGELL agreed to include the bill language as an amendment to a piece of telecommunications legislation that the committee was currently considering.

In 1994, legislation that required complete scrambling of pornographic material on television, both audio and visual, passed the U.S. House of Representatives. Tony then visited all 100 offices of the U.S. Senate, distributing his material and lobbying in favor of the legislation that had recently passed the House. As a result of this continued effort, Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN of California introduced a similar bill in the Senate where it successfully passed and was signed into public law by President Clinton in February 1996.

Following this action, Playboy magazine immediately sought legal action against the U.S.

Government in an effort to challenge this legislation. The Delaware district court dismissed this lawsuit and Playboy has until April 23, 1997, to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Speaker, as demonstrated by Tony Snesko, one citizen can make a difference.

HONORING BOB REED

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 19, a gentleman renowned for his warm and pleasant greeting and service for many years to thousands of Senators and Representatives, staff members, journalists, and others involved in and around Capitol Hill will observe a milestone in his life.

Bob Reed, the stately and congenial mixologist at The Monocle Restaurant, will celebrate his 70th birthday on Saturday.

In the more than a quarter century that Mr. Reed has served his customers, he has become a friend to many, regardless of party affiliation or ideology. I am sure that my colleagues join me in extending our most sincere congratulations to Bob on this special day in his life and wish him many, many more birthday anniversaries in the years ahead.

JEF EATCHEL: SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jef Eatchel, secretary-treasurer of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union [HERE] Local 30, as he is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, for his leadership and contributions to the labor movement and to the San Diego community as a whole.

Under his leadership, Local 30 has grown to become a powerful union and has been a catalyst in San Diego for organized labor's renewed commitment to organizing. HERE has been at the forefront of focusing both employers and elected officials on the improvement of the lives of working people in San Diego County.

Jef has been active in the labor movement for almost two decades. He has dedicated himself to improving the wages, benefits, working conditions, and quality of life for union and nonunion workers in the hotel and restaurant industry.

Jef serves as a trustee of the HERE international union pension and trust fund, is first vice president of the Culinary Alliance, and has served as a trustee for the International Foundation of Employee Benefits for the last 5 years.

I have known Jef for many years, and I can attest to his dedication and commitment to the causes for which he labors. He is highly deserving of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO Leadership Award.