TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR DICK CARLSON

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ambassador Dick Carlson, the former president of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting [CPB]. Ambassador Carlson's strong leadership and commitment guided the CPB during its most turbulent years.

Ambassador Carlson brought his broad experience as a journalist and former news anchor in Los Angeles and as a public servant under the Reagan and Bush administrations to the CPB. He served in the Reagan and Bush administrations as director of the Voice of America and was appointed as Ambassador to the Seychelle Islands by President Bush. The unique combination of diplomatic skills, knowledge of journalism, and broadcasting, and wideranging contacts proved to be a powerful attribute for successfully leading CPB for the last 5 years.

Ambassador Carlson leaves a legacy of commonsense reform at CPB at a time when Congress is moving to balance the budget. Under his leadership CPB moved in the direction of becoming a system of greater efficiency. He helped bring improved ideological balance to the CPB.

CPB should continue in the direction Ambassador Carlson has set out. Following in Ambassador Carlson's footsteps to bring modernization to the CPB as we encounter the 21st century will protect the future of public broadcasting. We salute him and thank him for a job well-done.

TRIBUTE TO IRMO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the 1996–97 school year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of my colleagues the achievements of Irmo Elementary School, in Irmo, SC. This outstanding school was one of only two South Carolina elementary schools to receive the Carolina First Palmetto's Finest Award for 1996–97.

The students at Irmo Elementary School consistently score above the State average on standardized tests, and, each school year, since the 1988–89 school year, the school has received either the Education Incentive Award or an Honorable Mention from the South Carolina Department of Education. Irmo Elementary School is guided by its mission statement, which is: ''The mission of our school, where excellence is tradition and learning has no boundaries, is to ensure that each child is motivated to achieve his or her full potential through diverse and challenging educational programs that demand superior achievement, provide a foundation for lifelong learning, and instill the desire to become a productive member of society.''

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the faculty, administration, and students of Irmo Elementary School, as well as the parents of the students, a dedicated school board, and a strongly supportive community, on the environment of excellence that they have established. It is clear that the students at this fine school are being prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

HONORING LAWRENCE WILLIAM WALSH

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Mr. Lawrence William Walsh, who will retire on July 3, 1997, after nearly 40 years of distinguished public service in the Federal Government.

Mr. Walsh began his career in 1958 with the Civil Aeronautics Administration and most recently served as manager of the Federal Aviation Administration's [FAA] Airports District Office in Harrisburg, where he directed the development of public airports in Pennsylvania and Delaware. He administered a total of 1,262 grants representing $970 million in Federal funds for airports in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Mr. Walsh has been recognized for his superior performance and has received many commendations during his tenure with the FAA. These awards include: the Airports Division Employee of the Year, Regional Administrators Human Relations Award, Aviation Council of Pennsylvania Achievement Award, and the Regional Administrator's STAR Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor Mr. Walsh's long record of service and excellence. His dedication to his career and his country is most worthy of special recognition. On behalf of the residents of Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District, I wish him the very best on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL CRONIN

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, at just 12 years of age, Paul Cronin knew he wanted to serve the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Through hard work and dedication, Paul was able to achieve his dream. He served his hometown, Andover, MA, first as a Selectman and then at age 24 as a State Representative, making him the youngest elected official in the State at the time. His career in public service culminated when he was elected to represent the Massachusetts Fifth District in the U.S. House of Representatives, the seat I now hold.

Paul Cronin passed away on April 5, 1997, at just 59 years old, after a lengthy battle with cancer. It was an especially sad day because just 4 months earlier another great man from the fifth district was taken from us, Paul Tsongas.

Like Tsongas, politics did not consume Cronin's life. Paul Cronin gave unselfishly of himself to his community. He was particularly proud of his long association with the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club, which named its new girls' gym for his mother, Anna Marie Cronin, only after Paul declined the honor for himself.

His career and personal life were marked by optimism and achievement and he faced death as he faced life, with dignity, courage, and perseverance.

PORTER MAGNET SCHOOL DESIGNATED TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention today the significant accomplishment of the Porter Magnet School of Technology and Career Exploration in Syracuse, NY. Porter was recently designated by the Federal Government as a distinguished school.

This elementary school is 1 of 100 schools nationally and five statewide to be commended for the high performance of the students and the innovation of instruction. Porter is the only school in the Syracuse area to receive the commendation.

Many of the programs at Porter are innovative. They involve parents in creative ways, such as communication through audio and visual tapes in instances where literacy at home is a question. The faculty, led by Principal Octavia Wilcox, has worked hard to produce a learning environment which challenges the students. Using tax dollars wisely in pursuit of high standards in education is a top priority.

Every student at Porter takes music, and any student can take piano lessons during school time. They have a pottery wheel in the art class. They have sophisticated computers and their own news team which videotaped a recent visit I made.

But more importantly than the hardware, Porter prides itself in a philosophy. Every child can learn. Parents must be involved. Excellence is worth pursuing.

Principal Wilcox says the faculty tries to compete with other forces, negative forces, for students' time. The curriculum stresses the future and the students are taught to think about what comes next—the next level of education and then careers.

I am very proud to congratulate the Syracuse School District in general for its support of programs like the one at Porter School.

IF NATO IS EXPANDED, OUR ALLIES MUST PAY MORE OF THE COSTS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few observations today about the European Security Act (H.R. 1758), which authorizes United States taxpayer dollars to prepare the Baltic States for NATO expansion.

Let me begin with a quote by former United States Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger, from the Bush administration, commenting on NATO expansion and the Baltic countries:

If we ever think of bringing the Baltic countries into NATO we ought to have our heads examined. First place, it would be a real threat—threat maybe not but a real challenge—to the Russians. Think about the commitment to defend them—we couldn't do it even if we were the only superpower in the world, which we seem to be.

First of all, Russia clearly perceives that the expansion of NATO into the Baltics would be an aggressive, wholly unjustifiable move by the United States. On May 22, 1997, President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembskii, stated that if NATO expands to include Former Soviet Republics, Russia will review all of its foreign policy priorities and its relations with the West. Since the cold war is over, why are we militarily provoking Russia?

Second, how much more are we going to ask United States taxpayers to ante up to defend Europe in an expanded NATO with a still undefined mission? The total price tag is estimated at anywhere from $27 billion to $150 billion over the next 10 to 12 years. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the cost of NATO expansion will be between $60.6–$124.7 billion over 15 years. Don't forget that we have already paid $60 million through the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act in order to assist Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovenia in bringing their Armed Forces up to NATO standards.

Lastly, I am also concerned about reports that several of the prospective new NATO member states have been involved in arms sales to terrorist countries. For example, Poland has made five shipments to Iran of T–72 tanks, equipment and trainers, Slovenia sent M–60 tanks to Iran, and Bulgaria sent North Korea 15 tons of explosives.

After four decades of the cold war and trillions of United States taxpayer dollars allocated to compete in the arms race, many of our constituents understand that it is not the time to continue wasting tens of billions of dollars helping to defend Europe, let alone assuming more than our share of any costs associated with expanding NATO eastward.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, ''We [get] nothing for NATO expansion but a bill.''

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS FOGLIETTA AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ITALY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the House's most distinguished Members, Representative THOMAS FOGLIETTA of Pennsylvania, for his upcoming appointment by the President as the next U.S. Ambassador to Italy. This is an extraordinary and well-deserved honor for a true gentleman who has given four decades of his life to public service.

Since his election to the House of Representatives in 1980, TOM FOGLIETTA has been a tireless fighter for his constituents in Philadelphia and Delaware County. As a member of the Appropriations Committee and a leader of the Urban Caucus, he has protected city jobs, helped restore Independence Hall, and put more police on the streets.

Perhaps just as important to his new duties, TOM FOGLIETTA has also been on the forefront of global affairs. He has worked to provide famine relief to starving people overseas and has never hesitated to speak up against tyrants around the world.

Only in America could the grandson of immigrants who came from Italy over 100 years ago live the dream of representing the birthplace of this Nation's freedom in the Halls of Congress and go on to serve his country as its representative in the land of his family's heritage. TOM FOGLIETTA is an outstanding example of what is possible for those who serve the United States with honor and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, Washington's loss is Italy's gain. Congress will undoubtedly be a lesser place when TOM FOGLIETTA takes his intelligence, dedication, integrity, and charm to Italy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes and a fond arrivederci to TOM FOGLIETTA as he stands ready to embark on another exciting chapter of his career, and insert the following editorial from the Philadelphia Inquirer to be included for the RECORD.

[From The Philadelphia Inquirer, May 28, 1997]

ARRIVEDERCI—TOM FOGLIETTA HAS EARNED HIS NEW JOB. LET'S HOPE HIS SUCCESSOR SERVES THE REGION AS WELL AS HE DID

After four decades of public service, Tom Foglietta richly deserves a job that melds diplomacy and la dolce vita: U.S. ambassador to Italy. So even though the Philadelphia area stands to lose its most senior member of the U.S. House, his constituents in the city and in Delaware County can still salute the (unofficial) news that he's headed for Rome.

Mr. Foglietta has worked hard for the needs of Philadelphia and other cities. As a member of the Appropriations Committee since 1993 and as a prime mover of the Urban Caucus, he's tried to aim more federal dollars at urban needs. His local causes have included protecting jobs at the Navy Yard, reversing the neglect of Independence Hall, and funding more police for the city of Chester.

Not all of his votes on pocketbook issues have been dead-on. He backed the Clinton economic package, tax hikes and all, but loudly opposed the modest, Penny-Kasich spending cuts. He sided with labor over consumers by voting against NAFTA.

But Mr. Foglietta is more than a bring-home-the-bacon guy. He's been a leading voice against despots around the globe. He's been as committed to famine relief in Africa as he was to food assistance at home.

A fair assessment of Mr. Foglietta's contributions must look beyond his specific stands on issues. In a city renowned for political corruption, Mr. Foglietta stood against the tide.

Running for Congress as an independent in 1980, he beat the comeback bid by Democrat Michael ''Ozzie'' Myers, who had been expelled from the House after being convicted of taking an Abscam bribe. In 1984 and 1986, Mr. Foglietta turned back strong challenges by a future felon: then-Councilman James Tayoun.

Endorsing him for Congress in 1980, this Editorial Page called Mr. Foglietta ''sensitive and intelligent and convincingly committed to public service.''

Ideally, Mr. Foglietta's successor would share his fervor for urban needs, his commitment to human needs and human rights, his people skills and intelligence, his ethics. And voters would be the ultimate judge of that if he were retiring at the end of a two-year term.

Unfortunately, the vacancy will be filled by a special election, without a primary. The favorite in this Democratic district will be whomever the Democratic organization chooses. The reported front-runners are former Rep. Lucien Blackwell—who was voted out of the Second District seat three years after the Democratic machine handed it to him—and city Democratic boss Bob Brady. Neither of them stacks up to Tom Foglietta.

EXPAND PRIVATE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR KIDS

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, one out of every seven American children is growing up without health insurance. These 10 million children—including 70,000 in my home State of Minnesota—are less likely to get preventive care to keep them healthy, or see a doctor when they get sick. These obstacles to health care can lead to harmful and lasting effects. For example, children whose ear infections go undiagnosed and untreated can suffer from permanent hearing loss.

Sadly, there are signs that the prognosis for the health of American's children is getting worse. The number of families receiving insurance sponsored by their employer has declined from 67 percent in 1987 to 59 percent in 1995. Additionally, premium costs for family coverage are on the rise, placing health insurance beyond the reach of an increasing number of working families.

Enough is enough. It is time for all of us to commit to solving this problem. Today, I am introducing legislation that takes one step toward a comprehensive solution.

The Children's Health Coverage Improvement Act of 1997 would make children's-only policies widely available to families at more affordable group rates. Federally regulated self-insured health plans would be required to offer these policies as one of the options available to their employees.

Many low-income working families simply cannot find room in the family budget to pay the increasingly large premiums for family policies. Moreover, many financially strapped single parents cannot afford to pay family premiums designed to cover two adults plus children. Kids-only policies could provide an answer for these hard-working and hard-pressed families.

According to a recent survey of 600 employers, the majority of respondents indicated a strong sense of responsibility toward their workers and expressed sympathy for those who are uninsured. My legislation builds upon this sense of community, and creates a new way for employers to make coverage available to children.

This legislation is also sensitive to employers' concerns that they cannot assume further insurance costs. Instead of requiring an employer to shoulder a specified portion of insurance costs, this bill allows the dynamics of the