

TRIBUTE TO COL. THOMAS F.
GIOCONDA, U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated U.S. Air Force officer as he departs from his post as the legislative assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to become the Principal Deputy Secretary of Energy, and U.S. Military Representative for Defense Programs.

Col. Thomas F. Gioconda deserves our tribute. He has been connected with the Congress in one position or another for over 8 years of his distinguished 27 year Air Force career. His career accomplishments reflect the type of leader this Nation has depended upon for over 200 years during peace and conflict. I would like to take a moment to highlight Tom's career milestones.

A native of Philadelphia, PA, Colonel Gioconda is a graduate of St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, class of 1970. Colonel Gioconda also earned a master's degree in school administration from Seton Hall University, and a masters degree in business administration from the University of Montana. His military career began in 1970 with his first assignment to Malstrom AFB, MT, where he served as a missile launch officer. After 4 years as a wing missile operations crew instructor, he served as an AFOTC instructor at his alma mater for 2 years, followed by another 2 years at New Jersey Institute of Technology. He then served as a missile operations instructor and section chief at the 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

Recognizing his leadership skills, he was assigned to headquarters, Strategic Air Command, as a plans and programs officer, and later became the Congressional Liaison Branch Chief. His exceptional performance in this assignment lead to a follow on tour to headquarters, U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon where he served as a Congressional Affairs Action Officer for the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations. During this tour he was selected for squadron command. Colonel Gioconda assumed command of the 510th Strategic Missile Squadron at Whiteman AFB, MO. His squadron was charged with the one-of-a-kind Emergency Rocket Communication System [ECRS] mission. While in command, Colonel Gioconda and his unit hosted the first visit of the Commander in Chief of the Soviet Rocket Forces to an operational U.S. missile launch control center. After successfully completing his command tour, Colonel Gioconda was hand picked to be a legislative assistant to the chairman and vice-chairman.

He has been the principal liaison officer to Congress for both General Powell and General Shalikashvili during momentous times in our Nation's history—the end of the cold war, Operations Desert Storm, Provide Promise, Provide Hope, Provide Comfort, Southern Watch, Deny Flight, and Restore Democracy, Joint Endeavor, as well as countless other military operations and deployments. Tom has accompanied me on factfinding visits to the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Tom was always on top of the issues of the day. I and many others of this body have depended on

him for complete, timely, sound, and accurate information and advice.

Colonel Gioconda has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four oak leaf clusters), three Air Force Commendation Medals, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Combat Readiness Medal, the Outstanding Voluntary Service Medal, and the Command Missile Badge. He is married to the former Anita Pamerter of Great Falls, MT, and has three sons, Thomas, Tony, and T.J.

In December 1995, Colonel Gioconda was selected for promotion to brigadier general. He will be promoted on August 1, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and personal privilege for me to present his credentials and this tribute to Col. Thomas F. Gioconda before the Congress today. It is clear, through his record of accomplishment and his command assignments, that he is someone dedicated to the peace and freedom this Nation enjoys today. All his actions reflect a professional Air Force officer with the clear sense of honor, integrity, and purpose found in the finest military officers of this Nation. We wish him every success in what I know will be a bright future. May he always have fair winds and blue skies.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BOB GRAVES

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Bob Graves. Casual acquaintances knew Bob as a dairy farmer from an old Colorado family. His early days were spent on a cattle ranch in Bellvue, CO. He became a veterinarian, worked to increase the family herd and operation, and built Graves Dairy. Many knew him for early mornings spent having breakfast at Vern's in LaPorte, dressed in Levi's, eyes shaded by bushy gray eyebrows. He always had a ready and realistic comment on the subject of the day. Others knew him as a savvy and tenacious opponent in local political battles. He stood up for private property rights, farming and ranching interests, and other ideals he held high. If you fought with him, you did so with admiration. If you fought against him, you did so with trepidation.

But most don't know the Bob who turned a personal tragedy—his daughter's death from leukemia—into hope and a future for thousands and thousands of people around the world. His daughter was one of the recipients of a bone marrow transplant before the medical community understood how critical it was to match donor and recipient marrow. While the operation was not successful, the Laura Graves Foundation, founded in her memory, has become a \$50 million research organization that has greatly improved the chances for leukemia patients. He and the foundation created the matching bone marrow donor program in this country and across the world.

Although grieving over his own loss, he and his wife, Sherry, devoted their lives to this priceless project. Bringing together scientists, politicians, public relations experts, and cancer victims, he worked to improve what had al-

ready been started. Building upon the sponsorship of the American Red Cross, he managed to create a board of directors who were household names. Their reputations, the progress of better funded research, and constant persistence, created the life-saving bone marrow program. He brought together Senator Kennedy and Admiral Zumwalt, Nobel Prize winners and corporations, the American Navy and Russian Chernobyl victims. He and the foundation brought common goals and methods to the scientific community in China, England, Russia, the United States, and elsewhere. After a politically prominent and wealthy American family circumvented the donor system and bought their way to the front of the line, Bob demanded a fool-proof system that would treat all victims equally.

We all enjoy knowing about people who strive to make the news, those who fight for their 15 minutes for fame, but we don't often know about people who just quietly persevere in order to save us and our loved ones. That was Bob Graves. He had a brilliant mind surpassed only by his compassionate heart. When he died, he was creating another foundation—the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Foundation to bring together the worldwide scientific community working on "chronic wasting disease" in wildlife, "mad cow" disease in livestock, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in people. Again, he was starting the project with his own money in order to benefit people and industry.

Bob Graves, D.V.M., was one person who left the world a better place.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON
CHINESE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I am introducing today. It is quite simple in that it would require the Director of Central Intelligence and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to jointly prepare an annual report on the intelligence activities of the People's Republic of China—and most specifically, those which are directed against or affect the interests of the United States.

Some of the news reports on the fundraising scandal suggest that the People's Republic of China has apparently decided to take a more aggressive approach toward influencing American politics. This is occurring at all levels of our political system through the use of legitimate means such as lobbying as well as covert influence operations. At the same time, the Chinese are also relying heavily on the success of their economic espionage efforts to make their economy more competitive with ours. We also have concerns, that I think most Americans share, with the increasing buildup of the Chinese military operations and capabilities, and the potential that that poses a threat to our national security interests in the Pacific rim region.

A China specialist at the Department of Defense, summarized the growing threat posed by China's intelligence agencies by saying:

The Ministry of State Security is an aggressive intelligence service which is coming