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HONORING DISTINGUISHED
CITIZEN JOHN N. STURDIVANT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleagues in honoring the memory of a man who diligently strove to serve the best interests of his fellow citizen. John N. Sturdivant, who passed away October 28, admirably and selflessly worked, in his role as president of the American Federation of Government Employees, on the behalf of the workers that make this Government function.

President Sturdivant headed a group that represented over one-third of those workers employed by the Federal Government. This number compares to that of the constituency that each of us here in this House is elected to represent. President Sturdivant knew he held the livelihoods of thousands of people in his hands, and he did everything he could to better their lives.

The Washington Post called John Sturdivant a "true man of the people." As his record shows, this could not be more correct. President Sturdivant continuously worked to increase pay, extend retirement benefits, and to make sure that his union did not stand idle as the Government, out of necessity, began to reshape itself in the post-cold-war era.

Perhaps one of his most memorable acts as president of the AFGE was his opposition to the Government shutdowns of 1995 and 1996. I joined in with President Sturdivant in criticizing these actions and strongly called for the reopening of our Government. President Sturdivant had the best interests of those he represented, as well as that of the United States, in mind when he vocalized his opposition to this event.

I had the pleasure and honor over the years of having worked with John Sturdivant. As a member of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, I know just how strongly and passionately President Sturdivant cared for those who elected him to fight for them. His advocacy led to numerous improvements in the benefits earned by hardworking Federal employees.

While achievements for his union are his most prominent legacy, President Sturdivant was accomplished in other areas as well. In sitting on the executive board of the AFL-CIO, he reached one of the highest ranks ever achieved by an African-American in the history of that organization. A graduate of Antioch College, President Sturdivant studied law at George Washington University, and was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, John Sturdivant was a distinguished citizen who will be sorely missed. I join with my colleagues in extending condolences to the Sturdivant family, their friends, and the AFGE.

THE PROMISE KEEPERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, sometimes people become so carried away by the media and spectacle of an event that they miss the basic message or main point of the effort.

In the wake of the hype and hoopla of the October 4 Promise Keepers' rally, I want to praise the basic message of the Promise Keepers as one of support for the fundamental American values upon which our Nation was founded.

It's a bold message. It's a message of individual responsibility. A message of family values. A message of acceptance of their commitments to the most basic fabric of our country, our families. The Promise Keepers call for a return to these commitments.

These men recognize that through fulfilling their most important commitments, those to their wives and children and to God, all of America benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the message of Promise Keepers and those who strive to fulfill it.

IN HONOR OF BERTRAM F. DOYLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Bertram F. Doyle for his many years of service and countless contributions to his community and his country.

Bertram Doyle was born in Cleveland and raised in Euclid, Ohio. After graduating from Shaw High School in East Cleveland, Mr. Doyle enrolled at Cleveland College of Western Reserve University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business.

During World War II, the Marines assigned Mr. Doyle the crucial duty of operating the combat telephone. He played an instrumental role in two of the most important battles of the war, Bougainville Island and Iwo Jima. In 1946, Bertram Doyle was discharged from the Marines, having achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

Bertram Doyle served his community through his involvement with Democratic politics and his participation in various charitable organizations. Mr. Boyle served as an administrative assistant to both the Ohio Department of Transportation district director and the Ohio auditor, as well as Democratic ward leader in Seven Hills, Ohio. Mr. Doyle also belonged to the Holy Name Society at St. Columbkille Catholic Church and American Legion Breckville Post 196 and volunteered at the Deaconess Hospital.

Mr. Doyle leaves behind a wife, three sons and five grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO SYBIL BRAND

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Sybil Brand, a woman of extraordinary compassion and a keen sense of social justice. Now in her 90's, Mrs. Brand has devoted her life to helping people in need. We would all do well to emulate her example.

Born in Chicago, Mrs. Brand moved with her family to Los Angeles when she was only 2. Her involvement in charitable service began at the tender age of 12, when she and her friends made diapers for patients at Children's Hospital. The material was donated by her father, A.W. Morris. In her teens, Mrs. Brand volunteered as a nurse's aid in the orthopedic ward of the hospital, bringing gifts and cheer to children with disabilities.

These early acts of charity led to the work that would make Mrs. Brand both beloved and honored throughout in southern California. Nearly 40 years ago, she was appointed to the Institutional Inspection Committee of the Public Welfare Commission. She was appalled at the overcrowded conditions, and skillfully used her position to lobby for change.

She spoke to law enforcement and elected officials and worked hard to get the voters to approve funding for another facility. Due primarily to her efforts, the Sybil Brand Institute was constructed to house female prisoners in Los Angeles. Mrs. Brand is the only living woman to have a correctional institute bear her name.

Mrs. Brand has received hundreds of commendations from civic and charitable organizations, including her selection as Woman of the Year by the cities of Beverly Hills and Los Angeles and by the Friars Club Charity Foundation. In recognition of her 50 years of service to the people of Los Angeles and her 90th birthday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in May 1992, honored Mrs. Brand at a ceremony held in the Grand Hall of the Music Center.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the Chaplain's Eagles of the Los Angeles Probation Department in saluting Sybil Brand, who has worked tirelessly to make this a better world. She is an extraordinary example of what one dedicated individual can accomplish. We thank her for her service to the human family.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL URBAN WATERSHED MODEL RESTORATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the National Urban Watershed Model Restoration Act, a bill which will establish a new approach to restoring urban waters. This pilot program, to be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], will serve as a national model for the restoration of urban watersheds and community environments. To achieve more focused and rapid action, the new program will integrate the various regulatory and nonregulatory programs of

the EPA with other Federal, State, and local programs to restore and protect the Anacostia River and promote community risk reduction. EPA is to coordinate its efforts with other Federal partners, particularly the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to addressing a major local environmental concern, this model program will provide a framework for urban communities around the Nation to work towards sustainable community redevelopment and to meet national environmental goals.

Under the new program, EPA shall allocate a total of \$750,000 per year over the next 4 fiscal years to implement the provisions of the model program. EPA may authorize no less than \$400,000 per year in the form of grants, which are to be matched on a 75-25 basis with other Federal funds and State, local, and private contributions.

The Anacostia River has been my top environmental priority since coming to Congress in 1991. I realize that restoring a river requires a long-term commitment. I am committed to whatever time and effort it takes to restore the river that runs through our neighborhoods. I am particularly pleased that all of the regional Members of Congress whose districts encompass the Anacostia River, Representatives CONNIE MORELLA, STENY HOYER, and ALBERT WYNN, recognize the importance of this effort and have become original cosponsors of this legislation.

WELCOME DR. STEPHEN CHEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to join others in welcoming Dr. Stephen Chen to Washington, DC. He has recently assumed the position of Taiwan's top representative in Washington, replacing D. Jason Hu.

Representative Chen comes to Washington with impeccable diplomatic credentials. Prior to this appointment, he served as Deputy Secretary-General to President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China [ROC]. Dr. Chen is a distinguished career diplomat. He served at the Embassy of the ROC in Manila in 1953, and has held a number of diplomatic posts throughout the world. In the sixties, he was stationed in Brazil and in the early seventies he held various consular posts in the United States.

Representative Chen is married to Madam Rose Te Chen, has two sons and one daughter. I am told he speaks several languages fluently, and I know that he speaks and understands the English language and its nuances and idioms quite well.

Representative Chen will undoubtedly have a challenging job in Washington, but I believe he will strive hard to strengthen the good relations between Washington and Taipei.

I extend to Dr. Chen and his family the very best wishes for a productive and worthwhile experience during their Washington tenure.

RURAL INDIANA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, November 5, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RURAL INDIANA COMMUNITIES

The Ninth Congressional District consists of 20 full counties and part of one other. It takes over 6 hours to drive from southwestern Spencer County to eastern Union County. With the exception of the counties in the Louisville metropolitan area, principally Clark and Floyd, it is among the most rural congressional districts in the country.

The Ninth District is made up of plowed fields, rolling hills, celebrated woodlands, and small to moderate-sized communities. Few people traverse the highways and byways of southern Indiana more frequently than I have in recent years. I feel quite at home among the farms, along the back roads, as well in the bustling towns. I get immense pleasure from the beauty of rural southern Indiana, and especially enjoy the variety of court house squares. Yet despite the attractiveness of the area, many worry about the future of our rural communities.

RURAL ECONOMIES

Some of our rural Indiana counties are growing rapidly, often with robust growth associated with recreation, new or expanding industries, tourism, and retirement. Other counties are not growing at all and are having difficulty generating new jobs. They confront the basic problem of keeping their young people at home. The people of southern Indiana are generally less affluent than the rest of the State. We have several of the poorest counties in the State.

Rural America tends to be comparatively poor. It has great natural resources but that does not show up in the personal income of rural Americans. No rural district today in the U.S. House of Representatives is ranked in the top 100 in terms of median family income; most are in the bottom 100.

APPROACH TO ISSUES

The population of southern Indiana tends to be white, older, and moderate to conservative, especially on the social issues. There is always a strong emphasis on values, particularly self-reliance, and a deep skepticism by rural Hoosiers of life in the urban areas. They tend to view urban areas as the center of crime and drug activity, and not a very good place to raise a family. They have very strong ties to family, church, and community, and a strong desire to strive for a better life. The quality of life in rural Indiana compares favorably with many other areas of the country, and rural Hoosiers seem to be aware of it. As one of them said to me, "I really do not know where I would rather live."

People in southern Indiana are fiscally prudent and want their representatives to be in the mainstream on economic and social issues. They are independent and often split their ballots. This unpredictability is one reason why public officials pay particular attention to rural Indiana.

At the same time it is clear that over the years political clout nationwide has shifted to the suburbs. Merely one in five Americans today lives in small towns or the countryside. Only 57 districts out of 435 in the U.S. House of Representatives could be considered rural—13 percent of the House. Most of these

rural districts are in the South or in the Midwest.

Public officials, of course, love to identify themselves with smalltown America. President Eisenhower identified with Abilene, Kansas; Jimmy Carter with Plains, Georgia; Ronald Reagan with Dixon, Illinois; and President Clinton with a place called Hope.

JOBS

There is great economic diversity in southern Indiana. On the one hand there are energetic, growing rural areas, and on the other there are rural communities that are isolated and struggling. Some of them seem locked in time and there is little movement in or out of the communities. Even a modest change like the addition of a new restaurant or shopping area can cause excitement in the community.

The common concern in the rural areas of Indiana, in my experience, is jobs. Many have confronted chronically high rates of unemployment and underemployment and there is constant demand for more high-paying jobs. Rural Hoosiers worry about the disappearance of family farms, layoffs in some manufacturing plants, and the challenges facing schools and cultural institutions like the libraries.

Not nearly as many people in these rural communities live on farms as one might think. Most of the small communities have a light industry or two to supply the jobs, and manufacturing is the largest source of employment in southern Indiana. The counties tend to have a higher percentage of people over age 65, often more than double the national average.

In the future, the viability of rural Indiana may very well depend on the number of people who are fed up with the pace and stress of living in the city. Many of them will move out of the urban areas into the rural areas. Computers may have an impact on rural Indiana, increasing the ability of people to live where they want to, not where they have to. Also, as the number of retired Americans increases, rural Indiana could very well experience a comeback.

I have always found Hoosiers who live in urban areas wanting to support and help the rural communities of our state. There is, of course, a special appeal to communities which are attached closely to the land and which have a social cohesion and solid anchors of home and church. But it is also true that Indiana will prosper much more if the farm and small factory towns can do well. If they do not do well they will drag the rest of the state down.

CONCLUSION

Small towns have always played a very large part in Indiana's view of itself. They are communities where common goals can be reconciled with rugged individualism. They are nurturing places that produce state and national leaders. The problems of the communities seem more manageable than those in the urban areas, and in many ways the communities have a mythical appeal.

Rural communities may be less affluent and face problems of unemployment, but generally I find rural Hoosiers content with their way of life. They have a sense of place and self, of where they come from, who they are, and what they want for their family and community. I am not at all pessimistic about the future of rural southern Indiana. New growth in these communities may well sustain the vitality and the viability of rural Indiana.