

CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will correct a longstanding injustice to the Chugach native people of my great State of Alaska. Twenty-six years ago, Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [ANCSA] to settle the aboriginal land claims of Alaska natives. ANCSA, though not perfect, was a bold and innovative approach to settle the issue of native land claims. Its main purpose was to convey lands traditionally used by Alaska natives to a native regional or native village corporation for their use to secure long-term cultural and economic benefits for their shareholders.

In 1980, I worked with many of my colleagues in this body to pass the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act [ANILCA] which, among other things, contained a provision which guaranteed access to Alaska Native corporations to their ANCSA lands. Without this access to their native lands selected under ANCSA, the act itself would become meaningless.

Twenty-six years after the passage of ANCSA, and 15 years since the U.S. Forest Service and the Chugach Alaska Corporation entered into the "1982 Settlement Agreement" to convey to Chugach Alaska Corporation their lands and guarantee them access to these lands, the U.S. Forest Service has yet to provide the easements needed for such access. This is unacceptable and will soon produce irreparable harm to Chugach Alaska Corporation.

My legislation will simply direct the U.S. Forest Service to fulfill their commitment to provide Chugach Alaska Corporation access to their ANCSA lands. The U.S. Forest Service is required to process the easement to accomplish access for Chugach Alaska Corporation. There has been considerable delay by the U.S. Forest Service to process this easement. Mr. Speaker, I plan to take this issue up when Congress is back for the 2d session of the 105th Congress and to pass this legislation. Both my colleagues in the Senate, Senator STEVENS and Senator MURKOWSKI support this endeavor and will work for passage.

RECOGNITION OF REV. BOB
SWEET'S RETIREMENT FROM
OLD BEDFORD VILLAGE AFTER
21 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, Mr. Speaker, in honor of one of the outstanding people from my congressional district, Rev. Bob Sweet of Bedford, PA.

Bob Sweet served as the treasurer of Bedford County from 1963 to 1966. In 1967, he became Bedford County Commissioner, where he served the community dutifully for 8 years. It was in this capacity during the beginning of my congressional career that I became acquainted with him, and I have been fortunate

enough to count him as one of my true great friends over the years. Bob has been a reliable friend and outstanding citizen of the community for more than three decades. He is a past chairman of the Bedford County Republican Committee and past president of the Bedford County Republican Club. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, and a member of countless civic and religious groups, which indicates his commitment to the less fortunate in our society. Reverend Sweet is a selfless man who always seems to put the welfare of others in front of his own, and has provided moral guidance and a sense of vision upon which the community has built itself a great place to live and work.

Today, I want to pay tribute to an outstanding man of vision and perseverance, and a valued friend. Not only did Bob envision what would become a memorial to the founding fathers of Bedford County and a successful tourist attraction, he dedicated his time and enthusiasm to making his dream a reality. Bob Sweet's tireless commitment to the community in which he lives is a testament to his love of Bedford County. He and his wife have two married daughters and 4 granddaughters, all of whom serve their community with pride. I will close by thanking Bob Sweet for his endless energy and constant support, and wish him a long and healthy retirement.

FR. GEORGE G. PASSIAS HONORED
FOR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE
TO ST. NICHOLAS GREEK
CHURCH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my constituents and members of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church as they gather to honor Fr. George G. Passias for two decades of service to our community.

Originally a native of Chicago, Fr. George received his early education in Morton Grove, IL. At the University of Illinois, he received his B.S. in structural science and mechanical engineering, and an M.S. in theoretical and applied mechanics. Against this background of intensive education, he married Mary Ellen Orlando and maintained an active participation in the parish of St. John the Baptist in Des Plaines where he served as a teacher in the church school, was the GOYA advisor, a parish council member and executive board member.

In 1976, answering to a higher calling, Fr. George left his doctoral studies and with his wife moved to Boston to enter the Holy Cross School of Theology to undertake a master of divinity degree. He graduated in 1979 and received the Massachusetts Bible Society Award. At this point in their lives and with two children, Fr. George moved his family to Bayside, NY, and became assistant pastor of St. Nicholas.

The next 20 years were not only years of dynamic growth for the parish, but also for Fr. George. He devoted his efforts to help in making St. Nicholas a parish known for caring, learning and serving people in fulfilling themselves. Under his efforts, the church's educational programs were expanded and the Wil-

liam Spyropoulos Greek American Day School was formed. In addition, he spearheaded the formation of the young adult league, adult Bible classes and retreats for members of all ages.

In 1982, he was appointed pastor of St. Nicholas and undertook a program that rapidly expanded the physical building of St. Nicholas, increased its membership and brought to the parish a most warm and compassionate sense of dedication and involvement. It is now the largest parish in the archdiocese.

After two decades of service, Fr. George has been appointed chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. In all his years as a priest, Fr. George has been endowed with a spiritual warmth that not only made him a builder of a church, but a builder who combines all the good and positive feelings in a person that leads to success and fulfillment. As he now assumes the chancellorship of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this man who will now spread his warmth and compassion throughout our great country.

KATRINA**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when I reviewed the remarks in the September 29, 1997, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding a lady named "Katrina," I immediately felt that Congressman ABERCROMBIE had relied on an erroneous and misleading article published by the Reader's Digest some months ago. I have so advised him and he has certainly agreed to look at all the facts.

The Katrina described by a report from Robert B. Dunlap II, attorney general of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI], is one that I hope Congressman ABERCROMBIE will examine. I have high professional, political, and personal admiration for NEIL ABERCROMBIE—and I want him to have the full facts at his disposal.

The gentleman from Hawaii, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, described a situation which was reported in the Reader's Digest article this past summer. In the report by CNMI Attorney General Dunlap in response to the allegations asserted by that article, General Dunlap writes, "the article specifically stated that she was forced to dance in the nude. It is extremely important to note that the complainant had been dancing in the nude in a Manila nightclub for several years before she came to Saipan. Her entry to the Northern Marianas was a fraud as her passport and birth certificate were doctored."

The CNMI Attorney General further asserted: "The complainant filed a case with the CNMI Department of Labor. Since the CNMI does not have the authority or jurisdiction to prosecute violations of federal child labor laws, the CNMI Department of Labor addressed only her wage and hour complaints." Furthermore, the article alleges that she was forced to perform lewd sex acts with customers before a video camera. The attorney general's report further states "In fact, the said tape was produced during her interview for the position—it was learned that the said tape was