

DEFENSE OF IWO JIMA GAINS  
UNEXPECTED SUPPORT

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, an article in today's *Saratogian*, a newspaper that reaches some of my constituents in Saratoga County, New York, eloquently expressed the intense pride our courageous veterans, who put their lives in harms way for this great nation and all it stands for, have for the Iwo Jima Memorial. That monument has come to represent so much to so many people around this country and the world, and in many ways is one of the most famous monuments in our history. This article's author, David Rossie, has repeatedly made disparaging remarks about me. Yet, even he, who is embarrassed to agree with me, has endorsed my attempts to defend the importance and significance of the Iwo Jima Memorial. This just demonstrates how offensive J. Carter Brown has been to every American across the political spectrum.

[From the *Saratogian*, Apr. 1, 1998]

ARTS COMMISSION LEADER SHOWS ELITISM  
WITH 'KITSCH' REMARK

(By David Rossie)

I have never met J. Carter Brown, chairman of the U.S. Commission of the Fine Arts. Chances are I never will. Probably just as well. For openers, I'm a bit leery of people who insist on being referred to by their first initial and middle name. They tend to be a bit pretentious. But the main reason I detest J. Carter Brown, sight unseen, is that he has put me somewhere I don't want to be—on the side of Rep. Gerald Solomon, (R.-N.Y.)

Solomon is an East Coast version of Bob Dornan, a Republican clown who was ousted from the House in 1996. Solomon is an embarrassment in a legislative body that is virtually embarrassment proof. But now, thanks to J. Carter, I find myself muttering, "Go get him, Gerald." Solomon wants J. Carter booted from the Art Commission because of disparaging remarks he made about the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Va. The monument is a sculpted bronze reproduction of Joe Rosenthal's photograph of Marines raising the U.S. flag atop Iwo Jima's Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

J. Carter thinks the memorial is, to use the term attributed to him by the Associated Press, "kitsch." My dictionary describes kitsch as "artistic material of low quality" meant "to appeal to popular taste and marked by sentimentality, sensationalism and slickness." J. Carter, former director of the National Gallery of Art, didn't say why he thinks the Iwo Jima memorial is kitsch.

A little background: On the morning of Feb. 23, 1945, Lt. Harold Schrier, 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, led a platoon to the crater atop Suribachi where the Marines raised a small flag that Schrier's battalion commander, Lt. Col. Chandler Johnson had given him hours earlier. The flag, attached to a piece of metal pipe, went up about 10:30 a.m. Sgt. Louis Lowery, a Marine photographer, captured the moment on film. The ceremony, such as it was, was interrupted by a small group of Japanese defenders, who began throwing hand grenades from a nearby cave. Perhaps they were art critics, with an aversion to kitsch. Who knows? In any event, Lowery was knocked about 50 feet down the side of the crater. He was unhurt, but his camera was broken. Three hours later, the first flag was replaced by a larger one

brought from a ship lying offshore. This time the raising was captured on film by Rosenthal, an AP photographer.

The guess here is that when Rosenthal's photo of the flag raising made it into newspapers in the United States, people found it inspiring.

I suspect they saw the picture as a metaphor for the unconquerable spirit of the young men fighting in the Pacific. Fighting and dying. Two of the Marines who first raised the flag, died before the island was secured more than a month after the picture was taken. So, too, did Col. Johnson.

When the fighting ended on Iwo Jima near the end of March, more than 6,800 members of the invading force were dead or missing and 18,000 had been wounded. Twenty-six Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Chester Nimitz said after the battle: "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue." But then Nimitz was just an old sentimentalist.

What J. Carter doesn't seem to understand is that the Iwo Jima memorial isn't just about Iwo Jima. It is a memorial to every Marine, living and dead, who fought on all those islands in the Pacific against an enemy who seldom surrendered and was fanatical in his bravery.

IN SUPPORT OF ALCOHOL AWARE-  
NESS MONTH AND TAKE A STEP  
DAY

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Alcohol Awareness Month and Take a Step Day, a nationwide campaign developed by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. The goal of this national campaign is to draw attention to the problems of alcoholism and work for solutions to this disease. The campaign focuses public awareness on the widespread effects and damage associated with alcohol problems. It heightens the awareness of community residents and students in our schools about the monumental risks and consequences of alcohol abuse and misuse. In my district on Long Island, this important campaign is sponsored by the Long Island Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence.

Unfortunately, this type of awareness is all too necessary. Alcohol is the third leading cause of preventable death in our nation, killing nearly 100,000 Americans every year. 13.8 million Americans suffer from alcohol-related problems, including 8.1 million alcoholics. Over 43% of Americans have been exposed to alcoholism in their families and 13 million Americans drink heavily, which means they consume five or more drinks at a time on five or more days a month. These heavy drinkers are five times more likely to use illicit drugs and are more likely to require extensive medical care. Nearly one-fourth of all Americans admitted to general hospitals have alcohol problems or are undiagnosed alcoholics who are treated for the consequences of their drinking. Alcoholism and alcohol-related problems cost the American economy at least \$100 million health care and lost productivity every year.

During April, alcohol awareness month, I call upon my colleagues in Congress, along

with all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals and schools to join me in fighting America's number-one drug problem by pledging to support research, education, housing, intervention and treatment for alcoholism and alcohol-related problems.

IN RECOGNITION OF J. DANNY  
COOPER'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of J. Danny Cooper on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday.

A native of Chilton County, Alabama, Danny has been an active member in both his community and the state. Earning both a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a masters in education administration from the University of Montevallo, Danny has utilized his talents and his education for the good of all those around him. A former school teacher, Danny Cooper has also served as the Veterans' Affairs director, the community bicentennial chairman, and the county cancer crusade chairman.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Danny Cooper has been active in national politics. Danny served as the executive director of a state political party, state campaign manager for a successful presidential candidate and state director to a U.S. Senator. Mr. Cooper's experience, however, has not been limited to this country. Danny attended, as the U.S. representative, a disaster preparedness conference of NATO nations in Brussels, Belgium.

In 1990, Danny was named Vice President of the Alabama Association of Realtors. He is a board member of the Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee and the Alabama Council of Association Executives. He also is an active member of the American Society of Association Executives and Alabama's State Action Legislative Team Chair representing realtors. In addition to the above mentioned, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cooper is a member of 107 additional trade and professional associations in the state of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, the list of accomplishments continues. Danny is one of those individuals who doesn't sit back and let others make decisions for him. He is one of those people who is determined to make a difference and help those around him. I am proud to know Danny and am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his accomplishments.

It is my hope that my fellow colleagues will join with me in wishing Danny Cooper a Happy Birthday.

IN HONOR OF JAMES LEONARD  
FARMER, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

**HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of the contributions of a distinguished American citizen, Dr. James Leonard Farmer.

As we pay homage to our forbearers for their courage, wisdom, perseverance and overall contributions to America, I'd like to formally salute Dr. Farmer for his efforts as a Civil Rights Activist. He has been instrumental in the struggle to remove legal, social, and political barriers which continue to impede the progress of African-Americans.

James Leonard Farmer was born in Marshall, Texas, on January 12, 1920, the son of a scholar, grandson of a slave, and one of three children. As the son of a faculty member of various southern black colleges, the young James Farmer led a somewhat sheltered life. But as the old adage reminds us "to whom much is given, much is expected". Dr. Farmer has not only lived up to, but has exceeded, all anyone had a right to expect of him.

The young James Farmer attended public schools in the south. He earned his B.A. degree in chemistry from Wiley College at the age of 18 and obtained a divinity degree from Howard University, graduating in 1941. Dr. Farmer refused ordination because of the segregation then practiced by the Methodist Church. Instead of entering the ministry, he turned his energies to social action, with the goal of destroying segregation. In 1942, along with a group of students at the University of Chicago, Dr. Farmer organized the first chapter of the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE). The interracial organization's purpose was to apply a direct challenge to American racism by using Grandhian tactics of non-violence.

Dr. Farmer also organized the first Civil Rights sit-in in American history at a Chicago donut shop called Jack Spratt's in May of 1942. As a someone who grew up in segregated Virginia, I am particularly thankful for Dr. Farmer's organization of the "Pilgrimage of Prayer" to Richmond, Virginia. The "Pilgrimage" protested the closing of Virginia's public schools to avoid complying with the United States Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in public schools. More than 2,000 persons joined in the "Pilgrimage of Prayer", which has been credited with a significant role in bringing about the weakening of Virginia's "massive resistance" program.

By 1961 Dr. Farmer was the National Director of CORE. During this crucial time in our history, Dr. Farmer and CORE received national exposure by organizing the "Freedom Ride". The "Freedom Ride" was a bus trip through the deep south designed to desegregate interstate buses and terminals. Despite countless arrests and other harassments, the "Freedom Riders" persevered in their efforts and were eventually successful in the desegregation of 120 interstate bus terminals in the south.

Since 1985, Dr. Farmer has been teaching Civil Rights at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the Distinguished Professor of History and American Studies. He continues to do so at the age of 78.

On Jan 15, 1998, Dr. Farmer was bestowed the country's highest civilian honor by President Bill Clinton: the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I can think of no individual more deserving of such an honor.

Frederick Douglass once said "Men may not get all they pay for in this World, but they must certainly pay for all they get." Mr. Speaker, Dr. Farmer may not have gotten all that he paid for, but with the life of service and commitment he has given us, I have no doubt that he has paid for all that he has gotten.

Thank you, Dr. James Leonard Farmer, for all that you have given us.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF THE HUNGARIAN CROWN—REPLICA IS PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS A SYMBOL OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND HUNGARY

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 18 in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, just a few steps from the Chamber of the House, the President of the Republic of Hungary, His Excellency Árpád Göncz, was joined by a number of our distinguished colleagues from both the House and the Senate and by a distinguished group of current and former Administration officials, members of the diplomatic corps and a large number of other Hungarians and Americans in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the return to the people of Hungary of the Holy Crown of Hungary, the Crown of St. Stephen.

It is one of the significant and curious aspects of the nearly one thousand year history of the Hungarian Crown that, for a third of a century, the United States government was custodian of this most important symbol of the Hungarian nation. In 1945 the troops guarding the Crown handed it over to United States Army troops in Germany to prevent its falling into the hands of the Soviet military. First in Germany and later at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the United States safeguarded this Hungarian treasure for 33 years. It was clearly the intention of American officials to return the Crown to the Hungarian people, but the communist coup d'etat in 1947 and the unsuccessful Hungarian revolution of 1956 prevented that from happening.

By the late 1970s, Hungary had shown its independence from the Soviet Union in a whole range of domestic policies. In 1978 in a courageous decision, President Jimmy Carter, with the strong concurrence of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, decided to return the Hungarian Crown to the people of Hungary. The Crown was a powerful symbol of Hungary's links with the West and a potent emblem of Hungarian national identity. The decision to return the crown was based on the desire to encourage the reality of both of those elements.

The rightness of the decision to return the Crown has unquestionably been confirmed by events since 1978. Hungary was instrumental in the opening of the Iron Curtain. In the fall of 1989, thousands of East German citizens were camped on Hungary's border with Austria seeking to leave the East bloc and flee to the West. At that critical moment, the Hungarian government made the fateful decision to open its borders, and thousands of East Germans fled to West Germany and to freedom and opportunity. That was a dramatic and fateful decision which hastened and precipitated the collapse of the Iron Curtain.

Since 1978, our relationship with Hungary has progressed from being members of opposing alliances to partners and now to be-

coming full allies. Today, Mr. Speaker, Hungary stands at the door of NATO. It was symbolically significant that on the day before our ceremony in Statuary Hall, the Senate began debate on the admission to NATO of Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

In recognition of the significance of the return of the Crown twenty years ago and as a symbol of the friendship of the Hungarian and American peoples, the Hungarian government has presented to the American people a magnificent replica of the Holy Crown of Hungary. That replica was presented to the American people at the conclusion of the ceremony in Statuary Hall in the Capitol, and the Members of Congress who were present symbolically accepted it on behalf of the American people. Appropriately, the replica of the Crown was taken to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta later that same day, where it was placed on permanent display. It is most appropriate that the replica of the Crown is housed there, since President Carter made the courageous and controversial but correct decision to return the Crown to Hungary two decades ago.

Mr. Speaker, this Crown has a long and important legacy that is highly significant to the history of the Hungarian people. In the year 896 the seven Hungarian tribes crossed the Carpathian Mountains and occupied the Hungarian plain. In the year 1001, Stephen was crowned King of Hungarians with a crown given him by Pope Sylvester II. That moment signified Hungary's decision to be an integral part of western culture and civilization, and throughout the entire past millennium this hope and dream and struggle of the Hungarian people was frustrated every step of the way—in the 13th century by the invasion of the Tartars, in the 16th century by the Turks, in the middle of the 19th century by the forces of the Tsar putting down Hungary's freedom revolution, and, of course, in recent times by Soviet domination.

For Hungarians this is a historic moment when we celebrate the friendship of the United States and the Republic of Hungary, and when the Hungarian people thank the American people by giving them in perpetuity this replica of the crown which symbolizes for Hungarians all that is good and decent and civilized. It is significant that just a few steps away from where we met for this ceremony, the debate was underway on admitting Hungary to NATO, and the vote is not too far distant when Hungary will also be made a part of the European Union. These great events mark a fulfillment of this millennium-long yearning of the Hungarian people to be linked with Western civilization and culture.

The cosponsors of the event marking the 20th anniversary of the return of the Crown were Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH, Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT, Senate Democratic Leader TOM DASCHLE, Senator RICHARD LUGAR, Senator JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., Senator GORDON SMITH, House Democratic Leader RICHARD GEPHARDT, Congressman BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, Congressman LEE HAMILTON, and Congressman TOM LANTOS.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank those speakers who participated in this happy and historic event: Dr. James Ford, Chaplain of the House of Representatives, who offered the invocation; Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH; Senators RICHARD LUGAR, GORDON SMITH, JOSEPH BIDEN, JR., PAUL SARBANES; Congressman LEE HAMILTON, Congressman BENJAMIN