

TRIBUTE TO CARLOS ALBERTO
WAHNON DE CARVALHO VEIGA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and Head of State, Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga, the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the Republic of Cape Verde. This provocative and exciting leader has—with grace and integrity—steered his country through its transition from a one-party to a multi-party system. He is visiting the United States this week and is being honored by the California Legislature for his distinguished service to Cape Verdeans.

The accomplishments of Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga are due in no small part to his willingness to accept change and meet the challenges before him. His unwavering commitment to civil rights, civil liberties and freedom is testimony to his humanity and basic goodness. Veiga exemplifies the selflessness, patience and empathy characteristic of the best leaders of the world.

Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga's career spans a period of immense change for the Republic of Cape Verde. He earned his law degree at the "Universidade Classica de Lisboa" in 1971. From 1972 until 1974 he worked in Angola as the Registrar in the City of Bie. He then returned to Cape Verde in 1975 as the Public Prosecutor in Praia and was the Director General of Internal Administration until 1978. In 1980, Mr. Veiga was appointed Attorney General. In 1982, as a result of his opposition to state policies, he left government for private practice and was elected president of the Cape Verdean Bar Association. Veiga's vision for Cape Verde's democratic development at a time of political instability and upheaval became evident in 1985 when he joined Parliament and soon after set in motion vigorous efforts to democratize the Government and set the foundation for the creation of the Movement for Democracy (MPD), the present ruling party.

His positions in defense of democratic reforms are well known and respected by the majority of Capeverdeans. During his second term in the Parliament he became President of the MPD and soon led his party to a strong victory over the ruling party in the National Assembly. In 1991, he was elected Prime Minister. Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga represents the "spirit" of the Capeverdean people both on the ten island archipelago and across the world.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Prime Minister Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga, whose dedication to the causes in which he deeply believes is an inspiration to us all.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues today in honoring the selfless acts

of Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police.

As we know, the U.S. Capitol is the people's house and the dedicated men and women of the United States Capitol Police guard this institution to protect the Members of Congress, their staff and millions of people who come to bear witness to the working of our democratic process. The Capitol is a living testament to the rights of our citizens and those that are sworn to guard it truly defend the rights of mankind.

On July 24, 1998, Officers Gibson and Chestnut made the ultimate sacrifice for these unalienable rights in courageously protecting the lives of tourists, staff and Members of Congress. We are forever indebted to these brave men. Had it not been for their heroic actions, many more innocent people could have been seriously injured or killed.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues today to honor these men killed in the line of duty and to pay my condolences to their families. I vow to ensure their legacy of defending the people's house will live on for generations to come; symbolized by our continuing commitment to open the halls of democracy to the public. God Bless Officers Gibson and Chestnut for their memory will forever survive in the freedoms of our nation's Capitol.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE
U.S.S. "HARRY S TRUMAN"

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, July 25, 1998, I attended the commissioning of the U.S.S. *Harry S Truman*, CVN 75. It is our Navy's newest and most advanced nuclear aircraft carrier. It was a special day not only for me, but for Missouri and for the United States of America. This vessel bears the name of a fellow Missourian and family friend, and I feel that it is most fitting and appropriate that an aircraft carrier be named for this great man. Harry Truman provided heroic leadership and set a standard of personal accountability during a critical period in our nation's history. This son of rural Missouri possessed common sense and decency.

I share my remarks of that day with the Members of the House.

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON (D-MO) COMMISSIONING OF THE U.S.S. "HARRY S TRUMAN" JULY 25, 1998—NORFOLK, VA

THE TRUMAN-SKELTON CONNECTION

This may well be the largest gathering of Missourians outside our state since the inauguration of Harry S Truman as President on January 20, 1949, in Washington.

As a teenager, I was fortunate to accompany my father to that momentous event on the east front of the United States Capitol. President Truman began his inaugural address by saying, "I accept with humility the honor which the American people have conferred upon me." Were he with us today, I am convinced that President Truman would again be humbled by the honor of having this great naval ship named for him.

I am able to speak from a personal point of view because of the friendship that was formed some seventy years ago—on September 17, 1928, to be exact. The occasion was the dedication of the Pioneer Mother Statue—

the Madonna of the Trail—located in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri. Two speakers on the program met that day—the President of the National Old Trails Association and a representative of the Lexington American Legion Post. The former was County Court Judge Harry S. Truman, from nearby Jackson County, and the other was the young Lafayette County Prosecuting Attorney, Ike Skelton, my father. Because of the lasting friendship that was formed that day, my wife and I in later years came to know the genuinely nice person we call the "Man from Independence".

HARRY TRUMAN—THE MAN

My task today is to speak of the man—Harry S. Truman—and I direct my remarks especially to the sailors of this ship who will be known as "Truman sailors" from this day forward.

Truman once wrote, "Great men and women are assayed in future generations." So as this ship is commissioned in his name today, let us take measure of Truman the man and reflect on the traits of his character that allowed him to lead this great nation and be recognized as one of America's finest Presidents.

Harry Truman was bedrock American. He remains a role model for Americans of all ages and generations.

Underlying Truman's political accomplishments was the strength of his personal character. When faced with challenges, Truman put his shoulder to the task, used his Missouri good sense to "call it as he saw it", and forged ahead with the serious business at hand. And unlike those who assign blame to others, he believed in personal responsibility, as the sign on his desk and the motto of this ship declare—"The Buck Stops Here."

HARRY TRUMAN WAS DEVOTED TO HIS FAMILY

Harry Truman was a man of great devotion to his wife and lifelong sweetheart, Bess, and to his daughter, Margaret. The hundreds of letters exchanged by President and Mrs. Truman during their courtship and throughout their married life give testimony to their close relationship. And who can forget the letter written by a loving father who, coming to the defense of his daughter's vocal talents, threatened to blacken the eyes and break the nose of the music critic that published an unflattering review?

HARRY TRUMAN LOVED HIS COUNTRY

Harry Truman had high regard for the Armed Forces of our country, having served in combat during the First World War as an artillery battery commander and later rising to the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserve.

He loved America and the American people, ever keeping the public interest uppermost in his decisions.

He was an avid reader and student of history. My friend, the late Congressman Fred Schwengel, told me about meeting Senator Truman in 1935 while Schwengel was a college student in Missouri. Truman advised him that to be a good American, "... you should know your history." That story is consistent with my experience. I well remember taking a group of grade school students to visit the Truman Library in 1963, and though President Truman was of advanced age, he spoke to them in the library auditorium about American history and the Constitution. He wanted young people to learn as much as they could about America.

HARRY TRUMAN WAS POLITICALLY COURAGEOUS

Like the Presidents who came before and after him, Truman was burdened with the loneliness that goes along with being the Chief Executive. But President Truman did not shy away from difficult, often politically unpopular, decisions. He once said, "Do your duty and history will do you justice."