

improve the community of Ellwood City for its children.

TRIBUTE TO JIM RUPP

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent and dear friend, Mr. "Jolly" Jim Rupp of Decatur, Illinois who has recently passed. He was a devoted public official and my condolences and best wishes go to his family and all who will miss him.

Some of my Illinois colleagues may remember Jim as Decatur's mayor from 1966 to 1976 and state senator until 1986. But anybody who knew Jim, knew him as "Jolly Jim." He was always happy, rarely ever down in spirit. His smile would warm you up on the coldest of mornings, and his personality was genuine. Jim got along with anybody and everybody. This was his best quality not only as a politician, but as a person. He was cut from a different type of political cloth. Jim realized that politics relied on personal qualities, and paying attention to the grass roots. He would make visits just about everywhere he represented to arouse interest in issues, and gain support from constituents. In fact, he was once quoted that he loved making these visits so much, that he could rarely ever complete a personal house chore. Nevertheless, he took the concept of politician to mean personable, and in touch with his constituents, which is a quality public officials still need to follow.

Jim grew up in New Jersey, and served in World War II and the Korean War proudly for this nation. He married Florence Reineke in 1944, who unfortunately passed away last December. He moved to Decatur in the 1950's and became partner and later sole owner of Creighton-Jackson Insurance Agency. Jim was then elected mayor several years later in 1966. He also offered much of his time outside of public office in the Decatur community. Jim was a member of the Rotary International, VFW Post 99, Decatur Shriners Club and the American Legion Post 105. Moreover, Jim was a devout Christian and a charter member of Woodland Chapel Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his sons James and Jeffrey and their families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Jim Rupp, whose dedication to his community has had a profound impact on those who knew him, including myself. It has been an honor to represent him in the United States Congress. I will miss "Jolly Jim" immensely. His style was so unique and he was so humble. Many of our national and local leaders need to follow in his footsteps to succeed in politics and in life as he did.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK PALLONE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today at a meeting of the Congressional Caucus of India and Indian Americans a number of our

colleagues honored me by electing me Co-Chairman of the Caucus. In doing so, I am being asked to fill a pair of big shoes by succeeding the Caucus's founder and first Co-Chairman, FRANK PALLONE.

Mr. Speaker, the Caucus on India and Indian Americans was founded more than five years ago by FRANK. His district has a large and vibrant Indian American community, and FRANK decided their voice needed to be heard in the Congress. What began as a handful of Members five years ago has been transformed into a thriving Caucus of more than one hundred Members, making the Caucus one of the largest ethnic Caucuses in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, much of this success and growth is a tribute to FRANK PALLONE's leadership and energy. During his term as Co-Chairman, he has worked tirelessly in the House to improve relations between India, the world's largest democracy, and the United States, the world's oldest democracy. The Caucus has been a forum for important discussions between the Caucus Members and senior politicians, diplomats and industrialists from India. Outside Washington, FRANK also has been very active, traveling to cities around the United States where he has met with hundreds of Indian American community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, as the Caucus of India and Indian Americans enters its sixth year, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating FRANK on a job well done. I am certain the other Members of the Caucus agree with me that we are looking forward to his continued strong participation as a senior Member of the Caucus and to his strong support of the interests of the Indian American Community.

RESOLUTION REASSERTING U.S. OPPOSITION TO THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce with Representative JIM SAXTON and Majority Whip TOM DELAY a resolution calling on President Clinton to publicly and unequivocally state that the United States will actively oppose a unilaterally declared Palestinian state and that any such action would have severe negative consequences for Palestinian relations with the United States. Though the United States has traditionally oppose a unilaterally declared Palestinian state, recent statements by the Administration have been ambiguous, and contradictory to its previous policy. This shift in the attitude by the U.S. government has been followed by recent announcements by the Palestinian Authority of their intention to declare a Palestinian state unilaterally. Such a declaration would be a violation of the Oslo Accords. It would also pose a threat to Israel, and it would have a destabilizing effect on the entire Middle East. Therefore, it is urgent that the U.S. reaffirms its opposition to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

For decades U.S. policy has been to oppose steadfastly the creation of an independent Palestinian state irrespective of how it is declared. The Administration's evolving policy on Palestinian statehood is skillfully explored

in Robert Satloff's piece "New Nuances" that appeared in the July 13th New Republic. The author points to four sets of comments by Administration officials that have called into doubt the longstanding U.S. policy. (1) On May 7th, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton advocated the establishment of a Palestinian state. (2) On May 18th, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk refused to express firm U.S. opposition to the unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state, but rather restated traditional U.S. policy as a preference. (3) Also on May 18th, Vice President AL GORE made similar comments. (4) And finally, at a May 28th White House briefing, spokesman Michael McCurry refused to rule out the possibility that the United States would refuse to recognize a unilaterally declared Palestinian state. Mr. Satloff summarized the comments as follows: "The United States strongly prefers a negotiated outcome of final status issues between Israel and the Palestinians and will work to achieve that goal. However, if the two sides do not reach agreement by May 1999 and the Palestinians issue a unilateral declaration of statehood over Israeli objections, the U.S. may or may not recognize that state."

Since these statements by the U.S. government, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, his cabinet and the Palestinian legislature have repeatedly threatened to unilaterally proclaim the establishment of a Palestinian state when the Oslo Accords expire on May 4, 1999. In mid-July, Chairman Arafat stated that "there is a transition period of 5 years and after 5 years we have the right to declare an independent Palestinian state." Even more recently, on September 24th, Chairman Arafat's cabinet threatened to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state that would encompass a portion of Jerusalem: "At the end of the interim period, it (the Palestinian government) shall declare the establishment of a Palestinian state on all Palestinian land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian state." (The Columbian, Mark Lavie, Associated Press, September 25, 1998.) Chairman Arafat continued his push for statehood on September 28th in a speech before the United Nations, calling upon world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state:

I would like to call upon all of you from this place—the source of international legitimacy and peacemaking, the guardian of freedom, security and stability, and the source for the achievement of justice and prosperity for humankind—to stand by our people, especially as the five-year transitional period provided for in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements will end on the 4th of May, 1999 and our people demand of us to shoulder our responsibilities, and they await the establishment of their independent state.

A unilateral declaration of statehood would be a renouncement of the Oslo Accords and could ignite hostilities. The Oslo Accords make no provision for the creation of a Palestinian state and, in fact, prohibit the Palestinian Authority from taking any actions that would affect the sovereignty of the Israeli-administered territories. Earlier this week Assistant Secretary of State Indyk said that a declaration of statehood "becomes a recipe for an almost immediate confrontation . . ." (Hillel Kuttler, Jerusalem Post, October 4, 1998). The threat of designating Jerusalem as the capital