

At Sacred Heart Church where he serves as pastor, Father Sheedy has committed himself to improving the quality of life for every member of our community. He has worked with our youth—encouraging them to stay out of gangs and in school. Along with local universities, Father Sheedy has created a tutorial center and has spearheaded efforts to gain college scholarships for kids.

Father Sheedy has also been a beacon of hope and faith—attending to the very sick and providing solace to their families. Now Father Sheedy is himself very ill, and our thoughts and prayers are with him.

On October 22, 1998, Father Mateo Sheedy will be honored with the Heart of Jesus Award, recognizing his vast sacrifices for our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Father Sheedy for receiving such a special award. He is to be commended for his noble efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, 1998, I was on official business during rollcall votes Nos. 480, 481, and 482. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "no" on No. 480, "yes" on 481, and "yes" on 482.

GRANTING CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO POTOMAC HIGHLANDS AIRPORT AUTHORITY COMPACT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, S. J. Res. 51 would provide Congress' consent to a compact between the States of West Virginia and Maryland establishing the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority. This legislation has been passed by the Senate and has the support of the Senators from both States and the Members of Congress from the districts concerned.

This bill is of great importance to my constituents as well as to me personally. As you may know, in 1944 the city of Cumberland, located in Allegany County, Maryland, purchased land 3 miles south of the city in Wiley Ford, West Virginia for the construction of an airport. In 1976 the States of Maryland and West Virginia entered into a compact establishing the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority.

The need for the compact stems from the unusual nature of the airport. It is located in one State, but owned by a municipality in another. Accordingly there has been a certain degree of uncertainty about the ability of the airport authority to guarantee to pay for loans they may receive. This was discovered as the Authority was in the process of undertaking a 20-year \$10 million expansion program and had applied for a loan from the Department of Agriculture. In its denial of the loan, the Department replied that it could not provide the

loan unless Congress were to provide its consent to the bi-state compact between West Virginia and Maryland.

The loan from the USDA represented an important part of this expansion program. While congressional approval of the compact will obviously facilitate the improvement of the airport specifically, it will also have a positive impact on the economic development of region as a whole.

As you may know, the Greater Cumberland Regional Airport, is located in rural Appalachia. According to the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, Allegany County, Maryland has an unemployment rate of 8.5 percent, almost 90 percent higher than the national average. This number does not even consider the great number of people who have become so discouraged that they have stopped seeking employment. The simple reason for this high unemployment rate is that the area has suffered from the closing of a number of employers and has been unable to attract employers sufficient to replace the lost jobs.

The critical task in the coming years will be for local and State leaders to attract new employers to the area. In working with businesses that are considering moving to area, one of the critical deciding factors for their relocation is access to first rate infrastructure. Businesses considering moving to the region will need to know commercial aviation users. The Potomac Highland Airport Authority has a 20-year plan that will allow it to expand to accommodate the increased utilization of the facility. The House's approval of this bill is an important step in providing the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority with the tools necessary to be an active participant in the region's expansion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, during the week of October 5, 1998, I was absent due to an illness in my family. I received an official leave of absence from the Majority Leader in this regard.

However, had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner on the following legislation:

Monday, October 5, 1998

H.R. 4614—New Hampshire Land Conveyance Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (Roll Call No. 480): Aye.

H.R. 1154—The Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedure Act of 1997: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (Roll Call No. 481): Nay.

H.R. 4655—Establishing a Program to support a Transition to Democracy in Iraq: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (Roll Call No. 482): Aye.

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

H.R. 4194—VA—HUD Appropriations Act for FY 1999: On Agreeing to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 483): Aye.

H. Res. 575—Waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consider-

ation of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules: On Agreeing to the Resolution (Roll Call No. 484): Aye.

H.R. 4259—The Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Systems Act of 1998: On Agreeing to the Cummings of Maryland Substitute Amendment (Roll Call No. 485): Nay.

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

H.R. 3694—Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 1999: Motion to Recommit (Roll Call No. 486): Nay; On Agreeing to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 487): Aye.

H. Res. 573—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 4570, the Omnibus National Parks and Public Lands Act: On Passage (Roll Call No. 488): Aye.

H.R. 4570—Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Act: On Passage (Roll Call No. 489): Nay.

H. Res. 579—Waiving all points of order against the Conference Report on H.R. 4104, the Treasury, Postal Services, and Independent Agencies Appropriations for FY 1999: On Agreeing to the Resolution (Roll Call No. 490): Aye.

H.R. 4616—Designating the Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (Roll Call No. 491): Aye.

H.R. 2348—Designating the Mervyn Dymally Post Office Building: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (Roll Call No. 492): Aye; On the Motion to Recommit with Instructions (Roll Call No. 493): Nay.

H.R. 4104—The Treasury, Postal Services, and Independent Agencies Appropriations for FY 1999: On Agreeing to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 494): Aye.

Thursday, October 8, 1998

House Journal of October 8, 1998: On Approving the House Journal (Roll Call No. 495): Aye.

Quorum: On the Call of the House (Roll Call No. 496): Present.

H. Res. 581—Authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to investigate whether sufficient grounds exist for the impeachment of William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States: On the Motion to Recommit with Instructions (Roll Call No. 497): Nay; On Agreeing to the Resolution (Roll Call No. 498): Aye.

Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn (Roll Call No. 499): Nay.

H.Res. 584—Further providing for the consideration of H.R. 4274: On Ordering the Previous Question (Roll Call No. 500) Aye; To Table the Motion to Reconsider (Roll Call No. 501) Aye; On Agreeing to the Resolution (Roll Call No. 502) Aye; To Table the Motion to Reconsider (Roll Call No. 503) Aye.

H.R. 4274—The Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations for FY 1999: On Agreeing to the Istook Substitute Amendment to the Greenwood Amendment (Roll Call No. 504): Nay.

H.R. 3150—Bankruptcy Reform Act: On the Motion to Recommit the Conference Report with Instructions (Roll Call No. 505): Nay; On Agreeing to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 506) Aye.

H.Res. 565—Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives Regarding the Importance of Mammograms and biopsies in the Fight Against Breast Cancer: On the Motion to