

June 11, 2002, Father Racco will celebrate the silver anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. Father Racco has devoted 13 years to ministering to the people of Holy Rosary and Little Italy. Father Racco has made Holy Rosary Church a great haven for the students at Case Western Reserve University and the many families and friends of patients at University Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic who visit the church daily. Father Racco has previously served as an assistant at St. John Bosco in Parma Heights, St. Margaret Mary in South Euclid and Pastor at St. Philomena in East Cleveland prior to being assigned Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in 1989.

Therefore, I join with the entire 11th District of Ohio in congratulating Father Phillip Racco for his 13 years of service to Holy Rosary Church and the city of Cleveland.

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HONORING JOHN REYNOLDS

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**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Reynolds on the occasion of his retirement from the National Park Service. I have had the pleasure of working with him in my capacity on the Resources Committee and as the Representative from the 19th District of California.

John is the son of a park ranger, having been born in Yellowstone National Park. He is the brother of a park superintendent who served around the country in superlative national parks. He has spent the last 37 years crisscrossing the country, changing assignments every couple of years, and charting the course of a moderate and flexible national park system. He will retire August 2 as regional director of the Pacific West Region.

His distinguished career began as a park planner and he developed a lifelong love of Yosemite National Park after serving as team captain for the first master plan. John has served the National Park Service diligently in numerous positions across the country. Among these John has acted as the Director of the Service Center located in Denver, Colorado, the Regional Director to the Mid Atlantic Region, in Philadelphia, and the Deputy Director of the National Park Service here in Washington, D.C. Throughout his career with the Service, John Reynolds has consistently demonstrated a level of care, commitment, leadership and vision of America's National Parks. I anticipate that John will continue to generously share his thoughts and vision for these treasures long into his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Reynolds on his retirement. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking John for his outstanding service to the nation's National Parks and in wishing him many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL TIME  
REPORTING ACT

**HON. DAN MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss legislation I have introduced today. The "Official Time Reporting Act" is a much needed effort to bring sunshine to the mysterious world of "official time."

This bill would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to collect and report to Congress on the use of official time by federal union workers.

Official time is the use of federal government paid time to attend to union related business. The use of official time by union members for the participation in collective bargaining and Federal Labor Relations Act authorized activities is a matter of statutory right. Using official time for other union activities is negotiated between the agency and the union.

However, critics note that official time has ambiguous definitions that leave it open for abuse such as through the use of "no-show" jobs or government funded union advocacy. Nevertheless, the bill I am introducing today has nothing to do with the merits of official time, it simply tries to quantify the use of it within the federal government.

There are over 1.8 million federal workers currently working for the government. This large workforce is continuing to grow especially with the war on terror adding to its roles. However, there is no method to tell what federal resources (salary, equipment, etc.) are used for purely union related work as opposed to federal work.

Currently, only the Social Security Administration (SSA) collects and reports this information.

The information currently collected by the SSA includes:

- (1) The number of hours of official time that employees spent on union activities;
- (2) Number of employees who used official time for union activities;
- (3) Number of employees who spent 100 percent of their time on union activities;
- (4) Dollar value of the official time spent on union activities;
- (5) Dollar value of the office space, equipment, telephone use and supplies provided to unions; and
- (6) Benefits and disadvantages of using official time for union activities.

My bill would simply make every federal agency report this information to the OPM.

Extrapolating from the currently provided SSA data, official time usage could be at least a \$400 million a year federal government-wide expense. When we are talking about hundreds of millions of dollars, Congress should not have to guess.

Furthermore the previous administration's OPM was ordered by Congress to examine this issue in 1998. In its 1998 report, OPM calculated a figure of roughly \$110 million using different criteria than the SSA. So as you can see official time is not cheap.

This bill puts sunshine on the issue of federal worker productivity and will be an important tool for Congress to use to understand how the money it appropriates is being spent and for the Executive Branch to understand how it is allocating resources.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has tried to study how much official time is being used but has been stymied by the lack of data on this issue. In testimony before the Civil Service Subcommittee of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee in June 1998, GAO concluded: "our work has shown that if decision makers hope to resolve the question of the extent to which federal agencies use official time and other resources to support employee union activities, better data will be needed."

This bill will remedy this important GAO concern.

The Official Time Reporting Act is different than an official time bill that I introduced in 1998 called the Workplace Integrity Act. Whereas the 1998 bill contained restrictions on official time, this bill solely concentrates on reporting and disclosure issues. The Official Time Reporting Act has no restrictions on the use of official time. It is a bill introduced in the spirit of openness and good government. I am hopeful this good government disclosure bill will be acted upon by Congress in an expeditious manner.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important bill and I thank the Speaker for yielding me this time.

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CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF  
SERVICE AND SPIRITUAL GUID-  
ANCE

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**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the story of the Grant Chapel Church in my hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The church was founded in 1882 as the "Colored Methodist Mission" by a group of local African Americans. It was built as a place for them to worship in dignity and respect. As one of the oldest African American churches in the Southwest, the church has provided spiritual guidance and refuge to Albuquerque communities for many years.

In 1883, the New Mexico Township, Inc. awarded several plots of lands to businesses and churches to promote development in the town that has become the Albuquerque we know today. The Colored Methodist Mission was only one of five churches to receive this gift from the city.

The Grant Chapel Church has changed hands over the years and has had some fifty ministers serve its congregation throughout the 120-year history. In 1905, the church was renamed for Bishop Abram Grant, the presiding prelate of the 5th Episcopal District. The faithful members of this congregation built a church house in a Southwestern style in 1952 and served the community there for nearly fifty years before moving to a new location in 1990, where it remains today and continues to serve.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this church for 120 years of service and spiritual guidance to the Albuquerque communities.