

Like the notorious 1932–1933 mass starvation in Ukraine, famine is not always borne of a natural disaster. However, famine can become an effective ideological weapon.

Stalin himself would have been proud of the sordid partnership forged by radical environmentalists and African tyrants. What are a few million lives worth to this axis of hunger when there are political statements to be made?

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to speak in strenuous objection to this African tragedy unfolding before our very eyes. The extreme human price paid for the lessons of the Great Ukrainian Famine should not be dismissed now to the complacency of an overwhelmed world. To permit this new festering scourge is to insult the memory of those poor Ukrainians who have perished while trivializing the dignity of their survivors whose lives command us to respond with immediate courage.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN BUD SHUSTER

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express congratulations to a former colleague, Congressman Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania, for an honor he recently received.

Earlier this week, Bud Shuster was named the "Transportation Person of the Century" by the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC) in honor of the tremendous contributions he has made to the nation's transportation and infrastructure systems. It is a tribute to Bud that APC rightly recognized the role that he played in ensuring that our communities have transportation choices, such as transit, rail systems, pedestrian walkways, Amtrak, and bike paths.

Bud Shuster spent his career building America. Bud served in the House of Representatives for 28 years, six of those as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the largest and most productive committee in Congress. His perseverance, patience and willingness to find common ground made him one of the greatest committee chairmen we have seen in recent years in the House. His extraordinary achievements as Chairman speak for themselves, and he has the respect of his former colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Part of the joy of working on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is the way in which we work together to develop bipartisan bills. As a committee, we worked extraordinarily well over the six years of Bud's leadership. I had the pleasure of working with him on many major pieces of legislation to improve the nation's transportation and infrastructure systems, including TEA-21 and AIR-21. Throughout his service on the Transportation Committee, Bud Shuster demonstrated effective bipartisan leadership in showing that transportation, infrastructure and environmental programs make a real difference in all Americans' lives.

He retired from this body at the beginning of the 107th Congress, and since that time, I have missed him, not only for his policy expertise, but also for his friendship. I commend and congratulate Bud Shuster on his distinguished career as a public servant.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RICHARD H. FINAN FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO THE STATE OF OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. Dick Finan, from the Village of Evandale, is the outgoing President of the Ohio Senate. He is being honored for his dedicated service and loyalty to the Ohio General Assembly and to the citizens of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, President Richard H. Finan began his career in public service in 1963. He served as a Councilman in the Village of Evandale until 1969, when he was then elected to serve as Mayor.

After serving the citizens of Evandale for ten years, he ran for and was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives. There he served with distinction until 1978. He was elected to the Ohio Senate upon leaving the House of Representatives and in 1997, was elected by his colleagues to serve as Senate President.

President Finan has had a significant impact on public policy in Ohio. He has also reached out nationally in an attempt to improve the lives of all citizens living in this great land. He currently serves as Chairman of the University of Dayton Board of Trustees and is a Past President of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Serving his community and the State of Ohio was not only Dick's duty, but also his honor. These chances to give back to the public have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. President Finan truly is a valued asset to the Village of Evandale and to the state of Ohio.

President Finan has been a great resource and a true friend to everyone around him. Respected by his colleagues in the legislature and in the private sector, Dick has shown the ability to improve the environment around him. He has been the recipient of many awards that reflect his service, including the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, the President's Medal from Miami University, the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Medical College of Ohio, and the William Howard Taft Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League. He is an Honorary Alumni Member—Omicron Delta Kappa—at the University of Dayton and holds an honorary degree from Xavier University.

President Finan will be missed in the public arena. His wisdom, honesty and forthrightness are attributes to which all public servants should aspire. He has set an example for everyone on how to live a life of service, putting the greater interests of the community before one's own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to President Richard H. Finan. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Dick, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Dick, his wife Joan and their four children all the best as we pay tribute to one of our nation's finest citizens.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND
LAVAUGHN VENCHAEAL BOOTH

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Reverend Lavaughn Venchael Booth, a distinguished friend and champion of faith and justice from Cincinnati, who passed away on November 17.

Born on January 7, 1919 in Covington County, Mississippi, Reverend Booth received a bachelor's degree in American history from Alcorn A&M College; a bachelor's degree in divinity from Howard University; and a master's degree in church history from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He began his ministry with First Baptist Church of Warrenton, Virginia and continued his ministry with First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana. He pastored Zion Baptist Church in the Avondale area of Cincinnati for 32 years before founding the Olivet Baptist Church in Silverton. Last year, he came out of retirement to pastor the Church upon the Rock in Anderson, Indiana.

In 1961, Reverend Booth founded the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC). The PNBC became the household of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement among African-American Baptists. As Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin noted, "King, while siding with progressives, had no active role with the organization of the PNBC." Dr. King at his last meeting with the PNBC in 1967 in Cincinnati emphasized according to convention minutes "that he is a member of the PNBC. He has come to speak not as a civil rights leader, but as a minister of the gospel." The PNBC split from the National Baptist Convention and formed a denomination that played an active role in the civil rights movement by joining with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and provided Dr. King with a national platform. Reverend Booth served as its president from 1971–1974. Progressives today have 2.5 million members in 1,800 churches nationwide.

But Reverend Booth's focus was his local ministry, and he said, "We should have concern for the physical, as well as the spiritual well-being of people." He initiated economic development projects, secured the credit to build hundreds of low-income housing units and a church-run nursing home, and later established the region's first black-owned bank. Described as a visionary who dedicated his life to the Lord, he was driven to do for others, trying to make the world and his community a better place to live.

Reverend Booth's civil and community activities are legendary. He was the first African-American member of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees. He was a founding member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, served on the board of the Cincinnati City Gospel Mission and as vice president of the Gospel World Alliance. He helped to establish the Marva Collins Preparatory School in Cincinnati; the Cincinnati Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast, a service that offered prayers for newly-elected public servants; and the National Prayer League.

Reverend Booth is survived by his sons, Paul Booth of Cincinnati, who is a member of