

FREEDOM FOR LÉSTER GONZÁLEZ
PENTÓN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Léster González Pentón, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Pentón is a member of the Reason, Truth and Freedom Human Rights Movement and a delegate of the Cuban Confederation of Democratic Workers. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who has worked intensely to liberate Cuba from the control of the demented terrorist in power in Havana. Mr. González Pentón believes in human rights, worker rights, and freedom for the people of Cuba. As these tenants are the antithesis of the tyrant's policies of lies, fear, intimidation, and repression, he has been constantly harassed by the terrorist regime in Havana.

According to Amnesty International, on August 5, 2002, the tyrant's thugs prevented him from leaving his house, in order to stop him from participating in events organized by fellow pro-democracy activists. Previously, on July 9, 2001, Amnesty International reports that Mr. González Pentón was questioned and threatened with imprisonment by police if he did not work: despite the fact that he was fired from his job as a baker because the totalitarian regime was threatened by his peaceful activities with the Cuban Confederation of Democratic workers.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictatorship's deplorable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. González Pentón was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the grotesque totalitarian gulag. According to the U.S. Department of State, members of the tyrant's totalitarian apparatchik threatened to suspend family visits for Mr. González Pentón because he, and eight other political prisoners, read aloud to each other from the Bible.

Mr. Speaker, it is an affront to the inalienable rights of man that Mr. González Pentón is languishing in the inhuman squalor of a totalitarian gulag simply because he believes that liberty is the scared right of all people. It is unconscionable that he and others have been further punished because they read the Bible. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Lester González Pentón and every political prisoner suffering under the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLE OF THE
BULGE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary this month. On November 16, 2004, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.J. Res. 110, a resolution recognizing the 60th

anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, and I was proud to vote in favor of H.J. Res. 110.

Mr. Speaker, the Battle of the Bulge was a significant turning point of the Allied victory over the Axis powers in Northern Europe. At the time of the battle, from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945, the outcome of World War II was in question. But neither the harsh winter nor enemy fire could overcome the Allied determination to win the greatest battle of that war.

Mr. Speaker, out of the 16 million veterans of World War II, roughly 4 million are with us and about 1,200 die each day. With each death, we lose a first hand account of the war and the opportunity to thank them for their service. That is why it is so important that the House, on this anniversary, acknowledge the sacrifice and service of the men of the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Speaker, after 60 years, the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are traveling to Belgium and Luxembourg this month to participate in 60th Anniversary events. They and their families will join with the people of Belgium and Luxembourg in somber remembrance of the battle. Both the King of the Belgians, Albert II, and the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Henri, will participate in official events.

Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts is home to the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The Worcester chapter has 155 members. Its objective is to honor the men who fought at the battle, to preserve historical data and sites, to foster international peace and goodwill, and to promote friendship and comradeship. The Worcester chapter has honored the 10 sons of Worcester who died during the battle by placing square markers throughout the city. Many members of the chapter are going to Europe this month for the remembrance services.

Mr. Speaker, the Battle of the Bulge and World War II tore apart the continent of Europe. It pitted great civilizations against each other in an epic battle for control of Europe. But the Allied victory and the great sacrifice of the men of World War II have contributed to today's peace in Europe. Indeed, the United States, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and other nations involved in the Battle of the Bulge are allies today as members of NATO. Our countries have worked closely on solidarity, freedom, security, and the trans-Atlantic alliance. Today's European and American cooperation is due in large part to the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I thank these veterans for their service, their courage, their sacrifice and their continuing efforts to foster international freedom and democracy.

RECOGNIZING GEOFFREY KUDLACZ
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Geoffrey Kudlacz, a very special

young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Geoffrey has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Geoffrey has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Geoffrey Kudlacz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE HARDENBERGH
INSURANCE AGENCY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor the Hardenbergh Insurance Agency for 50 years of venerable and dedicated service to the families and business of our region. Since its founding in 1954 by the late Richard C. Hardenbergh, the Hardenbergh Insurance Agency has expanded its services to provide commercial business insurance, health benefits, personal insurance, bonding, and risk management services. The agency currently covers a wide range of prestigious clients including public entities, private businesses, not-for-profit groups, real estate owners, school districts, and others.

In recognition of the agency's admirable growth, Richard J. Hardenbergh, son of the late Richard C. Hardenbergh, has changed the agency's name to the Hardenbergh Insurance Group on its fiftieth anniversary. Under the direction of Richard J. Hardenbergh, this agency operates as a family and has established a considerable reputation of good will and professionalism within their industry and New Jersey. Hardenbergh Insurance Group serves as an inspiration within its industry, and indeed to all businesses of the great Nation of the United States of America.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. MARVIN
KIRSH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marvin Kirsh, a noted cardiothoracic surgeon, who is on staff at the Ann Arbor Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and to express my deep gratitude for his enormous contributions to the field of medicine.

Dr. Marvin Kirsh has been an integral part of the center staff for more than 36 years and has been the Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery since 1990. Although he has chosen to retire at the end of this month from his post, he will continue to use his extensive expertise in the educational community as a member of the University of Michigan School of Medicine teaching staff.

In his capacity as a Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan, Dr. Marvin Kirsh