

TRIBUTE TO THE VERY REVEREND  
FATHER JOVAN TODOROVICH

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate the Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich upon his retirement as parish priest at Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana. I can truly say throughout his more than 36 years of service at Saint Sava, Father Todorovich has been one of the most dedicated, distinguished, and committed citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. Northwest Indiana and Saint Sava have certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising loyalty he has displayed to the parish and the entire community.

Father Todorovich was born in Vratara, Serbia on July 5, 1940. From a very young age, he was inspired by his faith and realized that a life of service in the priesthood was his calling. In pursuit of his dream, Father Todorovich eventually went on to complete his courses, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Theological Studies at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary College in Prizen. Following the completion of his studies, Father Todorovich emigrated to the United States of America in 1964. In 1965, due to his perseverance and dedication, Father Todorovich's efforts came to fruition with his ordination into the priesthood.

Prior to joining the congregation at Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, while serving as parish priest for Saint George Church, Father Todorovich served as the director of the Saint Sava Mission Summer Camp program in California. Shortly thereafter, in 1970, he arrived at Saint Sava Church, which was located in Gary, Indiana at the time. Early on during his tenure as parish priest at Saint Sava, Father Todorovich's abilities as a teacher and community leader began to emerge. It was through his efforts at this time that many new members joined the congregation, a new donation campaign was initiated, new church bylaws were introduced, and the need for social gatherings and activities for youth was realized.

When a fire destroyed the church in Gary, Father Todorovich led the parishioners of Saint Sava to a new chapel in Hobart, Indiana, where services were held until the construction of the current church, located in Merrillville, Indiana, was completed. Subsequently, the new church was consecrated in May 1991. Once again, with Father Todorovich's leadership and committed efforts, as well as the vast efforts of many parishioners, the people of Saint Sava were once again able to come together with their spiritual leader and each other to worship.

The new church's consecration, however, was not the only momentous occasion at this time, as Father Todorovich was awarded the highest honor, the Pectoral Cross with the title of Protojerej Stavrofor. To further illustrate the high esteem in which Father Todorovich is held by his parish and his community, in April 1993, he was appointed to the distinguished position of Deputy to the Metropolitan.

Another of the many ways Father Todorovich has touched the lives of so many

people is through his writing. Father Todorovich is quite the accomplished writer, having produced several literary works, including: Patron Saint-Krsna Slava, Our Slava: A Manual on Confession and Communion, and A Visitor's Guide to Saint Sava Church. He has also penned various articles for the Diocesan Observer, as well as for Saint Sava's church bulletin.

Although his pastoral duties and many additional responsibilities have required a vast amount of his time, what is most impressive is the fact that Father Todorovich has never let his busy schedule keep him from his greatest love, his family. Father Todorovich and his wife, Protinica Mirijana, are the proud parents of three daughters, and they have also been blessed with one grandchild.

Madam Speaker, America is a better place because of the tireless and unselfish service of its citizens. Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich is a man who has dedicated his entire life to serving others, and he has been the truest example of morality and wisdom. In so doing, he has strengthened his community and the whole of our society. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich for his lifetime of enduring service and the unforgettable effect he has had on the people of Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church and Northwest Indiana. I wish Father Todorovich and his family well upon his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTY R.  
PINKSTON

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Marty R. Pinkston, a longtime and dear friend of my family and one of our community's unsung heroines.

On Friday, December 15, 2006, her peers, friends and supporters will honor her at a farewell dinner as she retires from her position as Director of Governmental and Public Affairs at Florida Memorial University.

A preeminent educator, Dr. Pinkston is affectionately known as "Marty" to her countless admirers and is truly one of the most indomitable community activists of South Florida. Having dedicated a major portion of her life to making the public educational system work on behalf of Florida's minority and poor students, she has been relentless in developing innovative educational programs that succinctly responded to the needs of our community's underserved college student population. Responsible for developing strategies to secure additional resources for the university from local, state and federal sources, Dr. Pinkston was unrelenting in her dedication to providing quality education for all those willing to walk the extra mile in pursuing their college degree.

Having received her bachelor's degree from Florida A&M University, she went on to obtain her MA in Business Education from New York Institute of Technology and her Doctorate in Education from Nova Southeastern University. She complimented her educational achievements with her chairmanship of the Metro-

Miami Action Plan Trust and service on the United Way of Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, as well as on the Metro-Dade County Safe Neighborhoods Parks Oversight Committee.

Dr. Pinkston epitomizes an admirable spirit of compassion and her concern for the less fortunate in our society will forever be lauded. But she is more than that. Dr. Marty Pinkston is remarkable not just for her energy, achievements and leadership, but because of the kind of person that she is. People are naturally attracted to her. The day just goes better if you get the chance to spend some time with Marty Pinkston.

As one of those hardy spirits who conscientiously chose to reach out to the less fortunate, Dr. Pinkston thoroughly understood how leadership could truly change people's lives. She wisely exercised her leadership and political skills, alongside the mandate of her conviction and the wisdom of her knowledge. The crucial role she played all these years in developing the winning strategy for many a successful candidate for elective office evokes a genuine insight borne out of experience and expertise. She would often say that the accolades are not that important at all. Instead, she would note that what is important is that our community receives the recognition of its strength and promise amidst the tremendous challenges it has had to undertake all through the years.

It is an honor to have the the privilege of knowing this gentle and caring leader. I salute Dr. Marty R. Pinkston, a very dear friend, on behalf of a grateful community that she truly loves and cares for. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon new challenges in life and I am certain her legacy of greatness will only grow and develop as she enters this new phase of life. I wish her every happiness and success.

SAN GABRIEL BASIN  
RESTORATION FUND

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 2007*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will continue to provide safe drinking water to Southern California. In 2000, Congress created the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund after the discovery of perchlorate and other harmful contaminants in the basin's groundwater. The fund initially authorized \$85 million in federal funding to assist the state and local government agencies as well as the private companies found responsible for the contamination to effectively implement a comprehensive clean up plan that would protect the safety of our region's drinking water supply. After evaluation, it is evident that an increase in this authorization is necessary. Therefore, I am introducing legislation to amend the original authorization by increasing the total amount by \$50 million.

The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) has done a tremendous job in administering the clean up program. In 1999, the WQA projected the cost of cleaning up the San Gabriel Basin at a total of \$320 million based on the level of contamination of the five original Operable Units of Baldwin Park, El

Monte, South El Monte, Whittier Narrows and Puente Valley. Since the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund was authorized by Congress in 2000, dramatically increased contamination levels have been identified in the South El Monte and Puente Valley Operable Units. This discovery has significantly increased both the capitol and operation and maintenance costs of the projects. With the cost of inflation, increased energy costs and the higher contamination levels found, the total cost is now estimated at \$1 billion. Significantly, the WQA has a number of treatment plants that are already operating at full capacity with more coming on line in the near future.

The San Gabriel Groundwater Basin covers more than 160 square miles in Los Angeles County and is the primary source of drinking water for over 1.2 million people. Furthermore, natural groundwater flows from the San Gabriel Basin are allowing the contamination to spread into the Central Groundwater Basin, a vast 277 square-mile underground aquifer that provides drinking water to over half of Los Angeles County.

In working with the WQA and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over the past decade on this regional solution, there is no doubt that this increase is warranted and will be utilized in the most effective way to continue to provide safe drinking water.

I look forward to working closely with the House Resources Committee, and with the new Water and Power Subcommittee Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, who is a cosponsor of this bill and has been a champion of regional water solutions. I am also pleased to have the support of my colleagues ADAM SCHIFF, HILDA SOLIS and GARY MILLER, who are cosponsors of this legislation.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY R. BODE  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary R. Bode, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary R. Bode for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Zachary in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DALE ENGQUIST

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many years of dedicated service of Mr. Dale Engquist. Having known Dale for many years, I can truly say that he is one of the most committed, knowledgeable, and honorable citizens in Northwest Indiana. Nowhere has his knowledge and commitment been more evident than in his faithful service to the National Park Service (NPS), and more specifically, to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Dale has served the Northwest Indiana community for the past 28 years, and his service to the NPS has spanned an astonishing 42 years. For many years, Dale has been a constant fixture at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for his efforts, he will be honored at a retirement party on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City, Indiana.

Following a summer position at Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota, Dale Engquist began his professional career with the NPS in 1964 at the National Capital Parks in Washington, DC. From there, Dale went on to serve as Chief Park Naturalist at Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas and then Assistant Chief Park Naturalist at Everglades National Park in Florida. Following his departure from Everglades National Park in 1971, Dale accepted his first Superintendent position at the Biscayne National Monument in Florida. After moving on to other managerial positions in New Jersey and Washington, DC, Dale settled in Northwest Indiana in 1978, where he served as Assistant Superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore until January 1983. At that time, Dale was named to the distinguished position of Superintendent of the National Lakeshore, a position he has held for the past 24 years. Over the years, Dale has maintained this post, and he has done so with a selfless commitment to nature and to the community. Dale's education, knowledge, and experience with the NPS have made him successful and respected in all of the positions he has held.

Indisputably, Dale Engquist has been extremely successful throughout his career with the NPS. To attest to this fact, Dale has been the recipient of numerous accolades and awards for merit and dedication. In 1987, he was awarded the Park Planning and Design Award for excellence in park design, as well as the Richard G. Lugar Award for recognition as an outstanding federal employee in the state of Indiana. In addition, Dale has also been honored with the 1991 Superintendent of the Year & Resource Stewardship Award, the National Park Service's 75th Anniversary Director's Award, the Sagamore of the Wabash, the Meritorious Service Award by then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, the Polish Cavalry Cross of Merit, and the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Conservation Award.

Though it may be difficult to imagine where he finds the time, Dale has always been involved in several associations and organizations, including: the Association of National Park Rangers, the Eastern National Parks &

Monument Association, the National Park & Recreation Association, the Indiana Park & Recreation Association, the Indiana Historical Society, the National Audubon Society, and Rotary International.

Madam Speaker, Dale Engquist has devoted himself to improving and preserving the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and serving the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his many years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise in solidarity with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools on the occasion of National World AIDS Day. Miami-Dade County Public Schools are working hard within my community to provide much-needed prevention information, as well as assistance to those afflicted with the HIV/AIDS virus.

Indeed, the National World AIDS Day evokes once again a special opportunity for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, my North Dade constituents and the larger Miami-Dade County and South Florida communities to renew our collective and individual commitment to find a cure for this treatable and preventable disease. As we remember in our prayers those who passed on, as well as reach out to those who need our help, we are reminded of the urgency to fight against the spread of this virus. Despite the best efforts of our AIDS-support community organizations, in concert with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, HIV/AIDS continues to be a devastating disease. I commend our health care professionals, the volunteers from our community organizations, and our schools, who together exemplify a symbol of strength and resilience in a way that combines true professionalism and utmost compassion along the tradition of our stewardship for one another.

The leadership of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools is readily focused on providing the opportunities of outreach information and ongoing education in a way that advances the common good of our fellow human beings, especially those who are suffering from the effects of the AIDS disease.

Despite the strategies and activities that organizations of good-will have utilized to combat this virus, we are still saddled with the fact that the pace of the AIDS infection is staggering. According to recent statistics from the World Health Organization, the past year alone has seen more infection and death from HIV/AIDS than ever before.

Of the estimated 18,371 AIDS-related deaths in the United States in 2006, approximately 52 percent were from the Black community. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Blacks accounted for 54 percent of all new diagnoses of HIV/AIDS. In Florida, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among Black males and females, aged 25 to 44 years old. According to the Florida Department of Health, over half of all people living with HIV/