

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. ROSA AGUIGUI REYES

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Rosa Aguiqui Reyes, the first woman to win election to public office on Guam. Her precedent setting election broke through the "marble ceiling" present on Guam at that time. In doing so, she paved the way for other women—including me—to serve as elected leaders of our island's community. Mrs. Reyes, elected to the Guam Congress's House of Assembly in 1946, passed away on January 29, 2007, at the age of 91.

Uniformed officers of the Department of the Navy were appointed by the President of the United States to serve as Governor of Guam for the period immediately following the liberation of Guam from enemy occupation. The bicameral Congress on Guam served at this time as an advisory body to the governor. Members of the Guam Congress were bona fide representatives of their constituents but possessed no legislative powers.

Mrs. Reyes, by standing for election to Guam's Congress, defied convention. Governance on Guam was considered a male prerogative. Mrs. Reyes, to her credit and to the benefit of all of us who came after her, stood for office so that the voices of Guam's women could be heard, and they were. Mrs. Reyes served with honor and distinction. Her service remains as an inspiration for me and so many other women on Guam.

Mrs. Reyes, born in the village of Merizo on February 7, 1915, was not only a politician. In fact, she was among the first group of teachers trained at the College of Guam. She graduated with an associate's degree in education in 1954. Mrs. Reyes, however, possessed significant experience as a classroom teacher well before her earning of her degree. Mrs. Reyes began teaching at Merizo Martyrs Elementary School in 1933. She taught there for 31 years. She also served for 11 years as principal of F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School in the village of Umatac before retiring from the Guam Public School System.

Mrs. Reyes also worked as the principal research assistant to the late Dr. Laura Thompson, an anthropologist who authored studies about Chamorro culture and history before and after World War II. Dr. Thompson returned to Guam shortly after the war to conduct continued research on Guam's culture and to determine what effects and impacts the years of occupation during the war had on the Chamorro people. Mrs. Reyes and Dr. Thompson enjoyed a joyful reunion in 1987, when Dr. Thompson made her final trip to Guam.

Mrs. Reyes was enrolled in the Guam Educators' Hall of Fame in 1983, in recognition of her legacy as an educator, her contributions to the study of Chamorro history and culture, and her courage and leadership in teaching us that women can rightfully and ably serve in elected public office. She remained committed to serving her church and its community activities throughout her life. Her interest in cultural preservation and in traditional arts also never waned. Mrs. Reyes, as evidence of the

strength of her character, remained humble despite having established a prominent, diverse, and precedent setting legacy for herself in the history of our island and in the hearts of our people. Mrs. Reyes is an admirable role model and her life will inspire future generations of leaders on Guam.

I join the people of Guam in mourning the passing of Mrs. Rosa Aguiqui Reyes and I offer my condolences to her husband, Mr. Ignacio Reyes, a former commissioner of Merizo, and her children and grandchildren. I thank them for supporting her efforts to contribute to the betterment of Guam. They can be proud of her achievements, and we share in their pride for her legacy.

**HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SHAWN FALTER**

**HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to PFC Shawn Falter, who gave his life in service to our Nation on Saturday, January 20 in Karbala, Iraq.

Shawn grew up in the town of Homer, NY, and was a dedicated and loving son, brother and friend to many. As a student at Homer High School, Shawn excelled both on the field and in the classroom. He was a hard-working student, a natural leader, and a selfless friend who could light up a room with impeccable timing.

Shawn enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2005, following in the footsteps of his three older brothers. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division deployed out of Fort Richardson, AK. Sadly, Shawn was killed during an ambush in Karbala, Iraq earlier this week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Shawn was truly an exemplary American who served his country bravely. Our Nation is blessed to have dedicated, talented men and women like Shawn Falter fighting to protect us and others around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring PFC Shawn Falter, along with all of the other brave Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

**TRIBUTE TO MR. LOU FALCONI**

**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Lou Falconi, who recently retired after 33 years at Farrell High School. I wish to recognize Mr. Falconi for his service to the Farrell Area School District both as a teacher and a football coach.

Mr. Falconi took over the high school football program at Farrell in 1980. Over the course of his legendary career, he led the team to three appearances in the State finals, winning two State championships. Amazingly, he has been honored eight separate times as

"Coach of the Year." In total, Coach Falconi led the high school football team for 27 years and ended his coaching career as the second winningest coach in Mercer County history.

On Friday, February 9, 2007, the friends, family, and colleagues of Mr. Lou Falconi will come together to celebrate and honor his life's achievements and his commitment to the community. I plan to join them in thanking him for his service and the positive impact he has had on hundreds of kids in Farrell and throughout the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE IRAQ POLICY REVITALIZATION AND CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT ENHANCEMENT ACT**

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 744, the Iraq Policy Revitalization and Congressional Oversight Enhancement Act. This bill is a modified version of H.R. 5630, the Iraq Congressional Oversight Enhancement Act, which I introduced on June 16, 2006, during the 109th Congress.

H.R. 744 expresses strong, continued support for United States military and civilian personnel deployed to Iraq and serving worldwide in support of the mission in that country. We owe these individuals a debt of gratitude that is simply un-payable.

Section two of H.R. 744 provides a select catalog of major events that have shaped Operation Iraqi Freedom. This section of the bill is not operative but is important to the context through which this bill should be reviewed.

Section three of this bill provides a comprehensive set of policy statements that would express grave concerns with the fact that the Government of Iraq, at the present time, appears to be incapable or unwilling to govern in a unified manner in the interest of all Iraqis. That is, the bill would express Congress's concern that representatives of the various, prominent parties in Iraq use their government offices, public resources, ministry employment opportunities under their control, and certain units of Iraqi Security Forces, in addition to their political militias, vigilante, and criminal groups, to seek to achieve their party's individual, parochial, biased, and competing political, economic and security objectives, in order to bolster their party's political, economic, and military power in and influence throughout Iraq. This bill would express grave concern that the inability or unwillingness of the Government of Iraq to govern in moderate terms contributes to violence against United States servicemembers and Coalition forces, creates barriers to national reconciliation in Iraq, and impedes the expeditious completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the return of our servicemembers to their peacetime duty stations. Section three of the bill raises significant issues regarding the reliability of the Government of Iraq that should be reviewed and considered as Congress proceeds in its review of current United States policy toward Iraq.

H.R. 744 also would enhance our ability to engage in more detailed, coordinated, and