

As Members of Congress, we have a significant opportunity to respond to the economic and political challenges facing the nations of the Caribbean, by encouraging educational exchange programs, promoting trade and supporting legislation that provides funding to address the HIV/AIDS situation in the region.

The issues I outlined today provide the foundation for a rich dialogue between the U.S. and the Caribbean Heads of State. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to play a significant role in fostering a mutually beneficial relationship with our friends of the Caribbean Community by supporting and participating in the CARICOM events that will be taking place on the Hill from June 19 through June 21.

CARIBBEAN AIMS TO CASH IN ON FACE TIME
WITH BUSH

(GEORGETOWN)

On Jun. 20, Caribbean leaders will sit down with George W. Bush for the first full summit meeting with a U.S. President in a decade, and from all indications, they have a plethora of issues to put on the table, chief among them trade and disaster preparedness.

Since Democratic President Bill Clinton flew to the eastern Caribbean island of Barbados for a day in May 1997, the two sides have not met for any length of time at the Heads of Government or state level, though they have formalized annual and sometimes twice yearly meetings with secretaries of state and other high-level officials.

Analysts say the June summit comes at a time of serious anxieties for the 15-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM), 10 of which form a free trade bloc that has functioned smoothly over the years save for the odd row over some members' protectionist policies. High-ranking CARICOM officials like Assistant Secretary-General Colin Granderson and others agree that the region would be remiss if leaders do not jump at the chance of reinforcing their geopolitical importance to the United States, being right in its backyard.

For one thing, the Ronald Reagan era Caribbean Basin Initiative and its offshoot, the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, governing trade with the U.S., are now subject to annual unanimous approvals by each member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a development Governments say makes them feel very insecure. Washington has also expressed its discomfort with the fact that it has to ask every single country to say yes to renewing the preferential trade deal, which expires in two years.

Caribbean leaders and foreign ministers argue that trade worth an annual average of eight billion dollars is operating at the whims of WTO members and should have some formal, more structured cover.

They are considering asking Washington to negotiate and sign a U.S.-Caribbean free trade agreement, since it has become clear that efforts to forge a hemispheric umbrella agreement have collapsed under the weight of objections from regional Latin American powerhouses like Brazil and Venezuela, among others.

The region's Central American neighbors have already negotiated their own deal with the U.S., but a definitive position on the Caribbean may well emerge in the days leading up to the summit.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE SEAN
C. GALLAGHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Sean C. Gallagher as the 2007 recipient of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni of the Year Award, and to celebrate his efforts to make a safer and more just Northeast Ohio.

For over 25 years, Judge Gallagher has served the people of Northeast Ohio with dedication and distinction. Whether a juvenile probation officer, a prosecuting attorney, a court bailiff, a municipal court judge, or an Ohio Court of Appeals judge, he has always had the concerns and the safety of the community at hand. He has also dedicated his time to numerous boards and associations to ensure that the legal profession maintains its integrity and continues to produce thoughtful and dedicated young attorneys.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Judge Sean C. Gallagher as the 2007 Alumni Award recipient. May Cleveland continue to benefit from his leadership and vision.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH'S
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the history of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, as it celebrates its centennial anniversary.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church is the focal point of the Italian-American community in Springfield. I would like to take time today to acknowledge this important anniversary and to extend to the communicants of the Mount Carmel Church my best wishes for a strong and prosperous future.

THE CENTENNIAL 1907-2007 HISTORY OF OUR
LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH

In the late 1800s, the Italian community in greater Springfield, Mass., held religious services in the basement chapel of St. Michael Cathedral. A separate church in the South End, where most of the immigrants had settled, was an increasing need. Bishop Thomas Beaven placed this hope in the hands of the Stigmatine Congregation of Verona, Italy. Frs. Anthony Dalla Porta, first pastor, and Alfred Ballestrazzi came to the United States in May 1906. In 1907, a new Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church was named. The building, seating 500 worshippers, cost \$35,000. It opened on December 24, 1911. Nearly 1,000 families were members of the infant parish. In 1919, five religious sisters, Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, arrived from Savona, Italy. They opened a day nursery, sewing classes, and children's catechism instruction. The church building was expanded in 1932.

Stigmatine Fathers William Ludessi, Erminio Lona, Charles Zanotti, Peter

Toretta, Paul Zanini, Camillo Santini, Carmen Russo, Richard Scioli, and currently Robert White, have served as pastors.

Mt. Carmel Church survived the Great Depression, the flood waters of 1936, and the hurricane of 1938. Church societies' fund-raising liquidated all debt by 1946. An elementary school, staffed by the sisters, opened in 1948. In 1959, a second major renovation of the church took place. The parish entered its Diamond years with hope and pride in the future.

Weekly St. Anthony devotion remains steadfast. In 1991, the new position of Pastoral Minister, open to a qualified non-ordained person, was filled by Sister of St. Joseph Elizabeth Matuszek. The quality of education, which the Daughters of Mercy established, has kept the school open as one of five Catholic schools left in Springfield. Its first lay principal was Mrs. Claire Cote, who in 2002, achieved the maximum ten-year accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and opened a Preschool, an after-school program, and a computer laboratory. Mrs. Carol Raffaele succeeded Mrs. Cote in 2003, completing its interim evaluation for accreditation. The computer lab went state-of-the-art wireless. Library cataloging was computerized, and offices were connected to the Internet. The school developed a web page, www.mountcarmelschool.org. OLMC graduates consistently score in the top percentile in standardized tests. They thrive in high school, college, and beyond.

In Religious Education for our public school students, 26 CCD volunteers have been awarded the diocesan St. Pius X Medal, every year since the inception of this honor. Intergenerational Religious Education began with this Centennial Year Generations of Faith. Families with children, and adult households, came together for religious formation sessions.

Lay ministry has expanded far beyond our worthy list of certified lectors, special ministers of the Eucharist, choir, and ushers. Women and girls have joined men and boys as altar servers. Qualified laity help prepare candidates for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, and Marriage.

Members continue fundraising efforts in this age of rapidly escalating expenses. Bingo was a lucrative source of funds from 1967 to 1997. The October Taste of Italy became a new social focus and important fundraiser, first held in 1992. "Bring your best Italian foods to serve at least 100" was the request. Participants respond to the zealous leadership of Chairperson Rosemarie Costa. Hundreds come to affirm and enjoy the culinary achievements of dozens of Italian cooks.

Clerical tasks have become computerized. Clubs and Societies remain a consistent base of spiritual, social, and economic vitality. The Women's Guild is an important body of support for the parish. The Ministry of Caring of St. Vincent DePaul extends the Works of Mercy to and beyond our parish parameters. The Men's Retreat League continues its annual weekend at Holy Family Retreat Center in E. Hartford, CT. The parish Knights of Columbus are St. Gaspar Bertoni Council 5037. The Holy Name Society hosted the last of its coffee hours in 1999. Youth Ministry proudly donated a \$700 replacement tree to the church, and sent a contingent to the Catholic Youth Conference in St. Louis in 1996. They donated half their treasury to the Centennial Renovation Fund.

For the 90th anniversary in 1997, a \$300,000 capital campaign restored the slate roof and stained glass and alabaster windows. New entrance doors were installed.

Centennial plans began in 2002, for spiritual renewal, communications, and a \$1.6