

chapter in American history. The tiny island of Sint (St.) Eustatius, known locally as "Statia", is a quiet and peaceful island with pristine coral reefs located in the Dutch Antilles, which is part of the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean. As the story goes, on November 16, 1776, the American Brigantine "Andrew Doria", under the command of Captain Isaiah Robinson sailed into the harbor of Statia—at the time a Dutch Colony—on a mission to obtain a cargo of munitions and military supplies. Nearing Fort Oranje, the Andrew Doria fired off a 13-gun salute. The cannons of Fort Oranje under the command of Governor Johannes de Graaff answered with an 11-gun volley. This volley is regarded as the first salute to an American flag on board an American warship in a foreign port. Or more simply put, the first recognition of America's newly declared independence from Great Britain by a foreign power.

It is unfortunate that down through the years the importance of St. Eustatius to the American Revolution has faded into relative obscurity. The truth, however, is that a good part of the weapons, ammunition and ordinary supplies needed by the Continental Army was imported via St. Eustatius. In addition, because of its geographic location and vibrant shipping industry, St. Eustatius provided the fastest and, more importantly, the safest connection between the Continental Congress and America's political supporters overseas. It has been said that Benjamin Franklin in particular was known for shipping his mail to Europe through St. Eustatius. And John Adams held the commercial connection between the fledgling United States and St. Eustatius is such high regard that it formed the foundation for his argument that the United States should enter into diplomatic relations with the Netherlands.

Regrettably, it was the impending American-Dutch commercial treaty that finally compelled the British to act against St. Eustatius. In February 1781, British Admiral George Rodney attacked and captured the island, sacking the storehouse and homes in the process. For a time after the island surrender the British continued to fly the Dutch flag; a ruse which successfully lured many American and other enemy ships into captivity. Despite their island being reduced to ruins the people of St. Eustatius never lost their love and affection for the people of America. And today, November 16th is a national holiday on the Island of Sint Eustatius known as Statia America Day. As St. Eustatius prepares to celebrate the 231st anniversary of the salute to the Andrew Doria, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and saluting the people of St. Eustatius and the important role their tiny island played in the fight to win our independence.

REGARDING DEAN AGUILLEN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to bid farewell to a member of the Hispanic family in the House of Representatives; Dean Aguillen of the Speaker's office is leaving the Hill this week, and he will be greatly missed by me and many other members of the House.

We labor together, we fight together, and we plot together . . . as a party, as a Caucus

. . . and we get close to the staff with whom we work.

Dean Aguillen is a San Antonio native and he has seen the House run by Republicans . . . and leaves us with the knowledge that a Democratic Majority is a better deal for the nation.

Dean has been a magnificent ambassador for Speaker PELOSI for the Texans and for the Hispanic Caucus. He is always available for us, always works to ensure our needs are met, and answers our questions fully and in a timely way.

Dean told me today that he was inspired to get into politics by his local member of Congress when he was a little kid. Henry B. Gonzalez, an icon of Texas politics, had a Saturday morning talk show that Dean never missed.

That molded his thinking and motivated him to find his way to Washington. He leaves this place as a much-loved staff member; and he leaves with many, many friends.

Dean, we'll miss you man. I know Speaker PELOSI will miss you. Thank you for all your work and your dedication over the years. Vaya con Dios.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES SLATER OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most outstanding individuals I have come to know in my 30 years in Congress, Dr. James Slater of Loma Linda University Medical Center, who pioneered the development of the proton beam cancer therapy.

When Loma Linda University Medical Center in my district recruited Dr. James Slater to develop a radiation oncology program in 1970, they gained a unique expert in the field of radiation therapy. Before he became a physician, Dr. Slater's main interest was physics. With a profound understanding of the way radiation works on the human body, Dr. Slater set out to find a way to gain more control of the process and reduce the toll this therapy takes on patients.

He became convinced after nearly 15 years of research that the best way to accomplish this was through proton beams, which had been tested in research laboratories but never developed as a permanent medical therapy. After meeting with scientists and physicians from around the world, Dr. Slater began looking for a partner to develop the technology for a proton-beam treatment center. When private industry declined to take the challenge, he turned to Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) near Chicago, which had been actively involved in research on the potential for medical technology. In 1986, the medical center and Fermilab—backed by the Department of Energy—agreed to build a proton-beam treatment center at Loma Linda.

One of the most marvelous experiences I've had as a member of Congress came in 1987, when Dr. Slater and his team came to my office to lay out the plan for a new way of treating cancer tumors. I was quickly convinced

that his idea was fabulous, and his ability to bring together the medical, technical and operational experts was superb. During a hearing before the House Energy Appropriations Subcommittee, my colleagues agreed. Many members had family or close friends who had been afflicted with cancer, and they were eager to help find a new treatment plan. Major funding was approved and the center opened in 1990.

Thanks to the dedication of the medical center and the support of Congress and Department of Energy, Dr. Slater's vision has become a reality in the past 20 years. More than 11,500 patients have received treatment for prostate cancer, brain tumors, and other forms of cancer. A research program is promising new ways to treat breast cancer early and possibly avoid mastectomies in many cases. Another program has helped the National Aeronautics and Space Administration research the effects of space radiation and design better equipment for astronauts. Since 2003, four more proton-beam treatment centers have opened in other areas of the country.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to tell my colleagues that Loma Linda University Medical Center has decided to honor this pioneering medical scientist by naming the proton beam treatment center in his honor. There is no doubt that this honor is richly deserved, and memorializes a true visionary and benefactor for thousands of cancer patients in the future. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Slater on receiving this honor, and thanking him for his dedication to opening new horizons in the fight against cancer.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DAVID A. HARTMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant First Class David A. Hartman. Sergeant Hartman will be honored on December 1 by the Bay City United States Army Reserves. They will dedicate the Drill Hall at the Bay City Michigan Reserve Center in his memory.

David Hartman is remembered by his family and friends as loving, fair-minded, honest, fun-loving, family-oriented, and job-oriented. He worked hard, and was not afraid to step in and help out. He followed his father's example and signed up for the military when he graduated from high school. He was a 21-year veteran of the military. David served in the first Gulf War and came home with Gulf War Syndrome. He was eligible for a medical discharge but he decided to stay in the military to continue serving his country. Sergeant Hartman stated that he wanted to join the people going to fight and lead by example. On July 17, 2004, at the age of 41, David Hartman was asked to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country when the vehicle he was driving was struck by an improvised explosive device in Baiji Iraq. Sergeant Hartman was serving in Iraq with the Army Reserves 401st Transportation Company from Battle Creek, MI. He is survived by his wife, Robbin, son, Benjamin, and daughter, Heather.