

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CELESTINO GAMBINO

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness following the passing of Celestino Gambino, proprietor of La Parmigiana Restaurant in Southampton, NY and a beloved member of the community that I have the privilege of representing.

Celestino Gambino emigrated to the United States from Palermo Sicily, with little money and speaking no English, to make a better life for himself, his wife Josephine, and their seven children. He kept his family together, and with them and a lot of hard work, he built one of the most successful businesses on the East End of Long Island. He was devoted to his family, to his church and to his community, and he became a beloved figure in Southampton. On July 1 Mr. Gambino passed away at the age of 73.

Celestino Gambino opened La Parmigiana, or "La Parm" as it is affectionately known, in 1974 as a small pizza parlor, but over the years it became a Southampton mainstay. Located on Hampton Road in the heart of Southampton Village, La Parm is a family restaurant serving plates piled high with Italian food, such as their traditional Sicilian dishes, Penne alla Norcina and Margarita con Melanzane. A specialty shop in the restaurant sells Italian olive oil, La Parm's own sauce and salad dressing, pastries, pastas and other items.

As delicious as the food is, the true draw of the restaurant was the fact that patrons knew they would see Mr. Gambino, smoking his pipe and wearing his white apron, when they visited his restaurant, and if not him—then one of his family members. All of his children and several of his grandchildren work in La Parm, and all of them help give it the friendly, welcoming atmosphere it is known for—even when the pick-up counter is jammed with people waiting for their orders on a Friday night. People knew they could count on Mr. Gambino to give them good, quality service, whether they were ordering a slice or sitting down to a family meal.

It is a place of Old World charm, with good food for a good value. Mr. Gambino once said that the restaurant sold 20,000 pizza pies a year. But as busy as the restaurant kept him, Celestino Gambino always had time for people. He always took the time to listen and find a way to help, quietly and without fanfare. He was a gentleman, considerate and kind, and he was respected for that. In good times and in hard times, he kept his family together. On Mondays, the only day the restaurant was closed, the family would gather at his home for a family meal. He would always sit at the head of the table surrounded by his wife, their seven children and 19 grandchildren. On Sundays he made dinner for the priests at his church, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church.

The Gambino family is a shining example of the hard work, family love, and generosity of spirit that have made this country great. With the death of Celestino Gambino, we have lost a bit of Southampton, but we know that his family will carry on the traditions he established at the place he owned and operated for

36 years, and in them he will live on and we will be constantly reminded of the values for which he stood.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 24, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 394. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 394: Yes—Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act.

RECOGNIZING REAR ADMIRAL
MICHAEL MILLER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me recognize and congratulate an outstanding Naval Officer, RADM Michael Miller, upon the completion of more than two years of distinguished service as the United States Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs. I am honored to commend Rear Admiral Miller's achievements on the Navy's behalf as well as his devotion to our nation.

Rear Admiral Miller graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1974 and earned his "Wings of Gold" two years later. He has served tours around the world flying the S-3 Viking, and he has served at sea as Executive Officer and later in command of the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67), the USS *Coronado* (AGF-11), and Carrier Strike Group 7. Rear Admiral Miller also served as the first-ever active duty Director of the White House Military Office.

As Chief of Legislative Affairs, Rear Admiral Miller showed the integrity, skill, and professionalism for which we honor our brave men and women in uniform. His work helped ensure the United States Navy's readiness and superior capabilities.

Rear Admiral Miller was recently nominated and confirmed for appointment to the rank of Vice Admiral. In connection with this promotion, he will be assigned as Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Madam Speaker, I wish Rear Admiral Miller continued success and fulfillment as he undertakes this new challenge. I trust my colleagues in the House will join me in saluting this fine Naval Officer.

CONGRATULATING ABDUL HAMKA
AND DARIUS WILBERT FOR BE-
COMING NATIONAL SEMI-FINAL-
ISTS IN THE DASH+ NATIONAL
STUDENT COMPETITION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two students from my district

who have been named as semifinalists of the Progressive Insurance DASH+ National Student Competition.

Abdul Hamka and Darius Wilbert of The Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn Michigan designed an eco-friendly dashboard for the Dash Plus National Student Competition. Hamka and Wilbert designed a dashboard that is able to communicate to the driver how they are impacting fuel economy and the environment. Abdul and Darius's panel connects multiple information sources that increase driver awareness. The dashboard can also calculate routes that have fewer hills and traffic lights, helping the driver reduce unnecessary acceleration and braking and in turn reduce overall fuel emissions. The dashboard is constructed out of emerging industrial-grade bio-plastics that are derived from vegetable oil, corn, soy, and algae. This gives the panel a reduced weight which in turn means less fuel consumption and a smaller carbon footprint.

Projects like the DASH Tech competition provide students with a platform to be innovative and put to use skills they learn while studying STEM fields. Madam Speaker, one out of every ten people in Southeast Michigan is an engineer. Helping to promote the new green economy will help drive job creation and innovation in Michigan. My constituents and I are proud of what Abdul and Darius have accomplished and we know that they will be industry leaders one day.

THE FEDERAL LANDS COUNTER-
DRUG STRATEGY AND ENFORCE-
MENT ENHANCEMENT ACT (H.R.
5645)

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 30th, I introduced H.R. 5645, the Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy and Enforcement Enhancement Act, legislation designed to combat drug trafficking on our nation's public lands.

Drug traffickers, primarily Mexican and Asian drug gangs involved with cannabis cultivation and marijuana distribution, are increasingly using our nation's public lands to operate large-scale operations. Eighty three percent of all plants eradicated from U.S. forests between 2004 and 2008 were removed from national forests in California. Sadly, Tulare County, California, recorded three consecutive seasons in which the number of marijuana plants seized exceeded \$1 billion.

Traffickers find the remoteness of the public lands appealing as it reduces the risk of detection and asset forfeiture. By cultivating marijuana on our public lands, international drug trafficking organizations avoid the risk and expense of smuggling their product across the border. It also makes distribution less risky because it can be easily driven to major cities, where it is distributed to street dealers. Accordingly, cultivation of marijuana is expanding from the M7 states including California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, and West Virginia, into Utah, Idaho, Texas, Wisconsin, and Ohio. This illicit activity poses a significant threat to our nation and those Americans who choose to