

its direct supervision of these four councils by instituting the District of Columbia State Council on April 27, 1899. The State Council is the intermediate level of government within the Order's organizational structure whereby the councils within the State jurisdiction, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Order, can legislate their own affairs and elect State officers. This includes the Deputy Supreme Knight, or State Deputy, who serves as the chief executive officer for the jurisdiction. State Councils, in turn, collectively elect the leadership of the Supreme Council.

Mr. Speaker, in the more recent years of the 20th century, another 12 councils have been instituted in the District of Columbia, including councils at Catholic University of America and Georgetown University. The 17 councils in the District of Columbia have a combined membership of approximately 1900 Knights and their families.

Mr. Speaker, the Knights of Columbus are dedicated to four major principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Patriotism, the promotion of responsible citizenship and good government, is the special focus of the Fourth Degree of the Order. The Knights, in colorful capes and chapeaux at ecclesiastical and patriotic functions are members of the Color Corps of the Fourth Degree, the "visible arm" of the Knights of Columbus.

Of these four principles, Charity is the basic principle of the Order. Within the Order's "Surge ... with Service" program, the major program areas are service to Church, Community, Family and Youth. Within these program areas, in 1998, the Knights of Columbus Order-wide raised and distributed \$110,692,742 for charitable and benevolent causes. In addition, Knights worldwide volunteered a total of 55,033,160 hours of service to others.

Of these total numbers for 1998, the 17 councils within the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia raised and distributed \$177,008 and volunteered a total of 109,756 hours in service to others in the four primary programs. Notable within these figures is the support to care of the elderly through The Little Sisters of the Poor (a relationship dating back to 1899), and to persons with developmental disabilities through support of the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute for the past three decades.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the 117-year history of the Knights of Columbus and, most particularly the 100-year history of the District of Columbia State Council, the Order has been in the forefront of service to the Church, the Community, Families and Youth and, most especially, in service to the United States. The greatest gift of the Knights of Columbus to mankind is the truly personal commitment of time and energy individual knights and their families give of themselves to charitable and benevolent causes. The Knights of Columbus, within the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia State Council are dedicated to maintaining and, indeed, increasing the level of service to others in the new Century and Millennium fast approaching.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in saluting the District of Columbia State Council of the Knights of Columbus for a century of selfless service and patriotism.

TRIBUTE TO LANE KIRKLAND:
CHAMPION FOR WORKING PEOPLE
IN AMERICA AND AROUND
THE WORLD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, America lost one of its most prominent and honored patriots on August 14 when Lane Kirkland, the president of the AFL-CIO from 1979 to 1995, passed away. He devoted his life to advancing the interests of our nation's working families, and what he achieved has benefited millions of our country's citizens.

Mr. Kirkland will long be remembered for re-unifying the labor movement, welcoming the United Auto Workers, the Teamsters, and other major unions back into the AFL-CIO. He will also be remembered for his steadfast advocacy for civil rights. As a national labor leader during the 1960's, he rallied organized labor behind the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other anti-discrimination measures. He will also be remembered fondly for his passion as a self-professed "pure and simple and unreconstructed" supporter of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, one who believed in the responsibility of government to help create hope and opportunity for those less fortunate. The influence of Lane Kirkland's convictions, however, did not stop at America's borders. He fought for freedom and human rights around the world, and future generations will long remember him as a man who helped create the first cracks in the Iron Curtain.

Throughout his half-century in the leadership of the AFL-CIO, Kirkland never shied away from his principal belief that the labor movement must not ignore the struggles of its oppressed counterparts abroad. He placed the full weight of America's unions behind condemnation of racist apartheid in South Africa and opposition to dictators in Cuba, Chile, and China. Kirkland forcefully and decisively undermined the Marxist claims of Fidel Castro and Leonid Brezhnev to the sympathies of the world's workers. He sent a message to the peoples of the world that America's working men and women would fight against any form of totalitarianism and repression. Kirkland's actions ensured that this message would not be ignored.

During the early 1980's, a small collection of shipyard workers in Gdansk, Poland, courageously organized in opposition to their Communist government. During the course of that decade, the Solidarity labor movement under the leadership of Lech Walesa grew to embody the desires of the Polish people for freedom and democracy, and it brought Polish society together in the successful effort to topple an unjust dictatorship. The unwavering support of Lane Kirkland for Solidarity provided enormous assistance to the movement and added to its strength at a critical time when the Polish Communist leadership sought to stamp it out. At Kirkland's direction, the AFL-CIO channeled money, organizers, machines, and other assistance to Walesa's foot soldiers. At the end of the decade-long struggle the Polish dictatorship collapsed, and Walesa became

Poland's democratically elected president. As Henry Kissinger noted, "The success of Solidarity owes a lot to Lane."

Mr. Speaker, in 1994 Lane Kirkland's extraordinary contributions were recognized by President Bill Clinton, who awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his commitment to democracy and human rights around the world. President Clinton's words about Mr. Kirkland are both moving and accurate: "Throughout the Cold War, when some leaders saw only the threats to our freedom overseas and neglected the barriers to freedom and inequality within our own land, Kirkland showed America that you can stand up to communism abroad just as forcefully as you can stand up for working men and women here at home."

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in offering condolences to Lane Kirkland's widow, Irena, and to his children and grandchildren. It is most appropriate, that we honor and pay tribute to this outstanding leader. Lane is a credit to the American labor movement, as well as a credit to all who fight for human rights and civil liberties both here in America and around the world.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my serious concern with the Veterans, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies for fiscal year 2000. I recognize the difficult balancing of priorities which the Chairman and the Ranking Member must do with the array of competing interests within this bill. But I find it ironic that the House in the space of one month can pass a tax bill that gives special breaks to select groups but cuts funding for the neediest of all—undermining our efforts to fuel the dream of home ownership for all Americans, reducing our efforts to create jobs, and revitalizing the forgotten corners of our towns and cities. America should do what is right.

The Subcommittee funded VA Health Care at \$1.7 billion, but the veterans' organizations submitted to the Congress the Independent Budget which calls for an increase of \$3 billion—a more realistic estimate of the need. This bill does not go far enough to provide for the growing health care needs of our veterans as we enter the 21st Century. America should do what is right.