

permit the Executive Branch over which you preside to punish an elected legislator for remarks made in the course of legislative debate.

As we noted earlier, we realize that the Constitutional clause protecting Members of Congress does not apply to State Legislators. But obviously the justification for that clause—preserving full freedom of debate—applies very strongly. Indeed, we believe there is an added policy reason why you should not allow your Executive Branch to penalize Representative May for comments made in the course of legislative debate. That is the respect that the federal government ought to show for the democratic process within the states. The speech and debate clause says that no Members of Congress shall be made to answer “in any other place”. Surely that applies with strong logical force to a situation in which the federal Executive Branch would reach down and take punitive action against an elected member of the Arizona Legislature. Certainly the Arizona Legislature ought to be considered by the federal Executive Branch competent to run its own affairs, and we believe that you will be setting a terrible precedent if you allow the military to go forward with its proposed against Representative May.

While some have suggested that no Members of Congress, for example, should serve in the Reserves, that has not been our policy. The military clearly has strong views about many issues. And the general rule is that members of military are not to take issue with official policy. Are federal and state legislators who serve in the Reserves now to begin to censor their comments in relevant legislative debates lest they face sanctions imposed by the federal Executive Branch?

As you know, Members of Congress have long treated the “speech and debate clause” as a matter of high Congressional privilege, embodying a principle essential to the functioning of our democracy. Our history is replete with examples of the overwhelming majority of both Houses of Congress, including the bi-partisan Congressional leadership of both Houses, coming to the defense of legislators who are faced with potential sanction for remarks which they made in debate, even in cases where the overwhelming majority of legislators strongly disagreed with the remarks in question. If Representative May is to be subjected to the severe sanction of expulsion from the military, where he has served with such distinction and without any negative marks on his record, the principle that legislators must be free from having to answer in any other place for comments they choose to make in public debate will have been more seriously eroded than in any other single instance that we can recall in recent times.

We prepared to debate the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy among ourselves in our contexts. But here, we ask you to show the respect for unfettered legislative debate that has long been a hallmark of American democratic practice and drop any effort to punish a duly elected member of a state legislature for comments made during the course of debate.

HONORING JOHN SEPULVEDA FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to join with the New Haven Hispanic community as they gather this evening to pay tribute to my dear friend, John U. Sepulveda. I regret that I am unable to join this evening's celebration though I am proud to convey my sincere congratulations to John as he is honored by Casa Otonal and the Hispanic community.

Before setting his sights on our nation's capitol, John was an active member of the New Haven community. A graduate of Yale University, member of the Board of Education, and serving as a special assistant to former U.S. Representative Bruce Morrison, John was a driving force in revitalizing the economy and development of New Haven.

Perhaps his most distinguished service to the New Haven community was his tenure as Executive Director of the Hill Development Corporation. Hill Development is a non-profit corporation located in the Hill neighborhood that works to provide low-income housing and other services to some of our community's most vulnerable families. John's tenure as the Executive Director began at a time when the agency was struggling financially and lacked essential community support. John's dedication and unparalleled commitment brought community support to the Hill Development Corporation and the direction needed to ensure its success. Today, the Hill Development Corporation is one of the city's most successful non-profit agencies—an achievement made possible through John's leadership and vision.

As you may know, John is now the Deputy Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management. He has also served the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for the Federal Housing Administration and as Director of the Federal Housing Administration's office of Insured Health Care Facilities at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is great to know that what John and his wife, Awilda, were able to achieve at the local level in New Haven, they are now able to do on a national scale. My congratulations to both of them.

It is an honor for me to take this opportunity to join the New Haven Hispanic community to offer my most sincere thanks to my good friend, John Sepulveda, for the many contributions he has made to the City of New Haven.

ST. MARY'S CENTENNIAL

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church in Duryea, Pennsylvania. The parish will cele-

brate its Centennial Anniversary with a banquet this month and I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

In the nineteenth century, many immigrants from Eastern Europe flocked to Northeastern Pennsylvania to pursue the American dream of religious and economic freedom. In 1897, a group of Polish immigrants in the area found a true leader in a young priest named Francis Hodur. He guided them spiritually and, under his leadership, a “mother church” was founded in Scranton. Today, this beautiful church is known to all as St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

A year later, another group of Polish Catholics invited Father Hodur to help them organize their own parish. They applied for a charter and in September of 1899, a charter was granted to Saint Mary's Polish National Catholic Church. Through the hard work and dedication of the parish, a new church was built and dedicated by 1908. While renovating and improving the original church building over the years, the parish has striven to keep and restore the beautiful original statues, altars, and other church artifacts.

Mr. Speaker, this proud parish in Duryea has much to celebrate. The hard working, dedicated parishioners at this beautiful church contribute to the fine quality of life that we enjoy in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Father Thadeusz Kluczek and the church's members help to continue the traditions of the country of their ancestors so that generations to come will feel the spirit and dedication of the small group of Polish immigrants who founded St. Mary's. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to bring this proud church's history to the attention of my colleagues and send my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to everyone at St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1059, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering an excellent FY 2000 Defense Authorization Conference Report, and I thank the conferees in the House and Senate for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

With rapidly growing threats worldwide to our national security, we must begin to rebuild our military from years of decimation and escalating deployments. Mr. Speaker, this authorization responds to these concerns.

As a former navigator of a B-52 bomber in the Air Force and a Vietnam veteran, I am particularly excited about the upgrades and procurement of Air Force and Navy aircraft, especially for the EA-6B Prowler—our military's only radar support jammer for all the services, including joint air operations. Further, the pilot retention reforms contained in the Authorization, including enlistment bonus and special pay reform, are essential. We have the best Air Force in the world—no country comes close. Yet we have trouble holding on to the