

IN MEMORY OF BETTY DESANTO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of Cleveland's greatest softball players, Betty DeSanto.

Betty DeSanto has been a dedicated sports-woman all her life. She has been a part of many softball teams and has won countless city titles. She was even inducted into the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 1984 and the Greater Cleveland Slow Pitch Hall of Fame in 1991.

Betty DeSanto was a person who not only played the sport well, she exemplified great sportsmanship. As the assistant manager and later as the manager of the Cudell Recreation Center, she organized various sports teams and encouraged both boys and girls in their athletic pursuits. She is an inspiration to all who participate in sports and with a little dedication, love and heart you can go on to achieve greatness.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring this great sportswoman, Betty DeSanto. She was a very talented athlete and she will be greatly missed.

**HONORING DR. GARY SCHNEIDER
UPON HIS RETIREMENT****HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gary Schneider, one of the foremost experts on forestry at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is retiring this year.

Dr. Schneider has been an asset to the University for many years, having served as a Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. Currently, he serves as the Associate Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UT.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Schneider has also served as a consultant for many organizations including, the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Agency for International Development and many others. Additionally, he has published several academic articles.

Dr. Schneider has advanced the study of forestry and related fields during his tenure at the University of Tennessee, and I know that his leadership and expertise will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join with his friends, family and colleagues in congratulating Dr. Gary Schneider for an outstanding career at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE TEMPLE PATROL OF THE TUSCAN MORNING STAR LODGE NO. 48

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Temple Patrol of the Tuscan Morning Star Lodge No. 48, located in Philadelphia. The Temple Patrol was originally formed in 1990 to provide a communal protective service for members attending meetings at the Prince Hall Masonic Complex. Since its formation, the Temple Patrol committee has grown to over 30 members and has received many accolades for its valuable safety services.

The Temple Patrol has been so successful that only one criminal incident has been recorded in its area of operations since its inception. The Tuscan Morning Star Lodge No. 48 has received high praise due to the success of the Temple Patrol; it was awarded Ex-Large Lodge of the Month on several occasions and even Ex-Large Lodge of the Year. In addition to these past recognitions, I would also like to commend these gentlemen who bring peace to the streets through their self-sacrifice.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the efforts of the members of the Tuscan Morning Star No. 48 Temple Patrol committee. I wish them luck in the future and thank them for all their hard work that has made the streets of Philadelphia safer.

HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHT INFORMATION ACT, H.R. 1625**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced in the House The Human Rights Information Act (H.R. 1625). This legislation has already found strong bipartisan support with over 50 of our distinguished colleagues joining as original cosponsors of this bill.

When our legislation was introduced, prominent human rights leaders and victims of human rights abuses joined us at a press conference announcing the legislation. Their comments about the Human Rights Information Act and their personal and professional insights regarding this legislation are particularly helpful.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the statements these human rights leaders made regarding the Human Rights Information Act be placed in the RECORD. These outstanding statements are by Dr. William F. Schultz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA; Adriana Portillo-Bartow, a Guatemalan mother whose eldest two daughters were kidnapped and disappeared and have not been seen for the past 17 years; Sister Dianna Ortiz, a Roman Catholic nun who was abducted, tortured and repeatedly raped by members of the Guate-

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malan security forces; and Carlos M. Salinas, the Advocacy Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of Amnesty International.

STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM F. SCHULTZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

Good afternoon. I'm Dr. William F. Schultz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA. I join my esteemed colleagues today to support legislation that addresses the tragic legacy of political violence: torture, assassinations, "disappearances," and massacres. This legislation will put criminals behind bars and help families heal from their devastating losses at the hands of brutal torturers and thugs.

Over the past few decades, we witnessed immense suffering in Guatemala and Honduras. The fierce counterinsurgency campaign by Guatemalan military governments beginning in the 1960s left 200,000 dead or "disappeared" according to the Guatemalan Truth Commission. The campaign became one of a "scorched earth strategy" in which hundreds of villages were wiped out in what the Truth Commission called acts of genocide. Thousands of men, women and children were killed—often after brutal torture or in more than 600 wholesale massacres, according to the Commission. Thousands more were "disappeared"—never to be seen again.

The politically-driven violence in Honduras during the 1980s resulted from a deliberate strategy by the government and military to treat non-combatant civilians as military targets. This "dirty war" meant torture, assassination and "disappearance" for student activists, teachers, journalists, trade unionists, human rights lawyers and leftist politicians.

Out of the ashes of this bloody history has risen legislation vital to the promotion and protection of human rights—not only in Honduras and Guatemala but in every country in the world. The Human Rights Information Act orders the declassification or release of U.S. government documents about human rights violations when the U.S. receives a request from a bona fide truth commission or judicial authority. It will give survivors of torture and "disappearances" information about who was responsible for their abuse and the reasons why they were targeted. It also will allow family members to recover the remains of their "disappeared" loved ones.

Amnesty International is proud to support the Human Rights Information Act and our activists are ready to mobilize for its passage. Last year, we brought over 100,000 petitions and letters to Congress—and we will bring 100,000 more this year, if need be. I believe that every American watching the Kosovo crisis unfold would support this Act as a means to ensure justice for the thousands of refugees we see on our television screens each day.

There are three compelling reasons why Congress must pass this Act.

First, the Human Rights Information Act is profoundly pro-family. The Act will help families torn apart by torture, assassination or "disappearances" heal and find some measure of closure in the wake of brutality.

Second, the Human Rights Information Act will fight crime. The perpetrators of human rights violations are responsible not for dozens or even hundreds of brutalities but for tens of thousands of crimes against humanity. As a great forensic anthropologist Dr. Clyde Snow said, "[t]he great mass murderers of our time have accounted for no more than a few hundred victims. In contrast, states that have chosen to murder