

October 13, 2000

1993 and 1998. During her tenure on the Board, MROSD's lands grew from 32,000 acres to 43,000 acres and she was a very active member on MROSD's Coastal Advisory Commission for the District's plan to annex the San Mateo County Coast.

Mr. Speaker, Betsy Crowder was an exceptionally kind and selfless woman dedicated to her family, her community and her country. Her tireless commitment and stewardship of the environment inspired everyone. She lives on through her two children, two grandchildren, three sisters, 15 nieces and nephews, and through all of us who were blessed to be part of her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a uniquely wonderful woman who lived a life of purpose and to extend our deepest sympathy to her daughters, Wendy and Anne, and the entire Crowder family.

#### POLISH OFFICERS MONUMENT

### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, on Nov. 19, 2000 the National Katyn Memorial Committee will dedicate a monument in Baltimore, Maryland to the memory of more than 15,000 Polish Army officers who were massacred by Soviet soldiers in the spring of 1940.

In September, I was honored to accept an award on behalf of Congress presented by Father Zdzislaw J. Peszkowski, a survivor of the massacre. The medal was presented on behalf of the Katyn families in recognition of U.S. congressional hearings conducted in 1951 and 1952 that focused world attention on this World War II massacre that occurred in the Katyn Forest.

While this massacre occurred more than 50 years ago, it is important that we remember what happened. In 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west and the Soviet Union invaded from the east. In 1940, more than 15,000 Polish Army officers were placed in detention, then taken in small groups, told they would be freed and then were gunned down in the Soviet Union's Katyn Forest. In 1943, the German Army discovered the mass graves, which the Russians tried to blame on the Germans. It was long suspected that the massacre was the work of the Soviets. Final proof came in 1989, after the fall of the Soviet Union, when President Gorbachev released documents that clearly proved the Soviets, with the full knowledge of Stalin, had carried out the massacre.

For more than a decade, the Polish-American community has raised funds to construct a fitting memorial to honor the victims of the massacre. The 44-foot statue has been permanently installed near Baltimore's Inner Harbor at President and Aliceanna Streets. I want to commend the Polish-American community and Alfred Wisniewski, Chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Committee, and the entire committee, for their tireless efforts in making this memorial to the victims of this atrocity a reality.

#### EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of these murdered Polish Army officers. The Katyn Memorial in Baltimore will be a lasting reminder to all of us that we must never tolerate evil and tyranny and that we must continue to speak out for justice and tolerance.

#### ELECTION COMMISSION OF PUERTO RICO

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, both the House and Senate have approved an appropriation of \$2.5 million to the Office of the President as requested by the President for a grant to the Elections Commission of Puerto Rico to be used for voter education on and a choice among the options available for the island's future political status. This marks an historic step forward in two key respects in the process of self-determination for the almost four million American citizens of Puerto Rico.

First, it represents the first authorization from Congress for the United States citizens of Puerto Rico to choose the ultimate political status for their island. Presidents since Truman have been seeking such an authorization and each House has passed similar language in the past, but the same language has never passed both Houses and been enacted into law. Our approval of this appropriation should be read as Congress' determination to resolve the century-long question of the island's ultimate status and let Puerto Rican Americans choose a fully democratic governing arrangement if they wish to replace the current territorial status.

Second, by adopting this provision as part of the unanticipated needs account of the Office of the President, it is Congress' intention that its support for a future vote in Puerto Rico be coordinated with the Administration's efforts to provide realistic options to be included on the ballot in the island's next referendum. In recent months the President has brought Puerto Rico's major political parties together in an unprecedented effort to define the available political status options. Our approval of the \$2.5 Million request evidences our expectation that the White House will provide realistic options upon which to base a future status referendum. It can only responsibly allocate the funds for the consideration of options that are realistic.

Puerto Rican Americans have contributed to this Nation for over 102 years, both in peace and in wartime, and deserve the opportunity to resolve the uncertainty regarding their political status based on clearly defined status options consistent with the Constitution and U.S. law and with the support of Congress. This legislation along with realistic status options to be provided by the Administration will help us honor their contributions by moving the process of self-determination forward towards the establishment of a permanent and final political status for Puerto Rico.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MRS. THELMA F. RIVERS

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Thelma F. Rivers of Timmonsville, South Carolina, prior to the celebration of her 115th birthday.

Mrs. Rivers was born on November 3, 1885, in Darlington, South Carolina, to a mother and father who were born into slavery. This makes her one of the few people to have ever lived to experience three centuries of American history. Her sharp memory is treasured by all. When Mrs. Rivers reminisces about her youth, she remembers picking two bales of cotton everyday and sewing quilts with tobacco thread.

Remarkably, Mrs. Rivers remains independent and capable despite her years. She is on no medication, and has no use for eyeglasses, hearing aids, or canes. Living alone until last year, she even chopped her own wood, being that she chose to remain living in a home still furnished with a wood burning stove. Many of her younger counterparts can't even boast of this type of health and autonomy.

Mrs. Rivers has been blessed with several children, nearly 100 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren, and the list continues. She attributes her long life to her faith in God and allowing Him to "hold her hand while she runs this race."

Mrs. Rivers has won no gold medals or Nobel prizes, but today, having lived through 115 years is a tremendous and commendable achievement. It is a testament to faith, strength, love, and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to this miraculous South Carolinian upon the celebration of her birthday.

#### TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL OF SYMPHONY HALL IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's most historic crown jewels, Symphony Hall, as it celebrates its centennial and its many contributions to Boston, the Nation and the world.

The Hall was the brainchild of "Major" Henry Lee Higginson, founder of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO). In the early 1890s, Higginson made the decision to build Symphony Hall due to the fact that the Boston Music Hall was no longer meeting the needs of the BSO and its patrons.

Major Higginson chose Charles Follen McKim of the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White as the architect of the Hall. At that time, McKim was the most prominent architect in the United States. However, one of the most influential persons involved in the project