

facilitate the sharing of information about new, cost-effective technologies that can improve the way we administer elections in America.

COMMITTEE STAFF TRIBUTE

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 2000, I gave remarks reflecting on my years of service on the Judiciary, Banking and Intelligence Committees. Specifically, I paid tribute to the many committee staff members who worked tirelessly and made outstanding contributions during my years of service.

In those remarks, I failed to mention a few of those staff members, and wanted to submit a comprehensive list of those who I had the pleasure of working with in Congress. Without their efforts the work I accomplished would not have been possible. The public owes them many thanks.

COMMITTEE STAFF TRIBUTE: (1981-2000)

Doyle Bartlett, Chris Barton, Anita Bedelis, Yosef Bodansky, Mark Brinton, Aerin Dunkle Bryant, Dan Bryant, Audrey Clement, Veronica Eligan, Rick Filkins, Carmel Fisk, John Heasley, Charlene Vanlier Heydinger, Gerry Lynam, Paul McNulty, Nicole Nason, Tom Newcomb, Jim Rybicki, Glenn Schmitt, Kara Norris Smith, Carl Thorsen.

HONORING DOMINIC D.
DiFRANCESCO FOR FIVE DEC-
ADES OF SERVICE

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dominic D. DiFrancesco for five decades of service to the United States of America. Dominic served his country as a Korean War veteran and was the past National Commander of the American Legion. He also served as Pennsylvania's National Executive Committeeman.

On the national level of the American Legion, Dominic served as chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee and the Legislative Committee. He was also a member of the Public Relations Commission, The National Security Council and the Resolutions Sub-committee. Dominic has been an active participant in veteran affairs in the 17th Congressional District where he has been a strong advocate for the improvement of services to veterans.

Dominic also served as a special representative to Saudi Arabia prior to Desert Storm to gather information about the needs and concerns of U.S. soldiers.

Dominic has recently been honored in my district by having the Dauphin County veterans building named in his honor. The Dominic D. DiFrancesco Veterans Memorial Office Building stands as a testimony of the service of Dominic and the many veterans like him who have given so much to their country.

Dominic, thank you for your service to this great land of ours and to the 17th Congressional District, I know the entire United States House of Representatives joins me in honoring your many accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5668,
SWEETEST ACT—SACCHARIN
WARNING ELIMINATION VIA ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING EMPLOYING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I submit legislation that would eliminate needless bureaucratic regulations in the labeling of the sweetener saccharin. I've called it the "SWEETEST Act" which stands for Saccharin Warning Elimination via Environmental Testing Employing Science and Technology.

Saccharin was first discovered in 1879 and it has been safely employed as a no-calorie sweetener for over one hundred years now. Concerns over saccharin's safety were first raised twenty years ago after a flawed study that administered huge quantities of the artificial sweetener to laboratory rats produced bladder tumors in rats. New and better scientific research has decisively shown that the earlier rat studies are not at all applicable to humans.

Earlier this year, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) removed saccharin from its 9th Report on Carcinogens. In doing so NTP joined numerous other world health agencies in recognizing the safety of saccharin.

NTP's action negated the need for the current warning label mandated by the Saccharin Study and Labeling Act of 1977 (SSLA) on all products containing saccharin. The Food and Drug Administration recognized that the mandated warning label is inappropriate and agreed to support its repeal.

This legislation removes Section 403, paragraph (o) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) and Section 4, paragraph (c) of the Saccharin Study and Labeling Act (P.L. 95-203). Those requirements formed the basis for the unnecessary warning statements found on common packets of sweeteners used every day in thousands of households and restaurants across the nation.

Given saccharin's favorable synergistic properties in combination with other sweeteners and its low cost, many food, beverage, and health care manufacturers are very interested in developing new products utilizing this sweetener.

UKRAINE AT THE DAWN OF THE
21ST CENTURY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today, as we conclude the work of the 106th Congress, it is ap-

propriate that we mark an important milestone in Ukraine: This afternoon, at 1:16 local time, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was shut down for good.

On April 26, 1986, Reactor Number Four at the Soviet-designed Chernobyl nuclear facility exploded, releasing more than 100 tons of lethally radioactive material into the environment. The human cost of this disaster is staggering. It is unlikely we will ever know how many deaths can be directly attributed to Chernobyl, but surely the loss of life is measured in the thousands. Hundreds of thousands more were subjected to radiation poisoning.

Nearly 15 years later, the consequences of the world's worst nuclear accident continue to plague Eastern Europe. Ukraine has been especially impacted. Vast tracks of once prime farm land remain dangerously contaminated. Thyroid cancer among children living near Chernobyl has risen to levels 80 times higher than normal. The concrete and steel sarcophagus that encases the ruined Reactor Number Four is leaky and in need of repair. In addition, the loss of Chernobyl's generating capacity exacerbates an already difficult energy shortage in Ukraine, which depends heavily on energy imports, especially during its harsh winters.

It is fitting that the first year of the new century should see the closure of this apparatus from a dangerous past. At the same time, we must be mindful that Chernobyl's legacy remains a heavy burden for the people of Ukraine which does not end with the shutdown of this facility today. The fatally flawed nuclear technology that built Chernobyl was truly a kind of Pandora's Box that, once opened, released lasting harm and grievous sickness into the world. The sole consolation is that we can yet hope to redress the damage.

The final closure of Chernobyl ends a tragic chapter in Ukraine's history, and begins a new one. I call on every member of the House to join with me in remembering the victims of this tragedy. Let us resolve to do our part to help Ukraine build a brighter future.

INTRODUCTION OF UNIFORM POLL
CLOSING ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with my colleagues Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUE, along with Representatives TAUZIN and DINGELL and 20 other Democratic and Republican House and Senate Members to introduce the bipartisan Uniform Poll Closing Act.

Over the years, both the Democratic and Republican parties have been concerned about the fact that the news media frequently projects a particular Presidential candidate to be the victor in key battleground states before all the polls have closed nationally.

In 1980, many Democrats were outraged when Ronald Reagan was proclaimed the victor of the Presidential race on network television at 5:15 p.m. Pacific time. At that moment, polls were still open in approximately

half the states, in every time zone—including many in the eastern and central time zones, and all the polls in the Mountain, Pacific, Alaskan, and Hawaiian time zones. As a result of the networks' decision, many voters felt there was no longer any point in going to the polls, a development which may have affected the outcome of many state and local elections. In 1984 and 1988 many Democrats feared that network's projections in the early evening that the Republican candidate was going to be the overwhelming electoral college winner may have again affected voting in many state and local contests in the west.

This year, many Republicans were angered when the networks projected AL GORE the victor in Florida, prior to the closing of polls in the Florida Panhandle. At the same time, some GOP lawmakers raised concerns that network projections regarding the likely victors in many other key Presidential battleground states in the East or Midwest may have affected voter turnout in other states in which the polls were still open.

I believe that there is a relatively straightforward way to reduce a repeat of these concerns: adoption of a uniform poll closing time for Presidential elections. That is why today, we will introduce legislation which would establish a uniform poll closing time. Under this bill, for Presidential elections, polls in all 50 states would close at 9 p.m. eastern standard time, which is 8 p.m. central standard time and 7 p.m. mountain time. In the Pacific time zone, in Presidential election years only, in order to achieve a 7 p.m. poll closing time, daylight savings time would be extended for two weeks. This will allow the polls on the West Coast to close at 7 p.m. Pacific daylight time.

The House approved identical legislation in 1986, 1987, and 1989, but it was never enacted into law. We have an opportunity now to rectify this situation, establish a uniform poll closing time, and minimize the potential that future premature projections by the television networks regarding the winners of a Presidential election will influence voter behavior in other states.

While the public may be divided over whom they want to see become our next President, both Democratic and Republican votes agree on the need to establish a uniform poll closing time. In fact, a recent CBS poll reports that 71% of the American public would like to see a uniform national poll closing time established. This reflects the public's recognition that standardizing poll closing times for Presidential elections would reduce the likelihood that when the television networks declare a winner in one state, they may depress voter turnout in any remaining precincts in the state in which the polls remain open, or affect voter turnout in other state across the country.

I look forward to working with Senator STEVENS, Representative TAUZIN, DINGELL, and other interested Members to advance this proposal. Over the last several days, I have spoken to Senator STEVENS, who has long been a leader on this issue in the Senate, and who had a strong interest in working out a formulation that would accommodate Alaska and Hawaii. With this bill, we have been able to accomplish that goal by allowing those states to open their polls on Monday afternoon and

then bring them into the framework of the nationwide uniform poll closing time we are establishing for election Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

In introducing this bill today, we are hoping to begin a debate on this issue by putting onto the table the main proposal that the House has previously approved, and we are open to considering other reasonable alternatives. What we would like to assure, however, is that this time, the Congress acts to reform the rules governing poll closing times in Presidential elections.

UKRAINIAN CARDINAL MYROSLAV
LUBACHIVSKY 1914-2000)

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Ohioans, particularly those of Ukrainian ancestry, were saddened to hear of the passing yesterday of Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky, the head of Ukraine's Greek Catholic Church. Cardinal Lubachivsky was born in 1914 in the town of Dolyna in the Western Ukrainian province of Galicia and died not far from there in the city of Lviv, where he served as Archbishop and Metropolitan for millions of Ukrainian Catholics worldwide, including many in Ohio. Although the Cardinal was born in Western Ukraine and served his people as their spiritual leader until his last days, he spent more than half his life outside his native land, including 33 years in the United States.

Cardinal Lubachivsky left Ukraine in 1938 as a young priest to study in Austria. After the Second World War, he came to America where he spent more than twenty years serving as assistant pastor at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood. There he celebrated mass, presided over the marriages of happy couples, baptized their newly-born infants and spoke the final words over the graves of thousands of his parishioners. He even drove the school bus for children attending the parish grade school. This scholarly, yet humble man seemed content to serve God and his fellow Ukrainian-Americans in this quiet, unassuming way when unexpectedly he was elevated to be Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia. In 1980, he moved to the Vatican and in 1984, became worldwide head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church following the death of the saintly Cardinal Joseph Slipy.

Joseph Slipy had become the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in 1944 when Western Ukraine was incorporated into the Soviet Union. Prior to that, Western Ukraine had been part of the Austrian Empire and Poland. Almost immediately, the Soviet Secret Police started carrying out Stalin's order to liquidate the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The entire clergy was either arrested or forced to renounce their faith. Most declined to do so and ended up in Siberia or were shot. Archbishop-Metropolitan Slipy spent 17 years in labor camps until Pope John XXIII finally negotiated his release in 1963. As a cardinal of the Catholic Church, Joseph Slipy went to

work rebuilding his church in the underground in Ukraine and in places like Cleveland, Ohio where Myroslav Lubachivsky served as assistant pastor.

In 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union, His Eminence Myroslav Lubachivsky, a Cardinal and a U.S. citizen, returned in triumph to the city of Lviv to preside over the Ukrainian Catholic Church and its historic St. George's Cathedral. "This native church of mine was resurrected and rose from the grave," he said at the time. Tens of thousands of Ukrainian Catholics, many weeping and singing hymns, lined the streets to greet their Cardinal and Archbishop-Metropolitan.

Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky had one of the most extraordinary and fulfilling lives that spanned nearly the entire 20th Century. He served through some of the most difficult periods of that turbulent era and he lived to see his faith and the faith of millions of his parishioners rewarded with the restoration of his church, which not only survived enormous evil, but ultimately prevailed over it. I join in paying tribute to this great man and offer my condolences to all those in Ohio and throughout the world who benefited from his spiritual guidance and leadership and now mourn his passing. With his entire life a prayer, Cardinal Lubachivsky walked in faith and toward the light that now shines over people and leaders that long for a new tomorrow. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING HUGH C. BAILEY OF
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA, FOR HIS
RETIREMENT FROM VALDOSTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Dr. Hugh C. Bailey an exceptional citizen from Valdosta, Georgia, on his retirement as President of Valdosta State University.

Dr. Hugh Bailey was first appointed president of Valdosta State University in 1978 and has served admirably for twenty-two years. As a long time educator, Dr. Bailey is currently a member of the American History Association, American Red Cross, the South Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Council on Economic Education and has served as the national president of Pi Gamma Nu.

Dr. Bailey was born in Berry, Alabama, and earned his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Alabama. Furthermore, Dr. Bailey presided over the transformation of Valdosta State College into Valdosta State University and he oversaw the growing of Valdosta State University to be one of Georgia's two regional universities. I am very proud that my daughter, Lia, was in the second of Dr. Bailey's Valdosta State Universities graduating classes.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. Bailey for his dedication to the future of our young people. He is an extraordinary citizen, and I am proud of his achievements and accomplishments, which have done so much to improve the lives of so many people in the