

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF CHARLIE  
REAGAN

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I honor a fine gentleman, Mr. Charlie Reagan of my home town of Bay City, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement from the Social Security Administration. As our area Congressional Liaison for Social Security matters, Charlie has been an invaluable resource for the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent in Congress today.

Charlie was born in Gladwin, Michigan and has a long history of contributing to our community, both in his capacity as a representative of the Social Security Administration and as a citizen and community leader.

Charlie graduated from the former Bay City Handy High School and later, from my alma mater, Saginaw Valley State University. In 1968, he became one of our nation's most honored citizens, when he joined the United States Army. He served two years in Anchorage, Alaska, and was honorably discharged in 1970.

Charlie began his career with the Social Security Administration [SSA] prior to his service in our nation's armed forces, and upon his discharge, rejoined the agency in Bay City. In 1973, he was transferred to the Quality Assurance Group in Chicago, and in 1975, was promoted to Supervisor in the Muskegon SSA office. In 1982, we were fortunate to welcome Charlie to the Saginaw SSA office, where he has helped countless men, women and children with their Social Security rights and benefits.

Not only has Charlie's career effectively served the greater public interest, he has been involved in our community as a private citizen as well. Charlie and his wife of twenty-eight years, Beverly, are both members of St. John's Episcopal, where Charlie has served as Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Usher Coordinator. Both he and Beverly are members of the Education For Ministry at the Church. Charlie has, for many years, lent his services to helping the United Way in our community, where he has chaired the Combined Federal Campaign program. Charlie has also been involved in the Social Security Find Program, which helps sons and daughters find their parents and grandparents. And in 1999, Charlie received an award from the Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations for his service in bringing to justice individuals who commit Social Security fraud.

In his retirement, it is my understanding that Charlie intends to spend some quality time with his wife, Beverly, and their son, Christopher. Charlie is an avid racquetball player and dedicated crossword puzzle fan, so I fully expect him to continue with his favorite hobbies. It is also my understanding that Charlie has plans to build a state-of-the-art hot rod, much to the dismay of his wife. I wish Beverly much luck in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mr. Charlie Reagan on the occasion of his retirement, and

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thanking him for his selfless service to our community. I wish him, and his family, continued success in all his future endeavors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS, NJ

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my constituents in the Borough of Highlands, NJ, as this community celebrates its 100th anniversary. To commemorate this great occasion, a centennial dinner was held yesterday evening at Bahr's restaurant, since 1917 an institution in this community located on beautiful Sandy Hook Bay.

Mr. Speaker, we stand at the threshold of a new century. At the last turn of the century, Highlands became a borough, having separated from Middleton Township. But, the history of the area goes back a great deal further. The first Europeans to see Highlands were Giovanni Verrazano and his crew aboard the *Dauphine*. The first map of the Highlands area was made by the Spaniard Diego Ribero, who called the area now known to us as Sandy Hook as Cabo De Arenas (cape of sands) and the Navesink/Shrewsbury River as Rio de Santiago. It was on September 2, 1609, that Henry Hudson first saw the Highlands area. The name of this explorer continues to be a household name in the Borough as the regional high school serving the young people of the area is Henry Hudson Regional High School.

Throughout the Colonial and Revolutionary eras, many of the illustrious names still recalled throughout Monmouth County, New Jersey and the nation were associated with Highlands. Richard Hartshorne, for whom Hartshorne Woods County Park is named, settled in Highlands in 1678. In 1778, the British General Clinton retreated through Highlands after his defeat in the Battle of Monmouth, a major turning point in America's War for Independence. In 1782, Captain Joshua Huddy was hanged at Water Witch.

Phillip Freneau, known as the "poet of the Revolution," wrote a poem called "Navesink" focused on the Highlands hills. James Fennimore Cooper served in the Navy doing shore patrol of the Raritan Bay area during the years 1805-11, and in 1830 this great American writer would produce *The Water Witch*, whose setting is the Highlands hills. (Water Witch Avenue is to this day one of the borough's thoroughfares.) In 1872, the noted engraver Granville Perkins came to Highlands to sketch several scenes for the first edition of *Picturesque America*. In 1876, William Cullen Bryant published the Centennial Edition of *Picturesque America* in which Highlands was featured in the picture and text as the leading site. In 1875, Walt Whitman visited Highlands and wrote two poems, "Fancies at Navesink." In 1889, Harper's magazine writer F.E. Fryatt visited Highlands and wrote extensively of its beauty, sites and quaint way of life. That same year, the noted writer Gustav Kobbe visited Highlands and described town life, writing the first description of the clamming industry.

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Perhaps the best known landmark of Highlands is the Twin Lights, which holds a commanding position overlooking Sandy Hook Bay and the gateway from the New Jersey/New York Harbor area to the Atlantic Ocean. The first single beacon lighthouse was built in 1765. It was in 1828 that the first Twin Lights were built. In 1841, the south tower of the Twin Lights received a Fresnel lens. In 1862, the present Twin Lights were constructed, and in 1889 the south tower was fitted with an electric arc light to produce 25,000 candle power output. In 1924, an incandescent lamp replaced the arc light, to produce 9,000,000 candle power output. The Twin Lights were deactivated and shut off in 1952, and in 1965 it was made a National Historic Site.

Highlands has been throughout its history a major transportation hub. In 1832, the steamboat *Saratoga* was the first to serve Highlands from New York City, ushering in the steamboat age which ran for 100 years. In 1865, the Long Branch and Sea Shore Railroad began its run between Long Branch and Spermaceti Cove steamboat dock, bringing New York City vacationers to the Jersey Shore. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, rail and trolley service helped bring people to Highlands and on to other transportation infrastructure. In 1872, the first Highlands-Sea Bright bridge was opened (although it was struck by a sloop and wrecked three years later.) The current drawbridge along Route 36, built in 1932 and called the Million Dollar Bridge, has proven much more durable in our present-day transportation age.

Today, Highlands is still well known for its fishing industry and marinas. In 1947, the Highlands boat basin was renovated. Although the age of steam ships has passed into memory, Highlands today is the site of ferry service that continues to provide round trip transportation to New York for commuters and day-trippers.

Through the years, members of diverse religious denominations found a home in Highlands, as members of various denominations established meeting places, often in people's homes. Today, the Borough is the home to a number of houses of worship with deep roots in the community.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the community developed a strong system of schools and other public services as the quality of life and sense of community continued to improve. Residential communities took shape and a strong commercial life was established. Highlands Borough was established in name in 1900. Twelve years later, the Water Witch section officially became part of the Borough. Also in 1912, the waterfront area bounded by Bay Avenue, Shrewsbury Avenue and Miller Street was filled in and streets were laid out for houses to be built. Throughout the 20th century, Highlands developed its fame and renown as home of some of the Jersey Shore's best seafood restaurants, as well as charming bed-and-breakfast establishments.

At the time of Highlands' founding in 1900, the United States Census listed a population of 848 persons. By the time the 2000 Census is completed, it will indicate that the community has grown by a factor of six. The people of Highlands have played an important role in the history of our country, state and nation, involved at every stage of our history from the

earliest days. In the last 100 years, The Borough has survived and rebounded from natural disasters, such as nor'easters and hurricanes, as well as fires and other disasters. It even enjoyed a brief period of notorious fame during Prohibition as a center for illicit trade on water and land for illegal whiskey.

On this great occasion, I want to express my best wishes to Mayor Richard W. O'Neil, Council Members John Bentham, Dolores Monohan Howard, Sherry Ruby and Robert M. Rauen, and all of the dedicated men and women who make the Borough services work day-in and day-out.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege and an honor for me to pay tribute to the Borough of Highlands, a beautiful community with an unsurpassed location, a place with a proud history, a bright future and many, many great people.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound pleasure that I speak today in honor of the 179th Anniversary that marks Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Greece had remained under the Ottoman Empire for almost 400 years. Even though they were deprived of all of their civil rights during this time they continued to educate their children in their culture, their language, and their religion under the threat of death. On March 25, we celebrate this courage on the 179th Anniversary of freedom and independence in Greece.

I wish we had more to celebrate—to be able to celebrate on Greek Independence Day the return of the Elgin Marbles to their homeland. Taken from Greece in 1806, these ancient sculptures from the Acropolis of Athens have been on view in the British Museum. In this age of open communication, friendship, and a unified Europe, lets hope that these marbles will soon be returned to their home.

This year the Greek Independence Day parade will be honoring His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. I join with my Hellenic neighbors in honoring him on the auspicious occasion of the Greek Independence Day Parade.

I am very fortunate and privileged to represent the largest Hellenic community outside of Athens, one of the most vibrant communities of Hellenic Americans in this country. It is truly one of my greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress to be able to participate in the life of this community, and the wonderful and vital Hellenic American friends that I have come to know are one of its greatest rewards.

While commemorative resolutions are no longer allowed in the House, there is enormous support for Greek Independence Day among my colleagues. In 1993, inspired by the strong Hellenic American presence in my own congressional district, I co-founded, and now Co-Chair, the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. The Caucus is composed of

seventy-two, bipartisan members who are committed to bringing the voices of Hellenic Americans to the floor of the U.S. Capitol. Since its beginning in 1993, the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues has grown in both size and strength to foster and improve relations between the United States and Greece. The Hellenic Caucus serves to strengthen the voice of Hellenic Americans in promoting legislation, monitoring and arranging briefings on current events, and disseminating information to all Congressional Members on such important developments as the renewed talks between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, U.S. aid to Greece and Cyprus, and the continued conflict in the Aegean.

In the coming year, may we see peace in the Aegean, justice in Cyprus, peace in Northern Greece, and the restoration of human rights to the many cultures and people suffering throughout the world. As we celebrate the 179th anniversary of Greek Independence and the special bond of friendship between our two countries, I would like to leave you with a quote from Percy Shelley, "We are all Greeks! Our laws, our literature, our art, have their roots in Greece."

AIDS IMPACT ON LATIN AMERICANS AND HISPANICS

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that AIDS is a global issue. What happens overseas always affects what happens in the U.S. It is in America's national interest to ensure that we do all we can to assist all countries in addressing HIV/AIDS, not only because of the potential for a tremendous loss of life, but for economic, political and security reasons.

Globally, about 2.6 million people worldwide will die of AIDS this year, the most of any years since the epidemic began, according to a report by the United Nations AIDS program. About 16.3 million people have already died of AIDS since 1981. In addition, about 5.6 million new infections with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) will occur this year, raising the number of people currently living with the disease to about 33.6 million, with more than 23 million of those individuals being in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 1.3 million individuals living with HIV and AIDS are in Latin America and some 360,000 are in the Caribbean. It is estimated that some 920,000 individuals living with HIV and AIDS are in North America.

Some 300,000 Americans are infected with HIV and do not know it since they have never been tested for HIV infection. Sadly, my own city of San Antonio has experienced over 3,704 cases of people with AIDS; 53% of these people have died. This means that over 1,950 people in San Antonio have died from this disease. Of the reported cases of AIDS in San Antonio, 48% are in the Hispanic community, 39% are White and 11% are Black. The majority of San Antonio's population is of Hispanic origin and maintains close ties with Mex-

ico and other countries in Central and South America. Many return to visit, to work and live, and then return to the United States. Many of my constituents are very interested in reuniting with their families, bring family members to the U.S. to visit or become U.S. citizens.

AIDS has affected Hispanics in San Antonio more than in most other communities around the country. One thing we can all do is to continue to educate our friends and relatives about AIDS, not only as to its causes but also on its impact on our local, national and global community. We can also push for increased funding for research and treatment of this deadly disease.

Our efforts targeting African Americans here in the United States, and our efforts to address AIDS in Africa and elsewhere are to be commended and expanded. We must do more for those most in need, and we must do more to prevent HIV from becoming a problem in those areas where it has not yet established itself. To do any less is to allow a disease that we can prevent. And we must begin now to look at how we address AIDS in Latin America so that we can prevent it from becoming the next epicenter of the epidemic. Public health practices have shown that it is much more effective to prevent an illness than to treat an illness. Clearly, what we do now in our efforts to address HIV will affect the quality of our lives tomorrow.

We must fight the complacency that is threatening our efforts to address HIV and AIDS in the U.S. and worldwide. Yes, new drug combination therapies have prolonged the lives of many Americans who have access to them, who can afford them, and who can tolerate them. Unfortunately, not all have access or can afford them. Imagine how difficult it will be for those in countries outside the U.S. whose average health care expenditures are less than a few hundred dollars a year to pay for drugs which can cost up to \$14,000 a year in the United States.

Unfortunately, many of our leaders are still afraid to discuss HIV/AIDS in public. This silence is also evident in many Latin American countries where AIDS is just starting to take hold. This silence only leads to continued denial that AIDS is affecting Latinos, and it will only lead to additional infections and deaths. By not publicly discussing HIV/AIDS, we send a message to our community that AIDS is not an issue of concern to us or that it is taboo. The number of cases, new infections, and deaths in our community have shown that our silence has been deadly.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus, of which I am a member, is proud of its role in securing additional funding and in providing leadership in this area. But we have a long way to go. We need the Hispanic community, especially our Hispanic leaders both here in the U.S. and in other countries, to expand their efforts. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus believes that health issues that disproportionately affect Latinos must be addressed openly and publicly. The Caucus understands the importance of public leadership in addressing HIV/AIDS as a means to educate the public of the impact that HIV/AIDS is having on the Latino community both here and internationally.

I offer these comments to honor those from the Hispanic and other communities who have