

April 13, 2000

HONORING RICHARD B. HARVEY,  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—PRO-  
FESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute and to congratulate Dr. Richard B. Harvey upon retirement from Whittier College. His educational leadership encouraged countless young students to seek careers in public service.

The inspiration that Dr. Harvey brings to the classroom springs from his commitment to educating students and his belief in the importance of the political process. Dr. Harvey has been an exceptional educator of our youth. He earned a B.A. degree from Occidental College, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. Within the Whittier educational community, Dr. Harvey participated as a Whittier college assistant dean, a dean of academic affairs and chair of the political science department. In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Harvey is also an author, a cohost on television programs, and a radio commentator, delivering political analysis of election results.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Richard Harvey best wishes on his retirement. His dedication and commitment to teaching California politics has earned him the respect of our citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 115. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 4051, Project Exile: The Safe Streets and Neighborhoods Act of 2000. This bill would establish a grant program that provides incentives for States to enact mandatory minimum sentences for certain firearm offenses.

TRIBUTE TO MARTY RUBIN

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleague Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, I rise today to pay tribute to Marty Rubin, who after 44 years with the engineering firm of Parsons, Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., is retiring as Chairman Emeritus with a rich legacy of work on transit, highway, bridge, and other public works projects across the nation. From his extensive

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involvement in the Los Angeles Metro Rail System to his engineering guidance on the Long Beach Blue Line and the Green Line light rail systems, Marty's impact on the infrastructure of Los Angeles has been particularly profound. His friends and associates will gather to honor Marty on April 26 for the crucial role he played in the development of Los Angeles County's transportation system.

Marty Rubin's vision, energy, and wisdom in providing project planning, programming, designing, managing, engineering, and constructing support are recognized by public agencies nationwide. The numerous national transportation infrastructure projects outside of Los Angeles which have benefited from his expertise include San Francisco BART; the Honolulu Rapid Transit Program; the Aviation Parkway in Tucson; the California State Route 91 and State Route 126 Widening projects; the California 1-215 Corridor improvements; the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike, Virginia; the Garden State Parkway, New Jersey; the Grand Central Parkway; and the New York Belt Parkway.

Marty's peers in the transportation industry and public transportation agencies around the country recognize Marty Rubin as a man of unparalleled integrity. For his efforts to promote minority opportunities in engineering throughout southern California, Marty Rubin has been recognized by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers for his leadership. Among the honors he has received is the 1998 Milton Pikarsky Distinguished Leadership Award in Transportation from the School of Engineering from the City College in New York.

Marty Rubin has made an immeasurable contribution to the improvement of mobility for the residents of Los Angeles County and the generations of residents to follow. We are proud to call him our friend, and ask our colleagues in the House to join us in commending this accomplished engineer for his services to the nation's transportation infrastructure and wishing him well in his retirement.

THE ATOMIC WORKERS  
COMPENSATION ACT

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I speak about the issue of worker compensation. Today, the administration, Secretary Richardson, President Clinton, and Vice President Gore announced a worker compensation program for workers at the national laboratories all across this country.

Workers have worked at these nuclear establishments and plants for many years, and many of them have been injured as a result. This has been a very sad chapter in the history of the United States. The Department now acknowledges these occupational exposures and has decided to turn over a new leaf. I rise today to introduce legislation that deals with this situation. In New Mexico, about 3 weeks ago, I attended a hearing in my district where

workers came forward; they talked about how patriotic they were. They talked about how they were serving their country for many, many years, and as a result of their work they believed they came down with cancers, with beryllium disease, with asbestosis, with a variety of other illnesses. These were very heart wrenching stories.

Among the New Mexicans who shared their testimony is Mr. Jonathan Garcia, who worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory for over 16 years. Mr. Garcia has radiation-induced leukemia. Mr. Garcia has been robbed of his health, but not his dignity.

Gene Westerhold worked for over 44 years cleaning up plutonium and hazardous chemicals for Los Alamos National Laboratory. Mr. Westerhold was told at one point that he was prohibited from working in certain areas due to his high radiation exposures. Yet, when he sought information of his exposure history, he was told his records were lost, Mr. Westerhold is a survivor.

Ms. Darleen Ortiz, whose father died of cancer after having spent his life cleaning up toxic materials at Los Alamos, is a survivor. Ms. Hugette Sirgant, a widow of a Los Alamos National Laboratory employee, has bravely taken on the role and responsibility as an advocate for both victims and survivors.

And lastly, Mr. Tomas Archuleta was exposed to beryllium, plutonium, asbestos, solvents, toxic metals and hazardous chemicals. Mr. Garcia, Mr. Westerhold, Mr. Archuleta, Ms. Ortiz, and Ms. Sirgant are survivors. These brave people have asked for my help in crafting legislation that would help them.

Today, I introduced a piece of legislation that will be comprehensive. It will deal with all of the injuries that occurred and that were talked about at the Los Alamos hearing. It is comprehensive in the sense that it will cover beryllium; it will cover radiation. It will cover asbestos, and it will cover the chemicals that these workers were exposed to.

Under this legislation, the workers will be able to come forward to demonstrate their exposure and their illness in a program similar to the Workman's Compensation program that is in place for the Federal Government.

My legislation will also provide that during the 120 day period while their claim is pending, Los Alamos National Laboratory workers will be able to get health care for their ailments related to their workplace exposures free of charge at the nearest Veterans Hospital.

And the burden is on the government, because many of these individuals came forward and talked about how they had worked their whole life, and they knew they were exposed, but then, when they asked for their records, there were no records. Their records were lost. So under those circumstances, we clearly have to put the burden on the Government.

Although my bill is specifically directed to New Mexico, I know there are many other of my colleagues around the country that have this same situation in their districts. They are Democrats and Republicans and all areas of the United States are affected. So I think this is a great issue for us to join together in a bipartisan way, and I urge my colleagues to work together to craft a solution to this problem at the national level.