

CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I speak in celebration of the 80th birthday of His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland in 1920. He studied secretly during the German occupation of Poland. His experience during the Nazi occupation of Poland changed his path. Karol Wojtyla was active during the war in the Christian democratic underground group and helped Jews escape Nazis. Before the end of World War II, he decided to become a priest.

In 1946, he was ordained and spent eight years as a professor of social ethics at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. In 1964, he was named the archbishop of Krakow and only three years later he was appointed cardinal by Pope Paul VI. On October 16, 1978, Cardinal Wojtyla was elected Pope. He took the name of his predecessors, and became the first Polish leader of the Roman Catholic Church and the youngest pope in this century.

John Paul II has been the most traveled, popular and political pope. He has visited over 100 countries and almost every country that would receive him. He was a strong critic of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe, especially in his native Poland and Soviet Union. In addition, he has opposed economic sanctions against Cuba, Iran and Iraq. Pope John Paul II is determined in promoting liberty and equality for all the people. Pope John Paul II stays determined to lead Catholics into the third millennium.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending His Holiness Pope John Paul II the best wishes for his birthday and many years of healthy and productive work. Stolat!

RECOGNIZING MAY 2000 AS NATIONAL ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2000*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to the attention of my colleagues an illness that affects millions of Americans. I am speaking of Arthritis. Today I recognize May 2000 as "National Arthritis Awareness Month." You may be surprised to learn that arthritis affects children and adults and is not limited to senior citizens.

Arthritis affects the lives of 43 million Americans or one out of every six of us, including 285,000 children. This number will grow to over 60 million individuals by 2020. Unfortunately, this crippling disease remains the leading cause of disability in the United States and it costs our economy \$65 billion annually.

What many of us do not know is that Arthritis also is more common among women—for

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

whom it is the leading chronic condition and cause of activity limitation.

Despite these compelling facts, for generations, our nation has labored under the many myths surrounding Arthritis. It is still widely believed that arthritis is an inevitable part of the aging process. It is also widely believed that there are few effective treatment options for Arthritis apart from taking a few aspirin. Finally, yet another falsehood is that individuals with arthritis should refrain from physical activity.

Despite these misunderstandings and myths, however, we can do something to combat Arthritis in America.

Thanks to the work of voluntary organizations like the Arthritis Foundation, we are spreading the message that there is help and hope for Americans living with this painful and debilitating disease. In the past year, we have reached several milestones in our battle against Arthritis. Whether it involves the new and exciting treatment options arising from our investments in research or our first steps in implementing the National Arthritis Action Plan, we have been provided new tools to aid us in our fight against the disease.

In early 1998, the Arthritis Foundation joined forces with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop the National Arthritis Action Plan—an innovative public health strategy that will forcefully confront the burden of Arthritis. Among our goals are improving the scientific information base on arthritis, increasing awareness that arthritis is a national health problem, and encouraging more individuals with arthritis to seek early intervention and treatment to reduce pain and disability.

As we take stock of these accomplishments, it is important to remember the challenges we still face in improving the quality of life for Americans living with arthritis and, ultimately, finding a cure. Thus, as we mark National Arthritis Month, I call on the American public to apply our vast talents, energy, and unbending resolve to continue to find the means and measures to combat arthritis. Through this combined effort, we will find a cure.

THE ADDITION OF COSPONSORS OF H.R. 3615, THE RURAL LOCAL BROADCAST SIGNAL ACT

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, all relevant committees have filed their reports on H.R. 3615, the Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act, and I was unable to add Congressman JOHN SPRATT of South Carolina as a cosponsor. However, Congressman SPRATT is a strong supporter of the legislation and agrees that rural citizens deserve to have the benefits provided by the legislation, which passed the House on April 13. I regret that he was not able to be included as an official cosponsor.

May 19, 2000

TRIBUTE TO NEIL K. BORTZ

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I honor Neil K. Bortz, a friend and community leader, who will receive the Distinguished Service Citation from the National Conference for Community Justice (NCCJ) on May 25. Neil was selected for this prestigious award for distinguishing himself personally and professionally and for furthering the cause of inter-group understanding in our community.

Neil is a Cincinnati native. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University, and continued his studies at the Harvard Graduate School of Business, where he received an M.B.A. Neil also served our nation as a Lieutenant in naval aviation.

Neil has been very active in our community. He is one of the founding partners of Towne Properties, a real estate development and management company that specializes in mixed use projects and suburban residential developments. He has served on the boards of the Harvard Business School Club of Cincinnati, where he served as Chairman; the Playhouse in the Park; Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce; the Harvard Club of Cincinnati; Cincinnati 2000 Planning Committee; Cincinnati Country Day School; and the Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau. He also was a member of the Young Presidents Organization.

Neil currently serves on the boards of many local organizations, including the Walnut Hills High School Alumni Foundation, where he is Chairman, and where I recently had the opportunity to join him at an event to celebrate an extraordinarily successful private fundraising effort for this top-ranked public high school. He is also on the board of United Jewish Appeal, where he is Co-Chairman; Cincinnati Equity Fund; Cincinnati Olympic 2012 Committee; and the National Multi-Housing Council. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute Multi-Family Committee and the Presidents Organization.

All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to him for his full devotion and service to our community.

RON SAATHOFF: LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues today I recognize Ron Saathoff, as he is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, at its 12th annual Worker's Memorial Dinner with its Labor leader of the Year Award.

As President of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 145, Ron has been a committed labor leader for many years. He has been a determined advocate for decent wages and benefits for firefighters, and has led the fight to ensure that safety is the Fire Department's highest priority.