

Przybyla, who passed away in 1982 at the time martial law was imposed in Poland and the Solidarity Union was crushed.

Following Mr. Przybyla's death, Michael Blichasz and Barbara Ilnicka worked tirelessly with radio management at WTEL 860 AM Radio to maintain the daily radio program. They gathered the support and hard work of the Polish religious community, the Polish American organizations, fraternal organizations, veterans groups, local businesses and individual supporters who recognized the valuable service provided to the Polish American community. After 72 years of programming at WTEL 860 AM, a programming change shifted broadcast of the Polish American Radio program to its current home on station WNWR 1540 AM, where it proudly serves as the only Polish American broadcast program heard 7 days a week.

The program can also be heard live over the Internet during regular broadcast times at www.WNWR.COM.

Sustaining a radio program for 75 years is a wonderful achievement marked by strong dedication to purpose. Longtime hosts Michael Blichasz and Barbara Ilnicka, are to be commended for their expertise in hosting a radio program that fulfills its mission to inform, unite, entertain and present news and information about activities taking place in the Polish American community and in Poland.

Mr. Speaker, as a Polish American, I too have felt personal pride in the struggles of Poles who have fought oppression and witnessed democracy return to their native land. For the thousands of Polish Americans who live in Philadelphia, this Polish American broadcast has been a wonderful resource to follow developments in the homeland and share in the ethnic pride of strong people who fought communism and won.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Polish American Radio Program of Philadelphia for its 75 years of outstanding service to the community.

LEGISLATION REGARDING THE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. Companion legislation is also being introduced today in the other body by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is the lead agency in providing health care to the more than 550 Indian tribes in the United States. Services ranging from facility construction to pediatrics assist approximately 1.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives each year. The IHS currently falls under the authority of the Public Health Service within the De-

partment of Health and Human Services (HHS). The IHS Director is the top administrative official charged with carrying out the federal trust responsibility for IHS, but he does not report to the HHS Secretary.

Designating the IHS Director as an Assistant Secretary of Indian Health would afford IHS a stronger advocacy function within HHS, and allow for increased representation during the budget process. Currently the ability of the IHS to affect budgetary policy is limited, in part by the Director's inability to directly participate in budget negotiations. It is also important to note that an Assistant Secretary leads the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) although the IHS budget exceeds that of BIA.

This legislation has the strong support of the American Indian and Alaska Native community. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DENVER, OUTGOING PRESIDENT, PERRIS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of the City of Perris is exceptional. The City of Perris has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. John Denver is one of these individuals.

On January 26, 2001, John Denver was honored as the outgoing 1999-2000 President of the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce. Most significantly, John's leadership over the past two years as President of the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce led to tremendous strides in reunifying the Chamber. Additionally, Mr. Denver put enumerable hours into the Perris community's re-development, Student of the Month and Wake Up Perris programs.

John Denver's dedication to promoting the businesses, schools and community organizations of the Perris Valley make me proud to call him a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Perris Valley are grateful for his contribution to the betterment of the community and salute him as he departs the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce after two years of service. I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of our community in the future.

REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF COURT FACILITIES, H.R. 254

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide for the review by

Congress of proposed construction of court facilities.

I am introducing this measure in response to my frustrating experience with a proposed Federal courthouse project for Orange County, New York.

In April of this year, the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit voted to rescind its prior 1992 approval for construction of a Federal courthouse in Orange County, New York.

This project began in 1991, when then chief judge of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York, the Honorable Charles L. Brient, requested the Board of Judges to study future planning for court facilities west of the Hudson River. Subsequently, in June 1992, the Board of Judges of the Southern District found that there was a need for a courthouse to meet the growing demands in the mid-Hudson valley region of New York, and voted unanimously to authorize the chief judge to apply to the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit for approval of a Federal district courthouse west of the Hudson.

Following approval of the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit on July 28, 1992, the matter was referred to the Court Administration and Case Management Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. The committee reported favorably and voted unanimously in a March 1993 session of the Judicial Conference of the United States to "seek legislation on the court's behalf to amend title 28 of the U.S. Code, section 112(B) to establish a place for holding court in the Middletown/Walkkill Area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be deemed appropriate."

Accordingly, during the 104th Congress, Public Law 104-317 was approved designating that "Court for the Southern District shall be held at New York, White Plains, and in Middletown-Walkkill area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be appropriate."

In an attempt to proceed forward in an expeditious manner the Administrative Office of the Courts and the U.S. General Services Administration, both concurring with the need for a courthouse in Orange County, determined that a facility could and should be constructed and paid through GSA's current funding.

This project had and still has clear evidence denoting the growth population and economic activity in Dutchess, Orange, and Sullivan Counties in New York State, as well as steady increases in caseload from the Mid-Hudson Valley Region. In fact, current statistics suggests that the need is even greater now than previously ascertained by Congress in 1996. The number of cases in 1999 that could have gone to an Orange County Courthouse, based on the location of the litigants or the attorney's residence, increased to 312, up from 290 in 1996. Moreover, the population for the region has increased to 671,767, up from 656,740 in 1996 and the total labor force has risen to 309,100, up from 301,800 in 1996.

Furthermore, it should be noted that while Congress may have acquiesced in the closure of some courthouses which have become redundant, based on considerations of economy and efficiency, I know of no situation where a court has refused to provide judicial services at a location designated by statute, where