

STATEMENT FOR FLAG DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our most cherished symbol of freedom, the American flag, and to recognize its importance to our national identity.

Until the 13 colonies rebelled against Great Britain in 1776, each enjoyed a separate existence from the others with few ties among them. Their common fight against British rule, however, brought them more than independence. It brought the realization of a national identity. The adoption of our national flag, on June 14, 1777, served as a symbol of this blossoming union.

John Paul Jones, the revolutionary war hero, the first to sail to sea under this new flag, stated that: "The Flag and I are twins. . . . So long as we can float, we shall float together. If we must sink, we shall go down as one." Many veterans share his passion. Today we offer our profound gratitude to those who have fought and died to protect the freedoms that our flag represents.

Today is a time to reflect upon the flag and what it means to America. It is a time to recognize that we live in a great nation that, with work, can become greater still. It is a time to contemplate America's place in the world and to know that our flag stands as a beacon of liberty and justice. We know that these freedoms have not come easily and we are grateful to those who have fought for these ideals: in battle, in the courts, in Congress, and in our everyday lives, we must work to uphold the ideals for which the Stars and Stripes truly stand.

TERRIFIC TENNIS IN THE 6TH DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, the Sixth District of North Carolina became the home of the 4-A men's state championship tennis team—Walter Hines Page High School in Greensboro. The Pirates completed their title match with a season record of 22-0—their second consecutive season with no losses.

The Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was the site where the Pirates defeated Fayetteville Terry Sanford High School 6-3. The single game winners included sophomore Jon Isner, freshman Robert Hogewood, and junior Adam Kerr. Both teams were undefeated up to this point and after single matches the score was 3-3. The game was still in anyone's court.

Doubles matches were going to decide who would be the team to lose. All three Page High School doubles teams won their matches, which gave the state title to the Pirates.

Congratulations are in order for Head Coach Jill Herb, Assistant Head Coach Tom Herb, along with assistant Jerry Steinhorne.

Members of the championship team included Robbie Bernstein, Steven Eagan, Pete Georges, Andrew Hjelt, Robert Hogewood, Charlie Holderness, Jon Isner, Adam Kerr, Dean Mandaleris, Jonathan Newman, Daniel Rowland, Drew Saia, Jarrett Saia, Jason Steinhorn, David Stone, Robert Sullivan, David Tursky, and Danny Redell.

Everyone at Page High School can be proud of the Pirates. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we congratulate Athletic Director Rusty Lee, Principal Dr. Terry Worrell and everyone at Page High School for winning the state 4-A Men's Tennis championship. In fact, winning two straight championships is impressive, but going undefeated for two years in a row is remarkable.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF LABOR RIGHTS IN THE U.S.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the right of workers to organize themselves into a union and bargain collectively are fundamental rights protected by various international conventions. Among them is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the first major achievements of the United Nations. Article 23 of the UDHR states that "everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests." Another is the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, adopted in 1949 at the 32nd assembly of the International Labor Organization and ratified by 148 countries. The very first line of this document reads: "Workers shall enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in respect of their employment."

United States law also codifies these basic labor rights. The National Labor Relations Act, signed in 1935, guarantees employees the right to organize and chose their bargaining representative. The Act also protects employees from retaliation by their employer for exercising their rights under the NLRA. Section 8 of the Act makes it an Unfair Labor Practice for an employer to "interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees" in the exercise of their rights to organize and bargain collectively. Specifically, employers are barred from discharging or otherwise discriminating against an employee because he or she has engaged in union activity or has filed charges or given testimony under the NLRA.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there remains in this country a large gap between theory, in which these basic rights are protected, and practice, in which these rights scarcely exist. According to Human Rights Watch, "workers' freedom of association is under sustained attack in the United States, and the government is often failing its responsibility under international human rights standards to deter such attacks and protect workers' rights." The evidence for this is great. Fewer than 40% of all workers who participate in an NLRB election gain coverage under a collective bargaining agreement; this number was over 75% in the

early 1950s. Of the successful campaigns to form a union, only 66% result in a first contract for the newly organized workers. Unionization rates in the U.S. are at some of the lowest levels in decades.

Some will argue that this demonstrates that American workers lack interest in unions. But given unions' demonstrated ability to win Americans better wages, better benefits, and better working conditions, this explanation carries little weight. The real reasons American workers are unable to fully exercise their basic rights are three: First, certain employers will utilize any means, legal or otherwise, to prevent their workers from forming a union. Second, in current form American labor law provides little resource to those whose rights are violated, and imposes little penalty on those who choose to ignore the law. And third, international trade agreements make it easy for employers to escape their legal responsibility to honor workers' rights by taking their operations elsewhere in the world.

What do certain unscrupulous corporations do to fight unionization? They coerce, intimidate, threaten, and sometimes even abuse workers. They fire workers are seen talking to union representatives, as Up-To-Date Laundry did recently in Baltimore. They hire union-busting lawyers to slander the local union in front of a captive audience of workers, like the Marriott Corporation did in San Francisco. They alert INS officials to the illegal immigrants in their workforce, even though these employers conveniently ignored their workers illegal status when hiring them.

Walmart threatened to shut down its butchering operation and start selling pre-packaged meat in its stores because a mere 11 workers wanted to unionize. A company called NTN Bower tried to undermine a United Auto Workers unionization drive by threatening to move their jobs to Mexico. A leaflet they passed out to workers read, "With the UAW your jobs may go south for more than the winter!"

This last example suggests the impact of trade agreements on U.S. anti-union activity. As Professor Kate Bronfenbrenner of Cornell University has demonstrated, "plant closing threats and plant closings have become an integral part of employer anti-union campaigns," and that these tactics, combined with others, are "extremely effective" in undermining union organizing efforts. Professor Bronfenbrenner specifically cites NAFTA as facilitating this behavior.

All of this should make us wonder: what does the law do to stop these kind of actions? The answer is virtually nothing. The following quote from Human Rights Watch is illustrative: "An employer determined to get rid of a union activist knows that all that awaits, after years of litigation if the employer persists in appeals, is a reinstatement order the worker is likely to decline and a modest back-pay award. For many employers, it is a small price price to pay to destroy a workers' organizing effort by firing its leaders." If an employer can go so far as to fire worker with near impunity, certainly the law will not be enough to dissuade this employer from other illegal anti-union tactics.

What is needed to end the abuse of these basic human rights in this country is strict enforcement of existing labor law, tougher penalties for labor law violators, the streamlining of

the NLRB investigative process, and restrictions on the ability of companies to shift their operations to avoid unionization. More fundamentally, we as Americans must acknowledge that these rights, the right to organize a union and bargain collectively, are indeed basic human rights, to be protected as vigilantly as are the right to worship freely and the right to free speech. Only when we take these core labor rights as seriously as our other fundamental rights will our workers achieve the respect, dignity, and justice they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED G. FELIU

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Alfred G. Felio on the occasion of his completion of his term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bronx Museum of the Arts, a position he has held since June 1998. He served in that capacity during a challenging time in the history of the Museum, steering it through financial difficulties, leadership changes and staff disruptions into a period of stability and growth. His work on behalf of the Museum has been tireless. While the Museum was undergoing a change in Executive Directors, he virtually assumed management of this institution, working on its behalf more than 20 hours a week. His dedication to the Museum and its success is unrivaled.

Mr. Felio is a partner in his own law firm, Vandenberg, Felio and Peters where he specializes in employment and labor law. He has also served as an employment law mediator and arbitrator on the American Arbitration Association's National Employment Disputes Panel. He is the managing editor of New York Employment Law & Practice, a monthly newsletter published by the New York Law Journal and is the author of several books.

Mr. Felio was born and raised in the Bronx and remains a devoted advocate of the borough. His interest in serving on the Board of the Bronx Museum of the Arts arose out of his desire to give back to his home community, and particularly the children of the Bronx, some of the wonderful opportunities he believes it afforded him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Felio for his work on behalf of the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and indeed on behalf of all of the people of the Bronx. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

HONORING JOSEPH LYNCH UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOUSING

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute not only to an outstanding public servant, but a dear friend, Mr. Joseph B.

Lynch. Next week, friends and co-workers will gather in Albany, NY, to salute Joe's leadership as Commissioner of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, and to extend their fondest wishes as Joe begins his retirement after a long and distinguished career.

Joe first joined DHCR in April of 1995 when he was tapped by Governor George E. Pataki to serve as Deputy Commissioner for Community Development. Successive promotions led to Joe's appointment as Commissioner on February 10, 1999.

A registered architect, graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and veteran of the United States Navy, Joe was former Area Manager of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Buffalo Office and Acting Regional Administrator, where he provided an extensive range of housing and community development programs and administered HUD's operating programs in 48 counties in upstate New York.

Under Joe's leadership, a series of public-private partnerships and innovative initiatives helped revitalize communities across New York state. Joe's previous service and expertise includes serving as President and CEO of the Audubon New Community in Amherst, N.Y., Senior Staff Officer for the New York State Urban Development Corporation in the Western New York area, and Director of Design and Construction for the State University Construction Fund.

Joe has been honored countless times for his professional achievements, and is active in a wide-range of community and professional organizations.

Mr. Speaker. Throughout Joe Lynch's career, he has made a difference not only in our Western New York community and across our state, but in our nation as well. And as he begins his retirement from public service, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting Joe Lynch's career the difference that he has made.

PACIFIC SALMON RECOVERY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1157) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho for salmon habitat restoration projects in coastal waters and upland drainages, and for other purposes:

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to revise my earlier statement during debate on the Hooley amendment to H.R. 1157, the Pacific Salmon Recovery Act. During the debate I erroneously stated the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had ordered a landowner in my district to fill in an illegally dug stream channel. It was the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that told my constituent to fill in the stream channel.

TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK DOUGLASS ACADEMY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to share with you and my colleagues here in the House, an article which appeared in the June 11, 2001 edition of The Washington Times about Frederick Douglass Academy which is located in my 15th Congressional District in central Harlem.

As a graduate of Frederick Douglass Academy, I am most proud of the hard work and commitment of their principal, Gregory Hodge and the teachers who go beyond the call of duty to see that each child leaves there with a good education.

Just recently, I sponsored two Congressional Pages who are students at Frederick Douglass, Charzetta Nixon and Leon Harris, and I am proud to say that they truly represented the best of the Academy and my Congressional District.

I commend this article to my colleagues knowing that with students like those at Frederick Douglass Academy, this nation's future is in good hands.

[From the Washington Times, June 11, 2001]

LOW BUDGET, HIGH ACHIEVERS

STAFF'S COMMITMENT DRIVES A SCHOOL'S SUCCESS IN HARLEM

(By Nate Hentoff)

Most polls indicate that education leads all other concerns among Americans. Parents, whatever they themselves have achieved, or not achieved, want their children to succeed in school and therefore in life. Many parents become desperately disappointed. Yet, in 40 years of writing about schools, I've seen that depression lift as a principal reinvents the wheel and shows how all children can learn.

A current reinventor of the wheel of learning is Gregory Hodge, the principal of the Frederick Douglass Academy in central Harlem, a predominantly black and Hispanic area of New York City.

I was not surprised when I read a story about his school earlier this year in the New York Times because I once wrote a book—"Does Anybody Give a Damn: Nat Hentoff on Education"—about schools in "disadvantaged" neighborhoods that also expected all of their students to learn. And they did learn.

Of the 1,100 students at the Frederick Douglass Academy, a public school, 80 percent are black and 19 percent are Hispanic. Some come from homes far below the poverty line. In a few of those homes, one or both parents are drug addicts. Seventy-two percent of the students are eligible for free lunch.

The dropout rate is 0.3 percent. If a student doesn't show up at a tutoring session, his teacher calls his mother, father or other caregiver. Every student is expected to go to college. As the New York Times reported, "In June of last year, 114 students graduated and 113 attended colleges, some going to Ivy League or comparable schools." The 114th student was accepted by the Naval Academy.

During the Great Depression, I went to a similar public school. All of us were expected to go to college. Most of us were poor. At the