

ected in free and fair elections that were conducted with transparency and guided by the rule of law. On a day that celebrates the freedoms enshrined in our national documents and imbedded in the national character of the United States, we should never forget those brave men and women, like Mr. Domínguez Batista, who languish in hellish gulags because they believe in the same freedoms that we celebrate today.

Mr. Speaker, on this day of commemoration, let us not forget those who yearn to celebrate political and human rights in their own countries. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Alfredo Rodolfo Domínguez Batista and every prisoner of conscience languishing in the dungeons of tyrants.

THE HON. ROSA L. DELAURO OF CONNECTICUT HONORS LOUISE AMATO ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating Louise Amato as she celebrates her retirement after twenty-six dedicated years at Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES). For me, Louise is more than just a dear friend—she is my cousin. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to all of the good work she has done throughout her professional career.

Education is the cornerstone of success and the most critical link between our young people and their futures. Throughout our country, we look to our towns and cities to provide these invaluable skills to our children. ACES is one of six educational service centers that were formed under Connecticut State Statute in 1970. A result of recognizing that school districts must work together to meet the ever changing needs of local education systems, these centers provide an environment where quality programs can be planned, developed and implemented—giving our young people access to the best educational opportunities possible.

The real success behind ACES can be attributed to the unparalleled dedication and commitment of its administration and its staff. I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. In her twenty-six years with ACES, Louise has been just that kind of teacher. She has spent her career working with special needs students to develop the life skills they would need to live and work in the community. She went even further, helping graduating seniors to develop plans for their future after high school, helping others with job placement, bringing students to visit job and community sites, and even taking some to visit colleges.

Louise was always looking for different ways to get her students excited about their futures. She has taken her students to New York City

and one of my fondest memories of my congressional career was when she brought a group of seniors to Washington, DC, where I had the opportunity to meet with them. Her unique approach to helping these young people develop important skills made a real difference in their lives because she opened the doors of opportunity to them. Louise gave a very special gift to all her students—the promise of a meaningful and productive future.

Through her generosity and kindness, Louise has touched the lives of all who know her—though none know more so than her students. In recognition of her many years of outstanding service, I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Gabe; her children, Cheryl, Laurie, and Mark; family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating Louise Amato on the occasion of her retirement. Our thanks and appreciation will never match the gifts of friendship and inspiration she has given to all of those who have had the opportunity to know her.

TRIBUTE TO JOE TILGHMAN, RETIRING REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE OF THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Joe Tilghman has served the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in a senior field leadership position in a career spanning nearly the entire period of enactment of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Mr. Tilghman is retiring on January 3, 2005, after 37 years of distinguished federal service and I welcome this opportunity to publicly pay tribute to this outstanding public servant.

Joe Tilghman assumed leadership of CMS' Kansas City Regional Office in 1994 following nearly fifteen years as the Deputy Regional Administrator. As Regional Administrator, he has been responsible for the federal administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs to approximately 4 million beneficiaries residing in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Prior to joining CMS (then the Health Care Financing Administration) in 1978 he worked in Social and Rehabilitative Services and the Bureau of Health Insurance.

During Mr. Tilghman's tenure as Regional Administrator he led many CMS efforts that impacted the lives of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries nationwide. Of particular note, Mr. Tilghman:

Led CMS' Flu 2000 Campaign from 1993 to 1999. He brought together a coalition including CMS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Coalition for Adult Immunization. This coalition was devoted to reaching the Healthy People 2000 adult immunization goals. During his leadership, influenza immunization of persons age 65 and over increased from 50.4% to 65.5%

and met the Healthy People 2000 goal of 60% three years early in 1997.

Led CMS' Screening Mammography Campaign from 1999 to the present, exceeding Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) targets in each of these years.

Established the CMS field National Medicare Education Program (NMEP) operation, providing the inspiration and garnering financial and human resources support for all regional offices to develop creative education and outreach programs. As a result of his work, effective community coalitions and partnerships among the aging network are in place in all states.

Enforced the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) insurance provisions nationally in all states that are not in substantial compliance.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly commend this selfless and dedicated public servant on the occasion of his retirement. Joe Tilghman embodies the work done so well by millions of American public servants on behalf of our nation on a daily basis, with little hope of public appreciation or appropriate tangible reward. On behalf of the people of Kansas' Third District, I thank Joe Tilghman for his lifetime of public service and wish him well on his well-earned retirement.

EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF WILLIAM SMITH CLOUD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of William Smith Cloud, a constituent and trusted personal friend who passed away January 16, 2005, at the age of 82.

A Galena Park resident since the age of 8, Bill was a positive force in his community for all of his long life. He was a football player for the Fighting Yellow Jackets before his graduation from Galena Park High School in 1941. He then served his country in World War II in the Pacific theater of operations, as a United States Air Force B-29 Bomber turret gunner.

After the war he went to work as a pipefitter, eventually receiving his 50-year commemorative watch from Local 211. He also contributed to the Galena Park community by serving as Co-Captain for the Galena Park Volunteer Fire Department, and as a Commander of the Galena Park American Legion.

As important as these contributions are, none is more important than Bill's devotion to his family, as his wife of 58 years, Robbie Craddock Cloud, and his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren can attest.

His loss will be felt greatly by all of Galena Park, and all those who knew him, and I ask that you remember the Cloud family in your thoughts and prayers.