

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to express my unqualified support for House Resolution 55, reprinted below and of which I am a proud cosponsor, recognizing the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, and in doing so to acknowledge the truly inspiring work of generations and millions of Rotarians over the last century.

Mr. Speaker, can there be a better example of selfless public service than that of Rotary International? From humble beginnings in Chicago in 1905, the world's first service club now claims 1.2 million Rotarians in some 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 countries. And it has found a special home in my own great State of Hawaii, with 41 clubs operating in all four counties, from Hanalei Bay to Hilo Bay.

The secret of Rotary International's success is that it evokes our innermost desire to give back to our worldwide community, as captured in its motto: Service Above Self. Its now famous Four-Way Test—Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?—is a lighthouse not only for its own efforts but for those of all of us.

One hundred years of individual, community, statewide and countrywide projects have solidified Rotary International's reputation and collectively earned it widespread recognition. But no project better exemplifies the spirit, success and potential of Rotary International than PolioPlus, its partnership with the World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to eradicate the scourge of polio from the face of our earth.

Most of us of adult age in our country remember the polio scares and tragedies of decades past, but we do not regard polio as a credible threat to our own children due to widespread immunization and other advances. That is not true universally: polio still exists and strikes randomly, especially in South Asia and Africa.

In 1985, Rotary International undertook a truly breathtaking endeavor: to eliminate polio through universal immunization. And with its partners in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Polio Eradication Initiative—and funding from many governments including \$260 million since 1996 of our own—it has brought polio to its knees: 1988's 350,000 cases internationally are today's couple hundred.

But we all know that the last few steps of any marathon are often the hardest, and so it is with polio. I certainly saw the challenges in my trip last year to Afghanistan—one of just six countries where polio is still endemic—where the challenges in simply reaching some of the most remote and isolated communities in our world are staggering.

Yet with the end so near Rotary International's efforts have been redoubled, and I want to tell you about just one inspiring con-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

tribution: that of Rotarian Bob "Motorcycle Bob" Mutchler and his wife, Patti. For the last seven years Bob, himself a victim of polio, and Patti have undertaken several marathon motorcycle rides across our country and world to highlight PolioPlus and raise funds for polio's endgame.

Bob and Patti recently kicked off their last PolioPlus Ride, the "Centennial Ride", in our Hawaii, aiming to cover all fifty states ending in Alaska this summer. On Tuesday, March 15th, they and local Rotarians and other well-wishers started their engines in my hometown of Hilo and set off on the first leg of their latest adventure, a trip around my Big Island, followed by rides around Maui and Kauai and capped by a journey around Oahu on Saturday, March 26th, which I was honored to start. They're now off riding the Mainland, taking our aloha with them; you can follow their journey at www.polioplusride.org where Patti's keeping a journal.

Bob and Patti Mutchler exemplify the spirit of Rotary International, as did Mike Nelson, President of the Rotary Club of Volcano on the Island of Hawaii. Mike embraced the Mutchlers' efforts and chaired their Centennial Ride in Hawaii. Tragically, he lost his life in an auto accident on February 23rd; the ride was dedicated to him, and we remember him with the deepest appreciation and admiration as representing the true essence of Rotary.

Mr. Speaker, what an incredible century Rotary International has had, epitomizing the very best of our country, our world and our human race. We pause, in House Resolution 55, for a brief moment to recognize and honor Rotary's achievements, but I know that Rotarians everywhere, while appreciating our actions on behalf of all of our citizens, would have us move beyond as soon as possible to the remaining and urgent tasks at hand.

Mahalo, and aloha!

TRIBUTE TO SAUL STERN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Saul Stern who will receive the Project Interchange Am Yisrael Chai Award on May 25, 2005. Saul Stern has worked tirelessly on behalf of Project Interchange to provide American political and civic leaders with a first-hand look at the vibrant democracy of Israel. His efforts have increased the understanding of many American leaders of the special bond shared by the United States and the State of Israel.

Saul has made involvement with international, national and local Jewish and secular communal affairs a lifetime commitment. Over the years, Saul has accompanied many political and military leaders to Israel to help educate them about the complex issues affecting Israel. A passionate supporter of Project Interchange, he believes that the most effective way to help people understand the value of the U.S.-Israeli relationship is by becoming a true eyewitness to life in Israel.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Saul

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Stern for his commitment and dedication to fostering understanding between the United States and Israel.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO SILVA GUAL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Silva Gual, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Silva Gual is a Medical Doctor and member of the Christian Liberation Movement. He believes that the men and women of Cuba deserve freedom, democracy, and basic human rights. Dr. Silva Gual is dedicated to bringing liberty to Cuba and ending the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

Because of his belief in the non-negotiable rights of all people to freedom, democracy and human rights, Dr. Silva Gual was arrested by the dictatorship on March 18, 2003. This heinous arrest was a part of the regime's March 2003, deplorable, island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Dr. Silva Gual was sentenced to 10 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to cubapp.info, while imprisoned in a repugnant dungeon Dr. Silva Gual declared a hunger strike to protest the inhuman treatment of political prisoners in Castro's gulag. It has also been reported that Dr. Silva Gual has been transferred to a maximum security section where the conditions are even harsher.

Dr. Silva Gual, despite being imprisoned, despite facing even more severe maltreatment in the inhuman gulag, continues to advocate for liberty. Dr. Silva Gual is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Silva Gual and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAUL RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Saul Ramirez for his commitment to serving the citizens of Laredo, Texas.

Saul Ramirez began his career as a Laredo City Council Member in 1982. He has held a number of positions in local government, and