

North Texas has seen its fair share of wildfires this year. Always showing their bravery and professionalism, local firefighters have fought back these deadly fires and now, as the call was heeded for assistance to our fellow Texans. Our firefighters selflessly gathered to take swift action in fighting the fires in the west. With adversity clearly in sight, these firefighters went far beyond their call of duty and exemplified the very definition of courage.

The combined efforts of the North Texas fire, rescue and emergency services helped to end the deadly wildfires before they threatened even more homes and families. I am pleased to commend the following departments for their services: Lewisville Fire Department, Lake Cities Fire Department, Little Elm Fire Department, Denton Fire Department, Flower Mound Fire Department, Coppell Fire Department, Carrollton Fire Department, Denton County Fire Marshals Office, Denton County Emergency Services, North Tarrant County Volunteer Fire Department, Hurst Fire Department, and Forrest Hill Fire Department.

It brings me great pride to commend the firefighters of these areas for their care and dedication. May they be an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE RIGHT REVEREND MONSIGNOR SYLVESTER HLADKY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to the Right Reverend Monsignor Sylvester Hladky, a humble lifelong servant of the Catholic Byzantine Church, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, and permanent papal prelate.

Born in 1909 in Brooklyn, NY, Sylvester Hladky knew very early that a life of service was for him. After serving his country for 3 years in the United States Navy, the Monsignor was ordained from Saint Joseph Seminary in Edmonton, AB, Canada in 1936. As a young priest, then-Father Hladky spent his time working in Ukrainian mission churches at Fisher Branch, Poplar Fields, and the Indian reservation areas of Manitoba. Following these assignments, Father Hladky was then assigned to mission churches throughout Ontario, to include Welland, Grimsby, Saint Catharines, Brantford, Kitchener, Thorold, and Niagara Falls. After serving in the Byzantine Ruthenian Eparchy of Pittsburgh, Father Hladky was made the pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Struthers, OH.

Father Hladky came to Warren, OH, in August 1945, where he was the pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church on School Street. The parish grew from 30 to 300 families. After leading a building fund campaign, the parishioners purchased property for the construction of a new church and rectory. On Christmas Day 1950, Father Hladky celebrated the first divine liturgy in the new church.

The father dreamt of a parish school where students would receive an academic edu-

cation, as well as a spiritual one in the Byzantine tradition, and, in 1954, purchased a home to be used as a convent by the Benedictine Sisters who arrived from Lisle, IL, to teach. Construction of a school began, and in 1957, Saints Peter and Paul School opened with 10 classrooms and an auditorium, later adding 16 more classrooms for high school classes.

In 1961, on the 25th anniversary of Father Hladky entering the priesthood, he was appointed dean of the Youngstown Deanery. By 1965, he was named a monsignor, and later, in 1975, he was made a right reverend monsignor. Pope John Paul II named him a permanent papal prelate.

From 1968 to 1996, Monsignor Hladky also served as president of the Greek Catholic Union Tribunal. The monsignor and his parish were instrumental in helping the Benedictine Sisters of the Byzantine Rite to establish an independent monastery in Warren. In 1990, the parish erected a 46-apartment residence near the church for elderly parishioners.

After a short illness, the monsignor passed away on March 7, 2006, at Saint Joseph Health Center in Warren, OH.

In the book of Matthew, chapter 16, verse 18, the Lord said to his disciple, Simon, "and I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not overcome it." Just as Simon was the rock upon which the Christian faith grew and flourished, so was Monsignor Hladky the ever-present and ever-faithful rock upon which our homes, communities, and families grew and also flourished. Mahoning Valley citizens of all faiths pray for Monsignor Hladky and his parish, because this faithful and dutiful servant of God was truly a blessing and we are grateful to have had him touch our valley so.

COMMEMORATING TONY CRAVER FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AS MENDOCINO COUNTY SHERIFF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tony Craver on the occasion of his retirement as Sheriff and for his 34 years of outstanding service to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department.

Tony Craver's accomplishments range from developing outreach programs for needle exchange and related disease prevention to improving criminal justice policies in conjunction with local tribes, the Attorney General's Office of Native American Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sheriff Craver served on the California State Sheriff's Association's committee on Native American affairs. He worked closely with local tribal leaders to help establish tribal police programs and improve tribal criminal justice programs.

Working with patients, care givers, the medical community, and other local authorities, Sheriff Craver established mutually agreeable guidelines and created a departmental statement of policy six years before the state legis-

lature passed a bill on medical marijuana. He developed the first practical and reasonable method of accommodating medical marijuana consumers and providers with minimal police intervention by establishing a photo ID card system with verification capabilities in the State of California.

Sheriff Craver served on the Evaluation and Advisory panel of the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project established by the State of California Department of Health Services Office on AIDS.

In 2005, the California Rifle and Pistol Association named Sheriff Craver as Outstanding Peace Officer of the Year.

In addition to his official duties, Tony Craver was a director of the Fort Bragg Kiwanis Club, and a member of the Mendocino Masonic Lodge, the Pomo Shrine Club, Fort Bragg Shrine Club, Ukiah Gun Club, and the Redwood Practical Shooters.

Born in Sonoma County, Sheriff Craver served until his honorable discharge in both the United States Marine Corps and in the U.S. Army Reserves. He has an Associate of Arts degree in Administration of Justice from Mendocino Community College and a Lifetime Vocational Teaching Credential.

Beloved and respected by the community and his fellow deputies, Sheriff Craver looks forward to retirement and spending more time with his wife Joanne, his four children and four grandchildren. He plans to enjoy the great outdoors and get back into fishing and competitive shooting.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Tony Craver earned the admiration and respect of his peers and left a positive legacy from his years in the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor his 34 years of commitment and service to law enforcement and public service.

TRIBUTE TO EGIDIANA MACCIONI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Egidiana Maccioni on receiving the 2006 President's Medal from Marymount Manhattan College.

In her family's restaurants, Le Cirque and Osterio de Circo, Mrs. Maccioni has worked tirelessly as a chef and hostess, making special memories of great food and lively conversation for a diverse community of New Yorkers. A woman who has quietly pursued her goals as a wife, mother, and businesswoman, Mrs. Maccioni truly embodies the spirit of New York City and is more than worthy of this recognition.

In presenting Egidiana Maccioni with the President's Medal, Marymount Manhattan College continues a long tradition of honoring individuals who have distinguished themselves through service to their professions and communities. I congratulate Mrs. Maccioni on this prestigious honor, the latest among her noteworthy achievements.