Hard Hat Club, American and East Texas Petroleum Landman Association and Texas Independent Royalty Owner's Association. His cattle brand, ''Big 4 Cattle Company,'' was recognized by Texas A&M University on its new agricultural building, the Calhoun Building, in College Station. Bruce gave his strong support to the Henderson County Fair Board, Henderson County Agricultural Board and Southwestern Cattle Raiser's Conventions.

In addition to his many business responsibilities, Bruce devoted countless hours to community service, particularly in the area of education. He was a past board member of Malakoff Independent School District and at the time of his death was a member of the board of trustees of Trinity Valley Community College. He was a contributor to the Henderson County Historical Association and Henderson County Library.

Bruce also was a member of the Lions Club and was a 32nd degree Mason. He supported the Boy Scouts of America, East Texas Medical Center, Henderson County Fairgrounds, and Optimist Club, which honored him with its Friends of Youth award. His service included the boards of many banks and savings and loan associations, and he was a board member of First National Bank of Athens at the time of his death. He was a long-time member of Providence Baptist Church in Tool.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Willie Mae Landrum Smith of Tool; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carolyn Sue and Kenneth Davis, and Janice Ann and Ronnie Brown; two granddaughters, Annsley Carol Brown and Keeley Lauren Brown; three sisters, Betty Rogers of Irving, Lometa Johnson of Tool, and Frances Monroe of Malakoff; and four brothers, Orvil Smith and Ray Smith, both of Tool, Jackie Smith of Tyler, and Pat Smith of Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, I would like to join his family and many friends in paying our last respects to Bruce Smith and in thanking him for his many contributions. His legacy will be felt for generations to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 79, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG

SPEECH OF

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, today we vote on legislation which would create a constitutional amendment that would authorize the Congress and the States to prohibit the physical desecration of the Nation's flag.

There are many dangers presented by this constitutional amendment, particularly to the first amendment right to free speech and free expression. In 1989, the Supreme Court handed down a decision which supported this argument. In effect, the decision reversed 48 State flag protection laws that were already on the books. In response to this decision, Congress passed the Flag Protection Act in 1989 and deleted any reference to an individual's intent in mutilating the flag. However, in 1990, the Supreme Court ruled that the statute was unconstitutional because it infringed on the first amendment right to freedom of speech and freedom of expression. The statute was found to ''suppress[es] expression out of concern for its communicative impact.''

I agree that the burning of the American flag is disrespectful and I am often disgusted and disturbed by this act. I also feel compelled to protect the right of any American to express themselves as they see fit. In a democratic society, we have the enormous and sometimes difficult duty of protecting all forms of speech.

House Joint Resolution 79 seeks to eliminate the already rare incidents of flag burning. From 1777 to 1989, there were only 45 incidents reported. Since the 1989 and 1990 Supreme Court decisions which deemed the flag-desecration statutes unconstitutional, there has been no outbreak of flag burning. In fact, fewer than 10 flag burning incidents have been reported since 1990.

There is no flag burning problem sufficient to justify the radical step of amending the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has been consistent in its rulings that the destruction of the flag is a political statement and political expression, which is exactly the kind of unpopular speech which the first amendment has always sought to protect. For example, in Street v. New York, Sidney Street publicly burned the American flag in protest of the shooting of civil rights activist James Meredith. He was convicted under a New York law which made it illegal to mutilate a flag or to show contempt for it in words or conduct. The Supreme Court overturned the decision and stated that the language was too broad because it punished not only Street's actions but his words as well.

The amendment we debated today was written with such broad strokes that it fails to define desecration and fails to establish which flags or representations of the flag are to be protected. Such open-endedness and vague wording provides Congress and the States with enormous powers to criminalize a broad range of acts which fall short of flag burning or mutilation.

This bill would amend the Bill of Rights and damage the first amendment's protection of freedom of expression.

Prohibiting the right of expression is characteristic of a totalitarian society not a democracy such as ours. We must not erode the right of citizens to express their political opinions no matter how repugnant they may seem to some. There is only one thing more distressing than the desecration of this national symbol and that is the desecration of the principles which it represents. It is certainly a sad day in this country when we invest all of our beliefs into a single symbol and are willing to forgo real constitutional rights for it.

The freedom of expression that is guaranteed to every citizen of the United States carries with it a great responsibility. Any attempts to curb that right must not be taken lightly. If so, our freedom of speech and expression becomes the price for adopting a constitutional amendment.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1868) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Visclosky amendment to maintain the ban on United States foreign aid to Azerbaijan.

I am deeply concerned that lifting this ban will weaken efforts to find a political solution to the Karabagh conflict. While a ceasefire has been in place for over a year now, talks toward settlement have been stalled.

There is simply no reason to threaten a fragile peace and reward Azerbaijan for failing to comply with United States law. Instead, Congress must stand by the principles of the Freedom Support Act it adopted in 1992. We must support a peace settlement of the current conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, without weakening the tough stand we took 3 years ago.

I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.