

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor, along with the Jewish National Fund, James A. Lebenthal, whose enduring belief in the possibilities of revitalization have led to three decades of tangible contribution to this Nation's public works and infrastructure. I ask my colleagues to join with me in this tribute to James Lebenthal for his many years of work in public interest.

### HONORING THE COLLEGE GROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the College Grove Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

KOSOVA: A NATION IN PERIL,  
PRIME MINISTER BUJAR  
BUKOSHI'S REMARKS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, the grave situation that exists in the Republic of Kosovo. In this tenuous post-Dayton agreement environment, the United States cannot idly stand by and wait for this volatile situation to reach a crisis point. We must press for a moral and equitable resolution to the Kosovo question. I urge everyone in this Chamber to read this speech by Dr. Bukoshi; his scholarly point of view and first-hand knowledge present the Kosovo issue in a succinct and edifying way. The speech reads as follows:

### IGNORING THE LESSONS OF HISTORY IN THE BALKANS

(By Dr. Bujar Bukoshi)

In the aftermath of the Dayton Accords, there remains significant unfinished business to be handled by the international community. Among this unfinished business is the Kosovo crisis.

Dayton recognized this reality. In fact, the document was quite specific with respect to conditions that must be met by Serbia-Montenegro before the so-called "Outer Wall" of diplomatic, political and financial sanctions against the Slobodan Milosevic regime would be lifted.

Regrettably, recent events confirm that some European countries who signed the Accords have violated them by prematurely extending diplomatic recognition to Serbia-Montenegro. In doing so, Europe is setting the stage for a new conflict.

It should also be noted that with respect to implementing the Dayton Accords in Bosnia, the so-called "Republika Srpska" has been extended de facto recognition, as NATO in many instances has adopted what some have described as a "can't do" attitude toward implementation that has allowed "Republika Srpska" to escape many provisions of the Accords.

In effect, the indicted war criminals [Radovan] Karadzic and [Ratko] Mladic have won virtual statehood for "Republika Srpska." They have received something where there was nothing.

In contrast with this is Kosovo, which was recognized as one of the eight political units of former Yugoslavia with the rights and responsibilities accorded by that status. How can the world expect Kosovo, which had a distinct and existing statehood, to now have nothing?

In Bosnia, and now by extending diplomatic recognition to the forces of evil in Belgrade, some European countries have exhibited a moral bankruptcy that should shock those who are committed to peace, human rights, fairness, and justice.

Albanians in Kosovo take such action as an insult that will lead nowhere. By extending the mantle of diplomatic recognition at the present time and under the present geographic shape, the situation will lead to new crisis.

Recognition will never defuse the situation. To the contrary, it sends a very bad message to the Albanians who, for seven long years, have endured the apartheid imposed by the Milosevic regime.

The message is simply this: Those who exhibit anti-social behavior, who practice ethnic cleansing and perpetrate the worst crimes against humanity since World War II will be rewarded. Those who have fought oppression, who have stood for freedom and democracy, who have resisted peacefully, will be punished. In a cynical view of the situation, some European countries seem intent on rewarding evil and punishing good.

Although some European leaders have capitulated to the sinister forces in Belgrade, the U.S. has—up until now—maintained constant, consistent and committed. And we hope it will continue to do so.

In my meeting with high-level State Department officials Monday, they reiterated that the U.S. is not prepared to recognize Belgrade, and that the "Outer Wall" sanctions will remain in place.

They reaffirmed strong U.S. support for the non-violent approach of the Kosovo leadership in dealing with Serbian repression in Kosovo. They affirmed that the Kosovo issue is very high on the agenda and reconfirmed their desire to be helpful in finding a peaceful solution. They said the U.S. would continue to work with its allies in pursuit of such a solution.

The U.S. position reflects an understanding of the lessons of the past in the Balkans. Let us remember that in World War I and World War II it was America that finally entered the conflict and brought an end to the fighting.

Throughout the four decades of the Cold War, it was the U.S. through its leadership of NATO that insured the peace and the collapse of Communism. In Bosnia, the protracted conflict continued until America took the initiative, brought the aggressor together with the victims, and hammered out the Dayton Accords.

We believe that U.S. leaders are looking at Kosovo as an opportunity for American leadership to be exerted before there is a slaughter. This pro-active strategy would work, provided America maintained the fortitude to finish the job.

As we move ahead in this post-Dayton period, the international community would be well advised to recognize the new realities and to remember the lessons of history.

Kosovo is a state, and its political future must be determined by its 2.2 million people. Serbia-Montenegro is a pariah outcast. Evil must not be rewarded. You don't make the criminal the policeman. Serbia cannot and should not be granted mini-super power status.

If Serbia strengthens its alliance with a new Russian coalition, the so-called "USSR-II," that may result from the June elections in Russia, a new Cold War may emerge, and the very Serbia that some Europeans rush to recognize today will become an enemy again, only this time more brutal, more sinister and more potent.

Serbia wants to have it both ways: To become militarily strong through arms from Russia, and to become economically powerful through ties to the West. It cannot have it both ways.

Baroness Margaret Thatcher said it best last August in Aspen, Colorado: "So what does history teach us? To me the most significant lesson is: Never appease an aggressor. If we do, he will only grow stronger and more confident, and to secure his ultimate defeat will require greater effort and greater sacrifice."

The lessons of history are clear. Those who fail to learn from mistakes of history are bound to repeat them. For our part, the Albanians of Kosovo would like to continue to peacefully pursue freedom, justice and democracy. This is our hope. This is our intention.

### 1996 TRIBUTE TO SENIOR GLEANERS OF NORTH HIGHLANDS

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Senior Gleaners, Inc. of North Highlands on 20 exceptional years of service to the community.

Senior Gleaners is a nonprofit, totally volunteer organization which was organized in 1976 by 37 senior citizens concerned about local hunger issues. It began in a volunteer's home and now operates from a 4.5 acre facility leased from the city of Sacramento. Over the last 20 years, Senior Gleaners has continued to operate with a staff consisting solely of volunteer senior citizens providing food and labor to over 145 charitable organizations in northern California.

Over 2,000 volunteers annually contribute almost 50,000 hours collecting fruits and vegetables from orchards and farms, salvaging