

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S REMARKS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF BURMA'S MILITARY COUP

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago, here on Capitol Hill, our outstanding Secretary of State, Madeleine K. Albright, and the National Endowment for Democracy, joined by a number of Members of Congress marked the 10th anniversary of the election victory of Burma's National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi in free Burmese elections in May 1990. Shortly after that democratic victory, the Burmese military annulled the results of the election and seized power in a military coup.

After the military crackdown against the victors of the democratic election, supporters of the National League for Democracy were arrested and many were forced to flee their homeland. Aung San Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest, and has been harassed and intimidated by the vicious and brutal military dictatorship. In appropriate recognition of her peaceful struggle for democratic change in Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. The continued military harassment of Ms. Suu Kyi was so intense and bitter that she refused to leave Burma last year when she learned that her husband was dying of cancer in the United Kingdom. It was clear that the military junta would not permit her to return to Burma if she had left.

Aung San Suu Kyi was able to speak to the gathering only via a videotaped message, but she expressed thanks to the United States and other countries for "supporting us in our endeavor to have the results of the 1990 elections recognized at this time, when the military regime are trying hard to pretend that the results of the elections are no longer valid."

Mr. Speaker, in marking this important Burmese anniversary last week, Secretary Albright delivered an impassioned message of support for Aung San Suu Kyi and the Burmese patriots of the National League for Democracy. Secretary Albright said: "We renew our commitment to Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy. As long as you struggle, we will do all we can to assist. And we know that you will not stop struggling until you prevail."

Mr. Speaker, that spirit truly pervades the position of the Administration, the Congress, and the American people toward the repressive regime in Burma and toward the heroine, Aung San Suu Kyi, who has the courage and integrity to stand up against that vicious anti-democratic military junta. In her outstanding speech, Secretary Albright strongly reaffirmed the American commitment to the people of Burma. Mr. Speaker, I ask that Secretary Albright's entire speech be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give serious attention to her thoughtful remarks.

REMARKS AT NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright  
SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Thank you very much, Carl, and I am truly pleased to be here today for this event, and I am very pleased to be here with my good friend, Ambassador Vondra, Ambassador Jayanama, and the members of Congress who just left.

But I'm very glad they were here. Congressman Pelosi and Congressman Kucinich, Congressman Lantos and Congressmen Payne and Porter. And they have really been wonderful supporters of democracy and I'm always very pleased to be able to work with them. And there are so many other distinguished colleagues, guests and friends who are here.

The National Endowment for Democracy is one of my favorite institutions. And I think Carl explained why. It has pioneered the use of our own civil society to work with supporters of democracy from other countries and cultures. It's had extraordinary success in helping democracy-builders learn from each other by sharing experiences across national lines. And by so doing has helped to give global impetus to the movement to democracy.

The Open Society Institute and the Institute for Asian Democracy provide further evidence that the desire to choose one's own leaders freely and without fear is indeed a universal human aspiration. It is also a universal human right.

Today, we assemble to mark the tenth anniversary of the last time that right was exercised by the people of Burma, and to pay tribute to the overwhelming winner of those elections, the National League for Democracy, and to its leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

As many of you know, Aung San Suu Kyi is the daughter of the late Aung San, the hero of Burmese independence. She was educated abroad, but in 1988, returned to Burma. This was a period of turbulence, but after years of military rule, a democratic opening did, in fact, seem possible.

Although reluctant at first, Aung San Suu Kyi began to speak out with fearless eloquence, and to electrifying effect. As a result, the 1990 elections were a rout. The NLD won more than 80% of the Parliamentary seats contested.

But instead of respecting the people's voice, the military tried to silence it. The authorities consolidated their own powers, threw dozens of elected representatives in jail, and drove others into exile. Aung San Suu Kyi, herself, spent more than five years under house arrest.

Some time ago, when I was serving as US Permanent Representative to the UN, I traveled to Burma. I met with General Khin Nyunt, head of the military intelligence. We didn't get along very well.

According to the General, the authorities are saving Burma from chaos by imposing stability upon an ethnically diverse population. Thus, he said, the government is not only respected by the Burmese, but loved. "After all", he said, "our people smile all the time."

I replied that, under repressive regimes, people may smile, but they do so out of fear, not happiness. And no true nation can be built on fear.

This is also Aung San Suu Kyi's core message. She has written that it is "not power

that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it."

As Carl mentioned, I did meet Aung San Suu Kyi in 1995. I went to Rangoon immediately after the Women's Conference in Beijing. And she and I, I must say, hit it off immediately. She is a remarkable woman of fragile beauty and inner strength, and I admire her more than almost anyone that I have met.

People often ask me about the symbolism of my jewelry. Well, today here the freedom light and here is a necklace that Aung San Suu Kyi gave me. And if in any way she would know that, I would be very pleased. She is a wonderful person who has kept the spirit alive.

She is using the tenth anniversary of elections to renew her call for a dialogue aimed at returning her country to democracy. The authorities have responded with a new wave of arrests and slanders. In a sense, the battle of wills between Aung San Suu Kyi and the government is grossly unequal. The military has all the weapons of coercion.

So each time Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to her supporters in Burma, she is vulnerable. Each time she expresses outrage about the lack of opportunities available to Burmese children, or the decline in education, the spread of disease, the loss of freedom—she is vulnerable. And each time she records a videotape of the type we just watched, she is vulnerable. Always, she is vulnerable.

We, here in the United States, cannot change that. But we can ensure that Aung San Suu Kyi and her Burmese allies are never alone, for their bravery and sacrifice are part of a larger struggle that has engaged the energies and courage of humankind for generations.

After all, Gandhi was vulnerable when he told a Court in colonial India that "non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as cooperation with good." In fighting apartheid, Mandela was vulnerable. In defending Jewish emigration, Shcharansky was vulnerable. In asserting her rights, Rosa Parks was vulnerable.

The struggle for freedom is never easy and never over. Progress depends on courageous leaders such as Aung San Suu Kyi, and on those willing to undergo hardships and grave risks such as the members of the NLD. It also depends on us.

Vaclav Havel, who endorsed Aung San Suu Kyi for the Nobel Prize, has told me many times how important it was for those struggling to bring freedom to Central and Eastern Europe to know they had friends around the globe.

Last year, the National Endowment helped bring together the World Movement for Democracy in New Delhi. Next month, the United States will participate in a Community of Democracies conference in Warsaw. And our purpose is to see that the democratic tide remains a rising tide around the world, by helping those who have gained freedom to sustain it, and by expressing solidarity with the efforts of those who seek freedom to secure it.

Today, we renew our call to the authorities in Rangoon to abide by the democratic wishes of their people; and to free political prisoners, end torture, fight narcotics production, and halt forced labor.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

We renew our commitment to Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League of Democracy. As long as you struggle, we will do all we can to assist. And we know that you will not stop struggling until you prevail.

The yearning for freedom is relentless. The walls it cannot overwhelm, it will nevertheless erode. And I am confident the day will come when Burma is free. And Aung San Suu Kyi's democratic dream will become a reality through the inspiration of his daughter, the bravery of the Burmese people, and the support of those who love liberty around the world.

I thank you all very much for participating in this event because I think that for Aung San Suu Kyi to know that there are people all over that support her must be a source of strength to her. She a truly remarkable woman, and we owe her a great deal.

Thank you very much.

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COLORADO STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
MARCY MORRISON

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**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, State Representative Marcy Morrison. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Morrison's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1992, a seat she would hold to present time, she served on the Health and Judiciary Committees. She sponsored the Post Delivery Care for Stays in Hospitals and immunization for more Colorado children. Marcy has also been very active on the health care issues for seniors, the disabled, and child care.

Representative Morrison received many honors. She received the Women of Spirit Award from the Colorado Counseling Association, as well as, the Outstanding School Board Member award-Gates Scholarship from the Kennedy School. Marcy has also received awards from the Colorado Obstetrics & Gynecology Society, the Pediatric Society and the Colorado Planners Association.

This year marked the end of Representative Morrison's tenure in elected office. Her career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Morrison a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

1999-2000 GED GRADUATES—COOSA  
VALLEY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE  
ROME, GA

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the first graduate equivalency diploma (GED) tests were developed in 1942 to help returning World War II veterans finish their studies and re-enter civilian life. Then, as now, the GED tests measure the academic skills and knowledge expected of high school graduates in the United States. The GED program has served as a bridge to education and employment for an estimated 13 million people over its 58-year history. Approximately one in seven high school diplomas issued in the United States is based on passing the GED tests, and 68 percent of GED test-takers plan to enter a college, university, trade, technical, or business school in the very next year. During the past 10 years, the number of adults taking special editions of the GED tests (audio cassette and braille) more than doubled.

Today I salute the 1999-2000 GED graduates of Coosa Valley Technical Institute in Rome, GA. Coosa Valley Tech is an official GED testing center, under contract with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education and the American Council on Education. Adults who are 18 years of age and officially withdrawn from school are eligible for testing. Those who pass the GED are awarded the General Educational Development Diploma, and, in Georgia, most are eligible for a \$500 HOPE voucher from the State of Georgia to defray costs of continuing education at eligible schools.

The environment of the school is designed to give special attention to adults returning to school to resume educational programs which were interrupted in earlier years. These adults may be refreshing their basic skills to re-enter the job market after a layoff; preparing for the GED tests to qualify for a job or educational program which requires a high school diploma to enter; or working toward a personal educational goal which they have set for themselves. More than 95 percent of employers in the United States consider GED graduates the same as traditional high school graduates when making hiring, salary, and promotion decisions.

Nationwide, statistics indicate more than 800,000 adults take the GED tests each year. Those who obtain scores high enough to earn a GED diploma outperform at least one-third of today's high school seniors.

Some prominent GED graduates include: actor Bill Cosby; Wendy's founder, Dave Thomas; and U.S. Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL (R-CO).

Not only have adults who obtain their GED worked diligently to reach their educational goal, many did so while holding down full time jobs. Many are mothers or fathers who must care for the needs of their children. Most certainly, they are to be congratulated for their diligence and hard work in achieving their goals. It is hoped each of them will continue to succeed in future endeavors, and statistics indicate that will likely be the case.

It is my honor to place this recognition of the 1999-2000 GED graduates of Coosa Valley Technical Institute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the 106th Congress of the United States of America.

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HONORING LOCAL LEGACIES  
PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Local Legacies project that has served as the focal point of this year's Library of Congress Bicentennial celebration. Last year, each Member of Congress was asked to submit audio, visual, or textual documentation for at least one significant cultural heritage that has been important to his or her district, serving as a record for future generations. This documentation will be permanently housed in the collections of the Library's American Folklife Center. This evening, Members of Congress and Local Legacies project participants from across the country will gather in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building to celebrate the completion of this magnificent collection of historical material.

I am proud to have participated in the Local Legacies project and personally thank volunteers Kathy Kuhn and Eileen Schwarz-Duty, who deserve an enormous amount of credit for gathering and compiling the Local Legacies project for the Third District of Michigan. Kathy and Eileen coordinated the massive effort of documenting The Festival of the Arts: The Nation's Largest All-Volunteer Arts Festival. This Festival is a three-day celebration of the arts held the first full weekend of June in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. The first festival was held in 1970 and has grown considerably over the years. In 1998, 20,000 volunteers helped showcase the work of several thousand artists, dancers, musicians, poets, and other performers. Festival is also known for its wide variety of food booths set up by non-profit organizations that highlight various ethnic themes and culinary specialties. Festival hats, water bottles, beanie babies, posters, programs, pins, and a video are just a few of the many items that were submitted on behalf of the Third District. Because of the passion these two individuals have for Festival, the Library of Congress has received the best possible representation to what our major West Michigan event is all about.

I encourage everyone to take a moment to explore the Local Legacies materials that have been submitted for inclusion in the Library's collection. All information regarding Local Legacies, including a complete project listing, can be accessed through the Library's Bicentennial Web site at: <http://www.loc.gov/bicentennial>.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to applaud the efforts of volunteers from across the country who have helped in the bicentennial celebration of America's oldest federal cultural institution, the Library of Congress. Thanks to their work and care in preserving the past, the cultural heritage of our nation will be preserved.

OPENING OF THE POLISH CENTER  
OF DISCOVERY AND LEARNING  
AT ELMS COLLEGE IN CHICOPEE,  
MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to take a few minutes to recognize a significant event in my district that will both recognize and honor the impact the Polish American culture has made upon western Massachusetts.

On Saturday, June 3rd, the Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts will open a new Polish Center of Discovery and Learning. This new center will address a need in the community that is not currently being met by other area academic research centers and cultural associations. The Polish Center will provide support materials for local schools and educational institutions to encourage and assist people in western Massachusetts and from throughout New England to learn about and discover Poland.

The Polish Center will develop a permanent exhibit of historical and cultural materials which will be housed in an inviting community meeting space. The mission of the center will be to offer a variety of workshops, exhibits, concerts, conferences, films, plays and lectures. All of this will be done in an effort to make known the achievements of Americans of Polish descent and others whose relationships with the ethnic Polish culture has contributed to the economy, the arts and the sciences in New England.

The resources at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning will include a library collection of English language materials for undergraduate students and the general public on topics of Polish history and culture. The Center will also include a database of historical and statistical information with a concentration on Poles in the United States. Historical and cultural artifacts, as well as support materials and bibliographies will be available.

What is most special about the Center, however, is that it will draw upon the collective experiences of people of Polish origin who live within the western Massachusetts area. Programming will be available for adults, children and college students, and traditional Polish customs and traditions will be passed down through the generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent such as interesting and unique Center dedicated to learning and sharing the Polish American culture that thrives in my area. I look forward to working closely with the directors of this Center, and to participating in the many exciting programs and events that are to come in the future.

Congratulations to Elms College for establishing the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning.

COLORADO STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE, DEBBIE ALLEN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading ladies, State Representative Debbie Allen. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Allen's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House in 1992, a seat she would hold until present. Representative Allen rose quickly to positions of great importance within the House. Debbie served as the chairman of the Education Committee. Some of her key issues have been crime, law enforcement and educational reform. Debbie is also a Republican activist, serving as the President of the Aurora Republican forum.

Representative Allen also received many honors. She received the Top Metro Legislator award, Friend of Agriculture award, CU Alumni Legislative Award, and the Junior League Champion for Small Children Award. Debbie also received the 5 year award for a 4-H leather instructor.

2000 marked the end of Representative Allen's tenure in the State House of Representatives. Her career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Allen a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

**HONORING WOMEN WHO HAVE  
SERVED, FOUGHT AND DIED FOR  
FREEDOM**

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, from our nation's beginning to the present, women have answered the call to duty without hesitation. Like their male counterparts, they put their lives, their goals, and their dreams on hold to serve their nation.

Women's participation in the military dates back as early as the Revolutionary War when in June of 1778 at Monmouth Courthouse a woman came to the aid of General George Washington and his weary troops. Moving across the battlefield binding wounds and dispensing water, this woman, who became known as "Molly Pitcher", noticed that one of the gun positions had ceased firing. She quickly put down her water pitcher, took over the gun position and fired her cannon. She stayed at her station until relieved by artillerymen. Historians recorded her deeds and actions and while her true identity is not known, "Molly Pitcher" is representative of the women who served with the Continental Army in our country's fight for independence.

During World War I women served as nurses in the armed forces. By the end of the

war, 34,000 women had served in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, the Marines, and the Coast Guard. These women served with honor not only on American soil, but overseas as well. Three Army nurses received the Distinguished Service Cross, a combat medal second only to the Medal of Honor. Twenty-three received the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest non-combat award. Many received foreign medals and some 38 women made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation and were buried overseas in U.S. cemeteries.

World War II ushered in a new era of service for women in the military. In 1942 laws were passed establishing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Navy Women's Reserve, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. With the signing of the Integration Act of 1948, women were given permanent, legal status as enlisted personnel. By the end of the war, roughly 350,000 had served in the armed forces in virtually every occupation outside of direct combat. These women all had two things in common—they had all volunteered and they had a desire to serve their nation.

The record of women's service to the Armed Forces does not stop with these early wars. Some 265,000 women served during the Vietnam Era and approximately 35,000 women served during the Persian Gulf War. There can be little doubt that these brave women performed a valuable role in service to our nation. Historical documents are full of testimonials attesting to the excellence of women's service, disciplined character and overall positive effects on the armed services. The brave women who served and continue to serve this nation deserve our respect and gratitude.

None of us who have served in our country's armed forces will ever doubt the importance of the service of women in the military. Accounting for an increasing percentage of those in uniform today, women now hold positions of leadership and achievement few would have predicted, even as recently as World War II.

Today a special observance will be held to honor the women who have served in the Armed Forces. Fittingly, this observance will be held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. This will be the third annual observance, honoring women who have served admirably in our armed services, some whom have made the ultimate sacrifice so that Americans may enjoy the liberty and freedom we too often take for granted.

Dedicated on October 18, 1997, the Women's Memorial is an inspiring monument that honors and illustrates America's service-women throughout history. Sited at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, it is the nation's only major national memorial honoring women who have served in uniform in and between our Nation's wars.

I join with many of my colleagues today in saluting the women who have proudly and honorably served in our Nation's military. The debt which we owe them is great and it is most appropriate to pause today to pay them tribute for their individual and collective contributions to our Nation.

## REFORM IN IRAN

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Secretary Madeleine K. Albright for articulating the United States' willingness to engage Iran after Majlis (parliamentary) victories for Iranian reformers. Her effort to expand cultural and economic ties with Iran is wise and appropriate. While I do not condone the egregious violations of human rights and international law that routinely take place in Iran, we must make it clear to reformers there that the U.S. is eager to reciprocate moves toward a friendlier relationship.

Through the election of Mohammad Khatemi and his pro-reform allies in the Iranian parliament, the Iranian people have expressed a desire to moderate their nation's conservative Islamic government. Ali Khamene'i and Iran's other religious leaders, who hold ultimate control over virtually all Iranian policy, have, for the most part, allowed Iran's new elected leadership to take their places in the Majlis. However, the Washington Post recently reported that the Council of Guardians has overturned several electoral victories for reformers at the provincial level, in addition to manipulating Iran's electoral institutions to favor conservatives in parliamentary runoffs. I believe that while the electoral victories represent an important victory for democracy in Iran, the tenuousness of those victories highlights the degree to which Iran's major institutions are still controlled by a handful of oligarchs. There is much work to be done on these issues.

I would also like to recognize the work of Iranian-American citizens who have worked hard to open up economic ties between the U.S. and Iran. I hope that the lifting of luxury imports and increase in travel visas that Secretary Albright announced in her speech will create some improvement in the quality of life for ordinary Iranians. Further, I hope that improvements in Iran's economy will amplify the cries for democracy.

Once again, I want to reiterate my support for Secretary Albright's attempt to engage and bolster Iranian reformers.

**TRIBUTE TO LOUIS W. FOX ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD**

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincerest congratulations to Louis W. Fox Academic and Technical High School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional

community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Fox Tech High School is among eight schools in San Antonio and 198 schools nationally, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for America Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Fox Tech High School will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

**THE HONORABLE GARY  
McPHERSON**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, Colorado Representative, Gary McPherson. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative McPherson's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House of Representatives in 1992, he served on the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees. He dealt with legislation regarding minors and smoking. He has also worked very aggressively on education, crime and welfare reform. Gary was also the vice chairman and the board member of the Arapahoe County Recreation District.

Representative McPherson received many honors. He was named CACI Legislator of the Year and received the Aurora Public Schools' Superintendents' award.

2000 marked the end of Representative McPherson's tenure in the State House of Representatives. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative McPherson a debt of gratitude and I wish him well.

**REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR DAVID  
IVRY AT THE DAYS OF REMEM-  
BRANCE COMMEMORATION**

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 4, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials and hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the Days of Remembrance in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. The theme of this year's commemoration was "The Holocaust and the New Century: The Imperative to Remember."

After more than half a century, Mr. Speaker, we must still commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust in order to honor the memory of those victims of Hitler's twisted tyranny. At the same time, we must mark this catastrophe because mankind still has not learned the lessons of this horror, as evidenced most recently by the mass killings in Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, David Ivry, Israeli Ambassador to the United States delivered a moving address at this year's Day of Remembrance ceremony. I ask that Ambassador Ivry's remarks at the Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Capitol be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give them thoughtful consideration.

David Ivry was appointed Israeli Ambassador to the United States in January 2000. From 1977 to 1982, he held the rank of Major General and Commander of the Israel Air Force. Ambassador Ivry is a graduate of Technion University, where he earned a Bachelors of Science in Aeronautical Engineering. He has held many governmental posts, most recently serving as Israel's National Security Advisor and Head of the National Security Council. He and his wife Ofra have three children and two grandchildren.

**REMARKS OF DAVID IVRY, ISRAELI  
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES**

His Excellency, Goran Persson Prime, Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Chairman, honored Members of Congress, diplomatic colleagues and friends: "Yizkor—remember." The act of remembering has always been a basic principle for the Jewish people. In order to remember, the Jewish people have a traditional prayer called the Yizkor, which is recited around the world today. The word Yizkor is in the future tense. It teaches us that the act of remembering the past goes beyond the present and pushes humankind into the future.

My father left Czechoslovakia when Hitler came to power. He reached Israel in 1934 and that is where I was born. Our house contains an album with photos of many members of my family who perished in the Shoah. Few understood the danger. Few believed that such a tragedy could take place. Few imagined that the human mind could conceive such a twisted path. Even today it is difficult to understand. There were brave individuals who provided shelter to Jews. My father's sister was given shelter and hidden by a Christian family in Bratislava, and at the end of the war she made Aliya to Israel. We must also remember those who extended a hand while endangering themselves.

Ladies and gentlemen, in my career as an Air Force pilot, I was given the privilege to view the world from thirty thousand feet and

above. From that altitude, armed with the responsibility and collective memory of our people's history, one can see the past, present and future. We were given the opportunity to engage and destroy the immediate threats that faced the Jewish nation. And we committed ourselves to diminish the threats to future generations.

However, the dangers to humanity are not always military in nature. They are also found in the realm of ideas: in the promotion of evil, in the active denial of evil, or even in the refusal to see evil. The United States played an important role in the founding of the State of Israel, as a shelter for the Jewish people. The commandment "To Remember" is also a commandment to remember the positive, and so we will. The Jewish People remember the American role. The Jewish People see the United States as a symbol and example of moral principle and justice. We pray that this superpower will continue to lead the world so that tragedies such as the Shoah will never be repeated in the 21st century.

### COMBATING FRAUD AND ABUSE IN THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to combat fraud and abuse in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Since 1975, when the Child and Adult Care Food Program became a separate program under the National School Lunch Act, it has provided nutritious meals and snacks to children in day care facilities and family day care homes. It operates in 37,000 day care centers and 175,000 day care homes.

Unfortunately, in recent years there have been reports of widespread fraud and abuse and deficient management practices in the program. This has meant that the full value of nutrition benefits the program delivers has been denied to many participating children. Sadly, funds that could be better used to serve children have ended up in the hands of unscrupulous program sponsors and care providers.

Hopefully, this bill puts an end to this practice. We owe it to the approximately 2.7 million children participating in this program to end the fraud, abuse, and mismanagement that is depriving them of the nutritious meals.

In August, 1999, the Office of the Inspector General (IG) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a report outlining fraud and abuse in the Child and Adult Care Food program. This report, "Presidential Initiative: Operation Kiddie Care," found that the program was highly vulnerable to abuse because most of the controls for combating fraud were vested in CACFP sponsors without any federal or state oversight. The IG found that some sponsors were using program funds for personal use and depleting the funds available to provide an effective food service program to children in day care.

Three months later (November, 1999) the General Accounting Office (GAO) issued their report, entitled, "Food Assistance: Efforts to Control Fraud and Abuse in the Child and Adult Care Food Program Should Be Strength-

ened." The GAO report found that the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) had not effectively directed the states' efforts to protect against fraud and abuse. According to the GAO, state agencies claimed that a lack of resources, inadequate training in the identification of fraud and abuse, and unclear regulations on the removal of noncompliant sponsors were among the reasons why they could not strengthen the amount of control over the fraud and abuse.

To address the issues raised in these two reports, I have worked with the Early Childhood, Youth, and Families Subcommittee Chairman, Congressman MIKE CASTLE, and his Ranking Member, Congressman DALE KILDEE, the nutrition community, and the Department of Agriculture to develop a proposal that will address many of the concerns raised by the IG, the GAO, and the nutrition community. The legislation outlined below will go a long way toward ending fraud and abuse in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Key provisions of this proposal would:

Require USDA to develop a plan for ongoing periodic training of state and sponsor staff on the identification of fraud and abuse in order to ensure that current and new employees can assist in efforts to prevent fraud and abuse.

Require a minimum number of unannounced and scheduled site visits. These visits would be in addition to site visits to program sponsors and providers with a bad record or where there is a suspicion of fraud and abuse.

Permit the secretary to withhold, in whole or in part, state administrative funds in instances where states have not met their responsibilities for oversight and training for sponsors and providers.

Provide notification to parents that their children are enrolled in a child care center or group or family day care home participating in the CACFP Program. This provision will allow parents to take action if they suspect fraud and abuse and to understand the benefits their children should receive under CACFP.

Bar the recovery of funds lost due to fraud and abuse from food dollars which benefit participating children.

Make it clear that sponsors applying for participation in CACFP must meet specific qualifications and will not automatically approved. Require the development of detailed criteria for approving new sponsors and for renewing sponsors which would include factors such as whether or not they are capable of performing the job, have appropriate business experience and adequate management plans, and whether or not there is a need for an additional sponsor in a specific area.

Limit administrative costs for sponsors of day care centers to 15 percent of the funds they disburse to decrease the potential for abuse.

Require USDA, working with states and sponsors, to develop a list of allowable administrative costs for sponsors of family day care homes and child care centers.

Require the Department of Agriculture to establish minimum standards regarding the number of monitors sponsors should employ to ensure there are sufficient monitors to visit providers and detect fraud and abuse.

Require state agencies that administer CACFP to deny approval of institutions determined to have been terminated with cause or that lost their license to operate any federally funded program.

Limit the ability of day care homes to change sponsoring organizations to once a year unless they can demonstrate they are transferring for good cause.

Require the return and reallocation of non-obligatory CACFP audit funds to the secretary for reallocation to other states with a demonstrated need for additional audit dollars.

Require sponsors to have in effect a policy that restricts other employment by employees that interferes with their responsibilities and duties with respect to CACFP.

Require the secretary to develop procedures for terminating sponsors for unlawful conduct and failure to meet their agreements with the state.

Provide for the immediate suspension of sponsors and providers in cases where there is a health or safety threat to participating children.

Finally, it appears that this bill will result in a small amount of savings in mandatory spending. It is my intention to work closely with Congressman KILDEE and others to ensure that these resources are used in a responsible way. In particular, we should explore ways to use these savings to improve the health and maintenance of those served by federal nutrition programs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman CASTLE, Congressman KILDEE, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the nutrition community for working with me to develop this proposal. We created the Child and Adult Care Food Program to benefit children, not line the pockets of unprincipled sponsors and providers. I believe the bill we are introducing today will ensure that the program works the way it was originally intended. Most importantly, it will give the states and the Department of Agriculture the tools they need to attain the goals set for the program. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to put an end to the waste, fraud, and abuse that has plagued this program.

### THE RETIREMENT OF WAYNE SHACKELFORD, COMMISSIONER, GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne Shackelford, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation, for the dedication and commitment he has made to the people of Georgia, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Shackelford became Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation on November 1, 1991. He has been active in both regional and national transportation policy development since becoming Commissioner. He continues to serve on many state, regional, and national transportation committees, and has also earned many national and state awards.

As Commissioner, Mr. Shackelford administers an annual budget of \$1.4 billion and manages approximately 5,900 employees statewide. He successfully provided the mobility that gave the world the opportunity to travel the state before, during and after, the 1996

Summer Olympic Games. He is a man of vision; whose integrity, responsiveness, and hard work are legendary.

Wayne and his wife, Anne, have three grown children, and reside in Snellville, Georgia. They attend the First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville, where he has served as a Deacon. Wayne will bring an end to this phase of an outstanding public carrier, when he retires on May 31, 2000. I congratulate Wayne, and wish him and his family the very best. The state of Georgia, and all who travel within its borders, are in his debt.

HONORING SHARON CHRISTA  
MCAULIFFE JUNIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincerest congratulations to Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior High is among eight schools in San Antonio and 198 schools nationally, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for America Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior High will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

COLORADO STATE HOUSE  
REPRESENTATIVE RON MAY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, State Rep-

resentative Ron May. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative May's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1992, a seat he would hold to the present time, he sponsored many bills on workers' compensation, unemployment, insurance, highway speed limits, right-to-work legislation and information systems. He works diligently to bring his colleagues up to speed on a whole range of technological issues.

Representative May received many honors. In 1996 he received the National Right to Work Legislator of the Year award, the NFIB Guardian of Small Business award in 1994 and the CACI Business Legislator of the Year award.

2000 marked the end of Representative May's tenure in elected office. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative May a debt of gratitude and I wish him well.

HONORING RABBI ALBERT MICAH  
LEWIS

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Rabbi Albert Micah Lewis, who is retiring from Congregation Emanuel in my home city of Grand Rapids, Michigan after 28 years of leadership. Not only has he been a tremendous force within his congregation, Rabbi Lewis has also provided outstanding leadership and dedication to numerous organizations and projects within our community. His strong academic background and intellectual ability have led to national respect for his work and writings.

Even though he is ending his day-to-day role at Temple Emanuel, Rabbi Lewis will continue to be a driving force in Grand Rapids. He will continue his duties as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Religion and Aging at Aquinas College where he has been teaching since 1972. He will also remain as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology and Gerontology at Aquinas College, and will continue on the staff at Hope College as an Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies, where he has served since 1994.

Rabbi Lewis' contributions to our community have been numerous and generous; they could easily fill many pages in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I will highlight just a few of his many contributions. He is the founder and coordinator of Interfaith Forum for Understanding and Growth. He also founded and served as President of the Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids and the Western Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Society for Gerontology. In 1999 he was honored as Man of the Year by the Jewish Community Fund of Grand Rapids. Earlier this year, he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of Michigan and to the Board of Directors of the Henri Nouwen Literary Society. He has also authored numerous publications on a variety of subject matters.

On a personal level, I have always appreciated Rabbi Lewis' moral presence in our community. He has thoughtfully and insistently spoken on behalf of issues important to us, our community, and our relationships with God. Such moral leadership is enormously important as we strive to lead the people of this nation toward our common goals of freedom, liberty, and respect for each other.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rabbi Lewis for the tremendous impact he has had on our community. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Lewis is a outstanding individual committed to service to God and fellow human beings. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his contribution to society.

HONORING ASSOCIATED BUILDERS  
AND CONTRACTORS ON THE OC-  
CASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVER-  
SARY

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Associated Builders and Contractors as it prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary Convention in Baltimore beginning May 31.

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national trade association representing over 22,000 contractors, subcontractors material suppliers and related firms from across the country and from all specialties in the construction industry. Seven contractors called the very first ABC meeting to order on June 1, 1950 in Baltimore, Maryland. Since that day, ABC has been the industry's voice for merit shop construction.

ABC is the only national association devoted to the merit shop philosophy, which aims to provide the best management techniques, the finest craftsmanship, and the most competitive bidding and pricing strategies in the industry. Merit shop companies employ approximately 80 percent, or 4 out of 5, of all construction workers in the nation.

ABC believes that union and merit shop (open shop) contractors and their employees should work together in harmony and that work should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder regardless of labor affiliation.

ABC is committed to developing a safe workplace and high-performance work force through quality education and training with comprehensive safety and health programs. ABC is dedicated to fighting for free enterprise, fair and open competition, less government, more opportunities for jobs, tax relief, increased training, and elimination of frivolous complaints and over-regulation. ABC promotes and defends the individual's rights to unlimited opportunities. Merit shop construction provides unlimited growth and career advancement to workers who recognize the value of hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I send my sincere best wishes as Associated Builders and Contractors celebrates this milestone in its history. It is with great pride and appreciation that I recognize the accomplishments of this fine group.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF RAISING THE U.S. FLAG IN AMERICAN SAMOA

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I express my heartiest congratulations to the people of American Samoa and to Samoans living in Hawaii and throughout the United States in recognition of the Centennial of the Raising of the United States Flag in American Samoa.

Flag Day, which is celebrated on April 17th, is the biggest holiday in American Samoa and is observed by Samoans throughout the world. The importance of this holiday is a reflection of the pride the people of Samoa take in their affiliation with the United States.

Samoans have demonstrated their loyalty and commitment to the United States through service in our Nation's wars. In fact, the per capita rate of enlistment in the Armed Forces among American Samoans is among the highest in the United States.

For more than 30 years, the Samoa Flag Day Festival has been observed in Hawaii. It is a celebration of our shared history, of the contributions Samoans have made to our Nation and to the State of Hawaii, and of the rich culture and traditions of Faasamoa. The Festival includes sports competitions, cultural demonstrations, singing, dancing, and food.

I take this opportunity to send my warmest aloha to my esteemed colleague, the Honorable ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, and to all the people of American Samoa.

COLORADO STATE SENATOR  
MARYANNE TEBEDO

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, State Senator MaryAnne Tebedo. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Senator Tebedo's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado Senate in 1988, she was the chairman of the State of Veterans Military Affairs Committee and served on the Finance Committee. She also served as parliamentarian. She worked hard on issues concerning concealed weapons, State boards and highways.

Senator Tebedo received many honors. In 1992 she received the NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award, the CACI Business Legislator of the Year Award. She was also honored by Freedom Magazine as a Human Rights Advocate.

This year marked the end of Senator Tebedo's tenure in elected office. Her career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Senator Tebedo a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

HONORING SAM SMITH

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor Sam Smith, a great citizen from the State of Washington.

Dr. Sam Smith retires, this year, after fifteen years as President of Washington State University. His hard work and leadership transformed WSU from a single campus in Pullman to a nationally recognized, statewide university. Dr. Smith increased student access to Washington State University by establishing WSU Learning Centers in eleven counties and expanding WSU's presence in underserved areas with branch campuses in Spokane, the Tri-Cities and Vancouver.

Dr. Smith also presided over the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of Washington State University. Campaign WSU, the university's first comprehensive fund-raising effort, raised more than \$275 million and had the highest alumni-giving rate of all public universities in the country.

Dr. Smith led academic programs and research efforts that resulted in Washington State University's recognition in national rankings as one of the best public universities in America, including a ranking, last year, as the most wired public university in the nation.

Dr. Smith was president in 1998 when the Washington State Cougar football team was Pac-10 champion and competed in the Rose Bowl for the first time in 67 years.

I thank Dr. Smith for his service to Washington State University and Washington State and ask that he and his wife, Pat, remain friends with both in their retirement as both remain friends with them.

THE CASE AGAINST BIGOTRY

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I recently saw an editorial of such eloquence and passion that I believe it should be shared with the membership of this body. Since we from time to time deal with issues involving the rights of gay and lesbian people, I believe it is extremely important for the Members to read this mother's cry for justice and I hope that it will factor into the decisions we make in the future.

[For the Valley News (White River Junction, VT/Hanover, NH, April 30, 2000)]

(By Sharon Underwood)

As the mother of a gay son, I've seen firsthand how cruel and misguided people can be. Many letters have been sent to the Valley News concerning the homosexual menace in Vermont. I am the mother of a gay son and I've taken enough from you good people.

I'm tired of your foolish rhetoric about the "homosexual agenda" and your allegations that accepting homosexuality is the same thing as advocating sex with children. You are cruel and ignorant. You have been robbing me of the joys of motherhood ever since my children were tiny.

My firstborn son started suffering at the hands of the moral little thugs from your

moral, upright families from the time he was in the first grade. He was physically and verbally abused from first grade straight through high school because he was perceived to be gay.

He never professed to be gay or had any association with anything gay, but he had the misfortune not to walk or have gestures like the other boys. He was called "fag" incessantly, starting when he was 6.

In high school, while your children were doing what kids that age should be doing, mine labored over a suicide note, drafting and redrafting it to be sure his family knew how much he loved them. My sobbing 17-year-old tore the heart out of me as he choked out that he just couldn't bear to continue living any longer, that he didn't want to be gay and that he couldn't face a life without dignity.

You have the audacity to talk about protecting families and children from the homosexual menace, while you yourselves tear apart families and drive children to despair. I don't know why my son is gay, but I do know that God didn't put him, and millions like him, on this Earth to give you someone to abuse. God gave you brains so that you could think, and it's about time you started doing that.

At the core of all your misguided beliefs is the belief that this could never happen to you, that there is some kind of subculture out there that people have chosen to join. The fact is that if it can happen to my family, it can happen to yours, and you won't get to choose. Whether it is genetic or whether something occurs during a critical time of fetal development, I don't know. I can only tell you with an absolute certainty that it is inborn.

If you want to tout your own morality, you'd best come up with something more substantive than your heterosexuality. You did nothing to earn it; it was given to you. If you disagree, I would be interested in hearing your story, because my own heterosexuality was a blessing I received with no effort whatsoever on my part. It is so woven into the very soul of me that nothing could ever change it. For those of you who reduce sexual orientation to a simple choice, a character issue, a bad habit or something that can be changed by a 10-step program, I'm puzzled. Are you saying that your own sexual orientation is nothing more than something you have chosen, that you could change it at will? If that's not the case, then why would you suggest that someone else can?

A popular theme in your letters is that Vermont has been infiltrated by outsiders. Both sides of my family have lived in Vermont for generations. I am heart and soul a Vermonter, so I'll thank you to stop saying that you are speaking for "true Vermonters."

You invoke the memory of the brave people who have fought on the battlefield for this great country, saying that they didn't give their lives so that the "homosexual agenda" could tear down the principles they died defending. My 83-year-old father fought in some of the most horrific battles of World War II, was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart.

He shakes his head in sadness at the life his grandson has had to live. He says he fought alongside homosexuals in those battles, that they did their part and bothered no one. One of his best friends in the service was gay, and he never knew it until the end, and when he did find out, it mattered not at all. That wasn't the measure of a man.

You religious folk just can't bear the thought that as my son emerges from the hell that was his childhood he might like to find a lifelong companion and have a measure of happiness. It offends your sensibilities

that he should request the right to visit that companion in the hospital, to make medical decisions for him or to benefit from tax laws governing inheritance.

How dare he? you say. These outrageous request would threaten the very existence of your family, would undermine the sanctity of marriage.

You use religion to abdicate your responsibility to be thinking human beings. There are vast numbers of religious people who find you attitudes repugnant. God is not for the privileged majority, and God knows my son has committed no sin.

The deep-thinking author of a letter to the April 12 Valley News who lectures about homosexual sin and tells us about "those of us who have been blessed with the benefits of a religious upbringing" asks: "What ever happened to the idea of striving ... to be better human beings than we are?"

Indeed, sir, what ever happened to that?

(Sharon Underwood lives in White River Junction, VT)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 18, I was unable to cast a vote for final passage on H.R. 4205, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2001 and 6 amendments.

For rollcall vote No. 202, the Skelton amendment, I would have voted "yes."

For rollcall vote No. 203, the Sanchez amendment, I would have voted "yes."

For rollcall vote No. 204, the Moakley amendment, I would have voted "yes."

For rollcall vote No. 205, the Cox amendment, I would have voted "yes."

For rollcall vote No. 206, the Buyer substitute amendment to the Taylor amendment, I would have voted "no."

For rollcall vote No. 207, the Taylor amendment, I would have voted "yes."

For rollcall vote No. 208, Final Passage of H.R. 4205, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, I was unable to cast votes for H.R. 3852, the deadline extension for construction of a hydroelectric project in Alabama, S. 1236, the deadline extension for construction of the Arrowrock Dam hydroelectric project in Idaho, and H. Con. Res. 302, concerning a National Moment of Remembrance to Honor Men and Women of the U.S. Who Died in Pursuit of Freedom and Peace.

For rollcall vote No. 211, H.R. 3852, I would have voted "yes."

For rollcall vote No. 212, S. 1236, I would have voted "yes."

For rollcall vote No. 213, H. Con. Res. 302, I would have voted "yes."