

rights was on the agenda at President Hu visit with Bill Gates at Microsoft.

China's continued repression of religion is among the most despotic in the world. In February, the BBC reported that China had warned Hong Kong's newly-appointed Cardinal, Joseph Zen, a well-known critic of China's suppression of religious freedoms, to remain quiet on political issues. Citizens practicing a faith other than officially sanctioned religions are often subjected to torture, imprisonment, and death, at which time prisoner organs are frequently harvested to meet demand. Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, and Muslim Uyghurs are all being persecuted for their faith. Today, numerous underground Roman Catholic priests and bishops and Protestant pastors languish in the Lao Gai, China's infamous concentration camps, simply proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the early 90's I meet with Bishop Su Zhimin of Baoding Province—a gentle and kind man who celebrated Mass for our small delegation. I was deeply inspired by his faith (he had recently been let out of jail) and by his compassion for those who had jailed and mistreated him. He had no animosity for them—only compassion and forgiveness. What kind of regime incarcerates a truly noble man like this? Soon after our visit, he was re-arrested on false charges, released, and re-arrested and jailed again. He has now spent at least 27 years of his life in jail—for loving God. What kind of barbaric regime hurts a man like this?

And then there is the special hate Beijing pours out on the Falun Gong. Nearly seven years ago the Chinese government began its brutal campaign to completely eradicate Falun Gong through whatever means necessary. Many Party Members and Army officials had begun to practice Falun Gong. Like all dictators and totalitarian terror systems, the PRC fears and hates what it cannot control. So it decided to destroy and intimidate those who practice Falun Gong. We see before us a Stalinist nightmare revived for the 21st century—hundreds, perhaps thousands, dead as a result of torture; tens of thousands jailed without trial, held in labor camps, prisons, and mental hospitals, where they are forced to endure torture brainwashing sessions.

Just over a year ago Beijing finally released the renowned human rights activist, Rebiya Kadeer, from prison, where she had been held for years on trumped up charges for defending the rights of her fellow Uyghur Muslims in China. We had hoped this signaled some sort of genuine improvement in Beijing's treatment of human rights, but now we know better: since Rebiya, who is now living in America, has continued to campaign for the recognition of the legitimate rights of her fellow Uyghurs, her relatives and business associates still in China are being subjected to renewed harassment by the authorities. Rebiya is with us here today to testify about China's continuing campaign against her peoples.

Coercive family-planning policy in China has slaughtered more innocent children than any war in human history. Coercive family planning has wounded Chinese women by the millions and the physical consequence is that 500 women commit suicide every day. China's one-child per couple policy, decreed in 1979, has killed hundreds of millions of babies by imposing Draconian fines—up to ten times annual salaries—on their parents to force them to abort. In China today brothers and sisters

are illegal. Sex selection abortions—a direct consequence of allowing only one baby per couple, has led to gendercide—approximately 100 million girls are missing—in China. One Chinese demographer has admitted that by 2020, forty million Chinese men won't be able to find wives because Beijing's weapon of mass destruction—population control—destroyed the girls.

There is no recourse for millions of Chinese laborers trapped in poor working conditions. Those who protest unjust wage and labor practices outside of the government-controlled labor union are arrested and imprisoned. Chinese citizens are often persecuted just for going to court to secure rights which even current Chinese law, as restrictive as it is, guarantees them. And the lawyers who seek to help them are threatened, harassed, beaten, disbarred and jailed for doing their simple duty. They join countless prisoners of conscience in China's modern day concentration camps. These are found everywhere in China—more than 1,100 by one count.

Finally, we heard testimony about China's barbaric policy of harvesting human organs for sale and transplant. China admits it does this. According to China's Ministry of Health, since 1993, there have been over 65,000 transplant procedures performed in China. China's Deputy Health Minister recently stated that 95 percent of the organs for organ transplants performed in China are from executed Chinese prisoners. Of course it claims it only harvests the organs of executed prisoners, and only if they or their families consent. But what value can such a statement have in a country where the death penalty is virtually an assembly line process? Where according to the Department of State's Human Rights Report for 2005, foreign experts estimate between five and twelve thousand people are executed every year? Chinese courts hand down the death sentence for an ever-expanding range of crimes, including nonviolent and political crimes. Appeals are conducted hastily, if at all. In an effort to boost profits, it is reported that some provincial or local officials in China have begun to allow mobile medical vans at execution sites to facilitate the ease and efficiency with which prisoners' organs may be harvested. We have all heard the recent horrific stories that China is now targeting the thousands of innocent Falun Gong prisoners it holds for organ harvesting, and perhaps not even waiting until they are dead. The State Department and the UN Special Rapporteur for Torture, Manfred Nowak, have been investigating. They must get to the truth of these blood-curdling stories, and do everything to stop this shameful practice.

Human rights are everyone's rights. Governments are instituted to secure, protect and safeguard those rights. Human rights aren't privileges. Human rights are worth fighting for, even when they are costly, and even when it is inconvenient. Our witnesses, Mr. Ethan Gutmann, author of *Losing the New China: a Story of American Commerce, Desire and Betrayal*; Ms. Rebiya Kadeer, Human Rights Activist, Former Political Prisoner, and President of the International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation; Mr. Joseph Kung, Director, Cardinal Kung Foundation; Ms. Thea Lee, Director of Public Policy, AFL-CIO; Mr. Steven Mosher, President Population Research Institute; Mr. Harry Wu; Executive Director, Laogai Research Foundation; and Mr.

Lu Decheng, 1989 Tiananmen Square Protestor, who spent 9 years in jail, all provided vitally useful testimony today.

HONORING THE JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INLAND NORTHWEST HALL OF FAME LAUREATES FOR 2006

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Miss. McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wendell J. Satre, Ron and Julie Wells, and Fidelity and Associates for being named Junior Achievement of the Inland Northwest Hall of Fame Laureates for 2006. These individuals embody the mission of Junior Achievement, which is to inspire young people to be successful in life through free enterprise education and help them envision and pursue their future roles in our society. These honorees serve as examples of good mentorship and civic responsibility.

Wendell J. Satre is the former chairman, president, and CEO of Washington Water Power, which has since become A vista Utilities. He has been actively involved in community service and philanthropic organizations, and was instrumental in securing a Washington State University campus in Spokane. His dedication has helped make Eastern Washington a place of charity, education, and mutual responsibility.

Ron and Julie Wells have been active and successful historical preservationists in the Spokane area. They see our historical structures as vehicles for remembering our past and understanding the present. The rich heritage available to the citizens of Spokane is in large part due to the work these individuals have done.

Hall of Fame Laureate Fidelity and Associates has served the Spokane area for 100 years and is 1 of the Inland Northwest's largest locally owned independent insurance agencies. Fidelity's dedication to the people of Eastern Washington is exemplified in its College Student Property Insurance Program which has helped alleviate one of the stresses of college life associated with living in dorms and houses.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank these honorees for their service to the communities and citizens of Eastern Washington. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these Junior Achievement Hall of Fame Laureates.

INTRODUCTION OF FAA WAR RISK INSURANCE EXTENSION LEGISLATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that would extend the Federal Aviation Administration's war risk insurance program for U.S. commercial air carriers. Ever since 9/11, the commercial insurance market has been unwilling to provide the war-risk insurance that our nation's airlines need. That

continues today and there is no foreseeable end to this situation. If airlines don't have that insurance coverage, as a practical matter they won't be able to fly. Because of this situation, Congress must extend the program to provide U.S. airlines the war-risk insurance that they need. The accompanying legislation would do that for five years.

As many of us remember, immediately after 9/11 commercial insurers in lockstep cancelled the airlines' war-risk policies. That withdrawal of essential insurance coverage caused a crisis that Congress on September 21, 2001 resolved by granting the Federal Aviation Administration the authority to issue war-risk insurance policies to U.S. airlines. The FAA today provides war-risk insurance to some 70 U.S. airlines. The FAA program has been generating roughly \$150 million annually in premium payments to the treasury and we can expect about the same amount of payments in 2006. That is 6 or 7 times what the U.S. airline industry paid for that coverage before 9/11.

Congress has repeatedly extended the FAA's program since 2002 because we have recognized that war-risk insurance for the airlines is indispensable. Airlines won't fly without that coverage because they cannot bear the financial risk of a catastrophic act of terrorism against them. Expressed another way, no one wants large aircraft operating in the United States that do not have adequate insurance coverage.

I wish that I could report that the commercial market for aviation war-risk insurance has returned to its pre-9/11 condition. Unfortunately, it has not; the marketplace is failing to cover the terrorism risks to which airlines are exposed. Indeed, the situation has worsened. Premium costs and coverage terms in the commercial market have not been and are not today reasonable.

Of immediate concern is how the marketplace is treating coverage of aviation losses attributable to weapons of mass destruction. The FAA's insurance policy quite properly covers this risk. But if U.S. airlines were required to rely on the commercial market for war-risk insurance, today they effectively could not get WMD coverage for their aircraft (in insurance terms, their "hulls".) More ominously, it appears that this year the commercial market will stop providing most third-party WMD coverage. This means that if a WMD incident were to occur on an aircraft in flight, commercial insurance would not cover the death and injury of persons on the ground, or damage to property on the ground.

Neither airlines nor their employees, who have borne so much of the financial adversity that the U.S. airline industry has suffered since 9/11, can afford such an increase in premiums. Between 2001 and 2005, U.S. airlines had net losses of more than \$40 billion. A staggering 135,000 jobs have been lost in the airline industry since 2001. The compensation of those who remain in the industry in many instances has been slashed. Current projections are that the airlines will lose another \$2 billion in 2006. With stubbornly high oil prices, now \$67 per barrel, that projection may turn out to be optimistic.

If Congress does not act, the already ailing U.S. airlines will be forced into a commercial market that provides war-risk insurance that is extraordinarily expensive; does not provide anywhere near the coverage that is nec-

essary; and continues to write war-risk insurance policies with seven-day cancellation clauses, the same clauses that caused so much turmoil right after 9/11.

We must therefore renew the FAA's war-risk insurance program. And, realistically, we must do so for an extended period. We have had one-year renewals of the program since 2002. We would all be better served if the extension were lengthier, which is why the accompanying legislation would extend the program for 5 years. I am pleased to introduce this needed legislation today.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF
CORPORAL BRIAN R. ST. GERMAIN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave Marine in Iraq, Corporal Brian R. St. Germain, a Rhode Island citizen who served his country with dignity and honor. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

Cpt. St. Germain grew up in West Warwick, RI. He was an honor student and a 2001 graduate of West Warwick High School, where determination and hard work led him to become an all-state hurdler on the track and field team. These traits were signs of the first-rate Marine that he would soon become.

Cpt. St. Germain was an active duty Marine on his second tour of duty in Iraq assigned to the 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Expeditionary Force. Cpl. St. Germain unselfishly volunteered to ride on dangerous convoys so that his fellow Marines with wives and children would be spared the additional risk. On April 2nd, Cpl. St. Germain was killed in a vehicle accident along with five other marines in the Al Anbar Province when their Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement was caught in a flash flood and rolled over.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When Cpl. St. Germain's nation called him to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and security, he answered without hesitation. We will remember him as a patriot who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Cpl. St. Germain is survived by his parents, Lynn and Robert; his brother Nicholas; his grandmother Louise; and his uncle and godfather, Terence Adamo. May we keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

We will also continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

IN MEMORY OF DAN SCHAEFER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the death of former U.S. Representative Dan Schaefer, who rep-

resented Colorado's 6th Congressional District for 15 years before he retired at the end of the 105th Congress.

While I did not serve with Dan, we occasionally found each other on the familiar flights between Washington and Denver after his retirement from Congress, and like all Coloradans I am aware of his contributions to our state and the nation.

He took a leadership role in establishing the House's renewable-energy caucus and in support of the important work of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)—a role that was appropriately recognized when NREL's visitors' center was named for him.

He also worked closely with my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs, in pressing for timely cleanup of the closed Rocky Flats nuclear-weapons facility—a goal that was finally achieved just last year.

And as our state experienced rapid population growth, he also worked to provide federal assistance to help fund essential transportation infrastructure, including funds for highway and light-rail construction and improvements.

In the words of The Denver Post, "Schaefer had a fine ability to disagree with people without being disagreeable. Besides leaving cleaner lands and water as his legacy, he left a record of civility and decency in public affairs that will be greatly missed in today's often strident politics."

He will be missed, in Colorado and in Congress. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a recent editorial about his career and contributions.

[From the Denver Post, Apr. 24, 2006]

SCHAEFER SERVED COLORADO WELL

Dan Schaefer's legacy can be seen in the native grasses that replaced the former Rocky Flats nuclear bomb factory and in the pavement of C-470. Schaefer, who last week died of cancer at age 70, represented Colorado's 6th Congressional District for 15 years until retiring in 1998. Called a conservative in his political career, today he would be a moderate Republican.

While in office, Schaefer focused on service to his district and state, and fiscal restraint in government. His national initiatives, to end the income tax and deregulate electrical utilities, failed on their merits.

Close to home, though, he successfully worked with David Skaggs, the Boulder Democrat who then represented the 2nd Congressional District, to fast-track Rocky Flats' cleanup. He pushed the U.S. government to meet the same environmental standards imposed on industry. He got crucial federal support for C-470 but supported mass transit, too. Schaefer was such a champion of renewable energy that the main building at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden is named after him.

Schaefer had a fine ability to disagree with people without being disagreeable. Besides leaving cleaner lands and water as his legacy, he left a record of civility and decency in public affairs that will be greatly missed in today's often strident politics.

HONORING THE LADIES OF THE
RED HAT SOCIETY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a very remarkable group of