

with Disabilities Act, bipartisan legislation I was proud to lead to passage in the House in 1990 and witness signed into law by President George H.W. Bush. As advocates for people with differing abilities celebrate this milestone anniversary, let us recommit ourselves to Melwood's mission to empower and inspire. I look forward to continuing to work with Melwood for many years to come, and I am confident that it will continue to carry out its mission for another fifty years and beyond.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating co-founder, President, and CEO emeritus, Earl Copus, Jr., current President and CEO, Cari DeSantis, and the rest of the outstanding Melwood staff, who will continue carrying this outstanding organization into the future.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ROY ATMER HUTCHINS

**HON. STEVE STOCKMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Coach Roy Hutchins was a proud veteran of World War II; and

Whereas, Coach Hutchins earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas Southern University in 1947, and a Master of Science Degree from the same University in 1952; and

Whereas, Coach Hutchins joined the faculty of George Washington Carver High School of Baytown, Texas in 1948 and remained there until 1967, as assistant football coach, Coach Hutchins played a major role in Baytown Carver High School winning seven district football championships and three state football championships; and

Whereas, As Head Track and Field Coach, Roy Carver saw his track teams win five state championships; and

Whereas, Coach Hutchins is known for molding numerous Carver athletes into PVILCA Hall of Fame or Hall of Honor members; and

Whereas, Coach Hutchins was also known and very much admired as a science teacher, motivator of youth, and father-like figure who knew how to mold honorable and successful men out of young boys; and

Whereas, Coach Hutchins also exhibited an exemplary family life, and provided a wonderful role model for his student athletes; Be therefore

*Resolved:* That I, Congressman STEVE STOCKMAN of the 36th District of Texas, proudly salute the life and career of this Carver High School hero and fellow Texan; and do strongly urge that he be inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association (PVILCA) Hall of Honor.

HONORING ETHAN JAMES FENSKE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ethan James Fenske. Ethan is a very special young man

who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ethan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ethan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ethan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ethan James Fenske for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT JON JENSEN

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Master Sergeant Jon Jensen for his extraordinary service to the nation while serving in the United States Army for the past 25 years. His record of distinguished service includes tours in Kuwait, Korea, and a competitive selection assignment as a Congressional Legislative Liaison to the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve.

As the 295th Ordinance Company First Sergeant while deployed to Kuwait in 2004 and 2005, he superbly integrated 110 cross-leveled Army Reserve Soldiers and 44 active duty Soldiers into one cohesive company. First Sergeant Jensen utilized his superb leadership abilities to provide command and control and health and welfare of his unit, despite their dispersal throughout the Kuwait area of responsibility. First Sergeant Jensen also assumed operational duties during this deployment and successfully established three ammunition holding areas and a theater amnesty program resulting in the company's ability to maintain and provide more than 74,000 short tons of ammunition in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his tenure as the 303rd Ordinance Group Operations Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, MSG Jensen successfully ensured full munitions support for all U.S. and coalition forces on the Korean Peninsula during the Ulchi Focus Lens Korea 06 exercise. While serving as the 1st Brigade, 104th Training Division Operations NCO, MSG Jensen was hand selected by the Ordinance Corps Advisory Group to present a proposal to the U.S. Army Chief of Ordinance on recommended upgrades to the 89B (Ammunition Specialist) Military Occupational Specialty. While in this role, he also led the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Command from last to first place in Division operational readiness in a span of only four months.

MSG Jensen's military career culminated in his competitive selection as the Army Reserve's only senior enlisted Legislative Liaison. At this strategic level, MSG Jensen heavily engaged with key congressional leaders and key senior leaders of governmental and non-gov-

ernmental entities. MSG Jensen supported numerous congressional hearings, frequent office calls, and countless Hill engagements with members of Congress and Army Reserve Senior Leaders. He spearheaded, organized, planned and executed the Army Reserve Congressional Staff Delegation to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin to showcase the capabilities of an Operational United States Army Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Master Sergeant Jon Jensen for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the country throughout his distinguished career in the United States Army.

A TIMELY CALL TO ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit Cardinal Timothy Dolan's remarks at the annual U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathering in which he gave an impassioned plea for the church in the West to focus on the increasingly dire plight of the persecuted church around the globe.

I venture that the Catholic bishop under house arrest in China, the imperiled believer in Iraq still reeling from the devastating attack on Our Lady of Salvation Church and the unjustly imprisoned Christian in Pakistan will undoubtedly be heartened by his words and buoyed by his call to action.

CARDINAL TIMOTHY M. DOLAN, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK, PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB)

ADDRESS TO THE USCCB GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 11, 2013

Just last August, I had the honor of concelebrating the Mass of Dedication for the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Kiev. A particularly moving moment came when Metropolitan Shevchuk asked the Lord's protective hand upon believers suffering persecution for their faith anywhere in the world. That such a heartfelt plea came from a people who had themselves been oppressed for so long made it all the more poignant.

This morning I want to invite us to broaden our horizons, to "think Catholic" about our brothers and sisters in the faith now suffering simply because they sign themselves with the cross, bow their heads at the Holy Name of Jesus, and happily profess the Apostles' Creed.

Brother bishops, our legitimate and ongoing struggles to protect our "first and most cherished freedom" in the United States pale in comparison to the Via Crucis currently being walked by so many of our Christian brothers and sisters in other parts of the world, who are experiencing lethal persecution on a scale that defies belief. If our common membership in the mystical body of Christ is to mean anything, then their suffering must be ours as well. The new Archbishop of Canterbury has rightly referred to victims of Christian persecution as "martyrs." We are living in what must be recognized as, in the words of Blessed John Paul II, "a new age of martyrs." One expert calculates that half of all Christian martyrs were killed in the twentieth century alone. The twenty-first century has already seen in its first 13 years one million people killed

around the world because of their belief in Jesus Christ—one million already in this still young century.

That threat to religious believers is growing. The Pew Research Center reports that 75 percent of the world's population "lives in countries where governments, social groups, or individuals restrict people's ability to freely practice their faith." Pew lays out the details of this "rising tide of restrictions on religion," but we don't need a report to tell us something we sadly see on the news every day.

While Muslims and Christians have long lived peacefully side-by-side in Zanzibar, for instance, this past year has seen increasing violence. Catholic churches have been burned and priests have been shot. In September one priest was the victim of a horrific acid attack. Nigeria has also been the site of frequent anti-Christian violence, including church bombings on our holiest days.

The situation in India has also been grave, particularly after the Orissa massacre of 2008, where hundreds of Christians were murdered and thousands displaced, and thousands of homes and some 400 churches were torched. Just recently, a Christian couple was recently attacked by an angry mob just because of their faith, their Bibles torn from their hands.

We remember our brothers and sisters in China, where Catholic bishops and other religious leaders are subject to state supervision and imprisonment. Conditions are only getting worse, as the government closes churches and subjects members of several faiths to forced renunciations, so-called re-education, and torture.

Of course, it's not just Christians who suffer from religious persecution, but believers in other faiths as well. Much religious persecution is committed by Muslims against other Muslims. Buddhists in Tibet suffer under government torture and repression. In Myanmar Muslims suffer at the hands of Buddhist mobs. All of us share apprehension over reports of rising anti-Semitism.

But there is no escaping the fact that Christians are singled out in far more places and far more often.

I don't have to tell anyone in this room that our brothers and sisters in the Middle East face particular trials. As Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople has observed, for Christians in the Middle East, "even the simple admission of Christian identity places the very existence of [the] faithful in daily threat . . . Exceptionally extreme and expansive occurrences of violence and persecution against Christians cannot leave the rest of us—who are blessed to live peacefully and in some sense of security—indifferent and inactive."

The humanitarian catastrophe that continues to unfold in Syria has been particularly close to our hearts these past few months. We've prayed for and stood in solidarity with the Church and the people of Syria, and with Pope Francis and the bishops of the Middle East in their call for peace.

It's no surprise that this violent and chaotic situation has bred even more religious persecution. Of course we're all familiar with Syria's venerable history as the place from which our faith spread to the rest of the world, and Syria has long been home to a sizable Christian minority. Yet those Christians who have remained in Syria face ever-present, rising threats of violence.

Last April two of our Orthodox brother bishops were kidnapped in Aleppo by gunmen as they returned from a humanitarian mission. Their driver was shot and killed. And a little less than a year ago an Orthodox priest

from Hama was killed by a sniper while helping the wounded. Similarly tragic violence against believers is now commonplace.

Just as Syrian Christians have suffered from the war raging in their land, the war in Iraq has devastated that ancient Christian community in that country as well. As Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Iraq tearfully told us during our spring assembly in 2012, remember, the situation of Christians there "became a tragedy of immense proportions after 2003," with many religious and lay faithful tortured and killed.

Violent attacks continue to terrorize the Iraqi people. Just a little over a year ago the war's worst massacre of Iraqi Christians occurred in a brutal attack on Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad, where some 58 believers were massacred. Those martyred for their faith included their parish priest who died holding a crucifix, forgiving the gunmen and asking him to spare his people.

The situations in Syria and Iraq wrench our hearts, but the plight of Christians in Egypt is no better. This past summer saw the serious escalation of violence against our brothers and sisters there, as the ancient Coptic Christian community has been targeted. Dozens of Coptic churches have been burned; Christian-owned businesses and hotels have been attacked; and individual believers have been murdered.

To take one example, John Allen reports that in August, "hundreds of Muslim extremists stormed a school run by Franciscan sisters in . . . Upper Egypt, where they reportedly raped two teachers. Three nuns were paraded before the crowd as prisoners of war." It was only through the intervention of a Muslim lay teacher that other sisters' lives were spared.

We as bishops, as shepherds of one of the most richly blessed communities of faith on the planet, as pastors who have spoken with enthusiastic unity in defense of our own religious freedom, must become advocates and champions for these Christians whose lives literally hang in the balance.

Pope Francis recently invited us all to an examination of conscience in this regard during his General Audience on September 25:

"When I hear that so many Christians in the world are suffering, am I indifferent, or is it as if a member of my own family is suffering? When I think or hear it said that many Christians are persecuted and give their lives for their faith, does this touch my heart or does it not reach me? Am I open to that brother or that sister in my family who's giving his or her life for Jesus Christ? Do we pray for one another? How many of you pray for Christians who are persecuted? How many? Everyone respond in his own heart. It's important to look beyond one's own fence, to feel oneself part of the Church, of one family of God!"

I am convinced that we have to answer those questions of Pope Francis, not merely as individual believers, but collectively as a body of bishops.

So you ask me, what can we do? Without any pretense of being exhaustive, here are some ideas I'd like to lay before you, with a nod to John Allen and his recent compelling work on this topic.

First, we can encourage intercession for the persecuted. Remember how the "prayers for the conversion of Russia" at the end of Masses over a half-century ago shaped our sense of what was going on behind the Iron Curtain? A similar culture of prayer for persecuted Christians today, both in private and in our liturgical celebrations, could have a similar remedial effect.

We can also make people aware of the great suffering of our brothers and sisters with all the means at our disposal. Our columns, our blogs, our speeches, and our pastoral letters can reference the subject. We can ask our pastors to preach on it, and to stimulate study sessions or activist groups in their parishes. We can encourage our Catholic media to tell the stories of today's new martyrs, unfortunately abundant. Our good experience defending religious freedom here at home shows that, when we turn our minds to an issue, we can put it on the map. Well, it's time to harness that energy for our fellow members of the household of faith hounded for their beliefs around the world.

We know the importance of supporting organizations such as Aid to the Church in Need, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Catholic Relief Services, and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, who have done heroic work, while among our Protestant brothers and sisters groups such as Open Doors make a similar contribution. Writers such as Nina Shea, Paul Marshall, John Allen, and Phillip Jenkins here in the United States help keep the issue alive, as does our own Committee on International Justice and Peace.

Finally, we can insist that our country's leaders make the protection of at-risk Christians abroad a foreign-policy priority for the United States. We can also cajole political leaders to be more attentive to the voices of Christians on the ground, since those Christians will certainly feel the consequences of whatever the West does or doesn't do. As Dr. Thomas Farr reminded us at our spring meeting a couple summers ago, the protection of religious freedom abroad, and advocacy of oppressed believers, has hardly been a high foreign policy priority for administrations of either party.

In general, my brothers, we can make supporting the suffering Church a priority—not one good cause among others, but a defining element of our pastoral priorities. As historians of this conference know, speaking up for suffering faithful abroad has been a hallmark of our soon-to-be-century of public advocacy of the gospel by the conference of bishops in this beloved country we are honored to call our earthly home.

Protecting religious freedom will be a central social and political concern of our time, and we American bishops already have made very important contributions to carrying it forward. Now we are being beckoned—by history, by Pope Francis, by the force of our own logic and the ecclesiology of communion—to extend those efforts to the dramatic front lines of this battle, where Christians are paying for their fidelity with their lives. As the Council reminded us, we are bishops not only for our dioceses, not only for our nation, but for the Church universal.

May all the blessed martyrs, ancient and new, pray for us, as we try to be confessors of the faith.

Praise be Jesus Christ!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 572, I was unable to be present for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."