

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 12, I was unexpectedly called back to Connecticut. As a result, I missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall 327—Bateman amendment to Lipinski amendment—"no"; Rollcall 328—Lipinski amendment—"yes"; Rollcall 329—Largent amendment—"no."

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTENARIANS
OF THE WEDGEWOOD PAVILION
NURSING HOME

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to three truly wonderful seniors, who on Tuesday, the 16th of May, will receive special recognition from the Social Security Administration for having reached the extraordinary age of 100 years old.

The recipients of this special honor are Mr. Frank Howard, Ms. Mary Simmons, and Ms. Bertha Williams. Each of these distinguished centenarians have touched so many people over the years, and they are to be applauded for their achievements over the past century.

I wish to extend to each of them my best wishes on this wonderful occasion, and am proud and honored to enter these words of commendation into the RECORD.

"A PATTERN OF SLIGHTS TO OUR
STRONGEST ALLIES"

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 1995

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as leader of the free world, the United States has been ably joined in our foreign policy pursuits by a number of steadfast friends and allies. Nations such as France and, in particular, Great Britain, have stood by the United States when others remained silent. While international relations have changed dramatically with the end of the cold war, we should understand that we cannot, we must not, take these relationships for granted. Indeed, in the post-cold-war era, the United States can ill afford to slight our friends and allies when a wide range of challenges to our economic and security interests abroad cannot be effectively confronted unilaterally.

Two actions, in particular, have recently frayed the strong ties binding the United States with Great Britain—our staunchest ally in Western Europe. To the consternation of the British Government, the Clinton administration first granted visas to members of the Irish Republican Army and then invited IRA leader Gerry Adams to the White House. Moreover, relations between the United States

and its West European allies have been seriously strained as a result of failed efforts to quell the conflict on the Balkan Peninsula. There have been occasions when the Clinton administration proposed major initiatives in Bosnia-Herzegovina without consulting our European allies—nations that have thousands of troops on the ground. Such affronts to our best friends, whether intended or not, are actions that do little but to undermine our long-standing relations with these nations.

Mr. Speaker, this Member would point out that the most recent slight to our European allies occurred during the 50th anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe. As noted in the May 9, 1995, Omaha World Herald editorial entitled "Clinton's Affront to England, France," President Clinton's decision not to participate in the English and French V-E ceremonies was a shabby way to acknowledge those allies that did so much not only to halt Nazi aggression in World War II but to protect the free world during the cold war era. This Member commends this editorial to his colleagues.

[From the Omaha World Herald, May 9, 1995]

CLINTON'S AFFRONT TO ENGLAND, FRANCE

President Clinton showed little loyalty to America's staunchest World War II allies and even less to the lessons of history when he chose to commemorate the 50th anniversary of V-E Day in Moscow rather than with other Allied leaders in more appropriate cities.

Clinton sent Vice President Al Gore to represent the United States in London, Paris and Berlin. This was a shabby way to acknowledge the allies that did so much to save the Free World, allies that after the war formed the Atlantic Alliance to protect freedom in the decades since.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin deserves criticism, too. Yeltsin, whose position as head of the Russian nation is far from solid, was unwilling to celebrate V-E Day outside of Moscow. Yeltsin should not have forced Clinton into such a choice.

Just as the "Big Three" leaders of World II, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin, met together during the war, so today's American, British and Russian leaders should have stood together on the 50th anniversary of V-E Day.

Yeltsin should not have set up such a situation, and Clinton should not have allowed himself to be manipulated so cynically with a schoolyard me-or-them ultimatum.

Certainly, the Soviets paid dearly in blood and treasure in order to defeat Germany on the Eastern Front. And yes, this was integral to the Allied victory. Moscow, however, embraced virtue only out of necessity.

Despite Allied efforts to enlist the Soviets, Stalin initially signed a nonaggression pact with Germany. Only when Hitler violated that pact by invading the Soviet Union did Stalin come to his senses.

Through it all—betrayal by Stalin, the fall of France, the blitz, the darkest days of the war—England and her people refused to waver. In his ultimately unsuccessful plea that the Vichy government not give in to the Nazis, Churchill reminded everyone of how much was at stake in the war against Hitler:

"If we can stand up to him, all Europe, may be freed and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, the whole world, including the United States and all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age."

Clinton chose not to honor this rich and moving legacy during the commemoration of V-E Day. It was an affront to the people of England and the people of France.

HEATHER WILLIS, VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY WINNER**HON. HAROLD L. VOLKMER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 1995

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a high school senior from Bowling Green, MO—Heather Willis. Heather has been named a national winner in the 1995 Voice of Democracy Program and the recipient of the Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship. The Voice of Democracy program is sponsored each year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary, asking high school seniors to write and record a 3–5 minute essay on a patriotic subject.

I believe that Heather's essay, "My Vision of America," is an excellent example of what we hope our children are learning in school: An understanding of the principles on which this country was founded and the realization that we all have a part to play in its continued greatness.

I feel that Heather, the daughter of two school principals—Keith and Charlene Willis, has clearly demonstrated a maturity beyond her years. She's hoping to attend Missouri University-Columbia to pursue a career in either law or journalism, and I am sure she will excel in either field.

I urge my colleagues to take a few minutes to read this very thoughtful essay.

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

It was a single candle that lit mine, and in the chain of events, I lit another until finally the room was filled with illuminated faces.

Many of you have seen it at a candlelight service. A dark room lit by the flame of one candle, the light growing brighter and brighter as the flame is passed.

It always amazes me that the instigation of one small spark, one small idea, one person, can make such a difference in a chain of events. If one did not start such an event, would anything be accomplished?

The United States of America is considered to be one of the most powerful and influential nations in the world. It has been constructed in this fashion because of the power given to its people.

Out of all the people who started this nation, there stood out among them a number of sparks that passed on the flame of a dream.

A man, who would not allow our country to be suppressed under England's rein, led a convention of independence. His ideas struck many others and together, the land we call home was granted independence.

A president who believed a nation should stick together. A president who said, "With malice toward none, With charity for all." A president who freed a race, helped make our country what it is today.

A song writer, who watched the flag of our nation withstand the firing of guns and the storms of the sky believed that the nation this flag represented had to be just as strong. He wrote what today brings thousands of Americans to tears, what today unites a nation. Something as simple as a song.

The hopes and dreams of our nation have solely depended on a people to make them reality. We have the power to make or break our nation. Our forefathers have handed us the torch—it is our turn to pass it on.

Where do we start? We start with me—we start with you.

A dream is a wonderful thing to have, that is unless it stays just that—a dream.