

NEIGHBOR DAY

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support measures in their States to designate the Sunday before the Memorial Day Weekend each year as "Neighbor Day."

The neighborhoods we once knew as places of peace and harmony are now engaged in the fight against a rising tide of crime and violence. One of the saddest results of this increasing crime is that neighbors fear for their safety and become alienated from one another.

Four years ago, my constituents in Westerly, RI, came up with the idea of celebrating "Neighbor Day" as a way to reach out to one another, introduce themselves to new neighbors and renew old friendships. With parties and open house gatherings, Neighbor Day in Westerly gave people a sense of neighborhood pride and positive community spirit. Two years ago, the entire State celebrated this spirit of good will.

I believe that by celebrating "Neighbor Day" nationally, we can bring people closer together and overcome the atmosphere of fear and mistrust found too often in our neighborhoods. This effort is not solely confined to Rhode Island. Indeed, Boys Nation passed a resolution in July 1994 to make the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend each year "National Neighbor Day."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in this unique endeavor by supporting measures to create "Neighbor Day" in their States.

OBSERVATIONS ON BOSNIA

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, please permit me to share with my colleagues the text of a report prepared by high school teacher Pat Feichter.

Pat, a teacher of American government at Maine South High School in Park Ridge, IL, recently returned from a humanitarian mission to Bosnia. He and other civics teachers from the United States and Western Europe organized and led seminars for Bosnians who teach government and civics.

The seminars, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, are part of the center's ongoing mission—here at home and abroad—to advance our collective knowledge about the institutions of western-style democracy:

OBSERVATIONS ON BOSNIA

When the Center for Civic Education asked me to volunteer to teach in Bosnia this summer, I jumped at the opportunity. Many people thought I was crazy, but I knew it would be a unique experience and one in which I could make a positive contribution in promoting democratic values.

As one enters Bosnia, it does not take long to experience destruction. Our seven hour bus trip to Sarajevo passed through dozens of war ravaged villages and towns. Some were selectively damaged, with only certain areas

felled by artillery shells, others were totally leveled. The once beautiful city of Mostar was one of the worst. Everywhere, in this Muslim-Croatian divided city, was evidence of war.

Sarajevo, once the proud host of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games, is a city of burnt-out hulks. Over 1,300,000 artillery shells have struck Sarajevo. The effects were extensive and devastating. The Holiday Inn, where we stayed while in Sarajevo, is still marked by the effects of war. There are elevators and guest rooms with bullet holes and a stairway being repaired from a direct artillery hit.

I was assigned to teach in the Canton of Travnik, 60 miles north of Sarajevo. I worked with one other American teacher from Minnesota and two Europeans, one from Germany and the other from Switzerland. This was the first time any of us had worked together. Flexibility and a willingness to compromise was a basic need. We were able to work together well.

Our class had thirty participants. These were teachers of Muslim, Croatian, and Serbian ancestry. We worked entirely through interpreters. Our facility was a Jesuit founded secondary school 114 years old.

Apprehension is the best way to describe our feelings going into this two week course. Would the class understand us? Would they like us? Would they be willing to participate in simulations and group projects? The answer to this was a resounding yes!

The Bosnian teachers, our students, were a joy to work with. They had a great sense of humor and an incredible interest in learning about democracy. Our mock trial and simulated election were two of the most popular activities. We became so close to members of our class that we were frequently invited to their apartments.

People often ask me if I was frightened being in Bosnia. The answer is no. As long as you use common sense, there was nothing to fear. I walked the streets of both Travnik and Sarajevo in the evenings without a worry. However, you could not plan picnics in the countryside. Landmines, as estimated 8 to 11 million, are a danger. You must stay on paved roads and sidewalks.

One of the saddest effects of the war is the huge number of refugees living in squalor. They have very little food to eat. One man showed me a small plate of goat cheese which was his only allotment of food for the day. These displaced people have in many cases been living in refugee centers for more than two years and often don't know where their loved ones are or even if they are alive. The most we could do for them was to offer clothes, some food, and a small amount of money.

Ethnic tensions do exist in Bosnia and are usually just below the surface. One evening on the streets of Travnik, I was approached by an irate group of Croats. They were very upset because the person who selected the Bosnian teachers to attend our program was a Muslim. They were concerned about bias in the selection process. From time to time, we would hear stories about churches and mosques being bombed. Yes, ethnic tensions are a fact of life in Bosnia.

Would I return? In a heartbeat! Working with the Bosnian teachers was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. In a small way I feel I may have helped further democracy and peace in this troubled land.

HONORING MANUEL DE JESUS ALVARADO

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Manuel de Jesus Alvarado, a man who brought hope and laughter to all who knew him. His goodwill was contagious but he had a serious mission in life. Manny, as everyone knew him, was an educator and an activist. From his earliest days at the University of Arizona in Tucson, he worked aggressively to improve the educational and employment opportunities for minorities.

Manny's commitment to civil rights and educational activism is evidenced by the range and length of his community and volunteer work: Board of Directors for Southern Arizona Legal Aid—22 years; Tucson Dropout Prevention Collaborative—15 years. The list goes on.

Manny was often recognized for his immeasurable contributions. Among the awards he was most proud of were the Tucson Association for Bilingual Education Award, the Chicano Student Leader Award, the TUSD Dropout Prevention Award, the Pima Community College Award for Dedicated Service.

This award from Pima College best exemplifies his love for his work and his students as talent search program director at Pima Community College. His compassion and his enthusiasm found their outlet through this work with Tucson's youth. Manny recognized that many academically talented Hispanic and native American youth were not prepared to go on to college. Working through Pima College, Manny created the talent search program in 1988 to monitor junior high and high school students. Those students with academic potential were recruited and many have gone on to complete their college education.

Above all, Manny was a "doer". He created, built, and energized people, groups, and communities. Although Manny can never be replaced, the legacy he left is strong. He was a role model and achieved all the worthwhile things of life: a loving, close, and supportive family; devoted friends; the respect of the community; a meaningful life's work, the trust of his students; a deep and abiding faith in God.

Again, I would like to pay tribute to the lifetime of accomplishments of Manuel de Jesus Alvarado, and extend to his family, his wife, Theresa, his daughters Angela and Monica, and of his step-son, Fred Medina, my condolences on the loss of a great and honorable man.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to correct the unintended reclassification of pharmaceutical-grade, FDA-approved egg yolk phospholipid by the Harmonized Tariff Classification System [HTS]. HTS is a world-wide standardized classification of items for duty. The implementation