

and the other laws of this Nation that govern the workplace are put at serious competitive disadvantage when they are forced to compete with sweatshops that ignore all the laws, and then we have stars go on television and smile and say of their sponsored products, they know nothing about it.

How can we reasonably expect a company that pays its workers a livable wage and provides a safe workplace to compete with sweatshops? Such a notion is absurd. If we continue to allow these sweatshops to operate, who are the real losers? Our workers, the millions of hard-working Americans who will see their wages artificially repressed and their jobs lost as legitimate businesses are forced out of business by sweatshops.

Mr. Speaker, what does it say about us as a society if we are willing to allow sweatshops that treat humans worse than we would treat animals to continue to operate; sweatshops where children and women are forced to work 14 hours a day, overcrowded rooms at a fraction of the minimum wage? Mr. Speaker, if we are going to save jobs, especially those in the manufacturing industry, and ensure our workers appropriate conditions and pay, we must crack down on these illegal sweatshops.

I have joined with several of my colleagues to send a strong message by co-sponsoring H.R. 23, the Stop Sweatshops Act. This important measure would hold any manufacturer legally responsible if it or one of its contractors operates a sweatshop.

Simply increasing the penalties is not enough. It is time for the Department of Labor to get off their fannies, to begin addressing the problem with the seriousness that this warrants. It is time for the Department to make exposing and putting sweatshops out of business a real priority.

Mr. Speaker, 87 years ago 146 young women died in what amounts to a senseless tragedy motivated by greed. We owe it to their memory to rid our Nation of sweatshops and those who endorse them, and fight against those who smile and say they know nothing about it when they endorse those products.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CUBIN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN JIM HOWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago today, March 25, 1988, Congressman Jim Howard passed away. It was a very sad day for us, for his friends and colleagues, his family, and for the coun-

try, because he had given so much and was at the height of his career as chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say these words tonight because I wanted to make sure that Jim and his tremendous legislative accomplishments are not forgotten. As his successor, representing most of his old district, I can point to many reminders back home of Jimmy's 24 years in Congress. There is the massive Jersey Shore beach restoration project, the rebuilding of Barnegat Inlet, the electrification of North Jersey Coast Rail Line, and Ocean County Community College.

There is the veterans outpatient clinic in Brick Township, the National Marine Fisheries Lab at Sandy Hook, the Computer Sciences Hall at Monmouth University, and Interstate 195 in Central Jersey, all of which carry his name as a reminder of his outstanding service to his district and to his State.

His contributions nationally were broad and lasting. As Chairman of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee from 1975 to 1981, he developed the "Howard Plan" which, for the first time, combined mass transit and highway legislation into one bill. It was an effort to give mass transit equal billing with highways and to better coordinate national transportation policy.

As chairman of the Committee on Public Works from 1981 to 1988, he championed, with the bipartisan help of the committee's current chairman and ranking member, the critical needs of the Nation's crumbling infrastructure. He undertook a bruising, but successful battle to raise the Federal gas tax to pay for the roads and the bridges that were deteriorating at an alarming rate.

He also championed highway safety, the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit, as well as anti-drunk driving and 21-year-old minimum drinking age laws that have saved many lives throughout the country. Perhaps most critical for his Jersey Shore district, he was an environmentalist who passed a tough clean water bill over a presidential veto. He set the timetable to end ocean dumping, developed a plan to end plastic floatables pollution and helped pass a comprehensive Superfund law.

In many ways, particularly in the environmental area, I am trying to carry on with some of these initiatives, because they are ongoing in nature and require a constant vigilance; and I have great respect for Jimmy's legacy and for that of his family. His widow, Marlene, his daughters, Kathy, Lenore and Marie, who is here this evening and is also a staffer on the Committee on Resources, and four grandsons, Brian, Jamie, Anthony and Joseph.

The love and support that Jim Howard received from his family was critical to his success in Congress and also at campaign time. He often talked about his first campaign in 1964, which was run from his kitchen table, using the entire family savings of about

\$5,000 at the time. His wife, Marlene, was the campaign manager, and my colleagues have to understand, this was a very risky venture for a grammar school teacher running in a district that had never gone Democratic for President and has not since that day in 1964 when Lyndon Johnson was elected and so was Jim Howard. His campaign slogan in 1964 was "He cares about people, it's that simple." I think that really sums up why Jim was reelected each time against odds that often were overwhelming.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include for the record two letters which I think paint a rich picture of the human side of Jim Howard, his wonderful sense of humor and his love of life. One of the letters is from Jimmy's daughter, Marie Howard Fabrizio, and the other is from Hayley Roberts Mullan of Belmar, New Jersey, which is the town in our congressional district where Jim grew up. Hayley has many childhood memories of her Congressman, which I would like to share and I include them for the RECORD at this time.

MARCH 25, 1998.

Congressman FRANK PALLONE,  
Cannon House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK: On behalf of my mother Marlene, my sisters Kathy and Lenore, and all the Vetrano and Howard family, thank you so much for taking the time to remember and honor my father, Jim Howard, today on the tenth anniversary of his passing. Our hearts are filled with appreciation for this kind gesture.

Dad served in the House of Representatives for 24 years and he loved this House. He was a liberal Democrat from a fairly conservative Republican district. First elected in 1964, he remained in Congress until his death on this date in 1988. I believe he was continuously reelected because he was respected by Democrats and Republicans alike for his candor, and willingness to listen to different opinions and learn from them. I can remember several occasions when he came home and told us that he was going to come out on one side or the other of an extremely contentious issue and it would probably mean he wouldn't be reelected. If we asked why he had to take such a stand the answer was always the same—because it was the right thing to do. Not to do so was a totally foreign concept to him.

In the mid 1960's when he had only been in Congress for a short time, he came out against further U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war. A position that didn't put a young Congressman in a good light with the powerful Johnson White House nor with his district which strongly supported the war effort. It seems funny to think of it now, but his position in favor of allowing 18 year olds to vote, was an incredibly divisive issue at the time it was being considered. He told me he could not rationalize how the government could draft someone into combat but deny that person a say in who made such decisions. Of course, few were thrilled when as Chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, he pushed so hard for the 55 mile an hour national speed limit. He was most proud of that legislation because it was so immediately responsible for a large decrease in highway fatalities and incidents of paralysis, epilepsy and other medical problems resulting from head trauma.

My dad used to say that next to the clergy, he believed public service was the next highest calling. He strongly believed that government was not the enemy of the people but rather an instrument to be used to make life better for those living in the shadows of life, and to foster strength within our union by embracing the diversity among all Americans.

Clearly, he passed his love of Congress on to me. After 18 years of working here I can say I've been blessed with the opportunity to work for three Members who, although diverse in personality, remind me so much of the ideals I respected most in my dad. Senator Bill Bradley for his forethought; Congressman Mo Udall for his unfailing humor and ability to bring warring sides together; and Congressman George Miller for his keen intellect and unwavering courage to take on the most unpopular of issues simply because it's "the right thing to do."

Everyone who knew my dad, knows that he got involved in politics because of the vision of the Kennedys. When he met Senator Jack Kennedy and listened to his vision for America—he was hooked. He remained true to that vision throughout his entire life and proudly wore his PT 109 tie pin and carried a Kennedy half dollar with him every day as reminders of where he came from. Frank, I know in your campaign office you have a rather large picture of my father with then Senator Bobby Kennedy, but I'm not sure you know the story behind the big smiles they have. The picture was taken during my dad's first reelection bid in 1966. Senator Kennedy was recording a radio spot which referred to my dad as being named the Outstanding Freshman Congressman. After the recording, Senator Kennedy said, "Gee Jim, that's pretty nice. What group picked you?" to which my dad quickly responded, "My staff. The vote was 6-to-4."

His quick wit may be what I miss most of all. He tried to instill in his daughters the importance of being able to laugh at our own human foibles. I remember my first day working as an intern in a Congressional office. I must have been 16 or 17 years old and was sent to deliver something in the Senate. I was hopelessly lost when I suddenly saw several men coming my way. Without thinking, I grabbed the arm of one of the men and asked for his help. As I looked up—into Senator Ted Kennedy's face—I was mortified. He was actually being interviewed and my intrusion caused cameras to click off and writers to stop writing. As the other men laughed, the Senator couldn't have been nicer, and told me the direction I needed to go. I felt like such a fool but when I told the story to my dad, he laughed so hard that in no time we were both roaring with laughter.

My dad always felt so lucky to be here and never forgot that under the many titles he amassed—Honorable, Congressman, Chairman—he was just a young, Irish kid with a head full of dreams given the opportunity of a lifetime to come to Washington with his Italian wife from Asbury Park to represent their beloved Jersey Shore.

It's hard to believe that ten years has passed since I heard his voice, squeezed his hand, or kissed his cheek. An entire decade has passed since I heard him sing an Irish song, tell me he loved me, or saw the twinkle in his eye that was always followed by that crooked smile which indicated he just saw something very funny in an otherwise serious situation.

How well I remember that sunny March day at St. Catherine's when you served as a pallbearer for my dad. I know he was your mentor and you worried about filling his shoes but with the work you have done here, especially with regard to the environment and shore protection, he would be proud of you.

I try to keep my dad's torch alive inside of me by remembering his teachings to me to never forget where I came from, always remember that one person can make a difference and everyone must try, and to always find the humor in life and revel in it. You also keep his torch alive by continuing to represent the interests of the Jersey Shore with respect and enthusiasm.

Again, thanks to you and your wonderful staff, Nancy Fatemi for this most gracious of tributes to my dad's memory.

Fondly,

MARIE HOWARD FABRIZIO.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PALLONE:

There's a saying I adore, but I don't know whom to credit:

"The world is filled with music for those who would hear it."

Jim Howard "heard" the music and he helped others follow the rhythm. He was a family man—a man of integrity and values. He played his politics from the heart. He worked diligently for what he believed was right—even if it meant hitting a few sour notes along the way. He could always take a deep breath and continue his melody, usually without skipping a beat.

Jim many times was the conductor of Congress—heading committees, establishing ideas to help the district and country, yet never forgetting that without the "musicians" his music wouldn't be heard. He knew that with the correct accompaniment the music would be beautiful and sonorous.

He also knew when it was time to slow down the beat—even during a busy campaign. He would be out on the links teeing off, or watching cartoons with a child, or getting a group of people to hold hands and sway to the music of "Sweet Caroline". He would also take time out of a busy day to stop by a friend's house to show off the latest in technology "toys" or he would stop by a hospital to visit a friend's newborn baby.

These are all things that I remember about Jim Howard. I also remember at this funeral, during the 21-gun-salute the realization that not only was I losing someone important in my life, but so was our country. I know his time on this earth was cut short and there were many things he hadn't finished yet. Hopefully, he's looking down on all of us and giving us guidance to continue his work. And hopefully, for him it's always sunny and he sinks every putt.

He was a husband, father, grandfather, friend, teacher, Congressman. Never once did he forget those who cared for him or abuse his power in the government to hurt others. He thought of others first and how his actions or works would affect them. And luckily, for us, he helped a young politician named Frank Pallone to continue his work. Another man who doesn't forget what he's learned and helps to pass it onto others. We've been a very lucky district indeed.

My only misfortune is that I was not of age to cast my vote for Jim Howard—I was seventeen when he passed away. But I leaned many things from him about politics and life. Politics didn't require "dirty pool" or opportunistic photo ops. Politics needed heartfelt belief in what was correct and proper. If you lived your life in that manner you didn't need to worry about winning an election—the people knew a kind, generous, and trustworthy person when they saw one. I am definitely a better person today for having known him and his legacy stays with me every day of my life.

Jim was like a second grandfather to me and I loved him and I miss him. But I know that one day I'll meet him again.

HAYLEY ROBERTS MULLAN.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PALLONE. I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman for bringing this Special Order in recognition of our former Chairman of the Committee on Public Works, Mr. Howard. I do remember the gentleman working as a former staffer for the late Congressman Phil Burton.

I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Howard, and if there is anything that I would identify and remember best about this great gentleman, not only as a Congressman, but as the Chairman of the Committee on Public Works, was the fact that he cares for the working man. And if there is anything that I could remember well in my association with the late Congressman, Phil Burton, was Jim Howard's concern about the needs of the working people here in America.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, once again, that Jim Howard was my mentor. There are so many things that I try to emulate in his life, and I am very proud to be able to present this Special Order tonight, 10 years to the day of the anniversary of his death.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago today, Congress and the nation lost a true patriot. James J. Howard was a dear friend of mine and should be remembered as a tremendous public servant of the people of New Jersey, and of the entire country. For more than 20 years, the House knew Jim as a well-respected chairman who always put the health and safety of the American people above all else.

Jim was a colleague and predecessor of mine: a dedicated, resourceful Chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee for more than eight years. Throughout the 80's, Jim was the driving force behind the major improvements that were made to our nation's infrastructure.

Jim fought for the principle that our infrastructure is one of the most crucial building blocks of our economy. He saw reliable highway systems, transit lines, air facilities, and water and sewage treatment capabilities, not as mundane subjects of public policy, but as a means to a better life for all. Better funding for highways and mass transit projects was secured because of Jim's work on the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982. Work on the Airport and Airway Improvement Acts of 1982 and 1987 assured similar improvements for aviation.

Jim believed that a solid infrastructure meant economic health and more jobs for his constituents and America. Because of Jim's vision, we appreciate this concept today, and his old Committee is proud to continue his work.

Jim also knew that the goals he doggedly pursued had to be achieved at no risk to the people and to the environment. The 21-year minimum drinking age and speed limit laws for which he was responsible is clear evidence that safety of the American people was always among the foremost of his legislative concerns.

Water pollution, waste dumps, sewage contamination—Jim battled to rid his district and

the country of these and other such threats to public safety. I have every confidence saying that many people are living today because of Jim's efforts, and I think that's something that should never be forgotten.

Jim worked hard so that every American would have a better life. Looking back over the last 10 years, his legacy and enduring philosophy still drive the work of the Transportation Committee he so expertly piloted toward the 20th century.

Jim, we miss you and we thank you for all that you did for this country.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Jim Howard on the tenth anniversary of his death. Jim Howard was a great American and he was a proud Member of the House of Representatives. He embodied the idea of public service and his love for his country, his state and district, and for this institution is a memory none of us who knew him will ever forget. His dedication to the public good, to the betterment of life for every man, woman and child in this country is a testament to his love for his Nation.

Mr. Speaker, today, in some circles, there is disdain for the kind of career legislator that was Jim Howard. He was an inside operator, a man who knew the rules, a man who knew how to get the job done. He fashioned a career from serving his constituents and his country and I, for one, think of his service to the United States as honorable and decent and well worth celebrating. Those who disparage public service should look closely at the record of achievement of a man like Jim Howard.

As Chairman of the then Public Works and Transportation Committee, Jim Howard was responsible for creating a coordinated program of highway and mass transit transportation to serve our cities and our rural areas; he was a champion of energy conservation as well as public safety on our nation's highways. He understood the need for expanding and upgrading the nation's airports and air traffic control system, and was a prime mover in the deregulation of the airline industry. His legacy also includes the landmark 1987 Clean Water Act, which was passed by the Congress after a hard-fought, but fairly-won, battle and which became law in spite of a Presidential veto. He was a man who knew what he stood for and fought hard for it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have known Jim Howard. I appreciate the opportunity to salute him on this anniversary of his passing.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remember a former colleague, the late Congressman James Howard, Democrat who served his State of New Jersey, and his Third District from 1965 until he died on March 25, 1988 at the age of 60 years.

Congressman Howard was first elected to the U.S. House in the fall of 1964 and took office in January of 1965. Until his election this district had been basically Republican. I was elected that same year. We had an entering class of nearly 100 members.

It was a historic Congress. Lyndon Baines Johnson was President. We enacted the first federal aid to education bill. We embarked on a War against Poverty. We made dramatic changes in the immigration laws. We provided help for young people going to college. We enacted Medicare. The list of achievements is long and impressive. It included things like Head Start, legal aid, aid to the elderly, new programs in housing and many others.

Jimmy Howard as he was affectionately known as a stalwart leader in all these enactments. He stood for his people in the Third District. He was dedicated and creative. He was loyal and hardworking. I considered him to be one of my best friends. We formed caucuses to create greater opportunities for fresh-man to have a say in policy. We worked hard to reform the House Rules to make it more open and democratic. He stood tall for civil rights, for women's rights and for human rights.

Jimmy Howard was a school teacher before he was elected to Congress. When he came to Congress he continued to use his background as a teacher and taught his colleagues about the importance of individual relationships and of the effectiveness of simple direct communication. He had a great wit and engaged the Congress in many provocative debates.

In 1975 he became a subcommittee chair in the Public Works Committee. He rose to the Chair of the full Public Works Committee in January of 1981.

One of his more notable accomplishments was the consolidation of mass transit with the highway legislation.

He was a very determined strategist and work ceaselessly to preserve the jurisdiction of his committees. He enacted the first 55 miles an hour speed limit on federal highways, which has probably saved the lives of thousands of people across the nation.

Congressman Howard was a constant legislator always on the outlook for ways he could make the highways safer. He worked hard to fight against drunk drivers and to fight for greater safety for child passengers.

In addition he is honored for his work to protect and preserve the environment. He fought against polluters and championed legislation to clean up toxic waste and keep dangerous chemicals out of our neighborhoods.

I am pleased to take this moment to note the life and accomplishments of this great legislator, my friend and colleague, The Honorable James T. Howard.

And in remembering Jimmy, I want to pay a special tribute and fond Aloha to his wife, Marlene and their children.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Representative Jim Howard from New Jersey. When Congressman Howard passed away suddenly ten years ago today, I was in my first term as a Member of Congress. I am grateful that I was able to meet Jim Howard, and to watch him at work. During his 23 years in Congress, Jim was one of the most able Members to serve in the House. When Jim served as Chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, he left his mark for us by passing important legislation improving our highways, mass transit, and aviation.

I deeply admired the way Jim Howard balanced building roads while doing his best to clean up the environment. In the mid-80's, Jim Howard sponsored the Clean Water Act, Superfund Act, Groundwater Protection Act, and the Plastic Pollution and Research Act. These laws helped our nation to clean up estuaries, manage non-point pollution, and limit sludge dumping. In addition, Jim Howard worked with EPA to develop a plan to eliminate plastic pollution off the shores of New Jersey.

While working to protect the environment, Jim Howard also worked to increase our fishing waters for our citizens to enjoy, by creating the 200-mile fishing limit.

At the same time, Jim Howard worked for highway safety. He was responsible for lowering the national speed limit to 55. This was the first law recognizing the relationship between speed and highway safety. Jim Howard also foresaw the problem with drunk driving. He wrote laws against drunk driving and raised the minimum drinking age to 21. We cannot know how many lives were saved on the highways due to the efforts of Jim Howard. But we can only thank him.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on in counting the many laws Jim Howard got passed in the Congress to protect our environment while expanding our transportation capabilities. It is poignant that we are remembering Jim Howard at this time. He did so much for transportation, and we are reflecting on his accomplishments just as the BESTA bill is about to come to the Floor.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I can only say that I am grateful that Jim Howard served in this House. He was one of our best Members, and was a good and gracious man.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE for reserving this time to pay tribute to the memory of a good friend, Jim Howard. It is only fitting that the timing of this event comes as the House is preparing to consider a major surface transportation bill next week.

As a Representative from Boston, I will always be grateful to Jim Howard for his role in shepherding the original authorization of the Big Dig Project in Boston—the biggest public works project in the history of the United States—through the then Public Works and Transportation Committee. Jim's legacy is as strong today as it was when he left us ten years ago. Jim was known as a devoted representative to his constituents in the Third Congressional District, but Jim was also devoted to the citizens of the United States. As many of us know, Jim was responsible for the passage of the 55-mile-per-hour national speed limit. His efforts to focus the national attention on the issue of speed and safety and the perils of drunk driving and under age drinking undoubtedly saved thousands of lives. Jim was widely known as a transportation guy, but Jim also led the way on some of the most important environmental legislation to ever come out of the U.S. House of Representatives. Many a times that I sought Jim's help for clean-up money for Boston Harbor or additional money for a train station or for a particular highway project, Jim was always there. He appreciated the work of a legislator, he knew that if you tried hard enough you truly could make a difference in the daily lives of people.

Jim was known as a fierce defender of the jurisdiction of his beloved Public Works Committee. As a member of the House Rules Committee, I witnessed first hand the many battles he had with the Appropriators whenever he thought they were treading on his committee's ability to legislate. And let me tell you nine times out of ten Jim would prevail. Jim knew the legislative process as well as any other Member I knew at the time and it was this knowledge that made Jim the special legislator that he was.

I am eternally grateful for the friendship that Jim Howard accorded me while he was in

Congress. In 1977 I had the opportunity to travel to Egypt with Jim to meet with the leader of Egypt, Anwar Sadat. In my Congressional Office I still have the picture of Jim and myself in the traditional Arab headdress—I smile every time I see it. It brings back fond memories of my old pal.

Again I thank the Gentleman from New Jersey, for reserving this time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Honorable Jim Howard, former Member of the House of Representatives, and Chair of the then Committee on Public Works and Transportation, now the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

My tribute to Jim's memory has to do with his chairmanship of the Public Works Committee, where he served from 1975 to 1988. This tribute comes from the fact that when I first began my tenure in the House in 1976, as a twenty-seven year old freshman, I chose the Public Works Committee as the major committee I most wanted to join, and having done so I have remained on the Committee for nearly 22 years.

Jim Howard's stewardship of that committee, and the strength and courage of his convictions concerning the importance of this nation's infrastructure, and of our duty to see that it was funded, will always be with me.

As we are poised to vote on the reauthorization of the Federal Highway bill, known as BESTEA, in the coming days, I am reminded even more of the on-the-job training I received under Jim's leadership, which as served me so very well over the years.

During Jim's chairmanship of the Committee, he guarded its jurisdiction with all of his being—which was considerable. It was Jim Howard who was responsible for the passage of the 55-mile per hour national speed limit, the first legislation to focus attention on the relationship between speed and safety.

I was mindful of that fact when, in 1995 during floor consideration of the National Highway System Designation Act, as I tried in vain to preserve that 55-mile per hour speed limit. I wondered at the time whether Jim Howard was watching and listening as the speed limit was raised to ever more dangerous levels nationwide. I continue to believe that Jim was right, and that his 55-miles per hour limit that had stood the test of time as a mandate that prevented the deaths of many innocent victims around the country, should have remained in force.

Chairman Jim Howard was a champion of all the issues over which his committee had jurisdiction, not just highways—from Clean Air to Clean Water, from Mass Transit to Airport and Airway Improvement, and from motor carrier safety to groundwater protection.

As I mentioned above, in the next week when we again meet on the floor of the House to reauthorize the federal highway legislation, I will draw strength from remembering that Jim Howard did not shrink from a floor fight over legislation he believed was in the nation's interest.

I know that he will be watching over us as we carry on with the legacy he left for all of us and for the nation by enacting BESTEA, again focusing attention on our country's infrastructure and environment.

This special order tonight, and our action to enact BESTEA this week or next, will go far in assuring that Jim Howard's role as a National legislator is not forgotten.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OBERSTAR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### AMERICAN SCHOOLS ARE SAFER FROM RELIGION THAN FROM DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, people throughout this Nation are being denied a fundamental right, the right to freely express their religious beliefs. It is a shame that I have reason to make that statement here in the United States in the year 1998, but it is a sad fact. Please allow me to list a few examples.

One example, a judge ruled in favor of a teacher who gave a young Tennessee student an F on a research paper, simply because she decided to write the paper about Jesus. On three separate occasions, St. Louis school system officials put a fourth grade student in detention for bowing his head to say a private prayer over lunch.

Mr. Speaker, students from schools across the country have been prohibited from bringing the best-selling book in America to school, the Bible. At the same time, the Justice Department reports that 100,000 young people bring guns to school every day. It is a sad commentary on our Nation to say that our schools are safer from religion than they are from illegal drugs.

Mr. Speaker, this country was built upon Judeo-Christian values. I believe we are in real trouble now that we have reached a time when, sadly, those values are being attacked and not protected. Every American, our children in their formative years especially, should be allowed to freely explore and express their religious beliefs that include voluntary school prayer.

My good friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ERNEST ISTOOK) recognized this fact, and has seen the many threats to religious liberties in this Nation. He has taken action. I am proud to be part of the team of over 150 co-sponsors, Democrat and Republican, supporting the religious liberty amendment proposed by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK). I believe it is the right step to protect one of our most fundamental rights which has been so frequently infringed upon recently.

The religious freedom amendment corrects court actions and trends which have suppressed religious expressions. It will permit student-initiated procedures in public schools. The proposal retains the First Amendment safeguard against official religion and keeps school prayer voluntary, but protects it, just as other forms of free speech are protected.

Specifically, if approved by a two-thirds margin of both Houses of Congress and ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the States, the religious freedom amendment will add the following words to the United States Constitution:

"To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience: Neither the United States nor any State shall establish any official religion, but the people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage, or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. Neither the United States nor any State shall require any person to join in prayer or other religious activities, prescribe school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion."

I commend my good friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), for presenting us with this opportunity to defend religious freedom in America, and for following the will of the people, as we in this Congress are elected to do.

Public opinion polls have shown time and time again that three-quarters of Americans support a constitutional amendment to allow voluntary prayer in public schools and to protect religious liberties. I urge my colleagues to listen to their constituents, and to join in this effort to protect the right of religious expression in America. Support House Joint Resolution 78.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DEAL of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRlich) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EHRlich addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)