

based on leadership potential. The American teens and their families are recruited, screened, and selected based on their willingness and ability to accommodate the addition of another teenager to their household for the one-month long project.

The Ulster Project is important because it teaches young people the skills of conflict resolution in an environment far from the politically charged atmosphere of Northern Ireland. The teens participate in an intensely programmed and professionally supervised month of educational, ecumenically spiritual and social activities that promote interaction and reflection. The teens are also required to perform weekly community service tasks and are allowed time to have fun with the new friends they make from both America and their homeland.

The Ulster Project provides the teens with an alternative to the "them against us" mind set that has permeated the politics of Northern Ireland for thirty years and that, until recently, had prevented reason from prevailing in the peace talks. The Ulster Project teaches a "them and us" approach of inclusion and discussion and resolution. Teens returning to Northern Ireland after participating in the Ulster Project have been able to view the conflict in a different light and change their perceptions of Catholics or Protestants. The Ulster Project has become a real and effective factor in turning young people away from continuing the conflict and towards working for peace.

There are many more Ulster Projects across the United States that have provided the same opportunities to teenagers from Northern Ireland. The American people have deliberately gotten involved in the effort to restore peace to all of Ireland and their efforts have paid off. President Clinton also recognized the importance of peace in Northern Ireland and devoted the resources of his administration to working to resolve the conflict in Northern Ireland and he has been credited with keeping the talks going which lead to the peace settlement.

The Milwaukee community is obviously excited to host the key players from the Northern Ireland peace talks. And, to finally see the prospect of peace manifested in the peace agreement is an accomplishment in which the Irish in Milwaukee, and around the nation, can surely take pride.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO  
EMS FOUNDATION

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the American fire service, a history steeped in tradition about individuals risking their own lives to save the lives of others. As Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I applaud the work of individuals and organizations, both past and present, who have preserved our communities and protected them against the threat of fire and other dangers.

Protecting communities against fire exacts a toll on fire departments, whether they are paid or volunteer. We, as private citizens, should

feel a sense of duty to help our first responders be properly trained and equipped to perform their work. For 350 years, they have responded to our calls without failure. As fire protection becomes a more expensive undertaking, the need for additional community support becomes more imperative.

This goes beyond public financing. The private sector can play a major role in augmenting local government efforts. Recently, I learned of an organization in the state of Colorado that awards grants and other types of aid to improve the readiness of first responders. Since its inception in 1996, the Colorado EMS Foundation has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to Colorado-based fire departments and EMS providers, allowing them to purchase state of the art equipment that will help save lives and reduce property damages caused by fires.

The Colorado EMS Foundation is primarily funded by one family, the Dixons. They are private citizens committed to a safer Colorado. The Executive Director of the Foundation, Robert W. Dixon, is a paramedic and former volunteer firefighter. His experiences exposed the Dixon family to the problems many fire departments face regarding inadequate equipment, instilling in them a desire to help our domestic defenders. When I hear of stories about private sector initiatives supporting first responders, I want them to be heard by others.

I commend the Dixon family for their efforts in Colorado. I hope that others across the country hear of their work and follow their lead. The American fire and EMS services need more people like the Dixons, individuals who realize the challenges facing emergency responders and who are willing to take it upon themselves to make a difference and come to their aid.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREL ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL FIFTH GRADE  
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Laurel Elementary School fifth grade students and their teachers. Recently, I was invited to be a guest reader at the school's Read-Aloud Day, an all-volunteer effort to demonstrate to children the importance of reading. My time with the students was very rewarding and one of my favorite experiences as a Congressman.

Laurel Elementary School, whose motto is, "Learning Together for a Better Tomorrow," opened its current building in 1993, retaining the original school's name which was on Laurel Street. The staff is committed to and accepts the responsibility for providing a comprehensive academic experience which challenges all students. The staff and community work collaboratively to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment. They are determined that all students will learn essential skills to become successful, lifelong learners.

The ability to read is one of the most critical keys to a person's success and happiness, so I am pleased that Laurel Elementary School is fostering a love of reading. As the son of two

public school teachers and the father of four children, I greatly value quality public education. It is my goal for all children to obtain the background knowledge necessary to achieve mature literacy and succeed.

The Fort Collins Read-Aloud Day has been held for the last eight years and is organized to promote community awareness of the importance of reading. This year, more than 100 volunteers are giving their time to local schools. I am honored to have been invited to participate at Laurel Elementary School.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the State of Israel and all of the people of Israel as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their nation's independence.

The desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of Israel is the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established three thousand years ago in the City of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel, and was finally realized with the assistance of the world community following the slaughter of six million European Jews during the Holocaust.

The people of Israel rightly take great pride in having rebuilt a nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a unique and vital economic, political, cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of six wars, terrorism, international ostracism, and economic boycotts. Furthermore, under these difficult circumstances, the people of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic democratic political system including freedom of speech, a free press, free, fair and open elections, the rule of law, and other democratic principles and practices.

Because of our shared experience in building new nations and recognizing the fundamental liberties of our people, the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect. In addition, the American people have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and regard Israel as a trusted ally and an important strategic partner.

I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

FAUQUIER COUNTY HONORS  
SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 25, will be a special day in Fauquier County in the 10th District of Virginia. A very special

volunteer recognition luncheon will be held at Fauquier High School in Warrenton sponsored by the Board of Supervisors of Fauquier County.

That event will conclude the county's National Volunteer Week activities in two special ways. First, and most importantly, it will honor more than 30 very dedicated senior citizens who have given selfishly of their time and energy for many years to help make their community a better place in which to live. Second, it will be the first county-wide recognition event to be cosponsored by the community-at-large and the newly established County Volunteer and Information Assistance Center.

Mr. Speaker, what is so wonderful about this recognition is that the citizen volunteers who will be honored are 80 years of age or older, and many are still very active volunteers. They support the Hospital Auxiliary, the Red Cross, and the Senior Center. Their services have ranged from helping to provide food and clothing, to supporting blood donation drives, to tutoring and mentoring, to visiting and helping the sick and shut-ins. They are people who have contributed in so many ways to creating the wholesome, caring, and sharing community the citizens of Fauquier County enjoy.

I know our colleagues would join in saluting these extraordinary people and thanking them for their spirit of volunteerism. They have shown us that helping neighbors by volunteer efforts knows no age barrier. They are folks who continue to be an inspiration and example for all to follow.

We join in honoring the following senior volunteers: Virginia T. Allison, Ethel Bailey, Hazel Bell, Ruth H. Brittle, Florence Mabel Cooper, Mary E. Culver, Everett Danley, Addie V. Desantis, F. Byrd Greene, Isabelle H. Hilleary, DeNiece O. Johnson, Viola F. Latham, Alice M. Mann, Grace Miller, Ann C. Nelson, Blanche C. O'Connell, Mary H. O'Shaughnessy, Andrew C. Parrish, Lewis A. Payne, Luther R. Payne, Alice Pullen, Mattie F. Rector, Annie R. Rogers, Alyce G. Russell, Dorothy V. Rust, Refa M. Ryan, Anne Brooke Smith, Lawrence W. Sudduth, Nina P. Thorpe, Helen Warren, Barbara E. Waterman, Elsie C. Woodzell, and John Zirnheld.

## BOSNIA

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 1998*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I include the following speech by retired General George Joulwan, who was Supreme Allied Commander in Europe from 1993–1997 and the overall commander for NATO's forces in Bosnia.

This is one of the best assessments of the situation there that I have heard.

What a great introduction! Thanks. And though I do not need to tell this group, you are indeed fortunate to be represented in Washington by Congressman Jack Murtha. Not only is he devoted to his district in western Pennsylvania, but he is absolutely dedicated to the security of our Nation. In my 7 years as a CINC, as commander-in-chief of US forces in both Central and South America and in Europe, Middle East and Africa—no

other Member of Congress was more supportive than Jack Murtha. He cares deeply about this country and he cares deeply for the young men and women who wear the uniform of our country. I want to thank him personally for his support—and on behalf of the millions of troops I was privileged to command.

Let me also say a special word about Mrs. Murtha. She, too, cares about both Country and Community. Her dedication to the Girl Scouts of America here in Johnstown is indicative of her concern for the youth and future leaders of our Country. Thank you—for your interest, commitment, and concern. I might add that another reason I am here is that I am the father of three daughters—all three were in the Girl Scouts. And that included girl scout troops when we were stationed in Europe. The Girl Scout experience instilled poise, self esteem and character into my daughters. It was a wonderful foundation on which to build as one matures. All three are graduated from college—Penn State. I might add—and all three are married. And I have two granddaughters who soon also will be girl scouts. So it is indeed a pleasure to be here.

So I am pleased to be here with people who truly care about young children and our country. And I thank you for all you are doing. And it is in that spirit that I want to talk to you tonight. As a former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and as a father and grandfather.

My purpose tonight is to discuss a true success story for the United States and Europe—Bosnia. Bosnia is important to the United States and to NATO and the world because it symbolizes a new era in preventive defense—that is to prevent conflict rather than to fight a war. And that concept is important to you here in Johnstown who suffered more from casualties in the Gulf War than any other district in America. Bosnia is also important because even though American leadership is crucial, Europeans are providing the bulk of the troops—to include Russia. And Bosnia is important because with success in Bosnia a new security arrangement is possible for Europe. A security arrangement for the 21st Century built on democratization and free enterprise; on mutual trust and confidence and on freedom, justice and liberty. This is what General Marshall envisioned in the Marshall Plan of 1947. 50 years later we have the opportunity to realize Marshall's dream. That's why we must get it right in Bosnia. And the main message I want to leave with you is the absolute need for clarity of mission and purpose by our political authorities anytime we commit young American men and women in harm's way. And as we are on the verge of a new phase in Bosnia, my purpose this evening is to share with you my thoughts on the way ahead.

I will do so as one who was closely involved with the Dayton Accords and as one who was overall responsible for the NATO and military operations in Bosnia. As one who strongly believes in the importance of US leadership and involvement in not only fighting and winning our nation's wars but being proactive in preventing deadly conflict. And as one who sees a genuine opportunity for peace, stability, and a better life for all the people of Bosnia. To achieve this stability we along with our NATO allies and partners have taken risks for peace in Bosnia—and continue to do so today.

It is interesting that as we meet tonight, planners from 36 countries are meeting at my former headquarters in Mons Belgium to determine the force structure for the next phase. I started this process nearly three years ago and it works. Indeed European forces will comprise nearly 80% of the new

force for SFOR after June of this year. And U.S. forces will drop from 8,500 to about 6,000. But the issue that still needs to be answered is "to do what?"

When the President agreed to keep American troops in Bosnia beyond June of 1998, he did so "in principle" pending clarity on the missions to be assigned to the follow-on force. The President was right to do so. As the vanguard of NATO, U.S. troops are essential to the consolidation of the gains that have been made since Dayton and to the nurturing of peace and stability in the Balkans. It is doubtful whether the peace will hold without the presence of outside military forces. Now the President needs to assure the American people, Congress, and, more important, the troops, that the mission and tasks to be performed after June are spelled out before the final decision is made to keep American forces on the ground in Bosnia. Not to do so can result in failure and unwanted casualties.

As one who had the responsibility for providing military advice on the implementation force (IFOR) and the stabilization force (SFOR) to the President as well as the 16 nations of NATO, I suggest that a comprehensive dialogue take place for the next phase of the operation. When I briefed the President and his advisers in the oval office in November 1995, I recommended the following conditions be met for the commitment of US troops: clarity of mission and purpose, unity of command, robust rules of engagement and timely political decisions. The President agreed with the comprehensive military plan based on those conditions as did the 16 nations of NATO. As a result, when the NATO-led force deployed to Bosnia in December of 1995 and the US troops crossed the Sava River, we did so with great confidence and determination because the mission was clear and the troops were well trained for the tasks assigned. Despite dire predictions, the multinational force was successful in accomplishing all tasks assigned and without, to date, one hostile death casualty. That's 855 days! That's because we did it right. And we need to do it right in the next phase of the operation beyond June 1998.

Given the conditions mentioned above, what then should be the issues for the post June 1998 commitment of US forces to Bosnia? The key question that must be answered is the specific mission of the follow-on force. In November 1996 when the decision was made to down size IFOR from 60,000 to an SFOR of 30,000, I had several sessions with NATO and US decision makers on the missions to be performed. To determine the size of SFOR I asked the 16 ambassadors of NATO's North Atlantic Council three questions. Do you want SFOR to hunt down and arrest indicted war criminals? Do you want SFOR to perform civil police functions? And do you want SFOR to forcibly return refugees to their homes? The answer to all three questions was no. Indeed the written political guidance of 26 November 1996 from the Council reflected this intent of NATO's political authorities. If the answers were yes then I would have recommended additional troops and training. Those same questions need to be addressed now before a decision is made to extend the mandate beyond June. The answers to these questions must provide clear political instructions so that the senior military leadership can give the best advice to our political authorities on the force required to do the tasks assigned, the resources needed, and the risks involved. Most important, such guidance will provide the framework to train the force to the tasks. And it is training that is absolutely paramount for our forces in Bosnia—train to mission enhances mission success and minimizes casualties.