

inspiring respect for our flag, the Stars and Stripes, (3) encouraging a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and Union; and (4) perpetuating the memory of those whose lives were sacrificed in our nation's wars.

I salute the Gold Star Mothers of the Thirtieth Congressional District, the entire Greater Philadelphia area and the Nation as a whole. Starting with just 25 members, Gold Star Mothers grew quickly and today has members from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. All of us should be grateful that our Nation produces men and women with the courage and dedication to make the supreme sacrifice so that we might be free. We should be thankful too that our Nation has mothers whose courage and compassion help make those sacrifices worth it and—in the most special way—make sure that the memory of those who died for our country lives on.

God bless the Gold Star Mothers. We humbly offer our tears, humility and gratitude as a nation. We pray there will be no more lives unnecessarily lost and no more tears. God love and protect all of our brave soldiers in this great Nation.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION  
OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey, officially incorporated in 1916, traces its roots to the Female Charitable Society established in Morristown in 1813. The Society was established by women who felt obligated to provide coal, food and clothing to poor individuals in northern New Jersey, and, by 1898, also provided nursing services. The VNA was founded on the enduring civic and charitable virtues embodied by the Society, and today continues their long tradition of serving the community.

In the early 1900's, Morris County, like many other areas in the country, experienced a wave of immigration that brought with it many challenges in providing health outreach services. To respond more effectively to these changing social conditions, the VNA hired its first full-time nurse in 1914, Ms. Mable R. Saulpaugh, who went on to make 771 house calls without the use of a car. By 1918, the VNA opened up its first day care center for expectant mothers, and, later that same year, purchased their first automobile, which greatly increased its sphere of influence.

During the 1920's and 1930's, the VNA established several key outreach tools to ensure that a broad spectrum of individuals were aware of the health services that the VNA could provide to them. Most popular among these was the Well Babies and Children parade, where prizes were awarded for the healthiest-looking baby and toddler. Additional tools included going directly into the schools and following up with home visits for children

at risk of disease. Indeed, the VNA's prodigious outreach work served as an impetus for hospitals in the area to establish their own outpatient departments.

By 1936, the VNA's outreach methods provided for considerable success in fighting Tuberculosis, and played a major role in reducing it from the number one cause of death to the eighth in Morris County. During World War II, and in ensuing years, the VNA focused on increasing its staff size, so as to widen its ability to serve the community. By 1960, the VNA had expanded to eight nurses serving 37 towns in Morris County, with a total budget of \$60,000. Less than twenty years later, the VNA had revenues in excess of \$1 million, and today boasts a staff of 400 employees offering comprehensive health services to the Morris County area.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its long history, the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey has never lost sight of its crucial role in providing superior home health care to those in need. As the VNA today deals with the extraordinary challenges of meeting the specific needs of those suffering from AIDS and other diseases, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, to join me in commemorating the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey on this special anniversary year.

BULLETPROOF VEST  
PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for H.R. 2829, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act. This is much needed legislation to help protect our law enforcement officers as they work to make our communities safe.

The threats facing our police officers have grown more complex and dangerous. Police-men who put their lives on the line every day too often find themselves in the sights of criminal who have high powered automatic and semi-automatic weapons. Violent criminals have too often used these weapons against law enforcement officers. We need to give "the good guys," our law enforcement professionals, every means of protection against criminals. This problem is so severe that the federal government should support state and local efforts to provide more protection to our police men and women. That is the purpose of this legislation.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act authorizes the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make \$25 million in grants to states or local governments to purchase bulletproof vests for use by law enforcement officers. These grants are matched by state and local governments, unless it would produce a financial hardship on the community. Additionally, it gives preferential treatment considerations to applications from jurisdictions that have the greatest need for such funding, a mandatory policy for using bulletproof vests, or a violent crime rate above the national average.

Since 1980, 1,182 police officers have been killed by firearms. According to the Federal

Bureau of Investigation, 42 percent of those officers could have survived if they had been wearing bulletproof vests. Today, 25 percent of state and local law enforcement officers do not have access to a single bulletproof vest. That is 150,000 police officers who every day are 14 times more likely to die if they are hit by a bullet. The statistics are shocking and the public policy is uncontrovertible. Please join me in supporting final passage of H.R. 2829. Thank you.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON  
AKIN BIRDAL: TURKEY'S LEAD-  
ING RIGHTS ADVOCATE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning Akin Birdal, the President of the Human Rights Association of Turkey (IHD), was gunned down in his Ankara office. A right-wing squad has claimed responsibility for the attack which left Turkey's most vocal human rights critic comatose.

Since 1986, under Akin Birdal's leadership, the IHD has established itself as the largest independent human rights monitoring NGO in Turkey. Akim Birdal has appeared before the Helsinki Commission and met with its staff in Washington and Ankara. He is in high regard by legislators and diplomats around the world. In recent years he has received awards from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the International Human Rights Law Group and NGOs in Europe. Last year, he was elected Vice-President of the prestigious International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIHD).

This vile assault takes place against a backdrop of repression and intimidation against rights workers throughout Turkey. The Government of Turkey has criminalized non-violent human rights advocacy. Security forces and right-wing death squads have collaborated in the murders of human rights activities, Journalists, Kurdish dissidents and others. More than a dozen IHD offices have been closed by authorities and IHD leaders, including Mr. Birdal face continuous legal and other harassment.

Mr. Speaker, despite great personal danger, Akin Birdal and his colleagues dared to continue speaking against human rights violations by the State. The IHD has been especially critical of the "dirty war" waged against Turkey's Kurdish rebels. In recent weeks, the climate of intimidation escalated. Mr. Birdal reported numerous death threats against himself and his family. Unsubstantiated allegations by security officials leaked to the media stated that Birdal took orders from the PKK, an outlawed Kurdish guerrilla group. Mr. Birdal vigorously denied such allegations and denounced the "primitive conspiracy" orchestrated by Turkey's military rulers against their "enemies list."

Mr. Speaker, the shooting of Akin Birdal is a great tragedy for all who cherish human rights. His steadfast support for peace and non-violence is an inspiration to many in Turkey and abroad. IHD was working with NGOs around the world to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On this auspicious occasion, it