

I commit myself to working in the memory of the thousands of Americans who served in America's wars and were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action.

I commit myself to the families of those whose fate has been unknown and who have had to suffer tragic and continuing hardships.

In Washington, engraved at the Veterans's Administration Building, is a quote from Abraham Lincoln, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his orphan."

I do not believe that America has sufficiently cared for all of those men who have been declared missing or captured.

Until we have a full accounting, we cannot fulfill this promise to America's veterans and families.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BLAIR J. NAHM ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Blair J. Nahm. Blair recently accepted his offer of appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

The Nahm family has a long tradition with West Point, as Blair's older brother, Reid, is currently a Cadet Third Class. As Blair will soon be graduating from Tiffin Columbian High School, he, too, will be embarking on what figures to be one of the most educational and challenging opportunities of his life.

While attending Columbian High School, Blair excelled academically by attaining a 3.735 grade point average, placing him in the top ten percent of his class. Blair's academic excellence was extended through his involvement in the National Honor Society. He also participated in the Ohio Test of Scholastic Achievement, where he placed second in the district in pre-calculus.

Blair is also a fine student-athlete, and has distinguished himself on the fields of competition. He was a key member of the Varsity Football Team and Varsity Wrestling Team. In fact, during his junior year of wrestling, Blair received the Wrestling Iron Man Award for his accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Blair will be very successful at West Point and in all of his future endeavors. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying tribute to Blair J. Nahm, and in wishing him well as he prepares to enter the United States Military Academy.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARJORIE SLAVENS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to say a few words in tribute

to an outstanding teacher, Dr. Marjorie Slavens, who after nearly 40 years in the teaching profession, has decided to retire.

Dr. Slavens, who has been blind since a small child, has dedicated her life to teaching others. She is a Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Missouri at Columbia—holding both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. She earned her PH.D. from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. After graduating, Dr. Slavens began teaching Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages at Rockford College in Rockford, IL, and continued at this post for 33 years. During this period, student workers proudly assisted Dr. Slavens by taking attendance and proctoring tests, and tape-recording examinations for Slavens to grade.

Dr. Slavens's unique teaching style has earned recognition. In 1987, Dr. Slavens received the Illinois Lieutenant Governor's Award for service to the foreign language teaching profession. The college also appointed her Director of Advising, and she published Rockford College's first Academic Advising Handbook. In 1989, she was awarded the Mary Ashby Cheek Award that recognized her as an Honorary Alumni of the college. In 1991, a committee composed of faculty, staff, and students selected Dr. Slavens to receive the Sears Foundation Award for teaching excellence and campus leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Dr. Marjorie Slavens on a spectacular teaching career. As she prepares for her retirement and the enjoyment therein, Dr. Slavens will undoubtedly take pride in her legacy as one of the nation's most special educators.

PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on May 15 our Nation honored the brave men and women in law enforcement with Peace Officers' Memorial Day, designated 36 years ago by President John F. Kennedy. This day of acknowledgment for the selfless contributions made by hardworking individuals falls during National Police Week. I rise today to pay tribute to all law enforcement professionals across our country and to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Last year, 159 officers lost their lives in the line of duty. These fine individuals died serving the best interests of our society, working hard to protect our citizens. Patrolling our streets and highways, protecting our homes and families, and seeking out criminals are in the job descriptions of law enforcement professionals. Yet we all too often take for granted these hardworking people.

The National Association of Police Chiefs reported 21 confirmed line-or-duty deaths for January of 1998, ten more than reported in January of 1997. Even as crime rates are dropping, peace officer fatalities are steadily rising. Since 1980, 1,182 officers have been killed in the line of duty by firearms. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 42 percent of those officers could have survived had they been wearing bulletproof vests. That is why I am pleased that the Bulletproof Vest

Partnership Act was approved by Congress last week. This bill will provide Federal grants to match State and local government funds in purchasing bulletproof vests for law enforcement officers. This bill will take steps to provide these brave men and women with the tools they need to fight crime, protect society, and insure that they make it home.

We should not forget the hardworking, courageous men and women who every day step into the role of peace officer to make our society a safer place. I thank the Members for supporting the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act and observing National Police Week and Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

THE NIGERIAN DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT ACT, H.R. 3890

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Representative DONALD M. PAYNE of New Jersey, the Nigerian Democracy and Civil Society Empowerment Act, H.R. 3890. Mr. PAYNE, a senior member of our International Relations Committee, has been a true leader in Congress on this issue. He identified the corrupt, venal nature of the Nigerian regime long before many of us, and I am pleased to work with him on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, while many other African nations are moving toward democracy and joining the world economy, the military government of Nigeria has become one of the most brutal and corrupt dictatorships on the continent.

Nevertheless, Nigeria remains important to U.S. interests. With a population of more than 100 million people, and the strongest military in the region, Nigeria is the key to security and development in all of West Africa. If Nigeria descends into chaos, millions of people from Senegal to Cameroon will suffer.

Nigerian drug traffickers, who have thrived under this regime, are among the most skilled in the world, reportedly delivering 70% of the heroin that enters Chicago alone, as part of their world-wide distribution networks.

Our bill sends a clear message to the military regime in Nigeria that the status quo is unacceptable. The Nigerian people want and deserve a real transition to democratic, civilian government, and this measure points U.S. foreign policy toward that goal. This legislation does three things.

It establishes a program to assist those in Nigeria who are willing to take risks for democracy and human rights. As was done during the apartheid regime in South Africa, the United States will aid those who stand against the illegitimate government of Nigeria and for a return to democratic, civilian rule.

The bill codifies into law the various sanctions that have been imposed on Nigeria by executive order, from visa restrictions to prohibitions on weapons sales, and establishes conditions under which these sanctions can be lifted.

The bill also mandates further measures if a transition to a democratic government under civilian control does not occur by the end of