

form of religion. For example, the brother of the woman who was murdered by Carla Fay Tucker is strongly against the death penalty for reasons of religion. He met with his sister's killer while she was on death row. He forgave her and she responded with tears and apologies. We killed this woman anyway. Bud Welch's daughter, Julie, died in the Oklahoma City bombing, and still he does not support the execution of Timothy McVay. He rejects legal murder for reasons of his religion, and also other moral issues such as the sanctity of life.

Another moral point that is important to make is the fact that we are trying to teach people that murder is wrong by committing it. By the logic of our government, we then killed and are wrong, and deserve to be killed as well.

RENAVY THOMPSON: It is interesting to note that the United States is the only developed country that still uses the death penalty. Other countries in the same category with the U.S. on this issue are China, Iraq, India, North Korea, and Cuba, among others.

We would like to see a Federal abolition of capital punishment like the one from 1972 to 1976. As an alternative to the death penalty, we suggest life penalties without parole. These would be less costly, and the millions of dollars per prisoner saved could be reallocated into a fund to build a greater quantity of more secure prisons.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: That is an excellent presentation.

STATEMENT BY ALIA STAVRAND WOOLF
REGARDING CHARTER SCHOOLS

ALIA STAVRAND WOOLF: For the record, my name is Alia Stavrand Woolf. I am a ninth grader at the Gailer School.

All right. I used to go to the Shelburne Community School, and it wasn't working for me. Classes had no depth, and math was going agonizingly slowly. The only school work I enjoyed was my independent study. Students generally weren't allowed to broaden their studies. So students who already "got it" were asked to help the other students in the class learn the material.

Well, this sounds great in principle, and does work up to a point. But after a while, it got to me. Think about what it would be like if all day, every day, you had to watch Jeopardy reruns and you couldn't turn the TV off because, during the commercials, you were expected to explain the answers to your nextdoor neighbor.

I became a difficult student because I felt like I was wasting my time in school and not learning nearly as much as I could. By the end of fifth grade, my parents and I were pretty tired of trying to work within the system. When we moved to Charlotte that year, we decided it was time to look at what educational options were open. We asked the Charlotte public school if I could skip a grade so I could be more challenged in school. They said no. We considered home schooling, but both my parents work.

After a lot of looking, we found a private school in Middlebury called the Gailer School. It integrates different disciplines and incorporates independent study and community service. We met with the headmaster, and he actually talked with me, not to me, about what I wanted to learn. But private school tuition was not in the budget. I would have to start doing a lot more chores around the house, like all of the laundry, vacuuming, lawn mowing, taking care of my brother, a lot of work, so my mom could work more hours. I would also have to get on the bus at 7:00 a.m. to ride to Middlebury and wouldn't get home until 5:00 at night. This was no easy decision for my parents or for me.

Most public school classes are aimed at the average student. When you think about it, only one percent of students will be perfectly average. There are always special education classes, but not nearly so often are there advanced placement offerings.

All ends of the spectrum need to be addressed. A student should not have to go to private school to have their needs addressed, and it is mainly the elite who can choose an appropriate education for their child. Shouldn't there be the opportunity for all students to be challenged?

Students now come from as far south as Rutland, as far north as Fairfax, and as far east as Rochester to go the Gailer School in Middlebury. This should send a clear message to lawmakers that many students care so deeply about their education that they are willing to make significant sacrifices.

There is simply not enough scholarship money out there so that all students who want to can go to private school. Frequently, students start at private schools, but then have to drop out for financial reasons. While I am fortunate that my family has been able to send me to private school, it should not be only the economically elite who have access to alternative education.

I think a solution to this problem is federal legislation encouraging states to institute charter schools. Options would then open up for disadvantaged students. Because charter schools are still technically public schools, any student could go to the school of their choice. Students, like adults, need options; no school fits all students, just like no company is right for all workers.

In our free-market society, students need the best grade school education they can get, because they will have to compete for good colleges and jobs. I do not understand why our system of public schools is set up like a protectorate. It seems like more effort goes into maintaining the status quo than offering kids like me an excellent education.

Students deserve the opportunity to attend charter schools that are innovative and visionary. I see charter schools as an especially exciting opportunity for all students who are not average to have their talents appreciated and their interests encouraged. I love learning, and I learn best when I love my school.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much for an excellent presentation.

A DEMOCRATIC TAIWAN WILL
CONTINUE TO FLOURISH

HON. ROBERT SMITH

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, during President Clinton's visit to China, President Clinton mentioned that the United States would not support Taiwan independence, the "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" concepts and ROC's membership in organizations that require statehood.

Congress's reaction to Clinton's statement has been strong. The United States Senate passed a resolution 92-0 on July 10, reaffirming United States commitment to Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act. A similar resolution passed the House by a 390-1 vote on July 21. On the same day, Taiwan Foreign Minister Jason Hu thanked the United States lawmakers for their friendship and support.

In Washington, in a press interview prior to Clinton's Shanghai statement on the three

no's, Taiwan Representative Stephen Chen said, "The Republic of China in 1998 is no longer the ROC of 1949. How many countries in the world can compare with the Republic of China in its development of freedom, democracy, equitable distribution of wealth and human rights? The Republic of China in 1998 will not be sacrificed by anyone." Chen expressed full confidence in Taiwan's future as long as the people in Taiwan rely upon themselves and adhere to the principles of full democratization. He concluded that a democratic Taiwan will continue to flourish.

Meanwhile President Lee Teng-hui has instructed the Foreign Ministry to evaluate the Clinton-Jiang summit's possible impact in the following areas: human rights, democracy, regional peace and stability, and further dialogue with the People's Republic of China on resolution of disputes between the two sides. On July 22, President Lee stated unequivocally that China must become unified. Unification, he said, must be under a system of democracy, freedom and equal prosperity to ensure the well being of the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD C. COLLINS
AND THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the United States Armed Forces, including Richard C. Collins, a World War II veteran of the United States Navy who resides in my congressional district in Yucca Valley, California. Mr. Collins served this nation honorably from October 1941 until the end of the war in 1945. While stationed at the Great Highway Loop Station near Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, he was a sonar man who helped ensure the safety of this Nation during the Pacific Campaign of World War II.

The work of Mr. Collins and the entire Armed Services during the War was admirable. It is my understanding that, while stationed in San Francisco, Mr. Collins was one of the men connected with breaking the Japanese intelligence code for the second time which enabled the Navy to interpret Japanese messages for the remainder of the War. This was a historically significant event as it helped put America on the course toward victory in the Pacific. Breaking the Japanese code helped shorten the War, thus saving thousands of American and Japanese lives. The efforts of the Navy and other services truly were heroic and all Americans are in their debt.

Being a citizen of the United States is a privilege that no one should take for granted. We all owe a great deal of gratitude and respect to the men and women of the Armed Forces who risk their lives every day to uphold the democratic principles of the United States and make this Nation safe. Without the service of men like Richard Collins and our other brave soldiers, America would not be the land of the free and we would not have the liberty that so many people around the world long for. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Richard Collins and the entire Armed