

Freedom Act was an extraordinary endeavor, not only in the comprehensive nature of the measure itself, but in the highly unusual bicameral, bipartisan effort which led to unanimous passage by the 105th Congress. Together with the office of Senator Don Nickles, who introduced the measure, my office worked closely with other committed House and Senate staff to draft this bill. For more than a year, Art Rynearson shared in these long, demanding hours of effort. His expert counsel, unrelenting thoroughness, and countless hours of dedicated hard work shaped this bill into a measure of which we can be proud for the rest of our lives. My Rynearson's commitment and professionalism have helped bring hope to millions of people around the world who suffer terrible persecution for the simple practice of their faith. He well deserves our heartfelt commendation on their behalf.

TRIBUTE TO VITA BITE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERT AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my warmest thanks to Vita Bite, Foreign Affairs Expert at the Congressional Research Service, for her invaluable input into the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. As part of a bicameral, bipartisan group of offices working together on this bill, my staff worked closely with Ms. Bite for more than a year as this Act was drafted. Ms. Bite provided expert counsel, including critical background on United States human rights laws and bureaucratic and administrative issues related to the bill. She was quick to provide research and advice, and was always gracious and ready to advise. She and her colleagues have spent many long hours analyzing this Act as it took shape. The International Religious Freedom Act, which passed the Senate and House unanimously this Congress, is designed to help millions of religious believers suffering for their faith around the world. Ms. Bite's expert counsel helped shape effective, wise parameters for this landmark piece of legislation, and she deserves our heartfelt thanks.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE GRIMMETT, LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my warmest thanks to Jeanne Grimmer, Legislative Attorney in the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service. As part of a bicameral, bipartisan group of offices working together on this bill, my staff worked closely with Ms. Grimmer for more than a year as this Act was drafted. She was quick to provide research and advice, and was always ready to advise. Ms. Grimmer provided extensive legal research and background in many areas, including trade and environmental law, precedents and parameters in United States and international law, and matters pertaining to constitutional questions. Her expertise proved invaluable as we sought to draft wise, effective legislations. She and her colleagues have spent many long hours analyzing this Act as it took shape. The International Religious Freedom Act, which passed the Senate and House unanimously this Congress, is designed to help millions of religious believers suffering for their faith around the world. Ms. Grimmer's expert counsel helped us frame effective, wise parameters for this landmark piece of legislation, and she deserves our heartfelt thanks.

TRIBUTE TO DIANNE RENNACK, FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERT AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my warmest thanks to Dianne Rennack, Foreign

Affairs Expert at the Congressional Research Service, for her invaluable input into the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. As part of a bicameral, bipartisan group of offices working together on this bill, my staff worked closely with Ms. Rennack for more than a year as this Act was drafted. She was quick to provide research and advice, and was always gracious and ready to advise. Ms. Rennack provided expert counsel, including critical background on United States sanctions laws and related bureaucratic and administrative issues. She and her colleagues have spent many long hours analyzing this Act as it took shape. The International Religious Freedom Act, which passed the Senate and House unanimously this Congress, is designed to help millions of religious believers suffering for their faith around the world. Ms. Rennack's expert counsel helped us shape effective, wise parameters for this landmark piece of legislation, and she deserves our heartfelt thanks.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY EIG, LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my warmest thanks to Larry Eig, Legislative Attorney in the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service. As part of a bicameral, bipartisan group of offices working together on this bill, my staff worked closely with Mr. Eig for more than a year as this Act was drafted. He was quick to provide research and advice, and was always gracious and ready to advise. Mr. Eig provided extensive legal research and background in many areas, including United States immigration law, analysis and precedents for legal effects of provisions in the bill, and matters pertaining to constitutional questions. His expertise proved invaluable as we sought to draft wise, effective legislation. Mr. Eig and his colleagues have spent many long hours analyzing this Act as it took shape. The International Religious Freedom Act, which passed the Senate and House unanimously this Congress, is designed to help millions of religious believers suffering for their faith around the world. Mr. Eig's expert counsel helped us frame effective, wise parameters for this landmark piece of legislation, and he deserves our heartfelt thanks.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE VIALET, REFUGEE AFFAIRS EXPERT AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my warm thanks to Joyce Vialet, Expert on Refugee Affairs for the Congressional Research Service, for her assistance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. As part of a bicameral, bipartisan group of offices working together on this bill, my staff worked closely with Ms. Vialet. She was quick to provide research and advice, and was always gracious and ready to advise. Ms. Vialet provided extensive background on refugee matters, and her expertise helped us draft wise, effective legislation. The International Religious Freedom Act, which passed the Senate and House unanimously this Congress, is designed to help millions of religious believers suffering for their faith around the world. Ms. Vialet's expert counsel helped us frame effective, wise parameters for this landmark piece of legislation, and she deserves our warmest thanks.

A TRIBUTE TO R.C. SMITH

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my constituent and dear friend, Mr. R.C. Smith of Long Creek, Illinois who is retiring from the Macon County Board with 18 years of service. This is only a fraction of his 30 years of public service and dedication, but he will be truly missed on the county board. On this year after 30 years of public service. On November 12th, several area state legislators will be honoring him with a special presentation at his last County Board meeting.

I have known R.C. since I have been involved in politics. He has been a loyal employee to the Wabash, Norfolk and Western and Norfolk-Southern Railroad for nearly 39 years. He served as Executive Director of the Decatur Area Labor Management Committee for 8 years. At the same time, R.C. has remained focused on his commitment to the people of Illinois through his local political involvement. He was first elected as Assistant Long Creek Township Supervisor in 1961, and has served and been reelected on the Macon County Board of Supervisors for 10 years.

Wanting to do even more for Macon County, R.C. decided to run for Macon County Board in 1980 and has been reelected ever since by his constituents. In fact, his colleagues elected R.C. as Chairman in 1985 and he has served as Vice Chairman of the Board for the past 10 years. In addition, he was elected last year as Long Creek Township Clerk. Both his colleagues and his constituents recognize R.C.'s commitment to his community, and the strong leadership skills he provides the Board and county. This is evident in the fact that they have faithfully awarded him these important positions, and R.C. has served with the highest level of integrity.

Moreover, R.C. has devoted a great deal of his time to the Macon County community. He has served on the Macon County Mental Health 708 Board and has been Democratic Precinct Committeeman for 40 years. As a devout Christian, R.C. has served in the Adult Men's Sunday School teacher program for over 35 years, and is a Deacon for his church.

It has been a pleasure knowing R.C. Smith as a local community leader. He has been a role model of commitment and dedication while serving on the county board. It has been an honor to serve in Congress as his representative, and I wish him all the best in the future. Mr. Speaker, please recognize R.C. Smith for his loyalty to Macon County and the excellent leadership he has provided.

TRIBUTE TO JANE HARMAN

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and valued colleague, JANE HARMAN, whose distinguished career in the House of Representatives will come to a close with the end of the 105th Congress.