

of all people under one God and preached Christian and Muslim ethics along with Hindu. Gandhi also led the fight to rid the country of the caste system and defend the rights of the untouchables. Once independence was gained, Gandhi focused his energies on spreading his message of religious tolerance. His hunger strikes and prayer vigils were no longer in protest of colonial rule, but in protest of violence between Hindus and Muslims. He was on one such vigil in New Delhi when he was fatally shot by an extremist who objected to Gandhi's message of tolerance.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we all owe a great debt to Mahatma Gandhi and his teachings, and I hope that by taking this day to remember his contributions and his struggles we can again benefit from his wisdom.

HONORING BISHOP THEODORE
BROOKS FOR OUTSTANDING
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 21, Bishop Theodore Brooks celebrated the Confirmation of his Doctrine of Ministry. As pastor of Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church, Bishop Brooks has proven an outstanding member of the New Haven Community, as he and his congregation have unfailingly worked to resolve social problems faced by residents of the Greater New Haven area. His commitment to social justice and his leadership in these communities has never wavered.

Bishop Brooks' work on behalf of numerous New Haven community organizations has earned him our respect and admiration. His efforts have contributed tremendously to the city and its residents. As Chief Executive Officer of the Beulah Land Development Corporation since 1990, Bishop Brooks successfully pursued the renovation and rehabilitation of the Orchard Street Town Homes, a project that will enhance our community with new, affordable family housing. This project would not have become a reality without the hard work and leadership of Bishop Brooks.

As a member of several Boards and Committees in various community-based organizations, Bishop Brooks has worked tirelessly to strengthen families and help residents in the community develop a more positive self-image. His work reflects his dedication to helping society's least privileged develop the cognitive skills they need to remain productive members of the community.

Among his many accolades, Bishop Brooks was recognized by the White House for his leadership in building community empowerment zones.

Bishop Brooks' work embodies the spirit and vitality of the New Haven Community he so tirelessly represents. I look forward to working with him in the future as we have in the past, to further advance social justice and promote sound economic growth.

It gives me great pleasure to join his many friends and family in thanking him for his leadership over the years. I congratulate Bishop Theodore L. Brooks on yet another great achievement—the Confirmation of his Doctrine of Ministry.

THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE
SERVICE REFORM ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Protective Service Reform Act of 1999." This legislation makes much needed reforms to the Federal Protective Service (FPS). These reforms will allow FPS to better meet the growing threat posed by terrorism to federal buildings and the people who work in and visit federal buildings. The legislation is similar to legislation I introduced in the last Congress.

On April 19, 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. That tragic and despicable act killed 168 people and wounded hundreds of others. The Oklahoma City bombing served as a sober reminder that the United States is not immune to acts of terror. The bombing also revealed that we were woefully unprepared for such an act.

I was deeply disturbed to learn that there was only one contract security guard on duty in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. That contract guard was responsible for providing security at the Murrah building and two other federal buildings in Oklahoma City. There is evidence that those responsible for bombing the Murrah building cased the building in the days and weeks leading up to the bombing. The fact that the Murrah building in the days and weeks leading up to the bombing. The fact that the Murrah building was, for the most part, unprotected, could have played a role in the decision of the terrorists to bomb that building.

In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, the Public Building Service (PBS) of the General Services Administration (GSA) has made great strides in improving the physical security of the 8,300 federal buildings under its control. But, at hearings held last year by the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Economic Development revealed, the security upgrade program initiated in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing has been hindered by mismanagement and a reduction in staffing. In addition, structural and personal problems within the Federal Protective Service are also hindering GSA's ability to upgrade and improve security.

At the present time the FPS is a unit within PBS. The head of FPS reports to the PBS commissioner. The PBS commissioner does not have a law enforcement background and his main responsibility is real estate management—not law enforcement. While we do have a very able and talented PBS commissioner, I do not believe that security is best served by having FPS as a sub-entity within PBS.

While I recognize that the use of contract guards is necessary, I am concerned that the use of contract guards may not be appropriate at certain federal buildings. I am also concerned over the fact that contract guards do not undergo the same type of background checks as FPS officers. All FPS officers undergo a full and detailed background investigation, including a review by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Contract guards, on the other hand, only undergo a cursory background check. At the present time there are

only 668 uniformed FPS officers, as opposed to more than 5,000 contract guards. The best deterrent to a terrorist bombing or attack on a federal building is a highly trained, professional and fully staffed FPS.

I have great admiration for the men and women who serve so ably on the FPS. That's why I am deeply troubled that FPS officers are paid significantly less than other federal law enforcement officers that perform the same function. This is not fair. Equally as disturbing, the low level of compensation combined with poor communication between management and the rank and file is causing a morale and turnover problem that could further compromise security. Morale plays a key role in the effectiveness of any law enforcement agency. The Federal Protective Service Reform Act will make the changes needed to boost morale, improve management and make FPS better also to respond to terrorist threats to federal buildings.

Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, the goal of my legislation is to remake the FPS into an elite federal law enforcement agency with a well trained, professionally led, highly motivated and appropriately compensated cadre of officers. Another goal is to ensure that decisions to how best to ensure the security of federal buildings are based on sound law enforcement and intelligence analysis—not on budgetary considerations. The main features of the Federal Protective Service Reform Act will:

Establish, by statute, the Federal Protective Service as a freestanding service within GSA, with the responsibility of serving as the principal law enforcement and security agency in the United States with respect to the protection of federal officers and employees in buildings and areas under GSA's control (under the Public Buildings Act, the GSA Administrator has the authority to appoint special police officers and investigators, but the Act does not require GSA to establish a FPS).

Make FPS a service within GSA, separate from PBS. Under the bill, the FPS would have its own commissioner who will report directly to the GSA Administrator (currently the head of FPS has the title of Assistant Commissioner within PBS).

Clarify the responsibilities and authority of FPS officers, including giving them the ability to carry firearms to and from work, providing officers with a "buffer zone" of responsibility extending to property adjacent to a federal building, and clearly delineating the circumstances under which FPS officers can make arrests.

Establish a pay scale and benefit package for FPS officers similar to that of the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service.

Require GSA to hire at least 730 full-time FPS officers within one year of enactment of the bill into law, and bar GSA from reducing the number of full-time FPS officers unless specifically authorized by Congress (the PBS commissioner stated last year in Congressional testimony that GSA's long-term goal is to have 724 full-time FPS officers).

Require contract guards to undergo the same background checks as FPS officers, and require GSA to prescribe adequate training standards for contract guards.

Direct a General Accounting Office study of the feasibility of merging all federal building security services under FPS.

Require that the FPS Commissioner be a career civil servant with extensive law enforcement experience.

Direct FPS to work closely with other federal agencies in gathering and analyzing intelligence.

Direct the FPS commissioner to provide assistance, upon request, to other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Protective Service Reform Act of 1999 is an urgently needed piece of legislation that will allow this country to better protect itself from a terrorist attack. This legislation should be an integral part of our counter-terrorism strategy. I urge all Members to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO BROTHER GEORGE
SYNAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to someone I have known for over 40 years—a man who has been an inspiration to the many people he has taught and nurtured through the years. Brother George Synan, who is celebrating his 70th anniversary as a Christian Brother, has left an indelible mark on the metropolitan Detroit community and, in particular, DeLaSalle Collegiate High School in Warren, Michigan, where he has served as a teacher, coach, administrator, and mentor. Although Brother George semi-retired in 1974, he still taught occasionally at DeLaSalle into the early 1990's. Today, he resides at the Christian Brothers retirement home in Lincroft, New Jersey.

I first met Brother George when I was eleven years old. I used to play basketball at the old DeLaSalle Collegiate which was across the street from the Detroit City Airport. A few years later, as a member of the Notre Dame High School Basketball Team, I used to visit Brother George when my school played DeLaSalle Collegiate. In the last few years, I have had the good fortune to see Brother George occasionally when he returns to Michigan.

Born in New York City in 1911 of Irish parents, Brother George, who celebrates his 88th birthday on April 5th, took his first vows as a religious brother in 1929. A member of the Class of 1932 from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C., he was sent to DeLaSalle in Detroit in 1936. Immediately, Brother George was an innovator. He started an intramural program that involved more than half of the student body. Sunday open gym at DeLaSalle attracted so many students that commando basketball was invented, something like today's team handball, with fifty players on a team. He even began a midget basketball program for boys weighing less than 105 pounds. He was assistant athletic director and coached baseball, football and basketball in his first assignment at DeLaSalle which lasted for eight years.

In 1944, with first hand knowledge of the operations of the Detroit Catholic League, Brother George returned to New York City and eventually became president of the New York Catholic Schools Athletic Association. In time, the New York league began to play its baseball playoffs at Ebbets Field and the Polo Grounds and also started football playoffs. I can't say for sure who started the New York

Catholic League, but what they are today is because of a Christian Brother from Detroit. His nine years in New York were at Bishop Loughlin High School where Brother George began a track meet known as the Bishop Loughlin Games, which to this day is the largest indoor track meet in the United States.

In 1957, Brother George returned to DeLaSalle Collegiate. He was sub-director of the DeLaSalle Christian Brother's community, taught five classes, was vice principal and athletic director until 1964 and then continued to teach full time for the next ten years. He was a member of the Catholic League's Executive Board for several terms during the 50's and 60's. It was in 1961 that Brother George became moderator of the Christian Brother's Auxiliary, a post he held with great pride for over thirty years. When St. Joseph High School, the first Christian Brothers High School in Detroit, closed its doors in 1964, he became moderator of their Alumni Association, a post he continues to hold to this day. Later, he also became moderator of the St. Joe's Dad's Club. He firmly believes that keeping the memory of St. Joe's alive at DeLaSalle Collegiate, the school the St. Joe Alumni founded, is very important.

It was in the early 1970's when the teacher, coach, and former administrator at DeLaSalle saw the football field named after him. Throughout the Catholic League, it was known no longer as DeLaSalle Field, not even needing a last name, it was simply and quickly accepted across the Catholic League as the Brother George Field. He touched more lives than just those individuals who came to play or watch a game at the field. His interests went way beyond athletics, and it was first and foremost young people, both boys and girls, and their futures.

He is known for a remarkable memory of DeLaSalle and St. Joe Alumni, their families and their lives. His rapport with alumni and friends is itself legendary in the Christian Brother schools. Countless families benefited from regular visits to those in the hospital or in need of comfort. Brother George never drove a car and had to rely a great deal on public transportation when the weather or distance prohibited walking. So regular were his walking rounds throughout the Metropolitan Detroit area, that he was constantly picked up by alumni or friends, or even strangers who recognized his familiar stature and walk.

People who work in the field of athletics and education get great satisfaction from teaching and coaching young men and women who make their mark in society. They get an even greater thrill when a young person they taught or coached enters their profession. Brother George can be proud to say he taught teachers, coached coaches, and was an administrator of many administrators. Brother George has left each of them a strong legacy to follow.

For 70 years, Brother George Synan touched the lives of thousands of our citizens. On behalf of each and every one of them, I rise to publicly thank Brother George for living a life of untiring and unselfish dedication to the Christian principle of serving others. Well done good and faithful servant!

NEW JERSEY'S 11TH DISTRICT—
PRIME RECRUITING GROUND
FOR ACADEMIES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy peacoats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than any other district in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above-average proportion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This shouldn't come as a surprise. The educational excellence of our area is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve?

In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of the Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, one further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism that handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerrit Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of nine local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication to seeing that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as is true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and to thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on this board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.