

JOURNEY IN FAITH: WORKING FOR  
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL IN AMERICA

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of speaking at the First Annual Summit Meeting of Journey in Faith, a non-profit organization dedicated to the moral and spiritual revitalization of America in the New Millennium. The mission of Journey in Faith is to equip the future leaders of America to be moral and spiritual strongholds for the next generation. It was an honor to open the first annual summit of this worthwhile organization. I submit the full text of my remarks at this point in the RECORD:

Thank you for your kind introduction. President Bradley, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to be with you this morning—to welcome you to Capitol Hill, and to our International Relations Committee room.

I was reading some of the background material that Gene Bradley sent to me, and I noted that among the dangers we confront as we close out the 20th Century is the continuing violence worldwide; terrorism in the Middle East, tribal-based massacres of people in Africa, the conflict in Kosovo, and the narco-guerrillas in Latin America.

I couldn't help but wonder whether it is just a coincidence that we are meeting in the room of the one Committee of the House of Representatives whose responsibilities includes concern for these events and their impact—not only on America—but throughout the world.

I'm especially pleased that Gene invited me to address you as you open your conference, because he and I go back a long way—to when our hair was darker, and we had more of it.

We have shared an interest in bringing government and business together in the planning and conduct of our Nation's foreign policies.

Gene Bradley founded "Journey in Faith" as a non-profit organization in the conviction that leadership by men and women of strong religious faith is needed now more than ever, as we stand on the brink of a new millennium.

The 20th Century was perhaps the most paradoxical in recorded history.

It saw the greatest advances ever in human progress, as recorded in material terms; expansion of personal liberty and freedom, advances in medicine, improvements in the physical quality of life, to mention just a few.

The 20th Century also recorded the greatest slaughter of human beings ever. Beyond the two World Wars, we have seen government sponsored genocide efforts—deliberately and brutally eliminating millions of innocent men, women and children, as never before.

The 20th Century also marked the emergence of our Nation to stand as a colossus on the world stage. Yet, as we look to the 21st Century, our Nation also stands at a crossroads.

On the one hand, we are the world's leading superpower. We are perceived as a symbol of strength and of integrity. We are the "city on a hill,"—to be an inspiration to other nations.

Founded as a nation rooted in the Scriptures, enriched by our Judeo-Christian traditions of law, morality and the intrinsic worth of every human being—we are poised for a new era of leadership.

On the other hand, our Nation is beset by an assault on moral values—on our homes, families and neighborhoods—as never before. It is both overt and subtle and takes many forms.

We need a resurgence of the moral values that have made our Nation strong—the values that built our Nation; that enabled us to succeed in a revolution, to go through the fires of a Civil War, to survive two World Wars, and to emerge stronger than ever.

We need a resurgence of moral values so that America can beat back the assaults that threaten us, and I believe that no challenge facing us is more serious than drugs, which are flooding into our country from abroad at an unprecedented rate.

Drugs are destroying our children, destroying families, destroying schools and communities. Drugs cost our economy billions in lost wages and salaries, in health care costs, in welfare costs and the burdens on our judiciary and corrections systems, not to mention the tragic loss of life.

Each year, there are more than 16,000 drug-related deaths and 500,000 drug-related injuries. There are 12 million drug-related property crimes. Drugs play a role in most of the violent crime that afflicts our cities and towns.

New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani recently informed our Committee that 70 percent of all prisoners are incarcerated for drug-related crimes.

The cost of caring for each new born crack baby is estimated to be \$100,000. It is also estimated that one-third of all new AIDS cases in the United States are drug-related.

Those statistics reflect a trend that began during the 1960s and 70s, when opposition to the Vietnam War helped to glamorize drugs, sex and even violence.

Drugs were further glamorized through such media events as that famous Woodstock festival—and in movies such as "Easy Rider."

Even today, elites of Hollywood and the entertainment world—and in some political circles—still consider drugs as a form of recreation. There are even widespread efforts to legalize drugs.

Yet, without question, drugs are a prescription for despair. For the addict, and for the addict's family and loved ones—there often must be a turning to a higher power if the deadly clutches of drugs are to be escaped.

Where ever drugs gain a foothold, crime, destruction and chaos follow. Yet, where we see these scourges, we also see the possibility of hope.

Even as drug use is rising among some segments of our population, there has also been a resurgence in religious affiliation.

In the midst of danger, there is opportunity, and Journey in Faith reflects recognition of that opportunity. Our nation is in a struggle to defeat the scourge of drugs.

It is a struggle that can, and must, be won, and I would like to welcome all of you as partners in a revitalization of American culture by making it drug free and by making international narcotics trafficking a top foreign policy priority.

You are launching "Journey in Faith" at an historic moment when we are poised to enter the new millennium. It promises to be a dramatic turning point in human history. The question is whether it will be a millennium marked by darkness or light.

If America succumbs to the scourge of narcotics, then the forces of darkness will have won, and the light that makes America the world's shining city on the hill will have been extinguished.

Working together, we can defeat those forces of darkness by applying a sense of moral values in our foreign policy as we

reach out to try to make this a safer and more peaceful world for all men and women.

HONORING SENATOR SAM  
ROBERTS

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly courageous citizen of Georgia's Seventh Congressional District, state Senator Sam Roberts.

Unlike the U.S. House of Representatives, in Georgia we have a true, part-time citizens' legislature. The Georgia General Assembly meets once a year for 40 days, conducts the peoples' business, and adjourns. Needless to say, the need to accomplish a year's work in a few months makes for late nights and long days. The pressure is only increased by the many commitments members have to families, businesses, and employers.

However, during the most recent legislative session, no Member faced a tougher battle than Senator Sam Roberts of Douglasville. A few weeks before the session began, Sam was diagnosed with a malignant tumor in one lung. He immediately began chemotherapy and radiation treatment, which has resulted in remission of the tumor. All indications are that Sam has won his battle with cancer.

Even more amazingly, throughout his treatment, Sam did not miss a single legislative day. He sat at his desk drinking orange juice and water as his doctor ordered, and kept moving full speed ahead. In the process, he set a standard for public servants everywhere, and serves as a shining example for everyone who has ever confronted a life-threatening disease. I commend Sam for his courage, and I also salute his wife Sue, and his children Sherrie, Beau, Amber, who have been right there with Senator Sam throughout his journey.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN TAX ACT

**HON. TONY HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from New York, Mr. HUGHTON, to introduce legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code to make it easier for businesses and farmers to donate food to food banks.

It can be expensive to provide food for the poor. The food must be collected, packaged, perhaps refrigerated or frozen, and transported, before it can be distributed to food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other organizations that serve the hungry. Because of this, it could make more economic sense for the businesses to discard unsold but edible food than to donate it. Indeed, billions of pounds of food are thrown away each year.

To encourage greater charitable contributions, we believe that businesses and farmers who donate food ought to receive the same types of tax incentives as do businesses who donate other types of inventory. This is not always the case.