

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DECLARE A NONVIOLENT AND  
DIPLOMATIC WAR TO SAVE  
KASHMIR

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, recent violent developments in Kashmir, the disputed territory between Pakistan and India, have highlighted a very dangerous blunder of neglect in U.S. and international diplomacy. The failure of the world community under the auspices of the United Nations to demand a self-determination referendum for Kashmir has resulted in a festering stalemate with very serious potential consequences for that region and the entire Earth which would have to absorb radioactive contamination from any full scale war between two recently declared nuclear powers.

Now, before the temperature rises any further, it is imperative that we maximize the effort to achieve a nonviolent solution to this crisis that has persisted for much too long. The honorable and civilized solution is a very simple one. Let the people of Kashmir vote to determine their own destiny. Pressure both Pakistan and India to allow for a Democratic solution, the ballot box and not the gun—or nuclear bombs.

It is a well-known fact that India refused to accept a self-determining referendum. The nation that has proclaimed itself as the world's largest democracy has doggedly refused to permit the Kashmir people to vote. To placate India it has been proposed that a referendum be held which does not offer the option for Kashmir to become a part of Pakistan. A vote would be for statehood within India or for an independent Kashmir nation.

The speculation is that Indian officials fear that the predominantly Muslim population of Kashmir will not vote to become a state within the predominantly Hindu nation of India. It would indeed be ignoble for the international community to allow India to continue with this inhumane, anti-democratic stranglehold on Kashmir because it fears the outcome of a vote for self-determination.

A studied neglect of the Kashmir question by the world powers is no longer possible. The recent outbreak of warfare demonstrates the impossibility of the two nations of India and Pakistan ever resolving the issue through bilateral negotiations. The Chinese who have borders with both countries and a direct involvement in the Kashmir dispute will also not be very helpful in resolving the conflict. The problem of Kashmir must be immediately placed on the high priority agenda of the United Nations Security Council.

Surely the Kosovo tragedy has shown the citizens of the world who are not indifferent to human suffering that the failure to pursue aggressive nonviolent actions and intense diplomacy will result in an inevitable catastrophe.

IN HONOR OF JIM RUCKI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Rucki, a basketball coach for 10 years and baseball coach for 13 seasons at Rocky River High School, home of the Pirates.

Rucki capped his career at Rocky River High School by coaching his players to 22 wins this season and 20 victories last season thus leading them to their second consecutive state championship. Rocky River High School is the first Cleveland-area public school to make consecutive state-title game appearances since 1979.

While a basketball coach, Rucki led his teams to 160 victories including two conference titles, two district championships, and nine sectional titles. After more than 13 wonderful years of coaching, Coach Jim Rucki has proved himself to be an outstanding coach who truly loves what he does.

Not only is Coach Rucki an exceptional coach, he is also a modest one as well. Coach Rucki is known for saying that his players are the ones responsible for all the awards that he has earned.

However, Coach Rucki also stresses hard work off the field. As part of the educational process of his players, he expects that his players earn good grades in all of their academic classes. He truly knows the importance of education in the development of a young person's character.

Although Coach Rucki is moving, he will however continue to coach boys basketball, one of the sports he loves. Both his players and a very grateful community will deeply miss him and all of his hard work and we thank Coach Rucki for all that he has done. I ask you fellow colleagues to join with me and the community of Rocky River in congratulating Coach Jim Rucki on an excellent job throughout his coaching career.

DRINKING AND DRIVING AND  
DRUG TREATMENT

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD statements by high school students from my home State of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert these statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

DRINKING AND DRIVING

(On Behalf of Chelsea Downing and Rebekah Blaisdell)

Chelsea Downing: Drunk driving has become a major problem in the small towns of

northern Vermont. Just a year ago, four teens were killed in a car accident on their way back from Canada. Alcohol was proved to be a factor in this crash. Since the drinking age above the border is 18, teenagers drive to Montreal to enjoy bar-hopping with their friends. The driving coming home from the bars can be hazardous.

How can these problems be prevented? The question has lingered in the minds of many, since the number of Vermont traffic deaths involving drunk drivers under 21 have increased. Stopping underage drinking altogether is an extremely difficult task. If we can reduce the driving while young people are under the influence, serious deaths and injuries can be prevented. We need to focus on the driving aspect, because it yields much more serious consequences than just drinking alone.

The teen curfew is one action the state legislature has discussed. The curfew will prevent drivers under 18 from being on the roads after 11 p.m. This would restrict inexperienced drivers from being on the road when the risk period is high. But it also restricts young people from doing normal things, such as going to movies or the drive-in, or simply getting together with their friends. People above 18 can still drive. These are the people who can drink legally in Montreal. This curfew will not affect these teens, who face a long drive home from the bars in Canada. We have proof that this trip can be fatal.

The state of Vermont has recognized that we have a problem. Increased numbers of police officers, strict DWI laws, and teen curfews are a few of the things they are in charge of. These measures can help solve the problem, but what really will make the difference is what these teenagers are exposed to in their everyday lives. Their school, friends, and especially their parents are all responsible for the decisions they will have to make.

Teens need to recognize the consequences of drunk driving—that death can result. Real stories of the families who have lost children to accidents best express these outcomes. Schools should be obligated to hold assemblies for students, telling them real stories about what could happen. These presentations are necessary, especially for events such as homecoming and the prom, where underage drinking and driving is apt to occur.

Parents need to be involved in their children's lives, especially during the high-risk years. Increasing awareness is the best way to teach teenagers to consider the risks before involving themselves in dangerous situations.

Rebekah Blaisdell: As everyone knows, life and death goes hand and hand, but nobody ever tells us how to deal with it. Family members die, our leaders die; but our classmates aren't supposed to. Lately my life that had more death than anyone would like to deal with. In the past month, two of my classmates have died unexpectedly. Scott was a very good friend of mine, and I have known Gary since first grade. I will remember them forever, and they have a special place in my heart.

In each of these cases, we will never know why they died, if it was an accident or if it was of their own choice. This decision is left up to those of us who are still here. We will never know for sure, but every day I wonder

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