

many others. What happened as we celebrated our Independence Day should be a wake up call to Congress to step up, fulfill its duty, and pass legislation that protects the lives of our citizens. The mad man who committed these heinous crimes bought his guns illegally from an unauthorized gun dealer. He was able to do so because the dealer just recently purchased more than sixty weapons in a short period of time. He did so for the sole purpose of selling them for profit.

We have a responsibility to protect the lives of our constituents. Congress must pass and the President must sign bills to limit the purchase of handguns to one per month and to require the registration of every handgun sold in the United States. Our constituents demand it and our children deserve it.

Following the killing spree, Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago wrote in the Chicago Tribune about the need for Congress to immediately pass gun safety measures. The people of our state appreciate Mayor Daley's unwavering leadership on this issue. He has taken his cause to state and federal legislators and made it clear that without passing sensible gun safety legislation, we all face the consequences of gun violence.

I wholeheartedly agree. His remarks follow.

CRACKING DOWN ON VIOLENCE AND HATE

(By Mayor Richard Daley)

CHICAGO.—Last weekend Illinois and Indiana became the latest focus of violence across the country resulting from intolerance and hate.

Like all Chicagoans I am outraged by these hate-based shootings and the damage that has been done to people who were victims for no reason other than their race or religion.

There is no place in Chicago for hate, hate-related violence or anyone who promotes either. We will never let hate or the violence that flows from it divide us. When acts of bigotry and racism occur, we will stand together against them as one community and one city.

I want to commend the people of Rogers Park, Skokie, Northbrook, and communities in Downstate Illinois and Indiana for coming together and growing stronger as a result of these tragedies. These shootings are a tragic reminder that each of us has an important responsibility to protect the right of every person—irrespective of his race, religion, ethnic background or sexual orientation—to live life to the fullest, free from violence.

There is another issue raised by Benjamin Smith's actions the fundamental causes and ramifications of violence in our communities.

Right now, the Chicago police and the Englewood community are faced with a series of murders of young women. In the wake of those killings, many residents of that community don't feel safe in their own neighborhood. That is unacceptable in Chicago, and that is why the police department has deployed a special task force of investigators to solve those murders.

There are other steps we can take. Residents across the city have demonstrated that community policing can lead to safer streets.

We must also work harder to end the easy availability of guns.

Consider how Smith obtained the handguns he used. He first tried to obtain three weapons from a licensed gun dealer in Peoria Heights but failed a background check and was turned away. That shows that this part of the gun-control system is working—up to a point.

This case demonstrates the need for even stronger background-check laws. If we had a system that ensured that local authorities were alerted whenever someone who may not legally own a gun attempts to purchase one, Smith might have been stopped before he went on his rampage. Instead Smith was able to purchase his guns from a dealer who was not licensed and who had a history of indiscriminately putting guns on the street. This is the point at which the system failed. It failed for a reason I have been discussing for a long time. There is money to be made in selling guns illegally.

Currently an individual can legally purchase guns in large quantities at one time and then sell each one of them illegally for a profit. Last November I proposed state and federal legislation to make it illegal to purchase more than one gun per month. This would make it far less profitable for someone to go into the illegal-arms sales business but would not inhibit the rights of legitimate gun owners in any way. Who could possibly need to purchase more than one gun per month for hunting purposes or to protect his or her family?

We have not yet succeeded in passing this legislation and other gun-control initiatives. On behalf of the victims of the recent shootings and all the victims of gun violence in our city, we will continue our efforts until more effective gun-control measures are law. I will continue to argue that there is no reason why the state of Illinois should not license gun dealers as it does beekeepers, manicurists and taxidermists.

We can make it harder for the Smiths of this world to succeed in acting on their hate. By taking the profitability out of illegal gun sales, we can make it more likely that, once licensed gun dealers turn down their purchase requests, individuals like Smith will have nowhere else to turn to buy weapons.

HAZEL DELL FARM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commemorate the historic Hazel Dell farm. It was the location for this year's veterans' celebration in Jerseyville. The owners of the farm say it was a natural place for the celebration because the original owner of the farm, Col. William Fulkerson, fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War. His grandson died battling the Germans in World War II, and his grandson died in Vietnam.

Last year, the 1866 Fulkerson Mansion was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and a brief dedication was held during which the new National Register plaque was unveiled. I am very pleased to see our community coming together to remember our veterans and take pride in our local heritage.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE CHARLES WATKINS, JR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a friend, a colleague and a tremendous public interest human being, Judge

Charles Watkins, Jr., who recently passed away. Judge was much too young to die, and yet he did probably because like many other men and especially African American men, did not adequately look after his health. Judge was getting ready to retire from his position as a distinguished professor at Malcolm X College in Chicago. Judge was born in Vandalia, La. in a family of ten children. He like most of his peers was taught the value of hard work. Therefore, after high school, Judge entered the military, did his time, came out and went to college to study medical laboratory technology. He got married, and he and his wife HermaJean, had three children, Debbie, Judge C. Watkins III (Chuckie), and Carlos. Judge continued his education and eventually earned a Doctorate's Degree.

Judge had a strong work ethic and worked two and sometimes three jobs for practically all of his adult life. He worked in the blood bank at the University of Illinois, was Director of the Laboratory at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Neighborhood Health Center and developed the medical laboratory technology program at Malcolm X College where he taught for thirty years. Judge was a hardnosed union activist, helped to organize the Cook County College Teachers Union and served as its vice president for 21 years.

Notwithstanding all of his professional accomplishments, Judge was most known for his involvement in public activity and his willingness to reach out and help others.

He was a participating member of the United Baptist Church and served as chairman of the 7th Congressional District Political Action Committee and was a vice president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers. Judge was tough, tenacious and a skilled labor negotiator who could stand like a rock and not be moved. Although he had reached a high level of professional and social prominence, he lived among and worked with people in low-income communities which at one time was characterized by the Chicago Tribune as home for the permanent underclass.

He enjoyed the simple things of life, church with his family, backyard barbeques, trips back to Arkansas and Louisiana, family re-unions, poker games with the boys, interacting with his peers and students, attending community meetings or just sitting at home with his family.

Judge lived his life at the top of the class and shall always be remembered like a tree planted by the river of water. He would not be moved, he would not be compromised and he shall not be forgotten.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH REGARD TO THE UNITED STATES WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM AND ITS WINNING PERFORMANCE IN THE 1999 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, in front of over 90,000 adoring fans, the United States Women's Team won the 1999 Women's World Cup. In an electrifying

match, our team defeated China with a 5 to 4 penalty kick victory.

The excellence of our team sends a powerful and positive message to the world about the importance of women's athletics and its value in building confidence, character and self-esteem for our young women.

Saturday's victory represents a first in many ways.

It was the largest women's world championship in history. Over 90,000 fans attended, a record for a women-only sporting event.

Saturday's game was the most-watched soccer game ever on network televisions.

This was the first Women's World Cup hosted by the United States. Over 30 matches were played before more than 650,000 fans in seven cities across the country.

An unprecedented 16 nations participated, signaling a growth for women's soccer throughout the world.

But Saturday's victory is important for many other reasons.

Our team helped to raise soccer and women's sports to new levels, both in America and internationally. World Cup soccer has long been the venue for male players and is the most popular sport in the world. But, the Women's World Cup and the U.S. national team in particular showed us that women's soccer and women's sports can be just as captivating, just as athletic, just as powerful, and just as competitive as men's sports.

What makes our team so special is that the U.S. women's national soccer program stands in stark contrast to many of its competitors who rely on a government-run or government-financed training system or a professional club to produce national teams.

In contrast, our American women started in community-based amateur recreational leagues, and owe much to their parents, who have steadfastly driven their daughters to weekend soccer games and summer soccer camps.

They have also relied on the high-caliber, but amateur, college sports system which provides top-notch athletic competition that, in turn, produces the top-notch athletes who can compete at this level.

Key to this college competition is the valuable role Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments has played in first establishing, then strengthening college sports programs for women, creating opportunities both to participate and to compete at advanced levels in soccer and many other sports.

But perhaps the finest trait exemplified by the Women's World Cup, and by the performance of the American team in particular, is the quest for excellence. Whether you are a rabid soccer fan or merely a casual observer, excellence is something we all recognize.

The U.S. Team is renowned both here and around the world for its commitment to values that we can all appreciate: teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play. Their esprit d' corps has been emphasized in feature article after feature article, and has even been a distinctive theme in TV commercials over the past few weeks.

Victory is wonderful, and victory is to be commended. But as long as we pursue excellence in our lives, as the U.S. national team has demonstrated time and time again, we can all be champions.

FINANCING EDUCATION; FREEDOM AND PRIVACY RESTORATION ACT; AND GAY MARRIAGE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I insert 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.

FINANCING EDUCATION

(On behalf of James Lucas, Caitlin Stone-Bressor, Jesse Pixley and Kim Junior)

Kim Junior: We are talking about financing our education.

Education is a paramount concern because it affects everyone. Hillary Clinton said that it takes a village to teach a child, and it does. Currently, the United States educational system is going through a rebirth. Many states are attempting to improve their education systems. Vermont has recently shed itself of its old education system and has donned a new, more equal method. This new educational plan, led by Act 60, has helped equalize the percent a property owner is taxed towards education.

Now that the state has money coming to the schools that are in need of funding, the state, the school and the community have to decide how they want to improve their school. The consensus believes that better facilities will make better schools. They think a new gym, arts center or a classroom will make children more capable in that particular area. A new building, however, does not change students.

Jesse Pixley: Teachers are needed to change students and help them to become more educated. But to improve how educators teach is difficult.

Many teachers feel that they are not competent. In a January 29th New York Times article, William Honan said that only one in five full-time public school teachers said they felt qualified to teach in a modern classroom. This is a scary revelation. There is a definite need to enhance the qualifications of teachers and to help them gain sufficient confidence to be able to teach.

The New York Times printed an article on April 23rd telling of over 4,000 Washington teachers and educators who protested because they are not being supported in their pursuit of higher education. Deben Gruber, a special education teacher in Highland School District, said "I can't afford to have a computer, the Internet or a newspaper anymore". The teachers in Washington were not given the opportunity, financially, to attain a greater level of learning.

Caitlin Stone-Bressor: A recent addition for \$75.9 million is being added to the \$159 million that is already promised to school districts under the Education Reform Act. Of this \$76 million addition, only an eighth of it will be given to teachers. The proposal also calls to give \$4.2 million to school nutrition programs. While school nutrition is certainly important, America is setting its priorities in the wrong position when it gives so much to food and so little to educators.

Tenureship is also an important issue because it allows unqualified teachers to keep teaching. Established because of the frequent changes in the administration, it allowed

teachers to have faith that they would be able to keep their jobs despite changes in authority. Yet the system is proven to have flaws.

James Lukas: Many teachers who are granted tenureship are not fully qualified. The school system then finds that it would cost less to keep these teachers than to get rid of them. The most prominent and meritorious suggestion to remedy this problem is having teachers paid on the basis of skill and quality, and not on seniority. The education system should be run as a private enterprise, and if a teacher is not making the standard, they should not be favored as well as the teacher who excels in his or her area.

Reform is needed to improve our education system. The current system needs to enhance teachers, special education, advanced learning, sports, arts, and all the other aspects of education to make sure Vermont's education system is as good as it can be.

FREEDOM AND PRIVACY RESTORATION ACT

(On behalf of Stacy Pelletier, Jessica Cole, Amy Clark, Sarah Kimball and Christine Miller)

Stacy Pelletier: Do you want the government of the U.S. to be able to find out any information about you whenever they want to? The proposed medical ID and the Know-Your-Customer Act make your medical information open for their viewing and allow banks and government to monitor your financial transactions. Along with these two items, social security numbers have become a huge violation of your privacy. Luckily, the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act of 1999 looks to make your private life private again.

Jessica Cole: We agree with the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act of 1999, which forbids the federal government from making any identifiers which can be used in investigating, monitoring, overseeing or regulating private things, like sales or transactions between U.S. citizens. One of these identifiers could be national ID cards.

If Congress doesn't take action, federal officials could soon keep citizens from traveling, getting a job, opening a bank account, or even getting medical treatment unless all their papers are in order according to the federal bureaucracy.

Amy Clark: One example of invasion of our privacy are social security numbers. These identification numbers usually have to be shown for anything from getting a job to getting a fishing license. The Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act prohibits the use of social security numbers as an identifier. In order for parents to get a birth certificate for their children and claim them as dependents, they are forced to get a security number for them. We find that this is abusing our right to privacy.

Sarah Kimball: In 1996, the Department of Health and Human Services was told to come up with a unique health identifier. Their proposed plan includes a giant database for the total medical history of every American, and a medical ID card one would have to show in order to fill a prescription, leave the country, or even check into a hotel. The police could also request to see this card at any time, and many fear that hackers would break into the medical files, destroying doctor-patient confidentiality.

Many of the problems presented are in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution, but, thankfully, the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act would prohibit such an act and identification tool from being put into action.

Christine Miller: In conclusion, we value our privacy, which is violated by social security, medical cards, and medical IDs, and the Know-Your-Customer Act.