

This right will include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.”

The actions by Azerbaijani officials clearly violate these commitments. I truly hope that these government actions are merely an aberration and will be dealt with accordingly and are not the signal of even more repression of religious believers in Azerbaijan.

I would like to commend to my colleagues the work of our Embassy in Baku on religious liberty. Embassy personnel have taken this recent incident very seriously and have followed the situation from the start. I urge those of my colleagues who interact with Azerbaijani Government officials to raise religious liberty issues in their discussions, stressing the essential role that religious liberty—and indeed human rights in general—play in maintaining a free, stable, and democratic civil society.

IN RECOGNITION OF 1999 LAWSUIT  
ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK IN  
THE STATE OF OHIO

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to an important designation this week in the state of Ohio. The week of Sunday, September 19 through Saturday, September 25, 1999, has been officially designated by Ohio Governor Bob Taft as lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week.

The 1999 Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week campaign attempts to better educate citizens throughout the state of Ohio about the ongoing concerns of the legal problems in our judicial system. During this campaign, the Ohio Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (OCALA) has undertaken a public awareness campaign to voice the concerns about lawsuit abuse and draw attention to the impact it has on the state of Ohio. Citizens from across the state have assisted with the campaign to help OCALA spread its message.

Mr. Speaker, the overwhelming rise in lawsuit abuse is not a concern specific to the state of Ohio. Certainly, these problems carry both state and national implications, which affect all Americans. In recent years, our society has become more prone to litigation. In fact, some statistics show the number of lawsuits filed each year approaching 300,000. The sheer number of these lawsuits requires millions of dollars in expenses and thousands of hours from employees. These figures demonstrate that lawsuit abuse is a heavy burden that interferes with our continued economic growth.

As lawsuits continue to climb in number and scope, the impact on our standard of living is evident. Frivolous lawsuits result in higher operating costs for businesses, the withdrawal of products from the marketplace, and the potential decline in growth and overall expansion. Simple economics shows us that these costs are inevitably passed along to consumers and workers in the form of higher prices, lost opportunities, and fewer jobs.

Mr. Speaker, lawsuit abuse is a serious issue facing the United States. As such, it is important for groups like OCALA to be recog-

nized for their efforts in curtailing this abuse. Dedication to change, like that shown by OCALA and other groups, will further the cause to end lawsuit abuse and bring about overall legal reform. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in recognizing the week of Sunday, September 19 through Saturday, September 25, 1999, as “Ohio Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week.”

HONORING HILMAR MOORE

**HON. TOM DeLAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a man whose dedication and commitment to his community should not go unnoticed. Today, September 22, 1999, marks the 50th anniversary of Hilmar Moore’s continuous service as the mayor of Richmond, TX.

The mayor’s term is a unique one in Texas and the Nation’s history. Mayor Hilmar Moore was appointed to serve an unexpired term for Richmond, TX, on September 22, 1949. Since then he has unselfishly served for the advancement of the community. Mayor Moore has deep-seeded Texas roots. He is descended from several of Stephen F. Austin’s original colonists who settled Texas. In fact, Mayor Moore is a life member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. His family’s strong commitment to community has lasted generations and many have served in State and local governments.

From 1970 to the present, the mayor has been and continues to be, a leader in the livestock community. He has served on the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association as second vice president, first vice president, and president from 1974–76. He has served on the Beef industry Council of Meat Board as vice chairman from 1979–81 and as chairman from 1981–83. In 1983–84, Mayor Moore served as treasurer of the National Livestock and Meat Board and in 1984–85 as chairman-elect. Also, in 1985, he was named Trustee Emeritus of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. Mayor Moore has received numerous awards and recognitions from the National Livestock and Meat Board Association, Texas Brahman Breeders Association, and the Golden Spur Award. Presently, along with his mayoral duties Hilmar Moore is the director of the King Ranch.

I wish to extend to Mayor Hilmar Moore my heartfelt congratulations and I know my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives do so as well. It will be a pleasure to continue working with him for the improvement of the city of Richmond and the Fort Bend community.

JOHN NESPOLI HONORED

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. John L. Nespole, who has been named Community Leaders of the Year by the Arthritis Foundation of Eastern Pennsyl-

vania. I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

This prestigious award has been described by Arthritis Foundation Chairperson Deborah D. Hannon as an honor “presented to an individual who epitomizes the word ‘leader’ in both their personal and professional life. The recipient is someone who gives back to their community as a way of thanking them for achieving success in their own life.”

John Nespole is the president and chief executive officer of Mercy Health Partners and one of the senior vice presidents of Catholic Healthcare Partners, which makes him responsible for a \$200 million health care system, including a tertiary referral center, community hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health care, physician group practice and managed care operations.

In addition, John serves on a large number of diverse community organizations. A native of Berwick, John is a dedicated professional with strong commitment to our region. He is the husband of the former Geri Kamps and the father of twins.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Arthritis Foundation for this year’s choice for the “Community Leader of the Year” and am pleased to send my year very best wishes to John as he accepts this prestigious honor.

GEORGE NEAVOLL MAKES  
THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTION TO  
MAINE

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Neavoll, who edited the opinion pages of the Portland Press Herald and the Maine Sunday Telegram newspapers from 1991 until his retirement earlier this month. His readers, myself included, know that he leaves behind very large shoes to fill.

In the words of his colleagues, George Neavoll “set an unapologetically upbeat tone for the opinion pages, wrote extensively about the State’s environment and worked to create a consciousness among Mainers that they live in the Atlantic Rim region.”

During his time as editorial page editor, Mr. Neavoll championed many causes and highlighted problems in need of attention. From management of our fisheries and protection of our air, land, and water, to the return of passenger rail service in Maine and the need for improved East-West travel routes in our State, George Neavoll enhanced public discourse and made us think.

He also opened up the editorial board meetings to the public, and redesigned the editorial pages to provide more space for letters to the editor and more opportunity for local residents to submit columns.

Throughout his 30-year career in the newspaper business, Mr. Neavoll was recognized for his commitment to excellence numerous times. He received awards for writing, particularly in the areas of environmental protection and human rights. He received a Global Media Award from The Population Institute in 1996; a Human Rights Award from the Portland chapter of Amnesty International in 1995; and the first Portland Bias Crime Task Force’s Diversity Bridge Building Award in 1995.

Although originally from Oregon, his obvious love for Maine and his concern for its people make George Neavoll a true Mainer. His impact on public policy, civic life and political dialogue will be remembered and appreciated for many years to come. I join his many friends and colleagues in offering George and his wife, Laney, best wishes for the future. They have made Maine a better place, and they richly deserve this opportunity to travel and spend time with their children.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE  
BRADNER TOWN HALL AND  
OPERA HOUSE ON THE OCCASION  
OF ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNI-  
VERSARY CELEBRATION

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding community from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On Sunday, September 19, 1999, the Village of Bradner will celebrate the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Bradner Town Hall and Opera House.

In the final year of the Nineteenth Century, the citizens of Bradner decided to take an enormous step—to solidify their position and build a town hall. The Village embarked on a venture to locate a site, procure the necessary funding and materials, and build a truly remarkable building. Their efforts, after concluding the necessary paperwork, votes, and administrative matters, were finalized in 1899 as F.K. Hewitt was hired to design and J.W. Stiger hired to build the Bradner Town Hall.

The Bradner Town Hall has long been the centerpiece of this wonderful community. This small, yet vibrant area holds the same inner-strength found throughout the Fifth Congressional District and throughout the state of Ohio. That strength and common bond is driven from the town hall. For one-hundred years, the Bradner Town Hall has served as the focal point for the community, the symbol of independence and freedom, and the source of the community's pride.

With all its beauty, the Bradner Town Hall symbolizes all that is good in our communities—strength, fortitude, grace, and resilience. The Bradner Town Hall and Opera House has housed the Village fire department, jail, and public utilities offices. It also contains an upstairs Opera House and a library. Throughout the many changes, its use as the governmental center of Bradner has remained constant as it is home to the mayor's office and village council chambers. After first opening the building one-hundred years ago, the Village of Bradner conducts official business in the town hall to this day.

Mr. Speaker, the individuality of the American culture and the freedom of the American spirit are embodied in our local communities and the town halls located in them. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Bradner Town Hall on its One-Hundredth Anniversary.

HONORING BRUCE P. MARQUIS,  
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT CHIEF OF POLICE

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Houston Independent School District "HISD" Police Chief Bruce P. Marquis for his outstanding contribution to the safety and well-being of our children attending HISD schools, which was recently highlighted in an article in the Wall Street Journal.

Since the day he took office in 1994, Chief Marquis has embraced a simple, guiding principle—to foster an environment, as he puts it, "for teaching and learning to take place." His work to make our Houston community schools safer for students and teachers has been nothing less than outstanding. Not only has he made our schools safer, but he has made our children feel safer. Chief Marquis is a strong believer in the concept that our children must feel secure in order to learn.

HISD officials made a forward-thinking decision 5 years ago when they created a new Police chief position for the schools and hired Bruce, who was distinguished by his extensive management experience and his background in law enforcement. A former agent in the FBI's Houston office, Bruce brought long-range vision and can-do pragmatism to the creation and management of HISD's police department. Only Texas and Florida State laws allow school districts to create their own police forces. Bruce has built the HISD police department from the ground up, expanding it into the largest in the state.

Since Chief Marquis took over, aggravated assaults in Houston schools have decreased by three-quarters, and weapons' violations are down by two-thirds. Chief Marquis' proactive and aggressive leadership became evident from the beginning of his tenure when he helped persuade the Texas Legislature to transfer authority over school police officers from principals to school police chiefs. Once that was done he made sure that HISD officers wore uniforms and badges, and that they carried guns just like community peace officers. Whether it's dealing with gang activity, drug deals or weapons, Marquis stations his officers throughout our schools to proactively stop problems before they start.

Other innovations Chief Marquis has helped institute include: HISD officers making arrests and keeping records, issuing citations for truancy and fighting, and jailing kids aged 17 and over for not paying fines. He went above and beyond duty when he extended his department's jurisdiction to include a shelter for battered women.

Chief Marquis's law enforcement credentials run deep. In addition to his 10 years with Houston's FBI office, he served as a former U.S. Air Force officer, chief of police at the Los Angeles Air Force Station, and security manager for the 1984 U.S. Olympic Games. Chief Marquis has put his experience and professionalism to good use for Houston's children. I am proud that my friends and constituents Bruce and his wife Traci Bransford-Marquis have chosen to share their spirit of giving with their community, and are teaching their two children those same values.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chief Marquis for his contributions toward ensuring our children are safer. To protect our students in today's increasingly violent society, Chief Marquis has transformed a loose coalition of school security guards with essentially no law enforcement tools into a modern, efficient team of officers who, armed with a full range of police training and expertise, form a network of safety within our Houston school district.

I insert in the RECORD at this point The Wall Street Journal article on Bruce Marquis which appeared September 20, 1999.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 20, 1999]

READING, WRITING AND MIRANDA RIGHTS:  
COPS PATROL SCHOOLS

(By June Kronholz)

HOUSTON—Armed, trained in assault tactics, equipped with bulletproof vests and bomb-sniffing dogs, supported by and bomb-sniffing dogs, supported by 24-hour emergency dispatchers. Chief Bruce P. Marquis and his 177-member police department walk the country's highest-profile beat this fall. They patrol public schools.

Schools are safer than they have been in years, the U.S. Department of Education reports. Crimes against kids while they're in school are down by 20% in three years; one-third fewer children were suspended for bringing a gun to school in 1998 than the year before. Education Secretary Richard Riley calls schools the safest place for a child to be.

But the gun rampage in Littleton, Colo., the deadliest in a three-year string of school shootings, is the flip side of that good news, and has sent school districts rushing to upgrade their security. Kids returned to school to find metal detectors, fences, dress codes, security cameras. And, in the Houston schools, one thing more: a police department.

Forget the days when the football coach doubled as security chief, checking the boys' room for idlers and cigarette smoke. The Houston Independent School District Police Department stations armed officers in the 58 middle schools and high schools and many of the 35 magnet and other alternative schools in its 312-square-mile jurisdiction. It patrols school neighborhoods with bicycles and a fleet of squad cars, fields gang and drug task forces and operates a crime-scene communications van.

Over and over on a recent, stifling-hot afternoon, a new Special Response Team practices skulking down an alley below window level, crouching behind a bullet-proof shield and then, with guns drawn, rushing a stairwell to overwhelm an imaginary gunman.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

There is a horse-mounted unit for traffic control. An investigations division handles crimes short of rape and murder. Dispatchers fielded 14,000 calls last year. And heading it all is a 47-year-old former FBI agent who holds a doctorate in education, earns \$84,000 a year and has shaped his department down to the smallest details, including designing the uniforms and the department flag himself. Chief Marquis—so mindful of chain-of-command protocol that he and his longtime deputy address each other by their titles—offers this description of his job: "We exist for teaching and learning to take place."

Education is a local function in the U.S., so districts handle security in lots of different ways, and no one collects nation-wide information. Most districts, if they use any security at all, use armed local police, reasoning that because schools are part of the