

How poignant and thought provoking as we pay our deepest respects to an honorable man, Dr. John Charles Lungren.

HONORING THE SURVIVORS OF
THE BATTLE OF MALMADY

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a group of men that survived a massacre over 50 years ago. It was a cold December day when the gentlemen we honor today were caught up in the confusion that would eventually be called the Battle of the Bulge. They were members of Battery B, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, a unit with many Central Pennsylvanians in its ranks.

Attacked by an SS Panzer Division, nearly half the battery was compelled to surrender. Although dazed and depressed about the prospect of spending Christmas as prisoners of war, few expected the nightmare about to be unleashed by their Nazi captors.

Completely unprovoked, the guards fired systematically into the group of defenseless prisoners, killing or wounding most of them. Many of those still living, suffering from exposure and wounds, were murdered by prowling SS guards.

A handful of soldiers escaped by either playing dead or hiding in buildings close by. They lived to tell the tale of one of the most brutal crimes inflicted on U.S. troops during the war in Europe. Some were given aid by friendly Belgians, others were rescued by Colonel Pegrin, commander of the 291st Engineer Battalion. Some were lucky enough to limp back to American lines.

The story of these men is a story of valor and sacrifice. Each of them gave selflessly of themselves to liberate a continent from Nazi tyranny. When their nation called, they went, regardless of danger and personal loss. They saw their friends die at the hands of SS thugs and wondered helplessly whether they were next. By escaping that bloody field, these men gave their comrades and their families at home a rallying cry which helped carry America to final victory over Hitler's Nazi empire.

I know that the entire United States House of Representatives joins me in saluting the survivors and the fallen for their courage and perseverance that overcame the greatest menace to freedom the world has ever known. Their sacrifice remains an inspiration to our entire nation.

ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CHINA
LEGACY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in reference to President Clinton's foreign policy towards China, last Wednesday's front page of the Washington Post Business section had the headline: "Score One for the Legacy" because of passage in the Senate of Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with China.

While it lies in the future to determine the success or failure of PNTR upon improving China's horrible human rights record or in bringing about effective change in China's communist regime, we do know certain facts that have to be calculated into the picture that will be President Clinton's legacy on China.

We know that on this Administration's watch, more people are in prison because of their faith than at any time in recent memory.

There are thousands of Muslim Uighurs in prison because of their faith.

The Chinese government is pillaging Tibet, while the Clinton Administration remains silent and obsequious. Thousands of Tibetan Buddhist monks, nuns, and believers are in Chinese prisons because of their faith. The Chinese government has repressed, oppressed, and persecuted the Tibetans with impunity. There is no doubt, things have gotten worse in Tibet during the Clinton years. With certainty, President Clinton's actions and lack of action have to be figured into a formulation of his legacy on China.

The 1999 State Department Human Rights Report on China states numerous aspects of how the situation in China has deteriorated during President Clinton's tenure and ought to be included in determining his legacy on China:

Government interference in daily personal and family life continues to decline for the average person;

The Government increased monitoring of the Internet during the year, and placed restrictions on information available on the Internet;

The Government continued to implement comprehensive and often intrusive family planning policies;

The [Communist] Party and Government continue to control many—and, on occasion, all—print and broadcast media tightly and use them to propagate the current ideological line; and

The Government intensified efforts to suppress dissent, particularly organized dissent. By years end, almost all of the key leaders of the China Democracy Party were serving long prison terms or were in custody without formal charges, and only a handful of dissidents nationwide dared to remain active publicly.

We know that the State Department's 2000 Report on International Religious Freedom says that the Chinese ". . . Government's respect for religious freedom deteriorated markedly . . ."

We know from this report that ". . . unregistered groups, including Protestant and Catholic groups, continued to experience varying degrees of official interference, harassment, and repression." We know from this report that "The Government's efforts to maintain a strong degree of control over religion, and its crackdown on groups that it perceived to pose a threat, continued."

We know that the Chinese regime continues to persecute, arrest, and imprison 80 year-old Roman Catholic bishops and priests. According to an article in the September 18, 2000 New York Times, while the Senate was preparing to vote on passage of PNTR, the Chinese government was busy sending back to prison 81 year-old Roman Catholic Bishop Zeng Jingmu. Bishop Zeng had already spent close to 30 years in Chinese prisons and prison labor camps, just because of his faith.

There are some 13 Roman Catholic Bishops suffering in Chinese prisons and prison

through labor camps because of their faith. Their languishing in prison is part of President Clinton's China legacy. That President Clinton was silent, that he bent over backwards to placate a regime that persecutes old and frail people of faith—this has to be factored into compiling President Clinton's China legacy.

That there are hundreds of Protestant House Church leaders in prison or prison through labor camps because of their faith has to be included in assessing President Clinton's legacy.

President Clinton used tough words about China to help get himself elected in 1992, criticizing President Bush's policy of engagement with China. It is too bad that President Clinton did not live up to his campaign rhetoric and campaign promises about China. Now with the passing of PNTR, with all of this talk about Clinton's China legacy being shaped by the passage of PNTR, it is imperative to focus on the truth and history.

History will show, that Clinton's China legacy is that the U.S. government kowtowed to a Chinese regime that worsened in its persecution and oppression of its own people. Clinton's China legacy will be that more people of faith and lovers of freedom in China languish in forced labor camps and bear the scars of torture and imprisonment because of their beliefs.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DONALD
HAMILTON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an outstanding resident of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Donald Hamilton. On September 29, 2000, Mr. Hamilton, along with his friends and family, will be honored for his 32 years of dedicated service to the Laborer's International Union Local #41, at a dinner to be held at the International Union of Operating Engineers Local #150, in Merrillville, Indiana. Mr. Hamilton's distinguished career in the labor movement has contributed to the safety and security of workers in his community and improved the quality of life for laborers throughout Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Hamilton has devoted his entire working career toward the expansion of labor ideals and fair standards for all working people. For more than 30 years, Mr. Hamilton has been a member of Local #41, and has held several positions throughout his tenure. His peers were sorry to see him retire from perhaps his most important role at Local #41, that of Business Agent, on August 1, 2000. Don served admirably as Business Agent for Local #41 since his election 18 years ago. While this was his longest held position, and the one for which his co-workers at Local #41 will always remember him, he never limited his dedication to that one position. Mr. Hamilton served as vice-president of the Indiana State District Council of Laborers and HOD Carriers for eight years, sat on the executive board for six years, and served as auditor for three years. For five years, Don served as president of the Northwest Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, two years as its vice president and three years as its secretary-treasurer.