

it is affecting people in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia. The recent energy crisis in California has become front-page news in papers throughout the country and rightfully so. Other regions are suffering too, though, and unless action is taken soon, the problems of Californians will become the problems of everyone. Evelyn P. Jones of Montrose, Randolph County, West Virginia, is a citizen in my district whose plight is particularly distressing. Her caring son, James A. Jones, who is the workers' compensation program manager for the Library of Congress, brought Evelyn's situation to my attention. I want to tell her story because I think that it is representative of others in my district and state as well as throughout the country.

Evelyn Jones is a retiree living on a fixed income of \$500 a month. She lives on the family farm and takes care of her 90-year-old sister. The rising cost of home heating oil has placed Mrs. Jones in a terrible financial quandary. Her heating oil bills from last September 12 through March 3 totaled \$1725.55. Fortunately for Evelyn, she has a close-knit family, many of whom live in nearby Elkins and help her buy food, medicine, and other necessities.

Were it not for Evelyn's family, she would likely have to make the difficult decision of choosing between adequate heating, food, or medicine. I have little doubt that many citizens of a similar disposition do, in fact, have to make such decisions. Congress has provided some relief in the form of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). However, many citizens in need are either not eligible for this program or do not like the idea of government help. Clearly, a more comprehensive policy approach is needed to provide both short-term relief and long-term solutions to high prices and energy shortages.

The Washington Post reports that gas prices have risen to a nationwide average of \$1.68 per gallon of regular unleaded. The Energy Department has estimated that the cost this summer will range from \$1.50 to \$1.75, a five percent increase from last year. In some areas of the country, prices may reach \$3.00 per gallon. The rising price of gasoline is representative of the rising prices of petroleum products in general. Certainly a great many causes factor into such prices. A decline in domestic production and infrastructure accompanied by an increase in demand has left the country ill prepared for the current struggles. Congress and the Bush Administration must be receptive to new ideas and solutions to correct the neglect of the past.

The current energy situation was not created overnight and it will not be corrected easily. I look forward to working with my fellow members in the House of Representatives as well as the President and his administration to begin to solve this complex problem. The Evelyn P. Joneses of our country demand that effective action be taken soon.

TO HONOR THE U.S. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COMMISSIONERS FOR THEIR SERVICE, MAY 15, 1999–MAY 14, 2001

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank the nine men and women who have completed their two-year term of service to our nation as commissioners on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. This commission was created by Congress to generate a heightened awareness to the never ending atrocities associated with persecution of individuals around the world for their religious beliefs.

As a result of their investigations, hearings, and reports of religious rights abuses, these commissioners have provided Congress and the administration with timely and accurate information used to formulate U.S. policy. In this capacity, chairman Elliott Abrams and commissioners Nina Shea, Rabbi David Saperstein, Dr. Friuz Kazemzadeh, Michael K. Young, Laila Al-Marayati, John R. Bolton, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, and Justice Charles Z. Smith have served our nation with distinction, honor and faithfulness from May 15, 1999, until May 14, 2001.

I was pleased to hear that because of her faithful commitment to religious freedom issues around the world and her stellar performance during her first term, Ms. Nina Shea has just been appointed to serve a second term on the commission.

These commissioners have made sound policy recommendations to the president, the secretary of state, and Congress with respect to matters involving international religious freedom. They have testified before Congress numerous times, held timely hearings to investigate religious persecution atrocities in such countries as Sudan, China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Burma, and have worked with the non-governmental organization community to bring aid and comfort to the oppressed of the world.

Those around the world suffering persecution for their religious beliefs have truly benefited from the commitment of these nine servants of conscience. These commissioners have professionally completed their responsibilities by producing annual reports and conducting ongoing reviews of the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom around the world. Each of their activities has helped to bring visibility to any oppressor government that violates the basic freedoms of their citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I have come to appreciate each of these commissioners for their dedication and professionalism in protecting the rights of all citizens of the world who practice religious worship, be they Christian, Jewish, Muslim or any other faith. Their service to the American people and the peoples of the world has established credibility and relevance of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. I know many of my colleagues in the House join me in saluting Elliott Abrams, Nina Shea, Rabbi David Saperstein, Dr. Friuz Kazemzadeh, Michael K. Young, Laila Al-Marayati, John R. Bolton, Cardinal

Theodore McCarrick, and Justice Charles Z. Smith for representing the United States in the cause to protect religious freedom around the world for these past two years.

MOZART CLUB OF WILKES-BARRE CELEBRATES 95TH YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mozart Club of Wilkes-Barre, which is celebrating its 95th year this month. The club, a group for those 50 and older led by President Elenora Butcofski Grant, is a member of both the Pennsylvania and National Federations of Music Clubs.

The Mozart Club was founded on October 10, 1906, by a young Miss Euda Hance, who later became Mrs. A. Livingston Davenport, and 14 of her friends in her living room.

The mission of the Mozart Club is stated in its constitution: "The object of this club shall be to encourage and promote musical interest among its members; to encourage the development of musical talent in the youth of the community and to cooperate with the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs and the National Federation of Music Clubs in their specific plans for the advancement of music."

Over the years, the members of the Mozart Club have certainly fulfilled that mission. They have played major roles in establishing musical institutions such as the Community Concert Association, the Opera Guild and the Wyoming Valley Philharmonic Orchestra. They have fostered young talents through scholarships, and in 1926 they founded the Junior Mozart Club for children with musical interests.

Both the Pennsylvania and National Federations have awarded the Mozart Club honors through the years and in 1974, the National Federation granted it the Award of Highest Merit in the Parade of American Music from a panel of judges headed by composer Samuel Barber.

Active members of the Mozart Club must audition to be accepted as performing members. Many of these musicians are degreed performers who teach in schools or colleges or have their own private studios. At each monthly meeting, the club presents a musical program, which is open to the public. While the performers are sometimes guests, more often the club draws on the considerable talent within its own ranks.

Among the club's other activities are: providing a yearly scholarship to a local graduate musician, taking part in the Fine Arts Fiesta, celebrating National Music Week, providing help for the State Federation Festival, providing programs for nursing home residents and sponsoring a series of opera trips to New York City each spring and fall.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the many good works of the Mozart Club and its 95th anniversary, and I wish them its members all the best as they continue with their many endeavors.