

legal existence, on specious legal grounds not in harmony with OSCE commitments.

Reportedly, your government's justification for the new requirements in the current amendments, which create hurdles for registration, is to combat religious extremism. Yet the definition of "religious extremism" in the amendments is vague and inherently problematic, potentially categorizing and prohibiting groups on the basis of their beliefs, rather than on their having committed illegal actions. Such vague language would allow the arbitrary interpretation of a group's beliefs and uneven implementation of the law.

Our fear of Kazakh authorities harshly employing new requirements against religious groups is not unfounded. While the existing religion law does not require registration of faith communities, Article 375 of the Administrative Code, a provision added last year, requires the registration of faith communities. Since the promulgation of that article, we have received several reports of unregistered groups being penalized through criminal sanctions, as well as individuals being beaten while in custody. The harassment, detention and beating of individuals for merely belonging to unregistered religious groups, as well as disproportionate criminal charges for an administrative violation, are in direct violation of OSCE commitments.

In calling for these actions, we remind you of the 1991 Moscow Document in which the OSCE participating States declared that "issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are of international concern" and "are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned." It is in this light that these requests are made.

Last autumn, your government made a wise decision by choosing to honor its OSCE commitments and withdrawing the earlier version of the amendments. Recognizing the crucial importance that the very highest standards of religious freedom and human rights agreed to and proclaimed in various Helsinki documents be upheld, we respectfully urge you to take similar steps and not sign the amendments into law, should they pass the Senate without substantive modification.

Sincerely,

Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S.S. Chairman, Steny H. Hoyer, M.C., Zach Wamp, M.C., Alcee L. Hastings, M.C., Christopher H. Smith, M.C. Co-Chairman, Joseph R. Pitts, M.C., Robert B. Aderholt, M.C., Louise McIntosh Slaughter, M.C.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WILLIAM JIMENO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call to your attention the story of an American hero, Officer William Jimeno of the Port Authority Police Department. Officer Jimeno of Clifton, New Jersey miraculously survived being buried for fourteen hours in the rubble of the World Trade Center after heroically responding to the scene on the morning of September 11, 2001.

September 11, 2001 has emblazoned so many unforgettable images in our minds. Per-

haps none is more vivid, however, than that of courageous men and women in uniform working so valiantly to save the lives of others. It is therefore only fitting that Officer Jimeno be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

A member of the Port Authority Police Department for only nine-months at the time of the attack, Officer Jimeno and two fellow officers immediately rushed from the Port Authority Bus Terminal to the Twin Towers after the first plane hit. Soon joined by two additional officers, Will and his colleagues secured axes, air packs, and helmets to help evacuate the buildings.

The officers were in the lobby of Tower Two on their way back to Tower One when an indescribable noise pierced through the air. Tower Two was coming down.

Officer Jimeno found himself and four others from the PAPD, Sergeant John McLoughlin, Officer Dominick Pezzulo, Officer Antonio Rodriguez, and Officer Chris Amoroso, buried alive, crushed under steel and concrete and surviving inside an air pocket made by part of an elevator.

After fourteen hours, and after losing three of his fellow officers who had been trapped near him, Will was pulled from the rubble.

Officer Jimeno's actions that day, and everyday of his recovery since, are a testament to his character and spirit. Rather than be daunted by the tragedy that occurred, he is steadfast and resolute in his commitment to serve others.

As Will himself has said, "As soon as I'm better I'll put my uniform back on and go back to work."

Those who attacked us on September 11 thought our commitment to freedom and to each other made us weak. They never met Will Jimeno. The bravery and love he exhibited in the face of terror make him an example for us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the City of Clifton, Will's family and friends, myself, and a truly grateful nation in honoring a great American, Port Authority Police Officer William Jimeno.

HONORING EMILY WATKINS SPICER AS A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emily Watkins Spicer, an educator and community leader, who will be honored on February 20 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnati. The recipients for this prestigious award are selected on the basis of their achievement in the world of work, but the criteria also includes an awareness of others; civic service; leadership; and distinctive accomplishments.

Emily Watkins Spicer grew up in Cincinnati during the 1940s—a time when many young African-American women were not able to realize their career goals. At Withrow High School and later at the University of Cincinnati, she remembers some teachers would not call on her in class. Never allowing herself

to become bitter, Emily turned her formidable energy and talent to becoming a teacher, her lifelong dream.

After graduating from Withrow in 1944, Emily earned a bachelor's degree in teaching from the University of Cincinnati in 1948. She worked for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission for ten years, then accepted a job teaching physical education at Lincoln Heights High School. While earning her master's degree in guidance counseling at U.C., she taught health and physical education at Heindol Junior High. Completing her master's degree in 1963, she held teaching and counseling positions at Aiken High and Woodward High. In 1971, she was named assistant principal at Woodward.

In 1976, Emily became principal of Merry Junior High in Mt. Adams, where she had the task of supervising 1,000 seventh and eighth graders who were bused from other parts of the city. Her accomplishments were noticed by the Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools, James N. Jacobs, who named Emily principal of Taft High School. Emily's appointment marked the first time a woman was named senior high school principal for the Cincinnati Public Schools. At Taft, Emily was credited with giving the high school—then in deplorable physical condition—a new spirit as well as a new look.

Although she retired in 1983, Emily remains active in community and educational pursuits. She served four years on the Greenhills-Forest Park School Board, and helped open a charter school, the Hamilton County Math and Science Academy. In 1979, Emily was recognized as a "Woman of the Year" by the Cincinnati Enquirer.

All of us in Cincinnati area are grateful for Emily Watkins Spicer's dedication to our community, and congratulate her on being recognized as a Great Living Cincinnati.

HONORING THE REVEREND DONALD PIERCE WEEKS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Reverend Donald Pierce Weeks. He has been an outstanding member of the clergy, working tirelessly for the people of his community and our nation.

Reverend Weeks served in East St. Louis, Illinois at the Holy Angels Shelter for Women and Children from 1981 to 1988, by giving advice and sharing personal experiences. In October 1986, St. Clair County dedicated this month to him in recognition of his work. He also traveled to Cairo, Illinois to teach individuals how to read and write, so they could pass voter tests administered years ago.

After his service in Illinois, he was sent to work at Saint Patrick's Abbey in Oakland, California. While there, he was elected the Benedictine Monk in 1999 and has served in this position ever since. His dedication to fairness and justice is demonstrated daily by continually helping men and women recover from their alcohol and drug addictions. In addition, Reverend Weeks selflessly serves his community by feeding and counseling homeless men,