

women and children, to be named after the woman who perhaps had done more for their cause than anyone else in the city's history. At the Center, volunteers help women and children get back on their feet by providing meals, medical care, childhood-development courses, and classes on computers and career planning. The Center provides them not only with new hope for the future, but a sense of a security and value that may have been taken away from them when their homes were lost. Ever humble, Ms. Travis was embarrassed by the attention of having her name immortalized, but the Georgia Travis Center will forever be a working tribute to Georgia's insatiable desire to empower, enlighten, and improve the lives of those in need of help.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a friend and a role model. I had many opportunities to work with Ms. Travis, and what amazed me most about her was the ability she had to instill in others the same passion and resolve that she herself had in everything she set out to accomplish. The Bay Area should feel fortunate to be chosen as the beneficiary of her great works, and I personally feel fortunate to represent a district so deeply touched by her.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2002*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind Americans why the Pledge of Allegiance is so important in light of the 9th Circuit Appeals Court decision. I'd like to submit Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court Roy S. Moore's July 1998 statement titled "Our American Birthright." At that time, Justice Moore was a Circuit Court Judge.

#### OUR AMERICAN BIRTHRIGHT

(By Roy S. Moore)

One nation under God was their cry and declaration,  
Upon the law of nature's God they built a mighty nation.  
For unlike mankind before them who had walked this earthen sod,  
These men would never question the sovereignty of God.  
That all men were "created" was a truth "self-evident,"  
To secure the rights God gave us was the role of government,  
And if any form of government became destructive of this end,  
It was their right, their duty, a new one to begin.  
So with firm reliance on Divine Providence for protection,  
They pledged their sacred honor and sought His wise direction.  
They lifted an appeal to God for all the world to see,  
And declared their independence forever to be free.  
I'm glad they're not here with us to see the mess we're in,  
How we've given up our righteousness for a life of indulgent sin.  
For when abortion isn't murder and sodomy is deemed a right,  
Then evil is now called good and darkness is now called light.  
While truth and law were founded on the God of all Creation,

Man now, through law, denies the truth and calls it "separation."

No longer does man see a need for God when he's in full control,

For the only truth self-evident is in the latest poll.

But with man as his own master we fail to count the cost,

Our precious freedoms vanish and our liberty is lost.

Children are told they can't pray and they teach them evolution,

When will they learn the fear of God is the only true solution.

Our schools have become the battleground while all across the land,

Christians shrug their shoulders afraid to take a stand.

And from the grave their voices cry the victory has been won

Just glorify the Father as did His only Son.

When your work on earth is done, and you've traveled where we've trod,

You'll leave the land we left to you, One Nation Under God

#### RECOGNIZING RICHARD P. SESSLER

#### HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2002*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard "Dick" Sessler for his 12 years of dedicated service to the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. On June 28th, 2002, Mr. Sessler retired from his post as Executive Director for the Refugee Center. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the successful resettlement of close to 10,000 refugees from Bosnia, Russia, Vietnam, Burma, and Sudan to the Utica, NY area. Mr. Sessler is a visionary and a truly remarkable leader. Under his leadership the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees expanded significantly, initiated innovative services and formed many meaningful partnerships with a large number of community organizations.

Mr. Sessler's work with the center dates back to 1990 when he was first hired as Associate Director and later promoted to Executive Director in 1993. During that time the Center has grown tremendously. The Refugee Center now offers three well staffed and well developed programs that have been made more effective: a health program, an education program, and an excellent job placement program. In addition, Mr. Sessler was involved in the establishment of an on-site clinic, nighttime English classes (ESL), a dental program, a community relations program and citizenship classes.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Sessler plans to continue to offer his services to the refugee community. His plans include consulting and serving as an active member of the Lutheran Immigration Service (LIRS). I am confident that he will continue to offer his knowledge and experience and serve as a tremendous asset to the LIRS.

Mr. Sessler's commitment to the Refugee Center should serve as an inspiration to all. Mr. Sessler was and will remain to be well respected and well liked by all that have the pleasure to work with him. He has touched and reshaped the lives of many war-torn men,

women and children across the globe by helping them escape brutal religious and political persecution—I commend him for his efforts. I am confident that the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees will continue to maintain its excellent reputation, level of professionalism, and success that Mr. Sessler worked so diligently to instill within it.

#### VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST

#### HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2002*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate my constituent Allegra Guarino, New York's recent winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest. This very talented young writer from Marlboro, New York has written an essay entitled "Reaching Out to America's Future" that bears reading and reflection by all of us. I am very proud to represent her in Congress, and I'm sure that her family and friends are very proud of her accomplishment. I am certain that she has a very bright future and will go on to do great things for her community and our nation. We need more young people like her.

#### REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Allegra Guarino)

When I hear the phrase . . . "reaching out to America's future" . . . I think of an outreach trip that I took this summer to Harlan County, Kentucky. Harlan County is one of—if not the poorest counties in America. The people here don't have running water, some of them don't have electricity, and what is even more shocking is that some of them don't have a sewage system. They live in hills of the Appalachian Mountains in conditions that many people wouldn't dream exist in our great country. One of the volunteers on the trip found a beautiful stone on the ground and gave it to a little girl that he met. He told her that it was a dream stone, and that if she held onto it when she was dreaming of the future, it would hold inside of it all of her hopes and her dreams. The six-year-old girl looked up at him with questioning eyes and said, "But I don't know how to hope and dream." How do you teach a child to dream? Most people don't have to be taught. Because they are lucky enough to live in part of our country where the reach of their dreams has no limitations.

Another child I met in Kentucky is named Bailey. She is a four-year-old that loves to play on the swing set, so on the third day of the trip I decided to teach her how to butterfly swing. I sat down on the swing and placed her on my lap so that she was facing me. I kicked off from the rocky soil and we began swinging. I told her to be sure and watch the shadow that we were casting on the ground. I watched her eyes light up as she saw the butterfly shaped shadow on the ground. As we pulled away from each other and then back towards each other the shadow was an image of a butterfly flapping its wings. I told her that she might not be able to fly like the butterfly but she could do lots of great things in her life. She thought about the butterfly and what I had said and then she looked at me with these big blue eyes and said you can be the wings. I know that she didn't mean it as deeply as I took it. She was probably only referring to the shadow that we were making on the ground. But to me it meant something more.