

the People's Republic of China Should Cease Its Persecution of Falun Gong Practitioners. I urge the immediate release of the organization's leaders and members arbitrarily detained in a nationwide sweep aimed at suppressing the group. When the Chinese government judged the organization of Falun Gong as illegal, and banned all its activities, stories about Falun Gong have made headlines of major news media around the world. The Chinese authorities have launched a crackdown on the practice of Falun Gong on the Chinese mainland.

The suppression of Falun Gong in China has been brutal. It has been systematic. The police used force against the group, reportedly kicking and jumping on the peaceful protesters before removing them. The leaders of the People's Republic of China have arrested, jailed, beaten and tortured thousands of peaceful followers of Falun Gong, a religious synthesis of traditional Chinese physical exercises and Buddhist and Taoist teachings. Adherents to this meditation movement have done nothing more than express their humble belief that people should be kind to one another and work on themselves to change their own lives. They are nonviolent and have not adopted any so-called foreign beliefs. They do not promote nor do they use drugs. They are not a cult. They only want to meditate, take their lives into their own hands and attempt to live productive and peaceful lives.

H. Con. Res. 188 expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. Falun Gong is a peaceful and nonviolent form of personal belief and practice with millions of adherents. There are millions of practitioners in the United States. This is wrong and must be stopped. H. Con. Res. 188 requires that the United States Government use every appropriate public and private forum to urge the Government of the People's Republic of China to (1) release from detention all Falun Gong practitioners and put an end to the practices of torture and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment against them and other prisoners of conscience; and (2) abide by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by allowing Falun Gong practitioners to pursue their personal beliefs.

China should stop persecuting the practitioners of Falun Gong and stop exporting its tactics of terrors.

Therefore, I strongly support H. Con. Res. 188.

IN RECOGNITION OF A GREAT AMERICAN SOLDIER: MR. ELTON L. HATLER

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to stand here today to recognize a great soldier and a great American, Mr. Elton L. Hatler. On May 2, 1945, Mr. Hatler was serving as a Browning Automatic Rifleman of Company G, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division, action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands.

Private Hatler's platoon had been forced to withdraw in the face of heavy enemy fire. Although Private Hatler had suffered wounds from the enemy fire, he refused to leave the side of a Marine whose legs had been blown off below the knee. Private Hatler held off the enemy for three grueling hours, attempting to drag his fallen comrade to the safety of American lines. It was only after the man succumbed to his wounds, and Private Hatler had expended his ammunition, that he abandoned his position.

In a citation directed by the Secretary of the Navy on behalf of the President of the United States, Private Elton L. Hatler was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Navy Cross, stating that "His personal valor and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs will again honor Mr. Hatler, a resident of Winchester, Kentucky, at a special ceremony on July 26, 2002.

NURSE REINVESTMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased we are here today to pass this legislation that will immediately begin to alleviate the nursing shortage across the nation. I introduced legislation last year to address the nursing shortage because of the tremendous impact the lack of nurses has had in New York and across the country. I am pleased that many of the provisions in my legislation are included in the bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, the nursing shortage is quite possibly the most important issue in health care. Nurses are on the front lines of the delivery of health care. They provide direct day to day care to patients and are invaluable to our health care system. As the number of nursing vacancies continues to rise, the number of nurses entering the field continues to decline. Statistics have shown that the average age of the nursing workforce is about 44 and that many are leaving the field for more lucrative professions. Enrollment in nursing schools is down as well, which leads many to believe that this is a problem that will only get worse. Compounding the problem, the baby boomer generation will soon hit retirement age and will require more acute care.

For these reasons, the legislation before us today is critically important. Included in the Nurse Reinvestment Act are provisions to create scholarships for nurses wishing to enter the field and loan repayment programs to encourage nurses to continue practicing. In an effort to address the number of nurses leaving the nursing profession, the legislation includes grants for nurses to continue their education while practicing nursing.

Mr. Speaker, nurses deserve these programs and I congratulate everyone involved in this process for their hard work and commitment to this issue. This is truly legislation that will help us all. Everyone at one time or another is in need of care and the first person you see when you get that care is a nurse. So we can all be proud to pass this legislation

today. As a Member of the Subcommittee on Health, I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes.

FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on the morning of September 11th, 2001 passengers of United Airlines Flight 93 were getting ready for the long flight to California. Their thoughts may have been consumed with family, friends, or work. What was about to occur on that tragic journey was probably the furthest thing from their minds. As the mayhem of that morning unfolded in New York City and in our nation's capital, the passengers of Flight 93 were about to directly experience the horror for themselves. Four terrorist hijackers had moved all of the passengers to the rear of the plane and attempted to seize control of the cockpit and direct the plane to its destination of destruction.

One can only imagine the fear that rushed through the veins of each passenger on that doomed flight. Like many people, I have wondered, "What would be going through my mind? What would I have done?" The passengers and crew of Flight 93 provided us with their answers. Knowing of the chaos that was taking place on the ground below, these brave individuals decided to push fear aside and control their destinies and our futures for the last time.

Although the outcome was fatal for the passengers and crew of Flight 93, one could only guess at the countless number of lives they may have saved had those passengers not reacted with bravery, courage, and pride. September 11th was a day that showed us how vulnerable we as Americans can be, but the passengers and crew of Flight 93 reminded us of how the greatness of this country can still shine through us, even in our darkest hour.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3917, which establishes a memorial at the crash site of United Airlines Flight 93 to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93, to always remind us of what it truly means to be an American.

CONFERRING HONORARY CITIZENSHIP ON THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. J. Res. 13, a joint resolution conferring honorary membership of the United States on Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, also known as the Marquis de Lafayette.

At a time in our history when we face challenges from enemies who oppose the very ideals that make our nation great, we are reminded of those brave individuals throughout our nation's history who have made sacrifices