

faithful, wanted his support in the gutting of the civil rights bill. He switched his committee vote, and instead supported this critical piece of legislation. On the House floor, John stated "I legislate today not out of fear, but out of deep concern for the America I love." I still remember these strong and moving words from my honorable colleague, and I am sure they echo in the minds of others as well.

In 1980 John made another tough decision: he was going to join the race for the White House. He began the race as a Republican, but ended it as an Independent. There were many who thought that John's decision to run was a very foolish one. But John was willing to take the risk because he firmly believed that he could do a better job than the others. Six million voters across the Nation believed in him.

I am sure that John is enjoying his tenure as Chair of the Center for Voting and Democracy. I am sure that as a former third-party Presidential candidate, John is able to provide a unique point-of-view. This race that he entered against all odds must serve as fuel to the fire in the campaign for runoff voting and forms of proportional representation as alternatives to winner-take-all plurality elections.

I would finally like to wish John a very happy belated birthday. May you enjoy many more.

ENVISIONING A NEW AMERICA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on July 6th when I began the trip from Cleveland, I caught a glimpse of a misty rainbow, evanescent in a nearly cloudless western sky. It is one of nature's paradoxes that you do not need rain to have a rainbow. A many colored, broad spectrum reality can be perceived at any time if we train ourselves to look for that light. When a storm does occur, the rainbow is nature's gift. How brilliant is a rainbow against a very dark sky.

Hope informs us to look for light in all situations, under all conditions, in all persons, in all nations. How important it is at this time in our nation's history that we attempt to comprehend the light which shines in the darkness. How important it is that we grasp how a shaft of light can spring from the luminous nature of our own hearts and light a new path for ourselves, our loved ones, the nation we love and a world so in need of love.

Today, even as we celebrate the red, white and blue, our nation is bathed in the off colors of threat levels of conjured attacks. We are cautioned to be ever on the alert, to beware the stranger, to travel warily, to watch the crowds, to watch the skies. We are offered the strange solace of nuclear weapons we should never wish to use, missile systems which do not work, metal detectors, bomb sniffing dogs, war planes patrolling our major cities, the FBI marching parade routes and attending religious services. And we are told to have a nice day.

The projections of a menacing external environment breeds fear which percolates paranoia which becomes withdrawal and isolation.

Americans know intuitively fear is not our home. Indomitability fostered Independence.

Courage created a Constitution. Fearlessness birthed freedom. Francis Scott Key's Star Spangled Banner gave insight into the American character when, in the closing lines he asked: "Oh say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the Free and the home of the Brave." Key made a connection between freedom and bravery. At Gettysburg, Lincoln declaimed we were "conceived in Liberty" and asked whether a nation so conceived could endure a Civil War.

It is worth asking today if a nation conceived in Liberty can long endure. A war on terrorism, where fear and democracy are at odds. It is worth contemplating the cost to liberty in the face of assertions that the only way we can protect our freedoms is to become more dependent on the armed power of government, or to give up some of our constitutional rights.

It is only courage which can meet the thief at the door or the terrorist in the crowd. It is only courage which gives us the ability to recite resolutely Lincoln's prayer that a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish". It is only courage which can enable us to see with our heart the possibilities which still exist for America as the nation of our dreams, as a beacon of hope for the world.

So today let us begin the work of summoning all the love and courage we have in our hearts and send it out as a stream of brilliant light to lift the darkness which has dropped like a shroud over the consciousness of some of our countrymen and women.

Today let us envision a new role for America in the world. Let that vision be informed by the immortal intimations of our founders. Let that vision spring from our spiritual intuition. Let that vision be expressed in our every word. Let that vision leap from the golden chalice of our hearts. Let that vision be incarnated through our hands. Let us fashion a new nation through a new vision, filled with new hope from which new possibilities arise.

Let America begin anew in Afghanistan. Stop the bombing. We have no quarrel with the Afghan people. The Taliban are overthrown. Al Qaeda has fled. Bin Laden has vanished. And yet the bombs still drop, indiscriminately. Is there any American who has not been shaken at the mere thought of the horror of U.S. warplanes bombing a wedding celebration in the village of Kakrak, killing dozens of innocent civilians?

Whatever moral authority our nation had at the beginning of the conflict is rapidly being lost. This act does not represent America. Democracy does not wed terror. This act must not be cloaked in the irresponsible and inhuman euphemism of "collateral damage". Stop the bombing. Let an international police force continue in Afghanistan. Let the humble people of Afghanistan be spared friendly fire issued from skies. Enough of bombing the villages to save the villages! Stop the bombing!

Let America begin anew in Iraq. Stop planning for an invasion. The lives of a quarter of a million young American men and women must not be placed in jeopardy. Put a renewed emphasis on preventive diplomacy instead of pre-emptive strikes. Practice deterrence. Practice containment. Do not practice war in Iraq. Practice instead humanitarian aid to children who are dying because hospitals lack medical supplies. If Saddam Hussein would visit destruction upon his people let us not compound their woes.

Let America begin anew by putting an end to the Bomb as the ultimate metaphor. Let us lead the way towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. Let us set aside plans for a missile shield. Let us end the manufacture of new nuclear weapons. Let us stop the testing of nuclear weapons. Let us disavow any right to a nuclear first strike. Let us begin again to work toward nonproliferation worldwide and secure the goal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which is a world free of nuclear threats. Let us put an end to the bomb as the ultimate metaphor.

Let America once again confirm its leadership and secure its position as a righteous nation among nations by fully participating in the global community through treaty-making and upholding international law. Let us reinstate the ABM Treaty, so that all nations who possess or would possess nuclear weapons can trust the United States will not try to gain advantage.

Let America fulfill a half century commitment to the use of outer space for peaceful purposes by setting aside plans to weaponize space and leading the way to ban all weapons in space, which is the purpose of HR 3616.

Let America commit to the Kyoto Treaty to protect this planet earth and to assure all nations that we recognize our responsibility to limit the production of greenhouse gases. In this we demonstrate an understanding of the interconnectedness of all life. In this we ensure the life of the planet far into the future. In this we show confidence in the future. In this we show a love of life.

Let America spare this planet and its people the scourge of biological and chemical weapons by leading the way toward world-wide agreement of the Biological and Chemical weapons conventions.

Let America commit itself to the Landmine Treaty and the Small Arms Treaty.

Let America pledge itself to justice everywhere by supporting the International Criminal Court.

Let us bring a new awareness to America. One which speaks and listens compassionately to those with whom we disagree. One whose power derives from the morality of our principles, not the armaments of our military.

Let America lead the way for a world at peace through inclusionary governance, upholding human rights, protecting workers' rights everywhere, assuring sustainability through enabling renewable energy resources to be brought forth.

Let America replace its principles of perpetual war with new organizing principles which protect the natural world, and affirm the interconnectedness of all life. Let us make nonviolence an organizing principle in our society through the creation of a Department of Peace.

Let us be the generation which began the work with people of all nations which leads to the day when war itself becomes archaic. "Not to believe in the possibility of permanent peace is to disbelieve the godliness of human nature" said Gandhi.

We can evolve. We can understand that war, violent death, the arms race, threats, terror, environmental destruction, adverse global climate change, corporate corruption, poverty, ignorance and sickness are not our ultimate destiny. Our eternal home is not eternal darkness. We are made for something better, a higher purpose, a higher calling here and now.

The world's ills represent conditions which are not beyond our understanding nor beyond our control, but which yield to human intelligence, the wisdom of the human heart and the aspirations of the human spirit.

As we face uncertain times, let us call upon our capacity for love. Let us call upon our capacity for hope. Let us call upon our capacity to believe in ourselves and in each other. Let us call upon our capacity to make a difference. Let us call upon our capacity to evolve as a nation. Let us call upon our recognition of the power of unity which brings us here, and which enables us to envision the America of our fondest dreams.

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S 2001-2002 VFW
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLAR-
SHIP CONTEST REACHING OUT
TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the speech written by the 2002 Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Scholarship winner, Clarissa Anderson.

REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Clarissa Anderson)

America, the beautiful country in which we live, has a future brighter than most may see. It is the country where many families raise their children, brave people reside, intelligent people create, scientists explore, and foreigners and citizens vacation. It is a country with immense power and glory behind its name, but the future of such a place is yet to be discovered. The future of the country that we love the most is what we will make it to be. It is up to us now, who are living here today, to make the history of America one that will make those who follow behind us proud of the ones who walked before them.

Many battles have been fought in the past to gain the freedoms we take for granted today, yet there are still battles to be won amongst America's own people. They are not battles over hate or differences, but they are rather battles over the hunger and the need of the people of whom we belong. The future of America lies within each American living here today. There are several civil topics that could be improved upon to make the future of our country one to be proud of.

While there are rich and famous stars making the latest movies, and the most well known scientists discovering, there are still ones on the street who are in need of homes, love, care, clothing, and jobs. The able-minded and able-bodied people of America should stand up and make this country proud by making it a better place for all to live, even the less fortunate. Volunteering an hour here or there to counsel a job searcher, to serve meals to the hungry, or even to show a little love and care to a child, can make a difference slowly, one step at a time, one life at a time, a little love at a time, and a little care at a time, we will slowly create the brightest age in America's history.

When Americans can truly say that the quality of living in America is better than any other country, America will have succeeded as a whole. When all Americans can feel protected not only by the laws and power of the country, but also by the care of its people, we will have succeeded. There are

countless ways for a single soul to change or alter the life of another, if only a seed of compassion or care were sown within those who are able to give such things to others in need.

To the future of America I would like to offer a country full of helping hands, ones that will reach out to others in need. I would like to see men and women and children alike, not only caring for their circle of friends and for their families, but also assisting the people that are in need in their towns and communities. Our country has proven to be able to accomplish many great feats and this is one feat that can be achieved within the boundaries of our own country. To conquer such a challenge we need to set ourselves aside and lose all selfishness, putting our focus on others and their needs as well. While making our changes one heart at a time, one step at a time, and one life at a time, we'll be reaching out to the future of America. Our country will be all that we've dreamed it could be. America it's the beautiful country in which we live and as Americans, we should be proud of what we accomplish as a nation, one step at a time.

IN HONOR OF THE UNION &
LEAGUE OF ROMANIAN SOCI-
ETIES, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Union & League of Romanian Societies, Inc., on the occasion of their 96th Anniversary, to be celebrated in July, 2002, in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1928, two separate Romanian organizations—The Union and The League—unified to become The Union & League of Romanian Societies, Inc. The organization continues to be one of the largest Romanian organizations in the United States, and has maintained its rich history and legacy of service to others.

For almost one hundred years, the members and leaders of the Union & League of Romanian Societies have offered a source of hope, faith, support and resources to American citizens of Romanian heritage, and Romanians abroad. The organization has undoubtedly been a great source of strength for thousands of Romanian immigrants, and fosters the continuity of Romania's significant cultural, religious and historic heritage.

The Union & League of Romanian Societies, Inc. has an impressive record of assisting and supporting Romanians in their homeland. In 1989, a Union & League Relief Fund was established to assist Romania in its economic and social reconstruction. In 1990, a Relief Fund was created with funds specifically earmarked for Romania's most vulnerable citizenry—its children and elderly. The Society continues to demonstrate support of its homeland—connecting the old world with the new—and never forgetting the sacrifices of ancestors who journeyed before them.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of the Union & League of Romanian Societies, Inc., based here in Cleveland. Americans of Romanian descent have bestowed their professional talents, sense of community, and tradition and culture, within every facet of American society. Moreover, thousands of Americans of Romanian descent

have made the ultimate sacrifice—giving their lives to protect the freedoms in their new American homeland, beginning with the Civil War. I stand in honor of the significant and noteworthy contributions and sacrifices that members of the Romanian community have made here in Cleveland, and across the nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday and this morning, I was unavoidably detained and I was unable to vote on matters before the House at the time. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall 324—H. Res. 439, Honoring Corinne "Lindy" Claiborne Boggs on the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Women's Caucus "yes"; Rollcall 325—H. Res. 492, Expressing Gratitude for the World Trade Center Clean-up and Recovery Efforts at Fresh Kills Landfill "yes".

IN HONOR OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS
BASEBALL LEAGUE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Garfield Heights Baseball League. I also stand in honor of the founding members of the League: Arthur Grugle, Dan Kostell and John Rawlins, and all the individuals over the past fifty years who have volunteered countless hours to ensure that the League remain a viable and significant recreational outlet for the youth of Garfield Heights.

The Garfield Heights Baseball League has the noteworthy distinction of being one of the oldest self-supporting leagues in the nation. Over the years, the League has grown and changed, reflecting our evolving society in many ways. Beginning with less than one hundred players, the League grew to over ninety teams playing on nine fields by the late seventies. Today, over 1,000 youth, both boys and girls are active players in the Garfield Heights Baseball League.

In 1987, the League formed the Garfield Heights Baseball League Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those individuals who have gone well beyond the normal call of duty in supporting or enhancing the day-to-day operations of the League. There are currently eighty-nine members in the Hall of Fame. In 1992, the League founded the Steve Huntz Alumni Award, named after the only League alumnus to play in the Major Leagues.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor, tribute, and celebration of the past and present leaders of the Garfield Heights Baseball League, for their fifty years of commitment to the youth of Garfield Heights. These leaders are the guardians of the most beloved and