

CARSON'S QUESTION OF
PRIVILEGE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support of Ms. CARSON's resolution and my even stronger support of Amtrak. As Ms. CARSON's resolution recognizes, Amtrak provided a vital transportation alternative during the weeks and months following the attacks of September 11th. The importance of Amtrak, however, goes far beyond simply providing an alternative mode of transportation in times of crisis. Amtrak serves more than 500 stations in 46 states, provides employment to thousands of workers, and provides a significant economic impact to small communities throughout the country.

Specifically, in my state of New Mexico the most recent figures show that New Mexico Amtrak ridership totaled 95,278 passengers. Amtrak also employed 63 New Mexicans totaling wages of \$3.62 million. Three Amtrak routes run through New Mexico; the Southwest Chief route, the Texas Eagle route, and the Sunset Limited route. All three of these lines are of vital importance to the number of small communities through which they run. Communities such as Raton, Las Vegas, and Gallup, all three of which are in the 3d Congressional District, which I represent, depend heavily on the Amtrak passengers to bring their dollars to these local economies. Without Amtrak, these communities would experience devastating economic hits that would threaten the very existence of these wonderful places.

That is why it is so important that we provide Amtrak with the level of funding they have requested—the level of funding they deem necessary to maintain and improve their existing services. The President's request of \$521 million will result in a severe cutback of Amtrak's services, which will, in turn, result in a devastating impact on the communities that Amtrak currently serves. I urge my colleagues to not only support Ms. CARSON's resolution, but also support an increase to \$1.2 billion of funding for Amtrak.

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR BOWMAN

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Taylor Bowman, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, who was named a top youth volunteer this year by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The awards program, now in its seventh year, is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. A record 28,000 high school and middle level students submitted applications for this year's program.

Taylor, who graduated from Fort Mill High School this year, developed and led a mentoring program that paired high school athletes with potential at-risk students from a local elementary school.

When Taylor first began tutoring a new student from Puerto Rico in his mother's third-grade class, he was reminded of "a turtle with his head in his shell trying to forget about the world outside." But as he worked with him each week, Taylor said, "I saw the turtle come out of his shell."

Soon, other teachers were asking Taylor for help with their limited-English and academically challenged students, but he knew he didn't have enough time to help everyone. So, after getting permission from his coach and the elementary school principal, Taylor recruited 37 members of his high school cross-country team and other friends to become mentors, as well. He also applied for grant money to purchase incentive rewards and fund a hot dog picnic, Christmas party, and other activities.

The success of the first year convinced Taylor that other schools could also benefit from the program, and he began recruiting other volunteer schools and teams. "It took a lot of time and effort," Taylor says, "but it was worth it. Life is much better when you take time to help a child."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards in recognizing Taylor Bowman as one of South Carolina's top youth volunteers.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DONALD F.
DEVOS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rev. Donald F. DeVos, president of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM), who peacefully left this world on Saturday afternoon, September 28, 2002.

Don dedicated his life to serving the least, the last, and the lost. I witnessed this firsthand as late as March of this year when I met with Don in my office. He was here in Washington, 81 years old, resplendent in his attire, walking the marble halls of Congress strongly advocating on behalf of Michigan's at-risk and abused youth.

Don brought tremendous vision, leadership, grace and love to his work. He came to the Mission in 1990 to just "help out" and two years later he became the organization's president. When Don arrived, the Mission quietly operated on a small budget, with few facilities, and a narrow focus in the city. Under Don's strong leadership, the Mission expanded its services and has become the largest provider to the homeless and addicted in southeast Michigan.

In 1998, Don DeVos was awarded Executive of the Year by United Way Community Services. A year earlier, the City of Detroit awarded the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries Agency of the Year. Today, the Mission has an \$8 million budget, operates facilities in 18 locations throughout the Metro area, including Highland Park and Howell. The Mission successfully transforms the lives of gang members, drug addicts, prostitutes, juvenile offenders, and the homeless with time-tested, cost-effective programs, and through the power of the Living Gospel. The Mission's programs,

which include drug treatment, transitional housing, education, job training, and youth assistance, have a combined success rate of 77 percent.

Don would often say that his most satisfying moments came when he would meet someone who held out his or her hand and said, "Mr. DeVos, I went through your program and it changed my life!" It occurred at his favorite lunch spot, Mario's restaurant; on the street outside his office on the notorious Cass Corridor; even the doorman to Don's apartment building was once a Mission resident. This is Don's legacy.

While Don's energy and inspiration came from above, the person who gave him daily encouragement and strength was his beloved wife, Betty, who passed away last year. Losing his life-long partner was difficult for Don. Now they are together again.

Don was a graduate of Union High School in Grand Rapids. After graduating in 1942 from the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago he served in the U.S. Navy. Beginning in 1944, Don worked with Christian leaders throughout the world, including the Rev. Billy Graham, to found Youth for Christ International and to direct public relations for other faith-based international organizations, including World Vision and Global Concern. Before coming to the Mission, he founded a long-term residential treatment program in Texas for young substance abusers that has changed the lives of thousands of boys and girls.

In Don's office hangs a beautiful motto that reads, "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you." The greatest thing I can say about Don is that he lived every day of his life by this sacred promise.

Don DeVos died one year, one month, and one day after his beloved wife, Betty.

DISSENTING VIEWS ON CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA ANNUAL REPORT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Executive Commission on China released its inaugural report today. I am one of nine commissioners from the House. Because of my concerns that this report inadequately addresses the Government of China's continuing human rights abuses, I could not vote to support it. I want to share with our colleagues my dissenting views on the report.

DISSENTING VIEW

While this first report by the Congressional Executive Commission on China (CECC) contains some worthwhile recommendations and observations on the continued human rights abuses in the People's Republic of China, I do not believe it sufficiently describes and addresses the degree to which these human rights abuses can be laid at the feet of the Government of China.

In a recent letter to all CECC commissioners, human rights advocate Harry Wu outlined several human rights issues in China that should have been included or discussed with more vigor and analysis in this report. I share in Mr. Wu's analysis.

For example, the section of the report on village elections gives the impression that