

done in this community to your loved ones. We the undersigned, call on those in authority to use every available resource and do all things necessary to bring about a just resolution to this case.

By: Brenda Mills, Chairwoman of the Board; and David Vowell, President.

This Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians have long represented an integral part of this community and has created a model of economic and community revitalization and development. Today they have moved from poverty to prosperity and are an integrated part of both the community and this call for justice.

LETTER FROM THE TRIBE OF MISSISSIPPI  
CHOCTAW INDIANS

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS: Forty years ago, three communities, white, black, and Choctaw, lived in Neshoba County separated by fear, ignorance, and bigotry.

Although all of us were Neshoba Countians, Mississippians, and Americans, living together in a relatively small geographic region, we lived apart in our separate communities seeking protection and self-preservation among our own kind. Mainly what we knew of one another was to be wary. Being a small community many of us did interact and often positively, but mutual respect, honor, and acceptance were indeed not commonalities shared between us.

Being forced apart, we were often denied the opportunity to learn from one another's differences and to gain from each other's strengths. Forty years ago, three young men who ignored the walls of separation between our communities were sacrificed to the fears and hatreds that long simmered throughout our country. Forever since, Neshoba County has been associated with an act of infamy. However, those three that we lost, live among us today.

While it is right to mourn them, we honor them more when we celebrate their lives for the positive changes they provided to all of us.

Today white, black, and Choctaw still live together in Neshoba County. We also work together, transact business together, learn together, worship together and play together.

While we have not eliminated fear, ignorance, or bigotry, we have surpassed those constraints and are prospering together.

While we continue to maintain our separate communities, we do so now not to, but because we choose to in order to preserve our unique cultural identities.

Now, forty years later, we come together with ease, and as equals not just to remember the trauma of the past, but more importantly, to admire our present, and plan our future together. All of our communities have changed for the better, we have an economy that is flourishing, our people are working and prospering, with the Tribe alone providing more than 9,000 jobs. When we work together and support one another, good things happen.

On behalf of The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, I commend Philadelphia Coalition for its efforts to celebrate our unity.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP MARTIN,  
*Tribal Chief.*

Mr. Speaker, today at the request of this community, federal and state law enforcement officials are actively studying the potential of reopening this case to bring any remaining murderers to justice. The purpose is not to reopen old wounds, but to bring closure and healing to those wounds by providing the remedy of justice.

This weekend, I will participate in events in Neshoba County memorializing the deaths of

three men who sought equality, justice and civil rights. We will remember the past, take stock of the present, and work for the future. We are a better Mississippi today, we will be still better tomorrow. I commend this community for showing leadership and embracing justice and look forward to working with all the citizens of Neshoba County as we continue to move forward both socially and economically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL TIME OUT DAY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a House resolution supporting the goals and ideas of the National Time Out Day, which the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and over 50 other health care organizations are celebrating on June 23, 2004 to promote the adoption of a new protocol for preventing medical errors in the operating room.

The number of individuals who are affected by medical errors is astounding. In 2000, the Institute of Medicine released a report entitled "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System." The report revealed that between 44,000 and 98,000 hospitalized people in the U.S. die each year due to medical errors, and thousands of others suffer injury or illness as a result of preventable errors.

To address this problem, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has developed a universal protocol which calls for surgical teams to call a "time out" before surgeries begin in order to verify the patient's identity, the procedure to be performed, and the site of the procedure. The Joint Commission is requiring nurses, surgeons and hospitals throughout the country to adopt this protocol beginning July 1, 2004, in order to curb the alarming number of deaths and injuries due to medical errors.

AORN has created an Internet website and distributed 55,000 tool kits to healthcare professionals to help them implement the universal protocol, and they are celebrating National Time Out Day on June 23 to promote the protocol and its adoption.

National Time Out Day has been endorsed by a distinguished group of healthcare organizations, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Hospital Association, and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately, this issue is about health care access and patient safety. Fewer medical errors will result in better outcomes for patients, fewer medical malpractice suits, which in turn will help keep malpractice insurance rates and health care premiums down.

I think it is important for Congress to recognize and congratulate perioperative nurses and representatives of surgical teams for working together to reduce medical errors and to ensure the improved health and safety of surgical patients—and that is the purpose of this resolution.

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, today the United States needs true friends like the Republic of Kazakhstan as never before and we should encourage and welcome their achievements for the simple reason that by strengthening themselves they strengthen us.

I have followed the development of a young Kazakhstan with great interest and I should note that since gaining its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, this country has undergone tremendous political and economic transformation. Reforming a former totalitarian society is not an easy task. Of course, there were some mistakes and drawbacks. However, one should acknowledge the fact that Kazakhstan is dynamically moving forward and is moving in the right direction.

We should keep in mind that we are talking about a country which achieved democracy and personal freedoms through tremendous suffering. A great deal of credit for Kazakhstan's coming of age should go to its leader, President Nursultan Nazarbayev. I fully share the position of the leadership of Kazakhstan that any reforms make sense only if they serve the people.

Many have criticized Kazakhstan for initially choosing a course of economic liberalization while putting deep political reforms on the backburner. However, the time has proven this course right. I praise the political foresight of President Nazarbayev, an architect of Kazakhstan's success, who, in spite of criticism, has managed to bring his country into the fold of economically strong nations and has now embarked on an even bolder set of political reforms.

Recently, Kazakhstan's leader has called for a massive transformation of the country's political life and the strengthening of Kazakhstan's leadership by building a democracy. The major step in this direction will be a significant strengthening of the role of the national Parliament. President Nazarbayev has proposed to increase the numbers of deputies in both houses of Parliament and to develop a new system of forming the Government through the mechanism of a Parliamentary majority.

I believe decisions to decentralize state management and pursue aggressive fights against corruption are also crucial. Moreover, according to the President, the judiciary system will undergo serious reforms. Jury trials will be introduced, more power will be given to defense attorneys in criminal litigation.

All this, to me, is a true sign of Kazakhstan's maturity. I agree with President Nazarbayev, that "You can't just declare democracy. You can only build it through hard work." As a nation that has been building its democracy for more than 200 years, we should value the words of a leader of a young democracy.

I would like to wish the people and government of Kazakhstan success in their efforts. Future successes of a democratic and free Republic of Kazakhstan directly benefit the United States, as it will help ensure stability and prosperity of Central Asia, a region extremely important in our fight against international terrorism.