

from the Cardinal Kung Foundation to Chinese President Ju Hintao. The Cardinal Kung Foundation advocates on behalf of the persecuted underground Catholic church in China.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005.

President HU JINTAO,
People's Republic of China, c/o Ambassador Yang Jiechi, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT HU: September 8, 2005 will be remembered as your historical first visit to the United States and to Yale University as the President of the People's Republic of China. The world will be eagerly listening to your vision for China. However, September 8, 2005 is also being observed by 12 million Roman Catholics in China and millions more worldwide as the 50th anniversary of the unjust and brutal assault on the Roman Catholic Church in Shanghai when the Chinese government simultaneously arrested the late Bishop Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei, at the time the Roman Catholic Bishop of Shanghai, 21 priests, 2 nuns, and approximately 300 Roman Catholics for practicing their Roman Catholic religion.

Today, fifty years later, we commemorate and weep silently about this gross injustice and tragedy that your government had inflicted upon these innocent Catholic religious and faithful. All of them were sentenced to 10-30 years and even to life imprisonment. In honor of these bloodless martyrdoms, the late Pope John Paul II secretly (in pectore) elevated Bishop Kung Pin-Mei to a Cardinal in 1979 while he was still in jail and publicly proclaimed him a cardinal in 1991 amidst a 7-minute standing ovation before an audience of 7,000 people.

Since 1949 when your government took over China, literally tens of thousands of Roman Catholic bishops, priests, nuns, and their faithful have been imprisoned for 5, 10, 20, 30 or even 40 years. Many of them, such as Bishop Fan Xueyan of Baoding (34 years in solitary confinement), died in jail. Some of them are still in jail on this date or have vanished after they were arrested. Many of them were released after a very long period in jail. Some of those released are still living in China or in other parts of the world. Some, such as Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei, whom the late Pope John Paul II called "this noble son of China and of the Church" (30 years in solitary confinement and 2.5 years in house arrest), and Archbishop Dominic Tan Yee-Ming of Canton (24 years in jail without a trial), have since died.

It does not matter if these prisoners are dead or living today. They are still considered criminals because the "criminal" charges against them were never erased by your government.

There are thousands more like Cardinal Kung, Bishop Fan and Archbishop Tang. They are all loyal citizens of China and they love China.

Mr. President, you have the power and the leadership to bring modern China into an era of true religious freedom. Mr. President, you also have the wisdom and historical acumen to realize that a country without religious freedom is never peaceful and constructive. You know the importance of changing the world's perception of China's human rights policy for the better and you can do it. And, we pray that you will do it.

The Chinese government has justifiably exonerated numerous political prisoners in the past. On this 50th anniversary of the unjust and brutal assault of the Roman Catholic Church in Shanghai described above, the Cardinal Kung Foundation appeals to you once again, as we have appealed to your Ambassador Yang Jiechi on March 23, 2005, that all these prisoners, including Cardinal Kung,

Bishop Fan and Archbishop Tang and many others, both living and dead, be officially and posthumously exonerated of so called crimes of which the Chinese government falsely and unjustly accused them, some as long as five decades ago. We also appeal to you to release all current religious prisoners from prison and labor camp as per the attached list. By your doing so, the reputation of these living and dead religious prisoners of conscience in China can be restored. Those who are still living can at least once again enjoy equal treatment in the society. To do so will be a powerful testimony to the Chinese government's respect for and adherence to human rights and liberty. To do so will also prove that China is honoring the spirit of the Olympic Games that you will have the honor of hosting in 2008.

God love you.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH KUNG,
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation.

CONGRATULATING NED MCGINLEY
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SERVICE
AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF
THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Ned McGinley, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who is serving his second, two-year, term as national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Born in Pittston, Pennsylvania, Ned graduated from Wilkes College in 1966. He was captain of the wrestling team and was named All American in 1963. Married for 36 years to his wife, Maryellen, the couple has three children and five grandchildren.

A school teacher for 31 years in the Wyoming Valley West School District, Ned is now athletic recruitment coordinator for King's College in Wilkes-Barre. A member of the AOH since 1978, Ned served in numerous leadership roles within the organization. In June, 2002, he was elected national president without opposition. Having visited Ireland 25 times in the past 16 years, Ned has been devoted to furthering the Peace Process in Northern Ireland.

He is a strong proponent of the Hibernian Charity Corporation, instituted in 2005, to bring tax deductible contributions to Project St. Patrick, stipends for religious vocations and support for the Hibernian Hunger Project.

Under Ned's leadership, the AOH is working to introduce a resolution on the Molly Maguires to the Pennsylvania legislature. The AOH is convinced that the Irish men convicted of crimes in the Pennsylvania coal fields of Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties in the 1870s were denied legal due process during their trials. During Ned's term of office as national president, the AOH has called upon the Irish Republican Army to renounce violence in its struggle for a united Ireland. Last July, the IRA agreed to do that and limit itself to using the political process to achieve goals.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ned McGinley for his devoted service to

the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a proud organization committed to preserving Irish history and culture and to promoting Irish values.

WINNING THE WAR IN IRAQ

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, last night while participating in a special order hour, I misspoke and substituted the name of my wonderful wife Melissa for that of my young daughter Claire. I would like to reiterate how proud I am of our brave men and women in uniform and of their contributions to keeping American families safe.

SUPPORT FOR OUR COAST GUARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 889, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005, and in strong support of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Mr. Speaker, I have never been more proud of the men and women that serve in the United States Coast Guard. In the past 2 weeks, these valiant men and women have shown their dedication to our Nation. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Coast Guard was the very first government entity to arrive. The Coast Guard is solely responsible for saving thousands of Americans from the destruction and flood waters brought by Hurricane Katrina.

The Coast Guard, whose motto is Semper Paratus, always ready, was prepared to respond to this storm. Before levees ever broke, the Coast Guard was flying additional helicopters and extra aircrews to the Gulf region. Once the storm hit, the Coast Guard air and boat crews were operating 24 hours a day to save their fellow citizens.

The best decision that the President has made in the past 2 weeks is to place Vice Admiral Thad Allen in charge of the emergency response to the Katrina disaster. To the Coast Guard, being prepared to respond to a disaster is not just a paper exercise to sit on the shelf when the big one comes. Responding to emergencies and tragedies is a part of the daily routine for the Coast Guard. By working to create relationships with State and local government officials, and those in the private sector, the Coast Guard has the resources to respond in times of crisis. To date, the Coast Guard has saved over 12,500 lives with their air resources, and in using boats or other surface transportation methods has saved over 11,500 lives. They have also evacuated over 9,400 people to hospitals.

And when the storm had passed, they remained on the scene helping to cleanup the mess and protect the environment. In New Orleans, they are coordinating the cleanup of 15 significant oil spills, and helping to coordinate the removal of sunken ships and barges.

Mr. Speaker, the Coast Guard has responded with all of the resources at their command to the Katrina disaster. It is time for the

House of Representatives to respond to the Coast Guard by ensuring they have the resources they need to carry out their missions in the coming year.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have joined with my Committee Chairman, Mr. LOBIONDO, in crafting language in this bill that not only provides the appropriations and authorizations for the Coast Guard, but more importantly, gives proper recognition and gratitude for their efficient response to the Hurricane disaster. Make no mistake of it Mr. Speaker, while there was confusion and chaos, it was the Coast Guard that was there, on the ground saving lives.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
REPRESENTATIVE LLOYD MEEDS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today we mourn. We also remember. We mourn the loss of a public servant who worked to make government the best it could be. We remember his accomplishments and celebrate his legacy.

And we take heart in the memories that we share of this great man.

Congressman Lloyd Meeds was not a distant politician. He was a friend and a neighbor whose public work was devoted to maintaining and improving our unique quality of life for generations to come. He was, in the words of his colleague Congressman Morris Udall, "a workhorse rather than a showhorse", a "glutton for the tough, detailed work that so many of us shun."

These words paint an accurate picture of a true public servant and statesman. And they set a standard of excellence for those of us now serving in Congress.

Congressman Meeds's tough, detailed work played a major role in creating Head Start and the Youth Conservation Corps. He took a stand as one of the first to support Title IX, the law that bans gender discrimination in our schools.

He set an example for me personally with his work to preserve and protect land for future generations by brokering the North Cascades Act that created the North Cascades National Park and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. He later worked for a resolution to ensure passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, a vital piece of legislation that will protect some of the most pristine land in the United States for generations to come.

His accomplishments were many, and his commitment to the Pacific Northwest was unyielding. That commitment certainly did not end when he left Congress.

The State of Alaska declared February 28, 2005 "Lloyd Meeds Day" as a heartfelt thank-you for the Congressman's lifetime of effort on behalf of the environment and Native Americans.

This is the legacy of Congressman Lloyd Meeds—a passionate and tireless advocate for the causes he embraced.

We mourn a loss today. Congressman Meeds will be missed. The foundation he laid, however, provides the basis for the diversity

and strength we see in our communities today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, my absence today from the House chamber is due to my traveling to New Orleans and Oklahoma City to assess the damage and relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. My return to Washington, DC is not possible until after conclusion of today's legislative business. As a member of the Committee on Appropriations and the vice chair of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security I am involved in the direct funding of our government's efforts in saving lives, stabilizing this devastated area, restoring order, mitigating still uncertain conditions, and beginning the rebuilding process that can assist in returning prosperity and making people whole. During my visit to New Orleans, I will witness firsthand the scope of the devastation, observe relief operations, and meet with some of the more than 2,100 members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard serving in New Orleans. My trip concludes with my traveling to Oklahoma City to meet with hurricane evacuees and relief workers.

Since Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Gulf Coast August 31, Oklahomans have been at the forefront of relief efforts. Since August 30, the Oklahoma National Guard has supplied four U860 Blackhawk helicopters, airlifted tens of thousands of pounds of food and water to New Orleans and supplied much-needed security and rescue efforts in the midst of looting and flooding that followed the hurricane's landfall. Oklahomans have also opened up their homes and businesses to help the relief effort, and have worked with the Red Cross in opening shelters for those evacuees throughout Oklahoma.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
ESTABLISH A SPECIAL INSPECTORS
GENERAL COUNCIL FOR
HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish a Special Inspectors General Council for Hurricane Katrina. As Members of Congress charged with overseeing the operation and accountability of the Federal government, we have a responsibility to ensure that all funds we authorize and appropriate are spent for their intended purposes. In the wake of the terrible devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, we have already appropriated more than \$60 billion for the immediate relief effort, and this amount is, no doubt, only the beginning. These funds must be spent in a way that ensures that the people in the affected areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama are able to recover.

Assuring accountability for relief and recovery projects is imperative. The public's trust in

their government has been shaken in the aftermath of this disaster. We must assure the American people that we are being appropriately prudent with their money. Any dollar lost to fraud or waste is a dollar that does not make it to someone who is in need. This funding is too important to be misspent, and that is precisely why I am introducing this legislation today.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability, I have seen firsthand the good work of agency inspectors general. Their unique relationship with both the agencies they oversee and the Congress, to whom they report, provides an ideal check on the system. Inspectors general have long stood as a bulwark against fraud and mismanagement.

While some in the Congress have called for the appointment of one Special IG to oversee hurricane relief funding, this proposal raises concerns. The most troubling aspect of the legislation is a requirement that this Special IG be appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security within three days. This is contrary to the intent of the Inspector General Act. The IG Act requires that an IG with this much authority—one who would potentially oversee the expenditures of up to \$200 billion—be appointed by the President with the advise and consent of the Senate. Under the Special IG proposal, we would face the unworkable problem of having several IGs with Senate confirmation reporting to a political appointee who reports to one cabinet secretary.

The response to Hurricane Katrina will involve the full breadth of Federal resources. It will touch nearly every Federal agency. What we need is a coordinated response from the IGs now in place throughout government. We need IGs with institutional knowledge unique to their own agencies to work together under the leadership of the Department of Homeland Security. This Council will draw on the resources of over 5,000 auditors and investigators who are already in place today.

The hurricane relief money is being spent right now. It is important that this coordination begin as quickly as possible. We cannot take a chance on a single Special Inspector General who mayor may not have the depth and breadth of knowledge to ensure full accountability at all the Federal agencies that will be part of this effort. We have no time for a learning curve, especially when we have the ability to leverage the considerable resources already available. A Special IG Council will enable this important work, which in many cases is already underway, to be completed in the most effective manner.

HONORING THE BEDFORD
GAZETTE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bedford Gazette, a daily newspaper serving Bedford County, Pennsylvania. On September 21, 2005, the Bedford Gazette will celebrate its 200th anniversary. A solid institution in Bedford, I grew up with the Gazette in our family's home.