

schools in the district are top quality, and was instrumental in the building of the new Marion High School. Colonel Guess served on the steering committee for a bond referendum to pay for the construction of a new intermediate school and additions to Easterling Primary and Johnakin Middle School.

He has still found time to serve on the Marion County Economic Development Board, the Marion County United Way, and to direct the Marion-Dillon County Mental Retardation Program. Colonel Guess is currently the Chairman of the Marion County Red Cross.

He and his wife, the former Reba General are members of St. Phillips United Methodist Church. The couple has 2 children, Ronald Richardson of Marion and Rita James of Charlotte, North Carolina, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on November 21, 2005 I will sponsor a Luncheon in honor of Lt. Colonel Albert Guess and I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending this long-time friend and mentor for exceeding his life's ambition to serve others. He has served his family, his community, and his country with extraordinary dedication, and has been a positive impact on countless lives along the way.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING MR. STEVE VINCENT UPON HIS RECOGNITION AS A GREAT PHILANTHROPIST

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Steve Vincent was nominated by Dr. David Mitzel; and

Whereas, Steve Vincent had an experience on Christmas morning in 1989 that touched him so deeply he helped establish the ABC Wilson Fund in memory of 3 children whose lives were senselessly lost; and

Whereas, Steve Vincent has worked diligently with the help of others to make the ABC Wilson Fund an endowment that is saving lives across Muskingum County by providing smoke detectors to all in need.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Steve Vincent and thanking him for his generosity to the people of Muskingum County.

RELIGIOUS SPEECH LIMITATIONS IN SWEDEN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief is a fundamental element of international human rights norms. It is inextricably intertwined with other fundamental rights, including the rights to freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of assembly. Considering this, I am increasingly concerned by European trends to place limitations on religious speech under the guise of preventing offense or limiting hate speech. One such case con-

cerns Ake Green, the pastor of a Pentecostal church in Kalmar, Sweden, who was sentenced to 1 month in prison for "inciting hatred" against homosexuals.

Pastor Green's troubles began on July 20, 2003, when he expressed his disapproval of homosexuality in a sermon, founded upon his understanding of the Bible. He did not incite nor encourage his congregation on the small southeastern island of Oland to violence. He did, however, express his personal opinion of homosexuality and made a personal moral judgment that the lifestyle was sinful. He later circulated the sermon text to media outlets in an attempt to insert an alternative view into Sweden's "marketplace of ideas."

When prosecutors saw the sermon printed, they brought charges against Pastor Green for "inciting hate" toward homosexuals. A district court agreed in June 2004, finding his sermon to be criminal. One particularly alarming quote from the district court's decision stated, "It is forbidden to use the Bible or similar material to threaten or express disrespect for homosexuals as a group." Mr. Speaker, should pastors really be sent to jail for sermons that a court deems "disrespectful" or "offensive"? Should the state really dictate how a religious leader interprets the Bible, the Torah, or other religious texts? The district court's ruling raises the question of whether ministers and priests in Sweden are really free to preach their beliefs.

I recognize that the right to freedom of expression is not absolute and not all speech is protected. After 9/11 and the Madrid and London bombings, we have all seen how criminals abuse religion to preach violence and lead others in criminal deeds. Authorities are within their rights to take legal action to curtail the speech when it rises to the level of posing an imminent threat of actual criminal action. The international community and the European Court of Human Rights have recognized this high threshold for limiting speech activity. Yet we must be careful to not limit religious liberties and speech rights.

Thankfully, Pastor Green has not spent a night in jail while his case is on appeal. Also encouraging was the February decision by an appellate court to overturn the conviction, saying it is not illegal to preach a personal interpretation of the Bible. However, Sweden's chief prosecutor, Fredrik Wersaell, appealed to the Supreme Court, contending that Green violated Sweden's 2003 hate crimes law. The Supreme Court will hear the appeal on November 9th.

Undoubtedly, Swedes enjoy tremendous religious freedoms and generally Sweden is a staunch defender of human rights. However, in this case, the government has sought to limit basic religious teachings. I believe the criminalization of the use of the Bible to express beliefs, if not overturned, will have frighteningly broad ramifications for the free practice of religion in Sweden and beyond.

ACWA BLUEPRINT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, this year the water districts of my State worked together

to create a water planning document to address my State's core water infrastructure needs for decades into the future.

This document, released by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), is called, "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California's Water." It lays out a diverse mix of actions and investments designed to help California meet its water supply needs in the coming decades.

The ACWA Blueprint is intended to serve as a roadmap for State and Federal leaders to follow to ensure that California has the water supply system it will need to support people, jobs and ecosystems in the future.

It breaks down into 12 recommendations for each region of the State. These include investments to improve water supplies, water use efficiency, water quality and environmental health. The recommended actions are designed to address short and long-term statewide water needs, complement and build on local efforts, and promote integrated regional water management plans that will play a critical role in California's future.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS IN ACWA'S BLUEPRINT

Improve the existing Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water conveyance system to increase flexibility and enhance water supply, water quality, levee stability and environmental protection in the near term.

Evaluate long-term threats to the Delta levee and conveyance system and pursue actions to reduce risks to the state's water supply and the environment.

Ensure delivery of adequate Colorado River supplies for Southern California and defend California's rights on the Colorado River.

Implement and fund the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program.

Develop additional groundwater and surface water storage, including proposed surface storage projects now under study if they are determined to be feasible.

Support and fund local efforts to expand recycled water use and implement best management practices for urban and agricultural water use efficiency.

Improve the quality of California's drinking water supplies to safeguard public health and enhance water quality for agriculture and the environment.

Work with local agencies to overcome constraints to developing seawater and brackish groundwater desalination.

Modernize the Federal Endangered Species Act and other laws and regulations to allow water infrastructure projects, water supply and water quality activities to proceed while protecting species and habitats.

Expedite the approval process for voluntary water transfers.

Clarify and expand the State's role in flood control and promote multi-benefit flood control projects.

Support integrated regional water management plans.

Mr. Speaker, this document represents the first time California water users have produced something this comprehensive, based around a consensus approach and done under their own initiative. Water will be a central resource challenge confronting economic growth and environmental sustainability in California and the West. As the House Water and Power Subcommittee completes its agenda for 2005 and sets new objectives for 2006, I commend to interested observers ACWA's "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California's Water".