

American professionalism is exemplified by Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who has developed a constructive relationship with all of the parties to the Six Party Talks, including North Korea. The case for sending him to Pyongyang to test the boundaries—and push the implementation—of the Joint Statement is compelling.

In particular, we should not be hesitant to begin considering the utility of negotiat[ing] a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula at an appropriate separate forum, as envisioned by the Joint Statement and the recent U.S.-ROK strategic dialogue. Taking the initiative to formally end the Korean War would underscore our peaceful intent in an unparalleled fashion, and remind the Korean people that the U.S. singularly and unequivocally supports the peaceful reunification of the Peninsula. There may be sequencing concerns but forging ahead on this aspect of the statement of principles may increase the willingness of the other parties to exert greater pressure to enforce its critical core—the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula—and provide North Korea greater psychological as well as strategic comfort to accede to concerns of the outside world.

While we speak directly to the North Korean delegation in Beijing at the Six Party Talks and have certain contacts with the North Korean ambassador to the United Nations, there is clearly a problem of communication between our two governments. Accordingly, it is time, perhaps with appropriate *quid pro quo*s, that we explore the feasibility of establishing liaison offices in our two capitals.

For the U.S. to continue to stand pat is to transfer initiative to others, indebting us to the diplomacy of countries that may have different interests, or simply ensconcing the status quo.

It's time for the U.S. to lead.

TRIBUTE TO FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Capitol Heights, Maryland and Reverend Dr. Michael C. Turner, Sr. for their outstanding commitment to the community over the last fifteen years.

Their church home was purchased in May of 2000, and the dedication and cornerstone laying service was held on November 11, 2000. Since its inception the Church has baptized hundreds of new converts, provided structured Bible classes, established a strong and viable Youth Ministry, established mentoring and tutorial programs, and established a 10-week Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

I submit for the record the celebration of the Church's 15th Anniversary with the theme of "Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Stepping into the Future."

RECOGNIZING U.S. SPEED SKATING CHAMPION, JOEY CHEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize U.S. speed skating champion, Joey Cheek, who won Olympic gold on February 13 in the men's 500-meter speed skating event at the winter games in Torino, Italy. Mr. Cheek decided to donate \$25,000 in prize money to "Right to Play," an organization that will use the money to benefit refugees from the Darfur region of western Sudan by using sports to advance development, health, and peace.

Not only is Mr. Cheek an incredibly gifted athlete, he has shown tremendous generosity using his own glory to shed light on the atrocities being carried out by the Government of Sudan against its own people. As co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and having traveled to Sudan five times, I have no doubt that Mr. Cheek's donation will make a difference in the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Darfur.

I insert for the RECORD a State Department news release from February 16. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Joey Cheek for his remarkable accomplishments, on and off the ice.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIR- MEN

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Tuskegee airmen. They sacrificed for a Nation they loved even when that love was not totally reciprocated. In 1941, the Army Air Force began a program to train African Americans as military pilots.

This was an era of segregation, when popular opinion was against training African Americans to become aviators, but the individuals of the Tuskegee experience showed the Nation and the world that they were equals. By overcoming many hardships, they cast aside the myths that had allowed segregation, inequity and injustice to prevail in society.

To break barriers, there is often one individual who will pave the way. The catalyst for African American aviation was Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson. When first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, climbed into the back of Anderson's plane in 1941, a new chapter had begun for military aviation in America. His love for flying airplanes began at a young age and throughout his life gave wings to countless African American pilots.

In 1943, the Tuskegee airmen tasted combat for the first time. By World War II's end, the German Luftwaffe would know them as the "Red tailed Devils" and the American bombing crews would refer to them as the "Red Tail Angels." During the war, the four African

American fighter squadrons that made up the 332nd fighter group established their legitimacy with countless victories in the air. They also solidified a legacy of being highly disciplined and capable fighters by flying over 200 escort missions over Germany without ever losing a bomber to enemy fire.

For their service they were awarded high honors, including Distinguished Flying Crosses, Legions of Merit, Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, the Croix de Guerre, and the red star of Yugoslavia. A Distinguished Unit Citation was awarded to the 332nd fighter group for "outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism" in 1945.

The Tuskegee Airmen fought the Axis powers in Europe and racism at home. Their accomplishments spoke louder than words and provided evidence that led to the integration of our Nation's armed forces. It is important that we continue to acknowledge the sacrifices and service of these Americans who performed so admirably. The accomplishments of the brave Tuskegee Airmen will never be forgotten, and may they always remind us of the unlimited power of the human spirit.

HONORING LORRIE GRAVES, RE- BECCA McDUFF, AND JENNIFER PRATHER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in the early 1990s the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards began a voluntary certification process for teachers who excel in the classroom and demonstrate an exceptional knowledge of their subject field. Nationwide, only 1.5 percent of teachers have been awarded this certificate. It's clearly quite an achievement to attain this level of mastery.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the three Seventh Congressional District teachers who have earned this distinction.

It is my privilege to congratulate and thank Lorrie Graves of Moore Elementary in Franklin, Rebecca McDuff of Grassland Elementary in Brentwood, and Jennifer Prather of Crosswind Elementary in Collierville for their hard work.

Each of these teachers has shown an incredible aptitude not only for teaching but for the specific area of study in which they specialize. They are improving the lives of their students, and we all thank them for their hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2006 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several