

what we must keep before our eyes, before and apart from our regard to anything that may derive from it.

We live in what is truly a moral world turned upside down, and the greatest irony may be that a broad consensus exists, in a highly rights-aware political establishment, in favor of one of the gravest and most egregious abuses of human rights that human society has ever tolerated. Didn't Europeans think they could never and must never kill again on an industrial scale? What a cruel deceit, then, that has led us to this mass killing of children, for a theoretical greater good, which in this case is simply the wish not to be bound by a pregnancy unless it is fully and freely chosen and which, outside of that parameter, is declared, by fiat, to be null and void.

The sophistry is overwhelming: If I choose and desire my child, then ipso facto I have granted it the right to live, and it will live. But the inverse is equally the case, by means of nothing more or less than my choice: Caesar's thumb is up, or Caesar's thumb is down. And when it comes to exporting this idea, we do it with zeal and determination through such institutions as the United Nations and the European Union.

The granting to ourselves of the right wantonly to kill, each year, millions of our offspring at the beginning of their lives: This is the question of questions for Europe. The practice of abortion is a mortal wound in Europe's heart, in the center of Hellenic and Judeo-Christian culture.

Having so recklessly carried this poison out of the twentieth—the ugliest of all centuries—let us, for the sake of all that has been good and beautiful and true about the culture of the West, be clear that there is an urgent moral priority here. Call it a “New Abolitionism for Europe”—the word abolitionism emphasizing the continuity between the challenge faced now with the generational campaigns waged so clear-sightedly in late-nineteenth-century America to rid itself of the injustice of slavery. The abolitionists, I believe, exemplify the courage and imagination required, even if they do not provide perfect templates for what we face now.

This is a task that calls for a broader approach to the safeguarding of life, as taught to us by those earlier struggles to apportion value where it previously had not been deemed to exist. We must re-enliven the valuing of life, and this cannot restrict itself to the question of abortion, despite its moral centrality. It must have regard to every threat to the integrity of human beings, at all stages of their being and in all circumstances.

The task for us is not merely to abolish. We must also creatively envisage new and compelling answers to the problems that give rise to this practice, when the easiest solutions may be destructive or distorting ones. And the goal is that human life, without any exception, may be as treasured and respected as the highest moral thought has perennially called for it to be, and as our consciences surely sound the echo.

Author affiliation:

Lord Nicholas Windsor studied theology at Oxford University and is patron of the Right to Life Charitable Trust and the Catholic National Library. Great-grandson of King George V of the United Kingdom, Windsor is the first blood member of the British royal family to be received into the Catholic Church since King Charles II on his deathbed in 1685.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MICHAEL “RAY” CAIN'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Commander Michael “Ray” Cain, U.S. Coast Guard. Lieutenant Commander Cain retired in September 2010 after 27 years of faithful and diligent service to the U.S. Coast Guard and his Nation.

Lieutenant Commander Cain enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in September 1983 and quickly rose through the ranks to Senior Chief Petty Officer. He then earned a commission as a Chief Warrant Officer in 1999 prior to being selected for promotion to Lieutenant and subsequently Lieutenant Commander in 2009. LCDR Cain has diligently served the Coast Guard both afloat and ashore as a subject matter expert in electrical systems and marine inspections.

Lieutenant Commander Cain completed a seven-year tour in Astoria, Oregon, as the sole senior marine inspector responsible for ensuring the safety of more than 75 passenger vessels that carry thousands of passengers each year into the oftentimes hazardous waters off the Oregon and Washington coasts.

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall once said, “Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, ‘This is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better.’” Lieutenant Commander Michael “Ray” Cain truly is an American hero, for he has devoted much of his life to making his country and community better.

It is an honor for me to recognize Lieutenant Commander Cain for his service and for providing a heroic example to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIKH FOUNDATION OF VIRGINIA'S 2010 ANNUAL CULTURAL PROGRAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sikh Foundation of Virginia's 2010 Annual Cultural Program.

The Sikh Foundation of Virginia (SFV) was established in 1987 to serve the religious and spiritual needs of the Northern Virginia Sikh community. The SFV promotes religious, educational, social and cultural aspects of Sikhism and collaborates with other religious organizations to host inter-faith events. The SFV is a welcome participant in an ethnically diverse Northern Virginia community.

The Annual Cultural Program brings the vibrant heritage of Sikhism and the Indian state of Punjab to Sikh American youth in Northern Virginia through songs, dances, poems, and literature readings. The event encourages Sikh Americans, especially children, teens and young adults, to preserve the culture and traditions of their Sikh ancestors as they grow to be contributing members of American society.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Sikh Foundation of Virginia's 2010 Annual Cultural Program. I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the SFV for its unique contribution to the ethnic fabric of the Northern Virginia community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. HYLAN BENTON LYON, JR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dedicated veteran and scientist, Dr. Hylan Benton Lyon, Jr., of Heath, Texas, who died at the age of 74 on July 20, 2010.

Born July 20, 1936 in New London, Connecticut, Dr. Lyon was the son of World War II Veteran Rear Admiral Hylan Benton Lyon, Sr. and Wilma Lyon. In 1958, Hylan graduated from the United States Naval Academy and proudly served his Nation as a naval reconnaissance pilot during the Vietnam War from 1958 to 1969. In addition during his naval career, he attended the University of California, Berkeley where he earned a PhD in physical chemistry.

Dr. Lyon enjoyed a very successful career, serving under President Richard M. Nixon and President Gerald Ford on the President's Science Advisor staff, which included working on the Advanced Aircraft Instrumentation program of the U.S. Office of Naval Research. In addition, he worked as a Science Policy Analyst with the State Department. He was a senior consultant to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy on International Science and Technology under President Jimmy Carter.

As a civilian, Dr. Lyon was a deputy director of the Science, Technology and Industry Directorate in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France and then spent ten years with Texas Instruments. While at Texas Instruments, Dr. Lyon used his vast experience in risk management and water resources serving as a member for President Carter's National Agenda for the Eighties Commission and as a chairman of the National Defense University Distinguished Fellows with oversight of the Mobilization of Concepts Development Center. Following his time at Texas Instruments, Dr. Lyon was the chief technology officer for Marlow Industries for fifteen years and then worked for Dumas Capitol Partners LLC.

Dr. Lyon was the president and COO of Polytronix Inc. and was the co-founder of the Texas Institute of Science. He was a member of the Organization of Economic and Co-Operation of Development. In addition he was a member of the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, Park City Rotary, Rockwall Republican Men's Club and the Rockwall Power Team. He was an avid biker and fisher and had a love for sailing. He also was active in community service.

Hylan is survived by his wife, Sandra Starr Lyon, son Matthew Lyon and wife Jasmine Andrew Lyon, son Jonathan Lyon, son Christopher Starr and wife Rebecca, and son Kenneth Starr and wife Jennifer, daughter Karen