HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHEVCHENKO MONUMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, four decades ago, on June 27, 1964, the Ukrainian American community marked a significant event—the unveiling of a monument to the Great Kobzar, Taras Shevchenko. Taras Hryhorovych Shevchenko, the great Ukrainian poet, artist and thinker, the revolutionary-democrat, and the ardent fighter against tsarism and serfdom. He is considered the greatest poet of the Ukrainian people. As the autocratic government of tsarist Russia attempted to erase Shevchenko’s name from people’s memory and suppressed all attempts to immortalize in sculpture the image of the poet of genius, the people could not forget this man. The first monument in the country, the bust in marble, to the great Kobzar was set up illegally in 1899 in Kharkov. On March 24, 1935, it was a great holiday for the people in Kharkov as they joined together for the unveiling of the first legal monument of Shevchenko.

Almost 30 years after the people of Ukraine celebrated their monument, the Ukrainian Americans were able to have a holiday of their own. Through hard work, generosity, and dedication, the Ukrainian American community was able to honor their country’s hero with a monument in the Nation’s Capital. Over 100,000 attended the festivities 40 years ago dedicated to the unveiling of the Taras Shevchenko monument. The Ukrainian American community is fortunate to celebrate this significant milestone 40 years later. I am proud to represent an area of Chicago that we call “Ukrainian Village.” I want to honor this special day with my constituents and praise the Ukrainian community, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (UNWLA), the U.S.-Ukrainian Foundation and all the organizations involved in honoring the 40th Anniversary of this special monument.

Mr. Speaker, this monument stands for more than just honoring a great man but also as a way to never forget the struggles and the human rights violations by the former Soviet regime and political repressions against those who struggled for Ukraine’s liberation.

REMEMBERING A SOUTH CAROLINA HERO, THOMAS CAUGHMAN

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on June 9th, one of Lexington, South Carolina’s most beloved sons, Army Specialist Thomas Caughman, was lost, when he was called up for active duty.

Thomas, a 2002 graduate of Lexington High School, died June 9 while patrolling a Baghdad neighborhood for bombs used to attack U.S. troops.

The Army said Caughman’s armored vehicle was struck by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. Two other soldiers in his vehicle also were seriously wounded.

Caughman was assigned to Army Reserve Company C of the 291st Engineer Battalion, based in Spartanburg. He transferred to a Pennsylvania combat engine unit when it was called up for active duty.

Caughman is the first fatality of the Iraqi war from Lexington County and the 21st member of the armed services with ties to South Carolina to die in the conflict.

Friday’s service was a mix of sweet sentiment—about a son, brother, nephew, cousin and soldier—and a dose of unabashed patriotism.

Just after the service started, the Rev. ‘Butch’ Powers offered a thunderous ovation that lasted for 60 seconds.

Butch’s recording of ‘America the Beautiful’ was played over the public address system.

The pictures covered Caughman’s life from toddler to soldier.

There were shots of Caughman as a child at birthday parties, pelting his red tractor, riding horseshoe, playing youth league baseball and fishing at the family pond.

There also were pictures of Caughman at his high school graduation flanked by his parents, shots of him and his buddies posing with a buck they had bagged, and images of him in his best, as a H.O.M.E. in a H.E.A.V.Y. Hamvee.

Caughman’s parents said he loved children and especially relished the time he could spend with his cousins and aunts.

One of those cousins, 6-year-old Hannah Fyfe, honored Caughman by standing before
CONGRATULATING TYLER TAPPENDORF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tyler Tappendorf of Belleville, Illinois on winning the National Peace Essay Contest in Illinois.

As my colleagues may know, the essay contest is co-sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, an independent, non-partisan federal institution that promotes research, education and training on the prevention, management and peaceful resolution of conflict. First conducted in 1987, the essay contest is the Institute's primary outreach program to high school students.

Contestants this year were asked to analyze the process of rebuilding societies after conflict. Tyler's essay, Rebuilding From Past Conflicts, was selected as the best from the state of Illinois. Tyler attends East High School and plans to attend Valparaiso University and study actuarial science and Spanish.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Tyler the best of luck in the future and again congratulate him on this great accomplishment, and I am entering his essay into the RECORD so it can be enjoyed by others.

REBUILDING FROM PAST CONFLICTS

From the sheer numbers of a post-war death toll to the immense destruction of buildings and cities, the world has learned many hard lessons that will mark their mark on the world. The work that continues after the fighting has stopped determines whether more problems will erupt or whether a new order will triumph. This post-war reconstruction is often a complex and difficult process. From the players in the rebuilding to the system of governance, each aspect of reconstruction impacts the final outcome. Though some attempts have failed and others have succeeded, humankind can learn a great deal from past reconstructions. A clear analysis of the aftermath in Japan after World War II and the reconciliation in Rwanda following the 1994 genocide suggests that plans for successful rebuilding must include a branching network of peacekeepers, an effective system of justice, and an impartial system of governance.

On August 15, 1945, the largest war in the history of the world reached its end on board the U.S.S. Missouri after the United States unleashed on Japan the world's most powerful weapon. Admiral Nimitz, with the swipe of a pen, the Japanese handed over power to the United States beginning a seven-year occupation feared by many Japanese. Beardless, with bare feet, and in a kimono, the Japanese handed over power to the United States. This decision, which was ultimately recognized as a "fresh beginning" (214).

Embarking on what political scientist Robert Ward calls "the single most exhaustively planned operation of massive and externally directed political change in world history," the United States engaged in reconstruction with trials of war criminals (Nardo 91). These trials quickly eliminated outside cries for revenge. Concurrently, new officials removed old leaders from the country, and the occupational government forced Emperor Hirohito to resign his position and denounce his supposed godliness (Ditts 294). This eradication of opposition laid the cornerstone for a smooth reconstruction.

Along with the United States' system of justice, the means of governance also helped assure the success of the political reconstruction process. W.G. Beasley noted that though the United States controlled the country, it chose to govern indirectly through a modified system of government. As written by Fedarko, the government avoided unpopular laws, therefore evading much opposition (216). In conjunction with this, the U.S. also reassured the people. This not only initiated future friendliness, but also generated cooperation by the Japanese people (Ditts 294). In ruling through the committees and assemblies, the government quieted nearly all resistance to its policies. According to Santoro, the totalitarian regime even hindered the planned gacacas (12). In mid-2003 the first election with more than one political party was held in Rwanda, yet despite its improvement, election fraud in all forms belied the progress proving once again the authoritarianism of the government (Coleman). Without I and willing to benefit all people of the reconstruction, little progress can be made.

Together with a poor justice system, the government, led by the RPF plays unfairly to the Hutu, disrupting hopes of reconciliation. From its beginnings in 1994, the RPF-led government quieted nearly all resistance to its policies. According to Santoro, the totalitarian regime even hindered the planned gacacas (12). In mid-2003 the first election with more than one political party was held in Rwanda, yet despite its improvement, election fraud in all forms belied the progress proving once again the authoritarianism of the government (Coleman). Without I and willing to benefit all people of the reconstruction, little progress can be made.

The division of authority among participants in Rwanda's reconciliation also has hindered its success. As written by Fedarko, immediately following the genocide, French troops served as protectors to the survivors (210). Though this provided the peacekeepers, the process was delayed and complicated. Rwanda, despite its many efforts, has not recovered completely. Normal fighting has since broken out, the Hutu and Tutsi tribes still stand divided inside the country's borders. Until Rwanda can establish a government with an unbiased government, little progress will occur.