

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR
DAVID JOHNSON, COACH, NA-
TIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE, BEL-
LAIRE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Johnson who is celebrating his 25th year as the National Forensic League coach at Bellaire High School. Under the direction of Mr. Johnson, Bellaire High School has become a highly recognized debate team. Among the many awards Bellaire has been honored with are the National Sweepstakes trophy, won in 1994 and the Bruno E. Jacob/PKD trophy. Bellaire has been awarded the Bruno Jacob trophy more than any other school in the Nation.

Debate teams teach students how to analyze information and prepare arguments. I believe this education will serve these students well and provide them with leadership training.

I congratulate Mr. Johnson on his 25-year dedication to Bellaire High School and its students. As a committed coach and educator he has become a role model to his students and other professionals in the education field.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I unavoidably missed several votes on Tuesday, May 23, due to family reasons—my daughter's high school graduation. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on passage of H. Res. 155 (Roll Call Vote 347) and the Brownback Amendment to H.R. 1561 (Roll Call Vote 348).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LA-
DIES' VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT
SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON ON
THEIR CENTENNIAL

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ladies Village Improvement Society of East Hampton [LVIS] on their hundred-year anniversary. The LVIS was founded by 21 women on November 30, 1895 with the slogan, "Keep East Hampton Beautiful." Since then, these women have kept their promise. Through the years, the LVIS has planted grass plots and trees, tended the village greens, exterminated harmful insects, lead clean up campaigns, and even started a college scholarship fund for high school students which totaled \$23,000 in 1993.

I believe that volunteer work is an asset to any community. The women of the LVIS of East Hampton exemplify this spirit of altruism. Their service is a valuable contribution to improving the lives of everyone in the village of East Hampton.

Today, membership of LVIS has expanded to include many women who have professional careers, as well as part-time residents of East Hampton Village. These women are, and continue to be valuable members of their community. Congratulations on 100 years of dedication to making East Hampton beautiful.

HONORING JOHN KELLEJIAN

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, on a spring day in 1942, a handful of young Americans under the remarkable leadership of Jimmy Doolittle flew on a mission that has captivated the hearts and minds of Americans ever since. They did what was supposed to have been impossible: they successfully flew into Japanese airspace and bombed Tokyo.

One of the men on the famed Doolittle raid was John Kellejian. The devotion to duty and steely courage he displayed that memorial day are the stuff of legend. John's heroism was honored in May at a Pentagon ceremony in which he was recognized for his role in the "60 seconds over Tokyo" that live on in history. Today, I want to join in recognizing John for his contribution to the freedom we enjoy today.

With his gracious wife, Bev, John is a resident of my hometown of Danville, CA, and is commander of the Danville chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. His life is a testimony to the virtues of family, freedom, and loyalty that have imbued our country with greatness for more than two centuries.

In our country, we seek to commemorate great acts of bravery, and well we should. They ennoble our heritage and inspire us in our daily lives. Yet our inspiration must be drawn not only from the sacrifices of war but from lives well lived in times of peace. John Kellejian's bravery made history, and his life helped build a country. He is richly deserving of America's thanks for all he has done for his community, his State, and his country.

STATEMENT OF LINDA SPANGLER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, I was privileged to attend the signing ceremony for a bill to increase the penalties in the cases of vehicular homicide in the State of Tennessee. This ceremony took place at the South Knox county home of the late Katie Spangler. Mrs. Spangler was killed by a drunk driver as she was stringing Christmas tree lights in her yard in December 1993.

Just before this bill was signed by Governor Don Sundquist, who had made it part of his crime package, Mrs. Spangler's daughter, Linda, made one of the most beautiful and moving statements I have ever heard. Her words touched me deeply, and I wish that everyone in this country would read them and think about what she had to say, especially as it relates to the nationwide tragedy of drunk drivers who kill people.

I would like to recall the statement of Linda Spangler to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Today my family and I with utmost humility would like to express to Governor Sundquist what an honor it is to welcome him to our home. Words fail us as we attempt to convey to our Governor our deep appreciation for signing a new vehicular homicide and DUI bill into law and arranging for funding for such a desperately needed law.

In an attempt to signify what this means to our family I would like to say that our mother, Katie Spangler was a Christian. My family and I are Christians. We believe that God is sovereign. At the time of mother's death each of us children began to question God as to why our mother had to die at the hands of a drunken driver. We agonized over the question "why" because we knew that God could have let mother die naturally, die in her sleep—a peaceful death. Because God had promised in his word that He would protect us "Lest we cast our foot upon a stone," yet He had allowed our mother to die in such a horrifying way. What we had experienced would shatter the faith of the strongest Christian.

Well meaning Christians would tell us that we must not question God as to why. We felt this was not scriptural as the Bible says that Jesus while dying on the cross for our sins said My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me. God understands when we ask why from a broken heart.

God continued to love us even though we questioned Him. He held us in the palm of His hand, gave us strength for each day, guided us in decisions that needed to be made, gave us rest when there was no rest. God's grace was indeed sufficient for us.

Finally we concluded that we may never know why but that God does not make mistakes and that in His own way God would turn this horrible tragedy into something good.

We then entered into the criminal justice system for the first time seeking justice for the wrongful death of our mother. The person who killed our mother was given the maximum sentence of 6 years with 1 year in jail, 5 years probation. Our faith in the judicial system was at that moment destroyed.

There was a public outcry of protest against the sentencing. Petitions were signed and brought to us. People were very angry. We could not let their cries of outrage go unheard so we channeled these petitions to our representative, Wayne Ritchie, to whom we would like to say, Mr. Ritchie, you are the epitome of what it means to be a representative of the people, one who cares what the people in his district are interested in. Good luck to you always.

As a young person and a new Christian I sat through a sermon about testing the 2 spirits, the Holy Spirit and the evil spirit. I did not understand this sermon and I asked my mother to explain to me. She said that if I were trying to make a decision about one thing or another that the first thought I would have would be a positive thought, and that immediately I would have a second thought that would be negative. She said my first thought would be the Holy Spirit and the second thought would be the devil. She said I should always abide by my first thought.

My family and I feel that you, Governor Sundquist, along with all of those who voted to pass this legislation, and Mr. Wayne Ritchie, have listened to your "first thought."

In so doing no greater compliment could be paid to you than to know that God has used you as an instrument for turning a tragedy into something good and for us as a family it

answers our question "Why?" because God has used our mother's untimely death to have far reaching effects for the citizens of Tennessee and perhaps these new laws will prevent any other families from going through such agony and loss of a loved one.

Governor Sundquist, you and your administration are to be commended for your stand against crime. It is our prayer that God will give you the courage and the wis-

dom to make Tennessee a safer place in which to live for its citizens.

For the first time in 17 months some of our faith has been restored in the judicial system and we realize "Why" God took our mother in such a tragic way and are truly humbled that God could use mother and this family for His purpose.

We hope you get to meet our mother someday in heaven after Christ says to you "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

These words are so feeble to express our deepest gratitude to you, Governor Sundquist, but please know they come from our heart.

May God bless you and watch over you.

We wish you Godspeed.