

TRIBUTE TO ST. JAMES
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor 150 years of development and growth. Over a century and a half ago the St. James Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran congregation in Fulton County, OH, was founded. Strong in heritage and faith, the church has served as a pillar in that community and continues to foster ideals and philosophy consistent with moral prosperity.

Their story began in 1837 when a group of family members known as the Leininger family, including at least four brothers and two sisters, came to the United States from France. Their journey across the Atlantic Ocean via sailboat led them to New Orleans, up the Mississippi, and eventually to German Township, what we know today as Fulton County, OH, settled on the western side of Ohio's Ninth District.

Nine years after settlement, the Leiningers were approached by Pastor John Adam Detzer who headed the effort in the northwest Ohio territory to settle German Lutherans. They received Pastor Detzer with great excitement and asked him to be their pastor. Despite an already full congregation throughout the territory, he agreed and began to preach, listen, and spread the good word.

It was from that humble beginning that St. James evolved. The St. James congregation has survived and grown into a cornerstone of the Fulton County community.

I know my colleagues join me today in recognizing the congregation of St. James Lutheran Church on the occasion of 150 years of dedication, devotion, and commitment to the spiritual and communal needs of the people of northwest Ohio.

A TRIBUTE TO RHONDA McCABE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a story sent to me by one of my constituents which describes an act of selflessness that should serve as an example to us all.

We are all familiar with the parable of the Good Samaritan, but how many of us, in this day and time, are blessed with meeting one?

On October 18, 1994, Rhonda and Ed McCabe had met at the Three Flags Center in St. Charles, to take care of some personal business then went out to dinner. Upon returning to the parking lot to get their second car, out of the corner of her eye Rhonda noticed something moving. It was dark and rainy, making it difficult to tell if it was a couple of kids fighting, or perhaps a vicious crime happening. She had Ed pull the van around to see what was happening and if help was needed. A rain soaked man was collapsed on the ground over his briefcase and notebook computer, lying face down in a puddle. His legs were thrashing about as he appeared to be having convulsions.

Rhonda and Ed got out of their vehicle to give this man assistance. As they turned him over, Rhonda, being a very capable and well experienced nurse, recognized the severity of the situation and knew exactly what had to be done immediately to save this life. She sent Ed to get help and to call 911 from the only business that still had lights on, the Norwest Financial Company. John Lopes left his office and offered to help in anyway needed. Under Rhonda's calm and concise direction Ed and John assisted her in administering CPR. Accustomed to depending on God's guidance, she also talked to the Lord, as she directed the necessary steps of CPR until after the paramedics arrived. In a medical opinion, had no one helped this man when she did he may have died or suffered severe impairment. Rhonda's unselfish deed of giving help to a stranger in need, was more than using her training and nursing experience, it was an expression of service to God. She felt she was directed to be there to help save a life.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. McCabe for her act of courage and bravery. She truly is a fine example of a modern-day good Samaritan.

TRIBUTE TO PETER RATCHUK

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Mr. Peter Ratchuk.

A former student at Saint Francis High School in Athol Springs, in the 30th Congressional District of New York, Peter Ratchuk has distinguished himself among his peers as an athletic standout.

This past June, in recognition of his outstanding talent as scoring defenseman, Mr. Ratchuk was selected as the 25th pick by the 1995-96 Stanley Cup Champion Colorado Avalanche. In doing so, Peter became only the second western New York hockey player to be selected in the first round of the National Hockey League Draft.

Committed to Education and with an eye to a future in broadcasting, Peter Ratchuk will enter college at Bowling Green State University in Ohio before entering the National Hockey League with the Avalanche.

It is that maturity, commitment to hard work, personal strength, dedication to the sport of hockey, and mature ability to perform which will undoubtedly allow Peter to be successful in college, professional hockey, or whatever the future may hold.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Ratchuk family, St. Francis High School, the National Hockey League, and indeed, our entire western New York community to congratulate Peter Ratchuk in recognition of this outstanding accomplishment, and offer Peter my enthusiastic commendation and sincere best wishes.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3675) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the work of the House Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in crafting a fiscal year 1997 Appropriations Committee Report that includes a directive to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [NHTSA] to more vigorously promote bicycle safety and training. The subcommittee's report included a specific mention of the important field of human factors research relating to bicycle safety measures. To this end, I wish to draw attention to the ground-breaking research underway at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA, in collaboration with the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

As I stated in testimony before the House Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in February, there are over 580,000 bicycle injuries each year in the United States. Of this amount there are approximately 800 fatalities and between 20,000 and 50,000 bicycle injuries serious enough to require hospitalization or rehabilitation. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 are the most common victims of bicycle injury head trauma since they spend a lot of time riding bicycles and often lack on-road bicycle experience. Greater efforts are necessary to insure that children are trained to be safe bicyclists and that the bicycles they ride are appropriate for their ages and abilities.

Safe operation of a bicycle arguably requires more skill, knowledge, physical ability, coordination, and judgment than the operation of a motor vehicle. Taking into consideration the multiple factors necessary for bicycling—motor skills, strength, coordination, vision, hearing, personality, intelligence, neurologic development, experience, and training—more extensive human factors research directed toward answering several key questions is needed: At what stage of development is a child able to perform the necessary tasks and make the proper judgments to safely operate a bicycle? What are the characteristics that differentiate safe from unsafe bicyclists? Can we train children to be safer bicyclists? Should bicycle designs vary depending on the skill and maturation of the child bicycle rider?

As the subcommittee noted in its fiscal year 1997 report, a recent national bicycling and walking study resulted in a recommendation to reduce the number of bicyclists and pedestrians killed or injured by 10 percent. I am pleased to say that the cooperative efforts of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Mellon University will involve the use of state-of-the-art technology and will result in: First, effective prevention programs to reduce traumatic injuries and deaths; second, the introduction of virtual reality as a new means of

studying trauma; and, third, the development of new approaches and products for trauma prevention, a national issue, that will provide scientific, intellectual and financial benefits to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the effort of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University, to pursue in the near future a partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to address the critically important issue of preventing bicycle accidents—especially those involving children. I am pleased that the committee favorably responded to the efforts of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University in urging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to collaborate with institutes that are conducting human factors research relating to bicycle safety. I believe that the pioneering research to be undertaken by Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon responds to the committee's recommendation and will provide significant benefits to the administration's ongoing work in bicycle safety.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH OF FLORIDA, NY, CELEBRATES 101ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Florida, NY, for its 101st anniversary. St. Joseph's was established in 1895, and immediately became a landmark of the small village of Florida, where it has remained a hub of the community throughout the 20th century. St. Joseph's was conceived in the Polish tradition of Catholicism, and has continued in this tradition to the present day. Father William Torowski is currently the administrator of the congregation, and has served as an inspirational leader to his congregation and community throughout his tenure.

St. Joseph's has a long history of dedicated service to its community, including an elementary school, which has consisted of lay as well as nun instructors through the years. The Felician Sisters of Connecticut and the Sisters of Charity of the Bronx, NY, are among the convents who have contributed to the excellence of this educational institution throughout its history.

St. Joseph's has also been active in missionary work since its inception over a century ago. A mission in nearby Pine Island, NY, which has since become a separate entity, and St. Andrew Bobola in nearly Pelletts Island, NY have been a crucial part of St. Joseph's admirable efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor St. Joseph's for all that it has done for its community. St. Joseph's has distinguished itself as a provider of education and charity, as well as provider of its holy message. Its presence throughout the 20th century has been an inspiration to the residents of the area and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, we should remember that our houses of worship are vital to the identities of our Nation's communities, and we must not

forget our constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion, which allows congregations such as St. Joseph's to exist as the stabilizing force which draws the local communities of Nation together. St. Joseph's of Florida, NY, exemplifies this vital force in an admirable fashion, and I am proud to honor its 101st anniversary.

CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 1996, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3525 by a rollcall vote of 422 to 0. Shortly thereafter, on June 26, 1996, the Senate approved an amended version of H.R. 3525, the provisions of which were arrived at through bipartisan negotiations between the House and Senate sponsors. The House later approved H.R. 3525, as amended by the Senate, and the President signed the bill into law on July 3, 1996.

Due to the celerity with which this legislation was adopted, and the fact that no House-Senate conference was required, there is no legislative history explaining the provisions of H.R. 3525 which were added after consideration of the measure by the House Judiciary Committee. The provisions of the bill as reported by the committee are explained in House Report 104-621. For this reason, I am inserting in the RECORD the following "Statement of Floor Managers Regarding H.R. 3525," which shall serve as additional legislative history for the bill. Senators FAIRCLOTH and KENNEDY will be inserting identical language in the Senate portion of the RECORD.

JOINT STATEMENT OF FLOOR MANAGERS REGARDING H.R. 3525, THE CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

(By Congressmen Hyde and Conyers, and Senators Faircloth and Kennedy)

I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, the entire nation has watched in horror and disbelief as an epidemic of church arsons has gripped the nation. The wave of arsons, many in the South, and a large number directed at African American churches, is simply intolerable, and has provoked a strong outcry from Americans of all races and religious backgrounds.

Congress has responded swiftly and in a bipartisan fashion to this troubling spate of arsons. On May 21, 1996, the House Judiciary Committee held an oversight hearing focusing on the problem of church fires in the Southeast. Two days later, on May 23, Chairman Hyde and Ranking Member Conyers introduced H.R. 3525, the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996. H.R. 3525 was passed by the House of Representatives on June 18, 1996, by a vote of 422-0. On June 19, 1996, the Senate introduced a companion bill, S. 1890.

In the interests of responding swiftly to this pressing national problem, the Congressman Henry Hyde and Congressman John Conyers, the original authors of the bill in the House of Representatives, and Senator Lauch Faircloth and Senator Edward Kennedy, the original authors of the bill in the Senate, with the cooperation and assistance of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, have crafted a bipartisan bill that combines portions of

H.R. 3525, as passed on June 18, 1996 by the House of Representatives, and S. 1890, as introduced in the Senate on June 19, 1996. On June 26, 1996, an amendment in the form of substitute to H.R. 3525 was introduced in the Senate, and passed by a 98-0 vote. This substitute embodies the agreement that was reached between House and the Senate, on a bipartisan basis. The House of Representatives, by unanimous consent, took up and passed H.R. 3525 as amended on June 27, 1996.

This Joint Statement of Floor Managers is in lieu of a Conference report and outlines the legislative history of H.R. 3525.

II. SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of the legislation is to address the growing national problem of destruction and desecration of places of religious worship. The legislation contains five different components.

1. Amendment of Criminal Statute Relating to Church Arson

Section three of the bill amends section 247 of Title 18, United States Code, to eliminate unnecessary and onerous jurisdictional obstacles, and conform the penalties and statute of limitation with those under the general federal arson statute, Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(i). Section two contains the Congressional findings that establish Congress' authority to amend section 247.

2. Authorization for Loan Guarantees

Section four gives authority to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to use up to \$5,000,000 from an existing fund to extend loan guarantees to financial institutions who make loans to organizations defined in Title 26, Section 501(c)(3), United States Code, that have been damaged as a result of acts of arson or terrorism, as certified by procedures to be established by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

3. Assistance for Victims Who Sustain Injury

Section five amends Section 1403(d)(3) of the Victim of Crime Act to provide that individuals who suffer death or personal injury in connection with a violation described in Title 18, United States Code, Section 247, are eligible to apply for financial assistance under the Victims of Crime Act.

4. Authorization of Funds for the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice

Section six authorizes funds to the Department of Justice, including the Community Relations Service, and the Department of the Treasury to hire additional personnel to investigate, prevent and respond to possible violations of title 18, United States Code, Sections 247 and 844(i). This provision is not intended to alter, expand or restrict the respective jurisdictions or authority of the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to the investigation of suspicious fires at places of religious worship.

5. Reauthorization of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act

Section seven reauthorizes the Hate Crimes Statistics Act through 2002.

6. Sense of the Congress

Section eight embodies the sense of the Congress commending those individuals and entities that have responded to the church arson crisis with enormous generosity. The Congress encourages the private sector to continue these efforts, so that the rebuilding process will occur with maximum possible participation from the private sector.

III. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 247

Section 3 of H.R. 3525, as passed by the Senate and the House, amends section 247 in a number of ways.