

Prime Minister Rabin's assassination "divine vengeance." And just prior to the Hamas bombing spree, Iran's Supreme Leader, Khomeini, preached that "The power of Islam will ultimately bring about the end of the rootless Zionist regime * * * which must be destroyed."

Iran has not stopped at rhetoric. It frequently meets with all the major terrorist groups—including Hizbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the PFL-PGC. It actively encourages these groups to use terror to destroy the peace process. It provides them with money—up to several million dollars a year in the case of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and others; and up to \$100 million a year for Hizbollah. Iran also supplies them with arms and material support, training, and—in some cases—operational guidance.

The evidence has grown in recent months. In advance of Israel's elections, Iranian-trained terrorists have been sent to infiltrate Israel and the Palestinian territories. Some have been intercepted. Others narrowly failed in carrying out their deadly activities. Still others have succeeded in their murderous missions. We believe that an Iranian-backed group was responsible for last week's drive-by shooting of an Israeli-American yeshiva student in the West Bank. In another case, Belgium intercepted a shipment containing a mortar, which came from Iran and was probably intended for an attack on a Jewish target in Europe.

There should no longer be any debate about Iran's involvement in terrorism against the peace process. German Foreign Minister Kinkel left no doubt that in remarks he made here in Washington just two weeks ago. He said that Germany is "fully aware of the evil things that Iran has been doing and is still doing." He went on to say that "[T]he Americans and the Germans agree as to the general assessment of what Iran means by way of terrorism * * * support of Hizbollah, Hamas, and Jihad."

While we and our allies now share a similar analysis of the facts, we differ when it comes to how best to deal with Iran. The United States believes that Iran will only change its behavior when the world makes it pay a sufficiently high political and economic price. We must deny Iran's leaders the resources to finance their dangerous policies. That is why the President decided last year to impose a comprehensive embargo on U.S. trade with Iran. And that is why we have been working with Congress on legislation to further tighten economic restrictions on Iran.

In contrast, some European nations continue to engage Iran in what they call a critical dialogue, while maintaining normal trade. The Europeans themselves acknowledge that their policy has produced no significant change in Iranian behavior. We remain convinced that no amount of dialogue will alter Iran's policies, unless it is coupled with real economic pressure.

Let me stress one point: We do not oppose the EU policy because we oppose the principle of speaking with Iran. The United States has long said that we are ready to conduct an open dialogue with authoritative representatives of the Iranian government, in which we could fully air our two major concerns: First, Iran's support for terrorism, especially against the peace process. And second, its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Iran, however, has never taken up this offer.

Our determination to contain Iran and to defeat the enemies of peace is clear. But so is our commitment to press ahead with negotiations on a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace. Anything less would hand the terrorists the very victory they seek.

To close the circle of peace, agreements between Israel and Syria and between Israel

and Lebanon are essential. Syria presents us with a unique challenge. On the one hand, we continue to have serious problems in our bilateral relationship with Syria. Syria remains on our narcotics list as well as our terrorism list.

Both President Clinton and I have consistently pressed our concerns with President Assad and other senior Syrian officials. We will continue to do so, and to make clear that these concerns must be met before the United States can build a mutually beneficial relationship with Syria.

Yet we recognize that Syria is different from Iran. Iran rejects the very notion of peace and has dedicated itself to Israel's destruction. By contrast, Syria has been negotiating directly with Israel to end their conflict. I have no illusions. Translating that willingness to negotiate into a peace agreement will be difficult. But the talks thus far have provided a solid foundation for progress when negotiations resume.

As long as we remain convinced that peace is possible, we must continue to work with the parties to achieve a breakthrough that would have far-reaching strategic consequences—not just for the Middle East, but for America's vital interests. A comprehensive peace will dramatically reduce the risks of another Arab-Israeli war. It will remove the final constraints on Israel's having normal relations with the entire Arab and Muslim world.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, ending the Arab-Israeli conflict will allow us and our friends to harness our resources to meet the common set of strategic challenges that threaten us all—especially the rise of extremist movements that use terrorism and violence, and rogue states, like Iran and Iraq, that possess weapons of mass destruction.

These are the real dangers that we and our friends will have to address in the coming years. In pursuit of our national interests, we are determined to do so. A critical part of our strategy must be a continued effort to seize the historic opportunity that now exists to achieve a secure and comprehensive peace.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES A. KROUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding school in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The Charles A. KROUT Elementary School was recently chosen as one of the best in the State of Ohio by the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators. This is an honor very few schools receive.

When you walk through the front door at KROUT Elementary, you cannot help but see that the staff works extremely hard every single day for every single student. One of the points stressed at the school is the high level of parental and community involvement. The education of the children is a collective effort. About 200 parents, grandparents, and retired people volunteer for different school functions. This level of dedication should be the standard for our children.

Mr. Speaker, quality education is at the heart of America's future. KROUT Elementary has done enormous good for its community and the country through solid dedication to the

power of learning and knowledge that our young people need.

This honor is a time to reflect upon past accomplishments. It is also a time to look toward new horizons. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the achievements of the Charles A. KROUT Elementary School and encourage its faculty, parents, and students to continue to uphold its impressive legacy.

TRIBUTE TO ERNIE BEDROSIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Ernie Bedrosian, founder of Raisin Bargaining Association. On Friday, May 24, 1996, in my district in Fresno, CA, the Raisin Bargaining Association will be honoring their founder, Mr. Ernie Bedrosian. He will be commended for his excellent work on behalf of the California raisin growers and packers.

Mr. Bedrosian founded the RBA at the age of 29 in 1966 and his work on behalf of California raisin leaders is legendary. I send to Ernie and the RBA my very best wishes for continued success.

RED HOOK V.F.W. POST 7765 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commemorate the golden anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7765. This post, I am proud to say, is based in Red Hook, NY, in the heart of my congressional district, and is celebrating its 50th year of service. And this post personifies the outstanding efforts of the entire nationwide membership to promote a strong national defense and to help veterans and their families. That is one reason I was so pleased to be awarded the V.F.W. National Commander's Congressional Award several years ago.

The V.F.W., Mr. Speaker, has been an organization of exceptional merit and service to the needs of many veterans. It is only appropriate that those brave men and women who placed themselves in harms way overseas be represented by such an able organization. The members of Post No. 7765 have been receiving just such outstanding service for 50 years now. It is comforting to know that those who served the needs of our country and fought for the principles and ideals of America all over the globe can depend on the support of an organization like Post 7765 back home in upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, the service of this post in Red Hook is worthy of significant recognition. This post, and others like it, are the reason I fought so hard to attain Department level status for Veterans Affairs. When Ronald Reagan signed that legislation into law, veterans were finally afforded the degree of national consideration they deserve. The efforts of V.F.W. posts like this one, Mr. Speaker, having served the

needs of veterans since 1946, assured veterans the assistance and recognition they deserved prior to approval of this Government department and continue to encourage fair consideration of veterans' issues. For this, Mr. Speaker, we owe Post 7765 a tremendous debt of gratitude.

The famous historian George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember history are bound to repeat it." V.F.W. posts all across America have not forgotten the past or those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I ask all Members in the House to rise in tribute to V.F.W. Post 7765 and join me in saluting all the members, past and present, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

LIFEJACKETS: THEY FLOAT—YOU DON'T

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, each year an estimated 76 million Americans—more than one-fourth of our population—enjoy recreational boating as a means to forget the stress and pressure of everyday life. Fortunately, our Nation is blessed with vast water resources that provide a means of escape for those who just want to "get away from it all."

Tragically—and to a great extent needlessly—approximately 800 people die each year in boating-related accidents. Recreational boating is second only to motor vehicles in the number of transportation-related fatalities.

Since 1958, by sponsoring National Safe Boating Week and other activities promoting boating safety throughout the year, the United States Coast Guard has continuously worked to remind the American public of the importance of boating safety. "Lifejackets: They Float—You Don't!" is the slogan of this year's boating safety campaign. National Safe Boating Week is being observed this week, May 18–24, just prior to Memorial Day weekend which is the beginning of the traditional summer boating season.

Falling overboard and capsizing are the leading causes of boating accidents. In 77 percent of the documented recreational boating fatalities reported to the Coast Guard, the victim was not wearing a personal flotation device, more commonly referred to as a lifejacket. The Coast Guard considers wearing a lifejacket the single most important factor to ensure survivability in these accidents. It is unfortunate that, while hundreds of people die needlessly each year, the boating public still does not understand the importance of wearing lifejackets.

The most recent tragic example of the need for lifejackets was the drowning of former CIA Director William Colby. It is presumed that Mr. Colby drowned when he fell out of his canoe as he was boating in a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, Mr. Colby was not wearing a flotation device when found. Another tragic example is an incident that occurred in Arkansas in July 1993. A family of nine (two parents and seven children) went out on the Fourche LaFave River in a 14-foot flat-bottom boat designed for only three people. Although the weather was clear and the

water was calm, the overloaded boat quickly began to take water, and within minutes of leaving the shore the boat went down. There were no lifejackets on board even though only two of the people could swim. Both parents and five of the children drowned. This incident is a textbook case of failure to observe basic boating safety rules.

So as Americans everywhere flock to our Nation's rivers, lakes, and oceans to enjoy the hot summer weather, remember "Lifejackets: They Float—You Don't!"

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL HUGHES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a man of outstanding public service from my district who recently passed away—Mr. Bill Hughes, director of the Pleasantdale Park District.

Mr. Hughes, who battled colon cancer for 10 months, served the district for 5½ years. His tenure saw explosive growth in both the communities Pleasantdale served and programs the district offered.

Perhaps Mr. Hughes' greatest achievement was helping to guide the development of Flagg Creek Golf Course, a premiere 9-hole course, in conjunction with the city of Countryside.

Countryside Mayor Carl LeGant, who worked closely with Mr. Hughes said of his passing: "It's sad. He was a good person to work with. He will be missed."

Mr. Speaker, I join Mayor LeGant in mourning the loss of this community leader, and extend to Mr. Hughes' family my condolences.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARAPAHOE LIBRARY DISTRICT

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arapahoe Library District on its 30th anniversary. This is an operation that began back in April 1966 with a used bookmobile and 4,000 books borrowed from the State of Colorado. Now, the district operates 8 branch libraries throughout Arapahoe County and serves over 100,000 people annually.

The Arapahoe Library District is a shining example of a locally run organization that provides effective programs without appropriations and regulations from Washington.

Besides promoting the obviously worthy cause of literacy, the district also sponsors an annual photo contest and a children's summer reading program which focuses on a specific topic—this summer's suggested reading deals with the history of the West. It also provides an information center available to small businesses and technology classes on how to utilize the internet. Another mark of distinction is the Glendale branch's dual function as library and community center for the local population

of Russian-Jewish immigrants. Here they receive vital classes in English and general life-skills.

The Arapahoe Library District is an example of how locally run institutions can contribute to the educational benefit of the surrounding communities. Thus, it is with great pleasure I join with my colleagues in the House in commending the board of trustees, the employees, and the over 100,000 patrons of the Arapahoe Library District on its 30th anniversary.

END TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRAUD NOW

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to alert my colleagues and the American people to the growing nationwide problem of telecommunications fraud. Last month, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, I conducted hearings on telemarketing fraud against the elderly, and the tremendous toll that it takes. Telemarketing fraud is just one aspect of the telecommunications scheme and the elderly are not its only victims.

Telecommunications fraud can manifest itself in several forms including crimes like "shoulder surfing," where criminals literally look over the shoulder of unsuspecting victims entering their calling card number on a payphone. These victims are often unsuspecting tourists in a crowded airport, hotel lobby, or shopping mall who use a pay telephone for a long distance call. The criminal then can use their calling card number himself/herself or it or sell it later, costing the victim or phone company hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Criminals have also been known to pose as law enforcement officials, and approach elderly citizens claiming they need to bill a call to a residential number as part of an investigation. As cellular technology has progressed, so has the criminal methods. For example, cloning devices are used to steal cellular phone serial numbers from the radio waves that carry the phone signal. These unique codes are used to charge thousands of dollars of calls to the accounts of innocent phone users.

Telecommunications fraud affects millions of Americans each year, and the damage done is appalling. This year alone telecommunications fraud is expected to reach \$3.7 billion, an increase of \$395 million from 1995. A survey of over 90 businesses who were victims of telecommunications fraud found that the losses ranged from a few thousand dollars to \$4 million. The amount of long distance charges stolen through business equipment in the United States is around \$1.5 billion. The cost to telephone users in "800" line charges, run up by thieves and attempted thieves, is estimated to reach a minimum of \$215 million this year.

We must stop these criminals and protect Americans from this deceptively simple fraud. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Florida many elderly citizens have come to retire comfortably, and many tourists visit our attractions, especially now as the summer season is about to begin. When they pick up the phone