

community, they have helped to reach our young people in whose hands the future of America depends.

But, Mr. Speaker, I owe my brother Elks in Catskill and around the country another expression of my personal gratitude. That's because they stood beside me, and the overwhelming majority of Americans, who wanted to see Old Glory, our most visible and beloved symbol, protected by the Constitution, our most sacred and beloved document. I'm referring of course to the constitutional amendment to prevent the physical destruction of our flag that passed overwhelming right here in the House Chamber, only to be defeated by just two votes in the Senate. As long as lodges like those in Catskill continue to impress upon our fellow Americans the significance of our flag and what it means to America, I'm confident we can afford it this ultimate protection it so richly deserves.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and all Members of the House join me in tribute to the Catskill Elks Lodge for all they have done to spread appreciation for the American Flag and our country throughout their community. For those efforts, they are all truly great Americans.

INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 29, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Renewed attention needs to be given to the state of our country's infrastructure. Infrastructure is what physically holds this country together. It is our roads, bridges, airports, waterways, and water and sewer systems. The quality of life of Hoosiers is affected by these things every day.

Yet many of us take infrastructure for granted and need to be reminded how important it is. It's not until something goes wrong—such as hitting a pothole or having to boil drinking water because of high bacteria levels—that we realize how dependent we are on a high-quality infrastructure. Communities and businesses depend on infrastructure for basic services and for quick and easy movement of goods and people. Sound infrastructure helps get children to school and people to hospitals, allows us to maintain personal contacts, and ensures more productive, healthier lives.

Across the country we can see a lot of problems with the condition of our infrastructure. Many roads and bridges are in poor repair. The quality of the drinking water in certain parts of the country is deteriorating. Air traffic control towers at some airports use computers so old that they still have vacuum tubes. Clearly, something has to be done. We need to make investment in our infrastructure a priority. Without a sound infrastructure, the U.S. will find it increasingly difficult to maintain our high standard of living and competitive edge internationally.

IMPORTANCE TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic development is not possible without a good infrastructure. It helps businesses grow and expand and means more jobs

for Americans. I often hear from Hoosier business leaders about how the widening of a local road or how increased water capacity has helped their business.

Studies have shown that failure to keep up our investment in infrastructure has contributed to a slowing of U.S. productivity increases since the early 1980s. Our global competitiveness depends on the efficiency of our infrastructure, especially transportation. In a country as vast as ours, our ability to move goods and services to market must be second to none.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Currently 70% of the funds for infrastructure investment come from local and state governments, with the federal government responsible for 30%. The federal government contributes to infrastructure repair and construction largely through spending from aviation, highway, transit, and waterway trust funds financed by user fees.

Yet while everyone acknowledges the critical need for good infrastructure, and while our needs continue to expand, public investment in recent decades has fallen short. A recent Department of Transportation report on the state of America's infrastructure concluded that we currently have a \$17 billion annual shortfall in what we should be investing just to keep our transportation system in good working order. Total U.S. public spending on infrastructure has fallen from 3.1% of gross domestic product in 1960 to 2.1% in 1994. Of the seven major industrialized nations, the U.S. ranks at the bottom in the ratio of public investment to gross domestic product.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Congress has recently considered several measures relating to infrastructure policy and investment. Some of our actions are positive, but others are not.

Some of the highest profile infrastructure projects are highways and bridges. These are projects we can point to and see the direct impact on local economies. Congress approved a major overhaul of our transportation policy with the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991. ISTEA is a six-year plan to reorient and modernize our transportation systems. ISTEA marked the shift in our policy focus from increasing transportation capacity to improving efficiency through better planning, management, and maintenance. Indiana and several other states are now doing better in their share of highway trust funds, but they still do not get back as much as they contribute. ISTEA is due to be reauthorized next year and I am hopeful that funding inequities will be addressed at that time.

Congress is working on an important measure to free up the \$30 billion surplus in the transportation trust funds. Funds available from the trust funds are capped each year because of arcane federal budget rules. I supported the House bill to take the transportation trust funds out of the federal budget, thus freeing this money from federal budgetary constraints.

While not as glamorous as the larger infrastructure projects, wastewater treatment plans and public water systems are an important part of our infrastructure. The cost of upgrading and constructing wastewater plants and drinking systems is overwhelming for many rural communities. Congress is taking steps to address this through changes in the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act. One measure would create a new fund (known as a state revolving fund) to help local communities finance drinking water treatment improvements. Another would reauthorize federal contributions for wastewater treatment construction.

Congress unwisely cut overall infrastructure funding for 1996, and is currently considering 1997 levels. Funding for safe drinking water and wastewater treatment would be maintained at current levels, but I am dismayed to see other drastic cuts being proposed. The bill which funds transportation programs would cut funding \$2 billion below the current level. The bill to fund waterway improvements was also cut deeply. That may put in jeopardy the much-needed improvements at McAlpine Locks and Dam on the Ohio River. Without these improvements, barge traffic will continue to be impeded, slowing the flow of goods into Indiana and the Ohio Valley. Funding for local flood control projects also may be threatened.

These cuts are short-sighted and will serve to stunt the economic growth in many areas of our country. While I am well aware that Congress must rein in spending and reduce the deficit, infrastructure funding is an investment—an investment in our country's future. We should not waver in our commitment to helping people live better, more productive lives.

CONCLUSION

Investment in our infrastructure is vital to maintaining the high quality of life Americans have come to expect. We want good drinking water, sound roads and bridges, and safe, efficient air travel, and we also want a growing economy and more jobs. An excellent infrastructure, second to none, will make our economy more competitive and our lives more pleasant.

IN HONOR OF ZUBERI MCKINNEY

HON. DOUGLAS "PETE" PETERSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, 1996, Zuberi McKinney, the beloved son of the Sergeant Major of the Army and Mrs. Gene C. McKinney, died as a result of a tragic automobile accident in Tallahassee, FL. Zuberi was 18 years old and attending his first year of college at Florida A&M University. Sergeant Major and Mrs. McKinney are long-time residents of the Second Congressional District of Florida which I serve.

I lost my 17-year-old son several years ago in an accident very similar to that experienced by the McKinney family and know only too well the pain a family suffers having sustained a loss of this magnitude. It is a pain that never goes away, however there is comfort in that loved one's memory.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I wish to enter into the RECORD the words of Zuberi McKinney's parents as they celebrate Zuberi's 19th birthday. The composition speaks for itself in terms of compassion and grief, but it also speaks eloquently of a strong, close, loving family. A family whose bonds cannot be broken even in death.

IN HONOR OF ZUBERI MCKINNEY

OUR DEAR SON: You've heard us say to you many times how we will always be proud of you and love you. NO MATTER WHAT.

Today Dad and I were reminiscing about the Earthly life you have had and we have had because of you.

Sometime in September, 1976, we were told we would be parents approximately May 10, 1977. Who would have believed on May 10, in less than an hour from the time we arrived at the Frankfurt Hospital you were born!

We had researched our chosen names and daddy's name won because of a boy baby.

ZUBERI ASWAD. An African name from the Swahili language. ZUBERI meaning STRONG and ASWAD meaning BLACK.

You grew quickly and learned lots. The first song you learned was, "Yes Jesus Loves Me."

Looking back over eighteen years you accomplished a great deal here on Earth. Your rambunctious sports years started at age three when you played on the Rowdies Soccer Team. You were skiing downhill at age five. You played football, baseball, tennis, percussion instruments in the band, piano, was on a swim team and played lots and lots of basketball, ending up on the Heidelberg Varsity Basketball team.

You were very inquisitive as a student and often challenged teachers, including us as parents. That was good * * * at times.

You always made friends easily and always had lots of them. We always noticed the characteristics of the ones you chose to keep as your CLOSEST friends. They were always mannerable, had a great sense of humor, had a goal in life and most importantly as you once said, "Couldn't be broke all the time."

You got to live a very adventurous life on two continents. Visiting many different countries and states. Experiencing almost every mode of travel possible. You always believed in FUN. You had it and we enjoyed having fun with you.

We are very unhappy right now because we miss your earthly flesh and we cry out because of earthly feelings. But we THANK GOD that He chose you to be your parents. We THANK GOD that He chose you to prepare our place in Heaven. Because we know you'll get the best. And we THANK GOD for this prayer:

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

You slept with us sixteen days before the Lord took your soul to shine down on us from Heaven.

The Guardian Angel we placed over your heart was kissed by ours and we will wear it representing we will NEVER EVER part from you.

We'll talk to you daily from now until ETERNITY.

Love you forever,

MOM AND DAD.

KATI MARTON ON FREEDOM OF
THE PRESS IN BOSNIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to a superb op-ed in Friday's Washington Post which discusses the importance of freedom of the press in the former Yugoslavia. The author, my good friend and prominent journalist Kati Marton, has for many years been one of the leading spokespersons for press freedom and for open societies.

Freedom of the press in the United States was enshrined in the very first amendment to the Constitution, as it was recognized as the cornerstone of a true democracy. Indeed, it was the circulation of revolutionary literature that spurred the War of Independence and rallied popular support for democracy.

A lasting democracy in Bosnia, where violations of freedom of the press are most acute,

is only possible with a free press. Such freedom is necessary in the upcoming elections there so that Bosnians can make an informed choice.

Kati Marton's observations during her 10-day trip to Bosnia reveal the importance of United States support for such freedom. Kati chairs the Committee to Protect Journalists and possesses many insights on the Bosnian situation. Her husband, Richard Holbrooke, was the chief negotiator of the Dayton Accords. Mr. Speaker, I ask that her article be included in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to consider her insightful remarks.

[From the Washington Post, May 31, 1996]

KEY TO THE BALKANS: A FREE PRESS

(By Kati Marton)

They don't shoot reporters—or even jail them anymore—in postwar former Yugoslavia. Today the authoritarian governments of the Balkans use more subtle measures to control the media.

After a 10-day fact-finding trip to Sarajevo, Belgrade and Zagreb and talks with the leaders of all three countries, I am convinced a healthy democratic opposition will not take root here without stronger Western pressure on Serb, Croatian and Bosnian leaders. All three leaders—Slobodan Milosevic, Franjo Tudjman and Alija Izetbegovic—promised to uphold the right to free speech and free press in Dayton, but all three are falling far short of delivering on that promise.

The Balkan media's plight goes much further than the issue of the population's legitimate rights of free speech and free press. It was the media in Belgrade, Zagreb and, to a much lesser degree, Sarajevo that fueled the ethnic passions that unleashed the war. It is now essential for the security of Europe and the United States that we insist on the establishment of free media in Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

The situation is most critical in Bosnia. In September, nationwide elections will be held that will anchor the fragile new entity of Bosnia-Herzegovina to a new central government. Without a free press, the dream of reviving a multi-ethnic society after years of savage violence will fade. Although the guns that killed 45 reporters during the war are quiet now, it is still too dangerous for Bosnian journalists to cover more than a sliver of the country. The brave ones who try come back shaken from the experience, with stories of being pulled off the road when Serb militia loyal to the indicted war criminal who still heads the Bosnia Serbs—Radovan Karadzic—spotted their Sarajevo plates and hauled them in for "questioning."

In Bosnia, as elsewhere, television is how most people get their news. What limited television there is (only one of nine transmitters survived the war) is under the control of President Alija Izetbegovic's ruling party. This makes it difficult for opposition candidates such as former prime minister Haris Silajdic to get their message out in the election campaign. Ironically, Radio Free Europe, deemed a relic of the Cold War elsewhere and never before heard in Yugoslavia, has become the most popular radio in Bosnia—as close as most people think they'll get to the straight story.

In Belgrade and Zagreb, independent media are controlled by the use of "financial police" government accountants who swoop down on opposition press and find their bookkeeping wanting. On April 25, such "accountants" swept into the office of the Croatian weekly Panorama and ordered all staff to leave in 25 minutes. The magazine remains shut. The reason: alleged "failure to meet technical, health and ecological standards necessary for operating."

When I asked President Tudjman why his government is suing another independent paper, Novi List, for a ruinous sum, Tudjman ordered an aid to fetch the cover of the satiric weekly, Feral Tribune, which featured Tudjman's face atop Rambo's body. "Would any other world leader put up with this?" he asked. "All leaders in democracies," I replied; but without much effect on him.

Another technique both Milosevic and Tudjman use to quiet the voices of dissent is to claim that formerly state-controlled media were "improperly privatized." Using that device, Serbian police entered Belgrade's Studio B and pulled the plug. Now all Serb television is under Milosevic's control. But Milosevic assured me, revealingly, that he has instructed the media to tamp down their former anti-Muslim and anti-Groat fervor and get behind the Dayton Accords.

Milosevic also controls newsprint, the life blood of newspapers, and thus manipulates the independent dailies' circulation. Nasa Borba, the only major independent daily in Serbia, struggles to reach more than 10,000 readers, whereas Politika, the pro-Milosevic paper, never suffers from a newsprint shortage and reaches 300,000 readers. To go from Nasa Borba's shabby offices to Politika's high-tech home, bristling with security men, is to understand the effective uses of press control in Serbia. Politika's colorful editor, Hadji Antic, who described his editorial policy as "inclined toward the official story," said if the other papers have circulation problems it's because they're no good.

But the Balkan leaders are not the implacable dictators of the past. There are many pressure points. Serbia badly wants the remaining sanctions lifted. Bosnia, the real victim in the war, as well as Serbia and Croatia, need Western investment, IMF loans, European Union membership and respectability. In their need is our opportunity. A price must be enacted for all those things, and part of that price should be the one ingredient that separates a democracy from every other form of government; a free press.

HONORING THE CELINA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Celina Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer fire fighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and