

In the Second Congressional District of Indiana there are so many good people.

Good people doing good things.

In my book, these special individuals are Hoosier Heroes.

Hoosier Heroes because they have dedicated their lives to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Clark of Anderson, IN, is a Hoosier Hero.

For the past 31 years of his life, he has dedicated himself to the admirable profession of teaching.

He taught honors English and drama with passion that inspires.

This senior thespian enthusiastically directed lives on and off the stage, offering guidance to the young men and women of Highland High School.

He touched young lives in their formative years, building up their self-confidence and nurturing their love for theater. Ron left an indelible impression on all those who took his class.

He took kids with special needs and nurtured them with an unconventional teaching style, engaging children at their own level.

Principal Brown of Highland High School called him an "exemplary teacher and excellent role model."

Mr. Brown told the tale of how Mr. Clark took a troubled child who was misguided and got him on the right path by involving him with acting.

Ron inspired a number of students to pursue theater in college. But regardless of whether they pursued theater or not, each developed a special appreciation of the stage, giving them a taste of the magic that so many dream of.

Former drama department chair and colleague Linda Trout remarked, "He always picked challenging plays and put on two a year, which is one more than people usually do. And he got students involved with everything from directing to making the props. He even wanted to get kids from the junior high school involved."

Ron was always going out of his way to help the students, conducting numerous workshops for the local junior high school. In fact, he took students to New York every year for workshops and Broadway plays. This is the kind of man he was.

He was given the "Hoosier Teacher of the Year" award by the Indiana Teachers of English in recognition for his excellence in teaching.

At the farewell production, a play of Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" was performed to an audience of grateful students, parents, and alumni.

Former students from across the country embarked on the pilgrimage back to their old high school, just to see their beloved mentor.

They brought gifts and congratulations, thanking Ron for making such an impact on their lives. His wife, Sandra, compiled a book of letters written by appreciative faculty, staff, and students.

This was the last play in the career of Ron Clark—the final act in a rich and memorable life of teaching children.

On the final day at school, he said to Principal Brown, "I'm retired but I'm not done. If you ever need me to come and help at school, just let me know."

And for that reason, Ron Clark of Anderson, IN, is a Hoosier Hero.

Mr. Speaker, that is my Report from Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO WES BISGAARD

HON. DUNCAN L. HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable dedication and contributions of a constituent in my district, Mr. Wes Bisgaard of Holtville, CA. Wes is the manager of the Imperial County Farm Bureau, but he will soon be retiring and I would like to take a moment to commend his devoted service to his community.

The Bisgaard family's move to California reads like the "Grapes of Wrath". After the dust bowl the family moved from their farm in North Dakota to California where they joined other family members in operating a dairy farm. Later, the family members began their own farm in Holtville, CA, where they remain today.

During World War II, Wes worked for Douglas Aircraft on the new DC-3, and later became a quality control supervisor as the DC-4, the first pressurized aircraft, was developed. This plane was later appropriated by the Federal Government as a war transport plane and renamed the C-54. During this period Wes met and married Mildred "Millie" Eppelman.

In 1952, Wes and Millie along with their two children, Karen and Christopher, moved to Imperial Valley to join his brother and once again take up his first love: farming. The Bisgaard brothers farmed 1,000 acres in alfalfa, lettuce, cotton, sugar beets, barley, cabbage, and later wheat for seed.

Agriculture is of critical importance to Imperial Valley. Since he arrived in Holtville, Wes has been a very active member of the local and State farming community, serving on a number of advisory boards and commissions. Wes has been a director of the Imperial County Farm Bureau for over 40 years. During that time he served as president of the bureau early in its history, then again from 1990 through 1994, and is now its manager. He served as director for District 1, San Diego and Imperial Counties, of the California Farm Bureau Federation for 11 years, as well as director for its Cal-Farm Insurance Bureau and the Cal-Farm Life Insurance Co. Wes is a 30-year member, and first chairman, for the Cotton Pest Control Board of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. On the international front, Wes has served for nearly 30 years as cochairman of the International Cotton Pest Work Committee, which coordinates scientific information developed by both the United States and Mexico.

Salinas Lettuce Marketing Coop helped Imperial Valley farmers form the Highline Lettuce Coop with Wes as one of the founding directors. During a time when farm workers were often sacrificed in favor of increased profits, Wes successfully encourage Highline to build for the Bracero Mexicans a permanent labor camp constructed of block, with showers, a walk-in cooler, air conditioning, etc. These are just a few of Wes Bisgaard's accomplishments.

Although Wes is formally resigning from the management of the Imperial County Farm Bu-

reau, his contributions to our community and our State will be long remembered. In fact, if I know Wes, his gifts of time to and his love for our Valley are far from over. I am joined by the many families involved in the farming community of Imperial Valley when I say thank you for all that you have done, and we look forward to working with you in the future. Although the Farm Bureau will miss him, I am certain that he will continue to fight for the needs of the Valley.

THE HONORABLE CARRIE P. MEEK HONORS MR. ODELL JOHNS, SOUTH DADE'S GREAT COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Miami's unsung heroes, Mr. Odell Johns. His untimely demise from the scourge of diabetes last Monday, June 2, 1997 will truly leave a deep void in our community.

Mr. Johns, 65, represented the best and the noblest of our community. Having dedicated a major portion of his life to the civil rights movement since the early sixties, he tirelessly continued his historic struggle to ensure the creation of employment services and equal educational opportunities for our South Dade residents, regardless of ethnic background, creed, or gender.

"He was known in his community as the man to turn to when a job needed to get done in South Dade," said Col. Brodes Hartley, president of Community Health Initiative. "Whether it was public housing, economic development for local business or the health care needs of the community, he always found time to get involved."

A meticulous father and a firm believer in the centrality of God in his family and his community, he was driven by his Christian stewardship on behalf of others, especially those who could least fend for themselves. Because of his missionary zeal of consecration to the well-being of others, many of South Dade's impoverished residents can now have access to primary health care and mental health services. His brand of leadership was genuinely anchored on his sterling integrity and resilient initiative. Most of my district's South Dade constituency has credited him with virtually every major improvement that is now benefiting the community for which he cared so deeply.

In 1953 Mr. Johns graduated from my Alma Mater, Florida A&M University, with a political science degree. He subsequently responded to his country's calling by joining the U.S. Army, serving as an officer with the rank of lieutenant in the Artillery Corps.

During the civil rights movement the acumen of his intelligence and the longevity of his commitment was felt at a time when our community needed someone to put in perspective the pains and agonies of disenfranchised African-Americans and other minorities yearning to belong and participate in the American dream. Along with Col. Hartley, he was one of the leaders in the bus boycott in Tallahassee, FL, that subsequently followed the landmark

boycott involving Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., in Montgomery, AL.

He demonstrated that same dogged tenacity to the people of South Dade. He thoroughly understood the accouterments of power and leadership, and he wisely exercised them alongside the mandate of his conviction in hastening the emergence of equal opportunity and justice for all.

Our community was immensely touched and comforted by his undaunted leadership, kindly compassion, and personal warmth. To his daughters, Kim and Linda Joyce, to his sons Ricardo, Odell III, Dyke Earl Martin, along with his 11 grandchildren and the rest of his South Dade family, he preached and lived by the adage that, with God's help, the quest for personal integrity and professional achievement is not beyond the reach of those willing to dare the impossible and advocate for the well-being of the least fortunate and the disenfranchised.

This is the great legacy Mr. Odell Johns has bequeathed to our community. I am greatly privileged to have earned his friendship and to have been given the opportunity to learn and live by his noble credo.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA ACT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this weekend will mark a tragic turn of events in the history of the Sikh Nation. Thirteen years ago this Saturday, June 7, more than 20,000 Sikhs were massacred in Punjab at the Golden Temple and 38 other Sikh temples by India's military.

India's genocide against the Sikh Nation has taken the lives of a staggering 250,000 Sikhs. I rise today to introduce legislation that will send a clear message to a government that has spent years practicing the torture of its own people. However, when you go home and turn on the evening news, good luck trying to find any story that reveals the plight of the Sikhs—the plight of the Kashmiris—the plight of Christians—and the plight of the untouchables, the lowest group in India's caste system.

In Congress, we speak of the many tragedies that occur all over the world, especially around this time of year when this legislative body deals with the foreign aid legislation. We talk about the ongoing violent struggles between the people in Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia. We reprimand China for its draconian abortion policies. We admonish Cuba for its human rights abuses. We threaten to withhold international military and educational training [IMET] money from Indonesia for its brutal treatment of the citizens of East Timor.

Mr. Speaker, the Indian Government is one of the worst human rights abusers in the world. You might say, if that is happening, why does the world not know about it? Because since the 1970's, India has barred monitoring organizations like Amnesty International from entering the country. In fact, they are the only democracy in the world that refuses to allow Amnesty International to operate independently within the country. Mr. Speaker, what does the Indian Government have to hide? There are a half-million Indian soldiers occu-

pying the province of Punjab and another half-million occupying Kashmir. This is a recipe for disaster my friends.

For the last 15 years, I have been coming to this well to call attention to Punjab, where Indian forces have received cash bounties for the murder of innocent civilians. To justify their actions, the police label these individuals, sometimes young children, as "terrorists". Also in Punjab, Sikhs are picked up in the middle of the night, only to be found floating dead in canals with their hands and feet bound together. Some Sikhs are not so fortunate, because many of them are never found after their abduction. Recently, India's Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] told the Supreme Court that it had confirmed nearly 1,000 cases of unidentified bodies that were cremated by the military.

And it does not get any better in Kashmir. Women, because of their Muslim beliefs, are taken out of their homes in the middle of the night and are gang-raped, while their husbands are forced to wait inside at gunpoint.

These military forces operate beyond the law with complete impunity. America should not be supporting a government that condones these widespread abuses with United States tax dollars. Now is the time for India to be held accountable for its continued violation of basic human rights. Mr. Speaker, the Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, "Untouchables", and women of India are desperately looking to this Congress for help. The time has come for action, it is time for America to take a stand.

The Human Rights in India Act, introduced by me along with my good friend and colleague GARY CONDIT of California, will bar development aid to India unless the government releases prisoners of conscience, ends the practice of torture by police and military forces, permits impartial investigations of reported torture and disappearances of those in custody, brings to justice police forces responsible for human rights abuses, and permits critics of the government to travel abroad.

My colleagues, from this well of the House of Representatives you will hear many stories of human abuses from all around the world. Today, I ask that you think of the hundreds of thousands suffering in India. Please do not turn your back on the innocent. Give them a flicker of hope and send a strong message to the Government of India. I urge my colleagues to give the Human Rights in India Act their full consideration, and their strong support.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. Col. Noreen Holthaus of the U.S. Army Congressional Liaison Office. Noreen will be leaving Capitol Hill next week for a new assignment in the Pentagon.

Over the past 3½ years I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with Colonel Holthaus as she has tirelessly assisted both my New York and Washington offices on numerous occasions. Whether it was constituent casework, defense legislation, an overseas trip itinerary or a phone number for an obscure Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Pentagon,

Colonel Holthaus always did her level best to solve the problem at hand.

The services provided by our Armed Forces liaison offices are truly invaluable to our constituents and our staffs and should not be taken for granted. We are very fortunate to have their vast knowledge and technical expertise at our disposal.

Throughout Colonel Holthaus' tour here in the House of Representatives she has consistently performed her duties in a superb manner. I believe I can speak for all the Members of Congress who have had the honor to work with Colonel Holthaus when I say that she will indeed be missed.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARSHALL PLAN, A SALUTE TO COLD WAR VETERANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th anniversary of former Secretary of State George Marshall's commencement address to the graduating class at Harvard University. In that address, Secretary Marshall laid the foundation for the historic foreign aid program that would come to be known as the Marshall plan.

Mr. Speaker, most historians would agree that the Marshall plan was the most dramatically successful peacetime foreign policy implemented by the United States. However, when our Nation moved so swiftly and sincerely to assist the war-ravaged landscape, economy and political structure of Europe in the late 1940's, it also marked the beginning of the United States' role as worldwide peacekeeper and protector of democracy.

Beginning with the Yalta Conference in 1945—when some argued that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had given away Eastern Europe to Joseph Stalin—the world entered a new arena of confrontation unlike any before. When Winston Churchill referred to the borders of the Eastern Bloc Communist countries as the "Iron Curtain", the stage had been set for the cold war.

The Revolutionary War brought us our independence; the Civil War gave us our national identity; the First World War made us players in the international arena; and the Second World War turned America into a superpower. For those veterans, there can be no doubt. Their participation in the combat theater ensures that their selflessness and contribution to our great Nation will never be overlooked or be taken for granted.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, for those veterans who gave just as selflessly to this country, but may have never looked directly into the eyes of the enemy, there is honor for them as well. From the policy of containment in the late 1940's to detente in the 1970's to confrontation in the early 1980's to the revolution in 1991, the veterans of the cold war stared unwaveringly into the depths of communism, and they did not blink for an instant. Rather, these veterans made it manifestly clear that democracy—that government by, of, and for the people—would be secure not only for America, but also for the entire world.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, from Capt. Gary Powers to every sailor who stood ready off the