

ask you to join me in congratulating Representative Secrest on being named ALEC's Legislator of the Year.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASSEMBLY
OF GOD CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed Chamber to share with my colleagues the joyful news of the 50th anniversary of the Assembly of God church in Center Moriches, Long Island. We in the Long Island community are blessed and honored to have among our community of God for the past 50 years this proud Christian congregation.

Since even before its founding, America has been a home for those seeking safe haven to pursue their religious beliefs. Because of that, America has long been fertile ground for men and women who labor in the work of the Lord. This is what Christians from New York's Russian/Ukrainian community learned when they came to Center Moriches after World War II, to minister to home prayer groups in this seaside South Shore village. With God's blessings, these groups grew quickly and a church building was purchased on Canal Street. The Christ Church of the Full Gospel, under the leadership of Reverend Suhanoff, was founded in 1947.

Under the pastorate of Leonard Burket, the congregation built a new church, celebrating the first Christmas in its new home in 1973. During Pastor Burket's leadership, the assembly started work on the Sunshine Nursery School in 1974 and, in 1982, established the Center Moriches Christian School. After Pastor Burket died on May 17, 1988, his congregation honored his lifetime of good work in their community by renaming the school the Leonard E. Burket Christian School.

In recent years, the Assembly of God Center Moriches joined with the New Creation Assembly of God, a community of believers formed 7 years earlier in Mount Sinai. Dedicated to their faith, New Creation Assembly of God members worshipped together in a succession of private homes, local theaters, area churches, and a dance studio. None of this deterred their faith, while midweek services were instituted, a youth group was formed and men's and women's ministries met on a regular basis.

In 1994, the two congregations forged a permanent bond when New Creation Pastor Dominick Scibetta became a candidate for the pastorate of the Assembly of God Center Moriches. His decision to take the new position set into motion the work that eventually merged the two churches in 1995. The first joint service between the two congregations was held on the first Sunday in July 1994.

For the past 50 years, Assembly of God congregants have given so much of their time, talents, and resources to provide physical and spiritual sustenance to their community. In so doing, they have brought the Gospel message to life for all of us on Long Island who are privileged to witness their work. May God continue to bless the Assembly of God and its entire congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BULL-
HEAD CITY LITTLE LEAGUE JUN-
IOR LEAGUE ALL STARS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, for the third year in a row, the Bullhead City Little League Junior League are the champions of the Little League Baseball District 9 Tournament and Arizona State Tournament. Although they did not claim the Division Four Tournament title, these All Stars worked hard and were victorious in representing Arizona. The State of Arizona has great pride in these super achievers and they are all champions in our eyes.

Congratulations to the All Stars: Kenny Bower, Justin Brown, Nick David, Justin Fleminks, Danny Eaton, Duke MacArthur, Logan Fovargue, Emilion Marin, Adrian Miranda, Jose Orozco, Chad Ramsey, Alan Rivera, Dillon Wheller, and Willie White. Their success was led by their team manager, Don Seaton and their coaches, Stu MacArthur and Ken Bower.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 1997 Arizona District 9 champions, Arizona State champions for their remarkable achievements this season. I wish them the best of luck in all their endeavors. The entire State of Arizona will cheer you on to your next success.

THE DAY OF CARING

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make note of a wonderful humanitarian event taking place in Orange County, NY. September 10, 1997, has been designated the Day of Caring by the Orange County United Way. It is on this special day that local volunteers will use their valuable time in assisting health and human service agencies in tending to the serious social problems our Nation has come face to face with. Not 1 second of this charitable donation of time will go unused as participants will be necessary in performing a large number of much needed tasks. Among the worthwhile activities scheduled are feeding the hungry, delivering meals to the homebound, working on repair projects, and helping out children, the homeless, elderly, and disabled. Collections of food, clothing, and toys will also be undertaken.

The Day of Caring is an incredibly important step in strengthening our communities. I remind you that this is a volunteer effort, as it should be, because making the lives of our neighbors and friends better is a priority we cannot neglect. I commend the people of Orange County and urge my colleagues to support similar programs throughout our Nation.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is now our second day back from the August break. As I stated yesterday, these next 2 months are our last opportunity to pass meaningful campaign finance reform. We all know that next year will be an election year and passage of reform legislation will not only be politically impossible it will be difficult to change the campaign rules in the middle of our own reelection campaigns.

In July three former Presidents, George Bush, Jimmy Carter, and Gerald Ford, called for a ban on soft money contributions. The Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act bans soft money and it enacts more stringent contribution disclosure requirements for candidates and independent groups. Our constituents want us to enact meaningful campaign finance reform, and we are being denied the opportunity to vote on this important issue.

Last night Mr. Speaker was a perfect opportunity to begin the debate on campaign finance reform. We finished voting by 6:30 p.m. Every member was present and available to participate in debate and take a vote on finance reform. This morning a subcommittee on the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee met and considered legislation, but not campaign finance reform legislation. Why, Mr. Speaker, have you not scheduled campaign finance reform for a vote? When will the members of Congress get an opportunity to follow the lead of Presidents Bush, Carter, and Ford and vote on an end to soft money?

A TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS LIEU, JOSH
AND TOM GARVIE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trio of brave young men who acted selflessly and heroically to save the life of 13-year-old Jessica Doherty of Gladwin County, MI, as she suffered a near-fatal asthma attack.

As reported by the Gladwin County Record, 15-year-old Travis Lieu and 12-year-old Josh Garvie had just left Beaverton, Michigan's Gem Theater August 19 when Jessica Doherty began to suffer a serious asthma attack. The boys alerted the girl's mother, who drove them to the hospital. On the way, however, young Jessica began gasping for air and lost consciousness. As they stopped the car, Tom Garvie, Jessica's other cousin, rushed into a local business to call 911. Travis Lieu and Josh Garvie began to administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and other emergency procedures. While they waited for an ambulance to arrive, the boys successfully brought Jessica back to consciousness.

I am pleased to report that after a 2-day stay at Mid-Michigan Regional Medical Center in Gladwin, Jessica Doherty was released from the hospital and has resumed a normal life.

Both Travis and Josh had just learned CPR in health classes during the previous school

year. Mr. Speaker, no amount of training can prepare a person for the moment when they face a real, life-or-death situation, but Travis Lieu, Tom and Josh Garvie were given the fundamental tools by learning lifesaving skills at school. By using these skills, staying calm and taking control of the situation, they were able to give Jessica Doherty a second chance at life.

Congratulations to Travis Lieu, Tom and Josh Garvie for a job well done.

BILL TO AMEND TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE, RELATING TO CRITERIA FOR GRANTING SLOTS TO NEW ENTRANT AIR CARRIERS

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill that will increase competition among airlines, resulting in lower air fares for travelers throughout the country. Specifically, my bill would amend title 49, section 41714(c)(1) of the United States Code to enable new entrant air carriers to obtain access to airport slots at high density airports.

Under current law, the Secretary of Transportation may grant exemptions for new entrants to obtain slots at designated airports only if: First, it is in the public interest; and second, the Secretary finds that exceptional circumstances exist. An October 1996 report by the General Accounting Office found that few new entries have occurred because the exceptional circumstances requirement has been interpreted narrowly by the Department of Transportation, although there is no language in the legislative history to support a narrow construction. My bill would eliminate the exceptional circumstances criterion, thus encouraging the distribution of slots to new entrants.

Section 41714 governs the distribution of airport slots at the four slot-controlled airports in this country: LaGuardia, Kennedy, Chicago, and Washington National. To reduce congestion during peak traffic periods, in 1969 the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] set limits on the number of takeoffs and landings that can occur at these airports by allocating take-off and landing slots equitably among airlines. In an effort to minimize the Government's role in the allocation of slots, in 1985 the Department of Transportation [DOT] amended its regulations to allow airlines to buy and sell airport slots to one another. Under this buy/sell rule, the DOT grandfathered slots to the holders of record as of December 16, 1985. However, the DOT reserved its right to withdraw slots from those airlines and redistribute them at any time.

As a result of this grandfathering, a few established carriers control the vast majority of slots at these major airports. Not surprisingly, a seller's market for these slots has emerged. Established airlines rarely sell their slots and when they do the costs range from \$500,000 during nonpeak hours to as much as \$2 million during peak hours. The GAO report notes that in order to mount competitive service in a market, an airline needs about six slots, with

at least three slots falling during peak periods. The unavailability and high costs of these slots has effectively precluded many low-cost carriers from entering the market.

Recognizing the need for new entry at these slot-controlled airports, in 1994 Congress passed Public Law 103-305, which directed the DOT to grant exemptions from these controls when the Secretary of Transportation "finds it to be in the public interest and the circumstances to be exceptional." However, because of the Department's narrow construction of the exceptional circumstances requirement, little new entry has occurred. By eliminating this test, my bill will make it clear that Congress intends that these exemptions be liberally granted when it would serve the public interest.

The Department of Transportation's recent Domestic Airline Fares Consumer Report found that high airfares are a serious problem for the traveling public in many communities. Opening the market at these major airports to new entrants will increase competition and drive down airline ticket prices to destinations throughout the country. It is my hope that this bill will be the first step toward lowering airfares for those communities that have not benefited from deregulation.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to clarify my position on the point of order that was raised during consideration of the bill in July on certain language included in the appropriation for international narcotics control.

Last year the Appropriations Committee nearly doubled funding for International Narcotics Control, from \$115 million to \$213 million. As part of a compromise on the funding level, the conferees agreed on bill language offered by Senator LEAHY that prohibited funds from going to the security forces of a foreign nation if the Secretary of State has credible evidence to believe such unit has committed gross violations of human rights. The Secretary may waive this prohibition if she certifies the government of such country is taking steps to bring the responsible members of the security forces to justice.

There are two similar provisions that already exist in the Foreign Assistance Act. One portion of that act, section 502B, explicitly states that no security assistance may be provided to a foreign country if that country engages in "gross violations of internationally recognized human rights". This provision can be waived by the President only under what that act calls "extraordinary circumstances".

According to information provided to the committee by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Ryan of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Enforcement Affairs, the Leahy amendment restates past and present policy. The policy embodied by the amendment, and as it is stated elsewhere in

the Foreign Assistance Act, would be pursued whether or not the Leahy amendment existed.

This issue has arisen regarding proposed assistance to Colombia. Let's be clear; the only reason assistance has been suspended to Colombia is because the President found the Government of Colombia was not taking sufficient steps to halt narcotics trafficking. Let me repeat; other than existing counter narcotics assistance, funds previously committed for Colombia have not been made available to that country due entirely to the provisions of section 490 of the Foreign Assistance Act.

For the past year, the executive branch has been debating whether to provide funds appropriated in prior years to the Government of Colombia, but withheld due to the decertification of that country. To make these funds available, the President must use section 614 of the Foreign Assistance Act, which allows him to waive other provisions of law.

Using section 614, the President has requested that up to \$30 million in prior year funds and equipment be made available for Colombia—\$17 million for the Colombian National Police and \$13 million for the Colombian military.

The law he is waiving is not the Leahy amendment, which does not apply to these funds, but the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act which resulted in the decertification of Colombia.

I have no problem with the President's proposal; he has the authority under section 614 to make these funds available to Colombia irrespective of the prohibition in the counternarcotics provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act.

My understanding is the administration has concerns about the use of these funds by certain elements of the Colombian military. Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan has informed the committee that such concerns would exist irrespective of the Leahy amendment. Indeed, the Leahy amendment does not prevent the use of such funds for two reasons; first, they were appropriated prior to the existence of the Leahy amendment, and second, 614 of the Foreign Assistance Act would allow for a waiver of the Leahy amendment even if it applied to such funds.

The administration and the Colombian military have now reached an agreement on the use of these funds, and they should begin flowing in the near future.

I have gone into some detail about this since a number of Members appear to have misunderstood the effect of the Leahy amendment. Last year I opposed the Leahy amendment because it micromanages foreign policy, but it is clear the policy embodied by the amendment is current administration policy which is why I reluctantly agreed to it. But it is very important for Members to know that the Leahy amendment is not the reason funds have been held up to the Colombian military; decertification of Colombia is the reason.

I know the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the International Relations Committee, is also pursuing a legislative solution to the decertification of Colombia that would allow prior year funds to be made available to that country for counternarcotics purposes. I hope he is successful.