

Americans support a continued U.S. presence in the region as well.

Unfortunately, time is growing very short and urgent action is needed to negotiate an agreement with Panama before the United States withdrawal is complete. I ask my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of the critical resolution that I am introducing today and to support swift action on this issue.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN AND DR.
JASON HU

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Republic of China on Taiwan on the 86th anniversary of the founding of their nation. Congratulations are in order for President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan, who have strived diligently to maintain strong economic growth and advance democracy for their country. Aided by the tireless efforts of people like Dr. Jason Hu, they have also expanded Taiwan's official and unofficial ties abroad. As Taiwan's representative to the United States, Dr. Hu has been in our Nation's Capital since June 1996. But a farewell and congratulations is in order as he is leaving our country soon to become Taiwan's foreign minister, a post for which he has proven to be well-suited.

During his tenure in our country, Dr. Hu has helped us to understand the complex issues affecting our two nations. His knowledge and tact have served his country well. His hard work and positive attitude have helped to bridge the gaps between our two peoples, helping us avoid the pitfalls that misunderstandings can bring.

As a dedicated and intelligent diplomat, Dr. Hu promises to be an excellent foreign minister. I wish him luck in his new position.

RECOGNITION OF MARY L. TOBIAS
FOR HER LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT
TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mary L. Tobias, of Washington County, OR, who has contributed immensely to the democratic process and, through her leadership of the Tualatin Valley Economic Development Corp., epitomizes the spirit of public-private partnership.

Under Mary's leadership, TVEDC has developed into a model private nonprofit business organization serving to connect businesses and government, introducing an articulate, collective insight to the public policy discussion. Today, TVEDC's opinions and recommendations in land use and transportation, environmental regulations, education funding, and sensible growth management are valued by representatives at all levels of government.

As a mother, grandmother, successful small business owner, and former mayor, Mary has

given back to her community through countless personal commitments and honorable deeds. Her records of selfless service is truly remarkable.

Embarking on a new path, I wish Mary the best, congratulate her on all that she has accomplished, and thank her for her making my community a better place to live.

STOP HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN
KOSOVA

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Since the spring of 1989, when the regime of Slobodan Milosevic brutally occupied Kosova, the Serbian authorities have violated the human rights of the Albanian population. I would point out that ethnic Albanians comprise more than 92 percent of the total population of Kosova. Shortly after the Serbian occupation, all Albanian-language educational institutions were closed, and Albanian students were forced to attend makeshift classrooms in private homes throughout the province.

Thirteen months ago, an agreement was signed by President Ibrahim Rugova of Kosova and Serbian President Milosevic to enable Albanian students and teachers to return to their schools and to reopen the Albanian-language University of Prishtina. The international community hailed this agreement as the first step towards the settlement of the crisis in Kosova. However, no progress has been made towards implementing the agreement because of the Serbian regime's intransigence. Last week, the lack of Serbian willingness to comply with the agreement prompted students in Kosova to peacefully protest to bring world attention to their plight.

More than 50,000 students gathered in Velanija on October 1, the beginning of the new academic year in Kosova, to begin their protest. There they were met by Serbian police, who informed them that their protest was illegal because it had not been cleared by the occupation authorities. When the students refused to disband, the police encircled the crowd and brutally attacked the nonviolent protesters with truncheons and tear gas.

Throughout Kosova, Serbian police have attacked students and teachers, barricaded Albanian primary and secondary school buildings, and sealed off entire towns and cities. Yet the Albanian people of Kosova refuse to abandon their struggle for self-determination. The Albanian-American community has called on the international community to take measures to prevent the conflict from escalating further. Inaction and silence by the world will only encourage the Serbian occupiers of Kosova to pursue a more aggressive and repressive policy, as they did in Bosnia. Such a result could happen without timely action and a firm resolve on the part of the United States and the world's democracies.

The gross violation of the human rights of Albanian students, teachers, and defenseless citizens of Kosova must be stopped. The daily reality of Albanians in Kosova was illustrated for me today when a member of the Albanian American Civic League called me in desperation over the plight of his brother Hazyr

Dervishi. Mr. Dervishi, who suffers from a heart problem, was brutally beaten by the Serbian police for teaching Albanian students the Albanian language out of his home in Gjakova, Kosova. He was then taken by force to the Albanian border, and warned not to return to his home and family. Under the Serbian police system, Hazyr Dervishi is a marked man in Kosova. Yet, he plans to risk his life in order to rejoin his family.

On behalf of Hazyr Dervishi and so many other innocent Albanian victims, the United States State Department must make a public and unambiguous statement condemning the ongoing human rights violations in Kosova. Our Government should make it clear to the Serbian Government that we will not tolerate the continued abuse of ethnic Albanians in Kosova and the denial of their basic human and civil rights.

When will we learn how to deal with the barbaric Communist regime of Slobodan Milosevic, who rose to power on the dead bodies of so many innocent Albanian citizens of Kosova? When will we learn that only timely action and resolve will have an impact on dictators like Milosevic? I implore you, Mr. Speaker, and I implore our Government, not to let Kosova, which many have described as the modern-day equivalent of the Warsaw Ghetto under the Nazis, become the next Bosnia. We need to change a failed foreign policy that has allowed the victimization of Albanians in Kosova and Macedonia to continue unabated. Our policy must change now before it is too late.

SERBIAN SISTERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to commend the Circle of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana. This distinguished organization is holding its fifth annual benefit at St. Elijah's Serbian Orthodox Church Hall in Merrillville, IN, this Sunday, October 12, 1997.

The Circle of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana is the combined effort to four Circle of Serbian Sisters organizations, each of which has about 200 members. The presidents of the Circle of Serbian Sisters organizations are: Ms. Helen Tezich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago; Ms. Natalie Tica, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville; Ms. Ann Rudman, from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville; and Ms. Milica Bodrozic, from St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville.

Some 5 years ago, these organizations unified to assemble this humanitarian fundraiser in order to provide aid to orphaned and refugee children in the former Yugoslavia. This year alone, three women—Milica Bodrozic, Mira Radakovich, and Violet Sekulich—who are from various kolos—circles—personally distributed monies to various orphanages and families in financial need. And 2 years ago, the Circle of Serbian Sisters sent over 7,000 packages and vaccines to displaced children, who are forced to live in refugee camps and shelters. These individually wrapped packages consisted of underwear, sweat suits, and

candy. The Circle of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana works with the International Orthodox Christian Charities and Serbian Orthodox Church in the former Yugoslavia.

Four priests who have supported this effort from the very beginning are: Father Steve Kovacevich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago; the Very Reverend Father Milan Savich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville; the Arch Priest John Todorovich, from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church; and Father Lazar Kostur, from St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church.

This year, the Circle of Serbian Sisters will be honored with the presence of His Grace Right Reverend Longin, Bishop of Dalmatia and Auxiliary Bishop to His Holiness Patriarch Pavale. His Grace Right Reverend Longin is also the Administrator of New Gracanica, seated in Third Lake, IL.

Mr. Speaker, during this difficult time in the former Yugoslavia, the mission of the Circle of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana offers renewed hope in the humanity of all people. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Circle of Serbian Sisters and wishing them well on their fifth annual banquet, as well as the continued success of their humanitarian efforts.

THE SPIRIT OF ATONEMENT AND THE MILLION MAN MARCH

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as you know, we will soon leave for a week-long district work period. However, I did not want my colleagues to leave before pointing out a key event that will occur next week in many cities in our Nation. Two years ago on October 16, 1997, the largest nonviolent demonstration in the history of the United States took place less than 100 yards from where I now stand. This demonstration, the Million Man March, saw African-American men stand up and dedicate themselves to take control of their lives, their destiny, and their communities. A larger theme of the march was that of atonement, to reconcile our differences with one another so that we may face all of the challenges that oppress African-Americans in a solid wall of unity, in a united front of understanding and peace. Despite entreaties by the media and other sources, initially questioning whether any men would show up for this march, combined with the media's sub rosa notions of violence that was expected from such a gathering of African-American men, this march was a fantastic success. Many of our States, cities, and communities are budding with new organizations, large and small, dedicated toward making our neighborhoods a safer place.

I am an avid, ardent, and enthusiastic supporter of the goals and ideals of the march: acknowledging past mistakes, confessing these errors to those whom we have wronged, asking for forgiveness, and having the restoration of spirit that is encompassed in taking these steps. Collectively, African-Americans must atone for the destruction that is going on in our communities. Collectively, America must atone for the divisiveness that has wreaked so

much dissension among all of God's children. And, it is collectively how these challenges will be solved. The theme of the Holy Day of Atonement, "To be Young, Gifted and Atoning," will emphasize a focus on what needs to be done, with and for our youth, to save us all.

It is in this spirit that I honor and support the goals and ideals of October 16, 1997, as a day of atonement. Each city will observe this day in its own manner. "To be Young, Gifted and Atoning," emphasizing the condition of our youth, will allow all Americans to discover where the power is located to solve these problems—the power is located within ourselves.

I support the effort of African-American men to build the strength within themselves to forge better men, better sons, better homes, better communities, and better nations. I support the effort of African-American women to work with African-American men toward these desperately-needed ideals. I support the effort of every American to improve our country, reach out and help those willing to help themselves. The Holy Day of Atonement is an excellent vehicle to continue upon the success of two years ago, and I applaud the hard work of its dedicated staff and volunteers in the 15th Congressional District of Michigan and in other cities throughout our great Nation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, October is the month set aside to bring national attention to the crime of domestic violence in this country. It is a crime that affects people in all communities, transcending economic, geographic, and racial lines. With a woman battered every 13 seconds it has reached epidemic proportions and is the greatest cause of injury to women in the United States today. Yet, the nature and seriousness of domestic violence as a crime is often ignored.

To combat domestic violence, education is a vital component to helping society understand the problem, and to changing attitudes and perceptions about this crime. By raising the level of awareness and understanding about domestic violence we can overcome the shameful stigma and psychological barriers and associated with this epidemic that prevent us from effectively ending the cycle of violence.

As co-chair of the Violence Against Women Working Group, I will co-host a reception in Los Angeles with California State Senator Hilda Solis on October 14, 1997, to honor organizations and individuals that work tirelessly against domestic violence. This year's reception will honor Alana Bowman, special assistant to the Los Angeles City attorney, the Domestic Violence Coalition at California Hospital Medical Center, Junior Leagues of California's Silent Witness Project, and El Monte City mayor, Pat Wallach.

Alana Bowman has been a champion for victims of domestic violence for over 10 years. As the former head of the Domestic Violence Unit for the city attorney, she set the standard for prosecution of offenders in the city of Los

Angeles. Ms. Bowman has played a key role in the development of landmark legislation of domestic violence and continues to do so in her new position as special assistant and as a member of the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women. She is the author of numerous legal manuals and article on domestic violence.

To meet the needs of the surrounding community and as a response to the request from the Los Angeles Police Department's Central Division, California Hospital Medical Center formed the Domestic Violence Coalition in 1996, under the direction of Dr. Robert Splawn. The coalition is comprised of representatives from the LAPD, city and district attorney's offices, elected officials, shelter, advocacy agencies, and hospital staff. Its mission is to provide immediate, compassionate support services to victims, and to work towards the prevention of domestic violence.

The mission of Junior Leagues of CA Silent Witness Project is to "promote peace, healing and responsibility in adult relationships in order to eliminate domestic murders in the United States by the year 2010." The project is a memorial to personalize the individual woman behind the horrifying statistics of domestic violence. The exhibit educates and galvanizes public and legislative support to the domestic violence.

Mayor Pat Wallach of El Monte has been a steadfast supporter of services for domestic violence victims. Most recently, she led the fight that resulted in the city's contribution of \$167,000 in HOME funds to buy a building that was transformed into a shelter for battered women and their children.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator Solis in recognizing and congratulating these individuals and organizations who are devoted to the elimination of the domestic violence cycle and to educating our communities about this hideous crime.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM AND FOCUS: HOPE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 12, there will be held the Annual Walk of Focus: HOPE.

This year's walk possesses a special significance and poignancy. It will be held without its founder and inspiration Father William Cunningham.

His death on May 26 of this year left a void that can never be filled.

The riots of 1967 changed life in the metropolitan area and the life of William Cunningham.

In turn, his response changed the life of the entire area. He decided to dedicate his service to the community. Combining his deep spirituality with brilliant organizational skills, he started the embryonic organization Focus: HOPE. That seed has grown from its initial food program to a broad-scale attack on the manifestations and causes of poverty.

Father Cunningham's dream was that people from all walks of life, races, and creeds could, and would, work together to enhance individual lives and the fabric of society.