

which reserves the carriage of America's waterborne domestic commerce to privately owned United States-flag commercial vessels that are built and repaired in United States shipyards and owned and crewed by United States citizens, and similar statutes pertaining to the domestic dredging, fishing, salvage, and towing industries;

Whereas these statutes have fostered the growth of a highly productive and diverse fleet of large, technologically advanced, and fuel-efficient vessels, that is capable of transporting in a timely, economical, and responsive manner all types of United States domestic commerce and that carries approximately 21 percent of the freight moved in the domestic transportation market while accounting for less than 2 percent of domestic expenditures for freight transportation;

Whereas the United States-flag domestic merchant fleet has more than twice the number of large vessels than in 1965 and productivity of the fleet over the past 30 years has more than tripled the fleet's ability to serve American shippers and consumers;

Whereas this increased growth and gains in productivity are due largely to the increased capital investments by private industry in the fleet and to the cooperative relationship that exists between American vessel operators and their American citizen crews;

Whereas more than 40 of America's trading partners have comparable laws and restrictions to limit access to their domestic commerce to their national flag vessels in order to better enhance and support their own economic and military security;

Whereas the Jones Act and related statutes are necessary to prevent America's domestic economy from being dominated and controlled by foreign shipping interests which today operate in international commerce outside the scope of United States Government laws and regulations, including tax obligations, that apply to all types of United States-flag vessels and their crews, to the entire domestic transportation infrastructure, and to all other industries located in the United States;

Whereas the Jones Act and related statutes, along with the comparable requirements applicable to America's aviation, rail, and trucking industries, play a vital role in ensuring that America's shippers and consumers continue to have a reliable, efficient, and competitively balanced domestic transportation system that uses equipment built to American standards and operated by trained American citizen workers;

Whereas allowing foreign flag vessels and foreign crews to operate in America's domestic trades will threaten the economic viability of America's transportation system, which operates in compliance with all United States Government laws and regulations, including tax obligations;

Whereas the Jones Act and related statutes and the construction and operation of the privately owned United States-flag domestic fleet contribute significantly to the national economy, generating approximately \$300,000,000 annually in corporate tax revenues for the Federal Treasury, and another \$55,000,000 annually in State tax revenues, all of which would be lost if foreign vessels were allowed to enter America's domestic trades;

Whereas Americans working aboard United States-flag domestic vessels and in related domestic industries pay \$1,100,000,000 annually in Federal income taxes and another \$272,000,000 in State income taxes, revenue which will be lost if foreign vessels and foreign crews are allowed to enter America's domestic trades;

Whereas the domestic maritime industry provides a significant source of employment to maintain a cadre of well trained, loyal American citizen merchant mariners ready

and able to respond, as always, to our Nation's call in time of war or other emergency; and

Whereas the Jones Act and related statutes are necessary because the construction and repair of the United States-flag domestic merchant fleet provides the primary source of commercial shipbuilding opportunities for American shipyards and their workforce, helping to maintain the shipyard mobilization base necessary to America's national security; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (46 App. U.S.C. 883), popularly known as the Jones Act, and related statutes are critically important components of our Nation's economic and military security and should be fully and strongly supported.

HOOSIER HERO—INDIANA STATE POLICE'S PENDLETON POST

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my report from Indiana. As my wife, Ruthie, and I travel throughout the great State of Indiana, we meet so many hard-working Hoosiers.

These people go to work every day to support themselves and their families.

However, there are those who go above and beyond the call of duty each day, to put their lives on the line for fellow Hoosiers. This commitment calls on the courage of the Indiana State Police officers.

Today, I would like to pay special attention to the hard-working men of the Indiana State Police's Pendleton Post. Their devotion, courage, and outstanding work ethic are recognized as Indiana's best State police squad.

The Pendleton Post consists of seven men. Alexander Willis, Scott Sollars, Jeff Goforth, Chris Lambert, David Preston, Shawn O'Keefe, and Chris Noone make up the squad who, in 1996, recorded over 800 criminal arrests and over 200 drunk-driving arrests, the highest in the State of Indiana. However, what makes these accomplishments so significant is the fact that there were only seven men on the squad.

Sgt. Robert Kowalski said that normally a group this size would not be able to accomplish as much as the Pendleton troopers have, but their good-old fashion hard work have put fear out of the minds of the citizens of Madison County. The work ethic of the Indiana State Police's Pendleton Post is something each of us should strive for.

Special recognition is also deserved by Troopers David Preston and Shawn O'Keefe. Trooper Preston was honored for having the most criminal arrests and the third highest drunk-driving arrests for the State of Indiana. Trooper Shawn O'Keefe was also awarded Trooper of the Year by the "Real Stories of the Highway Patrol" television show.

Only 6 months out of the training academy, Trooper O'Keefe displayed immense courage by rescuing a 6-year-old girl from a burning car after a terrible accident claimed the lives of three people in December of 1995.

This true act of bravery was nominated as "Real Stories" TV show's Trooper of the Year

segment where viewers called in and voted for one of the four finalists for the award. Trooper O'Keefe's actions captured the attention of many as he was pronounced Trooper of the Year.

Today, I would like to salute the heroic efforts displayed by Trooper O'Keefe. While the accomplishments of the Indiana State Police's Pendleton Post are significant, it is important to remember that they put their life on the line every day for people whom they never have met. It is this type of commitment that is truly commendable.

On behalf of the citizens of Madison County, we are proud to have State police officers of such high caliber. Their hard work ethic earns them further recognition as Hoosier heroes.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my report from Indiana.

CHAIRMAN BENJAMIN A. GILMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE III WORLD PARLIAMENTARIAN CONVENTION ON TIBET

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, here at the offices of the House of Representatives, the III World Parliamentarian Convention on Tibet was held. The keynote address for this impressive gathering of elected representatives of Parliaments was given by His Holiness, the Dalai Lama of Tibet, who is here in Washington, DC, for this conference.

One of the true highlights of this parliamentary convention was an address by our distinguished colleague and the chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Congressman BENJAMIN A. GILMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting this excellent address of our colleague in the RECORD, and I urge all of my colleagues to give his fine remarks thoughtful and careful attention.

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, III WORLD PARLIAMENTARIAN CONVENTION ON TIBET, APRIL 23, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Good morning ladies and gentlemen, your Holiness and distinguished participants. Thank you Lodi for your kind words. It is a special honor for the House International Relations Committee and the Congress to host this third international parliamentarian convention on Tibet.

I am pleased to welcome His Holiness The Dalai Lama, Professor Rinpoche, the Chairman of the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies, and all the distinguished legislators, academics, participants and guests joining us today. It is fitting that this historic meeting takes place under the roof of the "House of the people" by a worldwide community of legislators, scholars and experts.

As I drove down from New York last evening after spending the last two days celebrating the Passover Holidays with my family, the significance of our meeting here today reminded me of the similarities between our two people's and indeed the similarities between righteous efforts of any people for freedom and G-d given rights.

During Passover the Jewish people celebrate their freedom from slavery and are reminded of their ancestors' wandering in the

desert for forty years. The family sedan centers around recalling the persecution of the Jews by the Pharaoh, the efforts made to free the Jews, the promises made by G-d, their plight in the desert and the meaning of the sedan's different foods, drinks and rituals. But most significant of all is the family gathering recounting the story of how a powerless non violent religious nation regained its rights.

As we gather together today I strongly feel that same sense of family * * * that same motivation for coming together. Some of you have traveled very long distances and are sacrificing precious time and money to help the Tibetan people. Others are volunteering your services so that this can happen. But most significant of all is the selflessness of the deed and the joy of doing what is right.

Today, we are a family gathering together to learn from the past, to enjoy good company and to help our Tibetan and Chinese brothers and sisters regain the freedom that is rightfully theirs. The result of our deliberations which will be delivered to the Secretary General of the United Nations and various governments are intended to bring those leaders into the family to give them the opportunity to strengthen and to be a part of our unity of effort.

Most of you know the statistics: The Chinese destruction of over 6,000 monasteries, the death of 1.2 million Tibetans (a third of the population), the tight control of religion by a foreign atheist government, the public humiliation of monks and nuns. The Tibetans have lost everything, their great teachers, their lands and monasteries, and now due to a diabolical "final solution"—a population transfer program of massive numbers of Chinese into Tibet—many Tibetans are very rapidly losing their identity, language and self respect.

The Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem some two thousand years ago, and sent the Jews into exile from their holy land. The Chinese destruction and current occupation of Tibet is every bit as cruel and brutal to the Tibetans. The very strict control of Tibet's religious institutions by atheist communist officials is not only unimaginable blasphemy to Tibetans but to all of the world's great religious traditions.

The extent to which China's past and present leaders are personally responsible for these policies is very distressing. For example it was Deng Xiaoping who directed the People's Liberation Army into Tibet and oversaw its destruction. Just three years ago it was reported that at an internal Central Communist Party meeting, President Jiang Zemin asserted that, religion is one of the biggest threats to Communist Party rule in China and Tibet. Subsequently, Premier Li Peng signed decrees number 144 and 145 which restrict worship, religious education, distribution of Bibles and other religious literature, as well as restricting contact with foreign coreligionists.

The totalitarian Chinese government has created official religious organizations that control all religious worship, activity, and association in China and Tibet and supplant the independent authority of the Roman Catholic Church, independent Protestant churches, and independent Buddhist, Taoist, and Islamic associations. Indeed, the Bureau of Religious Affairs is headed by a rigid communist who is hostile to all religion.

The Bureau is controlled by the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party. The Party was behind the sentencing of a 76-year-old Protestant leader to 15 years in prison for distributing Bibles, the sentencing of a 65-year-old evangelical elder to an eleven-year prison term for belonging to an evangelical group outside the government-sanctioned religious organizations and

the sentencing of a 60-year-old Roman Catholic priest to two years of "reeducation through labor" for unknown charges. He had previously spent 13 years in prison because of his refusal to renounce ties with the Vatican. During this past Easter, the regime arrested Peter Xu who is perhaps the most important evangelical leader of the underground Protestant church. He founded the New Birth house church networks, reportedly to have 4 million members. At this time there are four Catholic Bishops imprisoned or in detention.

The Communist Party and the Bureau of Religious Affairs are also responsible for the kidnapping of the 6-year-old Panchen Lama and his family who have been detained for almost two years, and their whereabouts are still unknown. Scores of Tibetan Buddhists who refused to participate in the Chinese sham enthronement of Beijing's "Panchen Lama" have been sent to prison and one of their spiritual leaders committed suicide rather than take part in the charade.

Mine you, these people are not spending lengthy periods of their life in horrible prison conditions for peacefully advocating political pluralism or democracy. They are being severely punished merely for pursuing their religious beliefs.

Pro democracy advocates in China and Tibet are going through equally hard times. The recently released State Department's Country Report on Human Rights Practices in China and Tibet states that "in 1996 the authorities stepped up efforts to cut off expression of protest or criticism. All public dissent against the party and government was effectively silenced by intimidation, exile, the imposition of prison terms, administrative detention, or house arrest. No dissidents were known to be active at year's end." Not even the former Soviet Union managed such complete repression against the refuseniks.

The State Department Report goes on to say: "Although the Government denies that it holds political prisoners, the number of persons detained or serving sentences for 'counterrevolutionary crimes' or 'crimes against the state,' or for peaceful political or religious activities are believed to number in the thousands. Persons detained during 1996 included activists arrested for issuing petitions or open letters calling for reforms and greater democracy."

Having checkmated all resistance in Tibet and China the dictators have been successfully applying similar strategies in the international arena. Just last week, representatives of the unelected government in Beijing once again succeeded in Geneva at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to have a no-action motion adopted on the consideration of a resolution regarding human rights violations in Tibet and China. The Beijing dictatorship elevated its international bullying to new heights by threatening Denmark. If Denmark introduced a human rights resolution regarding China, the resolution would, according to the Chinese "become a rock that smashes on the Danish government's head."

Such statements and the shameful action by Beijing of introducing a no-action motion are insults and a disgrace to the Commission on Human Rights. No country should be able to utilize its economic or political power to attempt to block international scrutiny of its human rights record. And no civilized country on the face of the earth would permit its diplomats, spokesmen or leaders to make such pernicious remarks.

Within the past year Beijing officials have made similar public threats against Germany, New Zealand, Australia and Taiwan if they permitted His Holiness to visit their countries and if their leaders were to meet

with Him. China's diplomats have been flying all over the world promising stadiums, roads, government buildings, purchases of airplanes and other forms of trade and assistance in order to bully, threaten and cajole Commission members to vote with them in Geneva.

Three years ago, leaders of many nations that are currently members of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights urged President Clinton to de-link U.S. trade with China to its human rights violations. They argued that the human rights issue ought to be considered separate and apart from trade and economic matters and last week they ignored the hypocrisy of trading their values and principles away.

Democracy is on the run and having a difficult time establishing itself throughout Asia because democracies throughout the world, including our own nation, have put short term economic gains for powerful companies ahead of the long term benefits of democracy and the rule of law. Although most western CEO's intimately understand and are usually supportive of the role that an independent judiciary has on controlling corruption, which in turns helps to maintain profitable business ventures, they are mesmerized by what George Will of the Washington Post calls the "beguiling chimera" of the China market. Almost every deal with China requires a substantial technology transfer that quickly evaporates their profitable sales.

Every year around now since 1989, members of the business community visit Capitol Hill to speak with us about the need for a Most Favored Nation trading status for China and to warn against containment versus engagement of the government in Beijing. But I submit to you that the containment versus engagement discussion is a straw man. In a healthy family, members discuss issues, come to agreements and then follow through on their words with deeds. Engagement continues even when a punishment occurs. If many important agreements are broken and a sibling never stands up for his or her rights then the other one usually turns into a bully. At which point the family and the aggrieved sibling will both be responsible if the belligerent's behavior affects the larger community.

The Tibetans and all of us here today are bearing our responsibility to the world community by calling attention to the crises of leadership in both the People's Republic of China and in any other government that fails to be alarmed, and to take strong action against the manipulation of religion and destruction of a people.

Such a people who have a particular commitment to G-d that characterizes their whole national identity, who are the victims of the most vicious oppression, who might be miraculously delivered against the odds precisely by continuing to hold to their special relationship to G-d rather than by practicing the ways of the Pharaoh, need all of our support.

We are a family. We are here to bring out the best in all of our members. Your very presence gives the Tibetans and Chinese people hope for the future.

I urge you during the next two days to chart out a program of action where together we can take a multilateral approach in helping His Holiness and the people of Tibet. Many of us in the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats, are prepared to work with you.

Lodi, I want to convey to you and your staff at the International Campaign for Tibet and to all the volunteers here today doing the hard work of making this happen, my deepest appreciation and respect.

To the leaders in Beijing, we ask for their suggestions on how we can assist them in

dealing with their past in order that they may then embrace the necessary values that will sustain their nation in the future. In this same unity of spirit we ask that they let our people go.

May their decisions and your deliberations lead to freedom and peace for the Tibetan and Chinese people.

G-d bless.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EL CAMINO REAL HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional group of individuals from my congressional district, the El Camino Real High School Academic Decathlon team. This team not only won the local and State competitions, but this last weekend competed in St. George, UT where they finished second in the national competition.

This is not the first time that El Camino Real has competed for this national honor. El Camino Real has won the California Academic Decathlon three times, and this was the school's third appearance in the national competition since 1992. This kind of continued success can only be attributed to diligence, hard work, and perseverance. Indeed, this impressive history speaks volumes about the individuals that we are honoring here today from the coaches, parents, friends, and of course students who were willing to sacrifice and give the extra effort.

Yet hard work alone does not explain their success as this group exemplifies the word teamwork. The team consists of nine students, two coaches, and seven faculty assistants compelled by the rigorous nature of this competition to study, train, and act as a cohesive unit. The manner in which points are accumulated in the Academic Decathlon competition requires every team member to make a significant contribution; indeed, the team is only as strong as its weakest link. Through their cooperation and hard work, the team has learned that self-sacrifice can lead to excellence. I believe our ability to enter and contribute to these types of relationships both as families and communities is key to our future.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I am proud to note that this track record of academic excellence is found in one of our public schools. We continuously hear about the problems facing the Nation's public education system, and although there are many obstacles and they are daunting, I believe they can be overcome. Many of the qualities that made this team successful can be used throughout our schools, such as hard work in a team atmosphere and looking to peers for support and accountability.

This team consists of nine students: Steve Chae, Michal Engelman, Robert Magee, Tamara Miller, Michael Montgomery, Jacqueline Moses, Roger Rees, Dawn Robinson, and Adi Zarchi. The faculty assistants are James Centorino, Charles Doherty, Rebecca Gessert, Jerry Hickman, Mark Johnson, Jack Liebel, Naomi McCoy, Lillian Ruben, and Shukla Sarkar; the team is led by head coaches Sharon Markenson and David Roberson. Principal Ronald Bauer's guidance and support was an-

other critical ingredient in the team's success. I commend not only the El Camino Real team, but every individual involved in similar academic pursuits. As educator John Dewey noted, "Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself."

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent such outstanding young people, as they are truly the future of this great Nation.

HONORING DR. REBECCA W. STEELE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the musical genius of Dr. Rebecca W. Steele.

On April 27, the board of directors of the Richard V. Moore Community Center, Inc., will honor Dr. Rebecca W. Steele, director of Bethune-Cookman College Concert Chorale and Young Artists group, with a musical tribute. Over a period of 50 years, Dr. Steele's expansive career has included the positions of choral music director, voice teacher, music educator, singer, and arts administrator. Family, friends, and colleagues will pay tribute to this individual who has touched the lives of hundreds of young people across the State of Florida and the Nation.

A member of the faculty of Bethune-Cookman College since 1976, Dr. Steele is currently professor of music and director of cultural affairs. She has a Ph.D. from Florida State University in humanities and music, with special emphasis in multicultural music education. She earned dual masters in music education and voice, piano, and choral conducting from Columbia University. Prior to joining the Bethune-Cookman faculty, Dr. Steele enjoyed a long teaching career at Florida A&M University, in Tallahassee, another outstanding historically Black University.

Under her direction, the concert choir at Florida A&M was recognized for its performances of such major extended choral works as Verdi's Requiem and Bach's Magnificat. The choir's exceptional renditions of Negro spirituals also received wide-spread acclaim. The Bethune-Cookman Chorale has performed with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Theater in a production of Porgy and Bess as well as at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC.

A singer of considerable prominence, Dr. Steele remained in demand while at Florida A&M University. Her soprano solos from Mozart's Requiem, arias, and interpretations of spirituals were especially popular. Dr. Steele's ability to conduct different styles of music, while simultaneously producing beautiful tone and phrasing distinguishes her from many of her peers. Her latest production, "From Bach to Gospel" features varied styles of choral works, ensembles, and solos from numerous periods. Dr. Steele's professional affiliations add another dimension to an already committed teacher and humanitarian. She is a member of the Music Educators National Conference, the Florida State Music Teacher's Association, the Association of University Professors, the Southern Arts Federation and the Florida Professional Presenters Consortium.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride and extreme satisfaction that I join others in saluting the musical accomplishments and contributions of this exceptional Floridian. Shakespeare said, "[i]f music be the food of love, play on . . .".

To the thousands of students of Dr. Rebecca W. Steele, I say "play on."

EARTH DAY 1997

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Earth Day 1997. During this Congress it is especially crucial to emphasize the significance and purpose of this nationally recognized day. Since 1970, this country has set aside 1 day a year to highlight the importance of environmental conservation and preservation. But protecting the environment and our natural resources is not a once a year project. It is about the way we choose to live our lives.

Mr. Speaker, the nationwide recognition of this day illustrates the overwhelming public concern over how the natural and man-made world should interact. While I support efforts to relieve businesses of undue red tape, I believe it is possible to do so without also reducing protection of our air, water, and other natural resources. Although striking a balance is often difficult, it is necessary for the long term health of both the environment and the economy.

As a Member of this esteemed body, I am pleased with the role Congress has played over the last 27 years. Passage of legislation such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, among others, has been instrumental in cleaning our environment and protecting our valuable natural resources. It is our responsibility as legislators to continue to respond to the public and its priorities through enactment and renewal of these most important environmental laws.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that this day will be a reminder to Congress that the management of our resources is of vital importance. The decisions we make today will impact not only our future, but all future generations.

THE GIFT OF LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today our colleagues Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. KLECKA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. FRANK, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HALL (OH), Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. EHRLICH, Ms. CLAYTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. FROST, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SPENCE, and I take great pride in reintroducing The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1997. The enactment of this legislation, which doesn't cost taxpayers a penny, will not only honor the individual organ donor and their loved ones, but will also heighten the awareness of the organ