

Street and West A Street in 1990, and the first computer for the city was purchased.

David Harris was involved in forming the Joint Powers Authority with Solano Irrigation District for Water Service, and was instrumental in developing the Joint Powers Authority with the city of Vacaville, which has resulted in over 1,000 acres being placed in permanent open space. Known as the Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt, this agreement received statewide recognition for its commitment to preserving agricultural land.

Throughout his years of service to the city, David Harris has seen the adoption of three General Plans, the Central Dixon Redevelopment Project, the Economic Development Plan, the Dixon Downtown Revitalization Plan, Certification of the Housing Element, Specific Plans for various areas of the city, and major infrastructure master plans.

In addition to his successful career as the city manager, David Harris has been an active member of the Dixon community and the entire region. He has served as a board member and past president of the Sutter Davis Hospital for 9 years, has been a member of Rotary for 19 years, and has been active in the Boy Scouts of America. He has raised five children, all of whom have attended local schools.

During his 19 years of service to Dixon, David Harris has been an outstanding city manager, leading the city to achieve countless goals, and implement plans which will benefit future generations of Dixon citizenry. His presence in city hall, and his role as city manager will be truly missed by many members of the Dixon community and surrounding areas.

WEI JINGSHENG: A PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues, my support for the release of Wei Jingsheng, one of the world's most important political prisoners and certainly the strongest voice of China's democracy movement.

Today, Wei Jingsheng continues to serve a 14-year prison sentence because he chose to stand up against tyranny and advocate democracy for China. He chose to be on the side of human rights. He chose to act on his beliefs for the betterment of his people and for that, he has been made to suffer.

I am sure you are familiar with the history behind Wei Jingsheng's imprisonment.

Wei was first imprisoned from 1979 to 1993 on charges of counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement. He was accused of passing a military secret he had seen in the Chinese news media, to a foreign journalist. He was arrested in conjunction with his participation in the 1979 democracy wall movement, during which he argued that the government's modernization plans were impossible without democratic reform. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

In 1993, he was released from prison and continued speaking out for democracy and human rights, advocating an open and peaceful campaign for change. However, in April 1994, Wei was detained again and held in in-

communicado detention for 20 months. This would soon be followed by a formal arrest, charges, and after given a 1-day trial, conviction, and sentencing. We cannot allow this injustice to continue.

Wei Jingsheng is the 1994 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award laureate as well as the recipient of last year's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought which was bestowed upon him by the European Parliament. He received the 1993 Gleitsman Foundation International Activist Award, and since 1995, has been nominated every year for the Nobel Peace Prize.

This week marked the publication of his book, "The Courage to Stand Alone: Letters from Prison and Other Writings," the first book-length collection of Mr. Wei's letters and other writings. How fitting it would be to do the right thing, to do the human thing, and set this man free.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues here in the Congress to do all within its power to grant Wei Jingsheng's release. He should be a prisoner of conscience no more.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AIRLINE PASSENGER SAFETY ACT

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to promote greater safety in commercial aviation. The Airline Passenger Safety Act would require commercial flights to carry adequate medical supplies and equipment to deal with in-flight medical emergencies.

As a frequent traveler of our commercial airlines, I know how important safe air travel is. Yet every year, passengers on U.S. airlines die in the air because the medicine or equipment that could have saved their lives were not on board the plane. Today, we have the technology to deal with in-flight medical emergencies, such as sudden cardiac arrest. But we do not have a requirement that planes carry this life-saving equipment. In fact, we do not even require airlines to keep records of in-flight medical emergencies.

Technology to deal with sudden cardiac arrest has come a long way. Today's automatic external defibrillators [AED's] are smaller, lighter and more durable and with appropriate training, can be used by anyone. This past fall, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of these devices for commercial aircraft. To increase passenger safety, we need AED's aboard our commercial airlines.

I am introducing this legislation which would improve the chances of survival for passengers in the case of an in-flight medical emergency, like a sudden cardiac arrest. My bill would require air carriers to establish steps to be taken in the event of an emergency. It would also require airplanes to carry an automatic external defibrillator and require each member of the flight crew to be trained in CPR and in the use of an AED. Since there is no method of recording in-flight emergencies, my legislation would also mandate that air carriers describe what happened and what actions were taken to assist the passenger in the

event of an in-flight medical emergency and report the incident to the Secretary of Transportation so the public can be fully aware of the number of in-flight medical emergencies that occur each day. I have also included a "Good Samaritan" provision which exempts from liability both the airlines and passengers who step forward to offer assistance during an in-flight medical emergency.

I think it is time that our airlines provide the safest possible travel for all passengers. As a frequent flyer, I think we all deserve to travel on a plane that is stocked with medical supplies and equipment and to travel with a flight crew that is prepared to handle medical emergencies, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a high school basketball team in my hometown of Peoria, IL. The Peoria Manual Rams won their fourth consecutive Illinois State title, with a final record of 31-1. Consequently, they were recently named the high school boys' basketball national champions by USA Today. In the 90-year history of Illinois high school basketball, no team had ever won four consecutive State championships.

In addition, Manual captain Sergio McClain, a team leader all 4 years, became only the second Peoria area player to win the coveted title of Illinois' Mr. Basketball. This award recognizes not only his athletic skills, but also the inspiration and leadership he provided his team throughout the year.

The team is led by head coach Wayne McClain, and All-American center Marcus Griffin, All-State guard Frank Williams, and Mr. Basketball Sergio McClain. The other title winners on the team are: Greg Andrews, Marlon Brooks, Creston Coleman, Drake Ford, Jerron Hobson, Robert Johnson, Jerral Page, Alphonso Pollard, and Alex Stephens.

The city of Peoria is very proud of the Manual Rams, only the second Illinois team to win the national title. Coach McClain and the Rams have proven that teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship are still an important part of high school athletics. Perhaps we can all learn from their example.

AWARD WINNING STUDENTS OF WOODBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on April 26-29, 1997, outstanding people from 50 schools throughout the Nation came to our Nation's Capital to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Woodbridge High School in Bridgeville represented Delaware. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the

national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The distinguished members of the team representing Delaware are: Stephanie Adams, Gwen Bishop, Janelle Cannon, Josh Chaney, Mark Currett, Sonya Dean, Maria Diaz, Jammie Dougherty, Leslie Elliott, Jane Kroeger, Stephanie Lane, Melissa Moore, Doug Neal, Jared Pinkerton, Justin Pinkey, Tammi Quillen, Billy Rust, Daniel Stogner, Allison Tatman, Randi Toomey, Christy Vanderwende, Roy Walder, and Crystal Yoder.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Barbara Hudson, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Diane Courtney, and the State coordinator, Lewis Huffman, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, supported and funded by Congress, is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program, now in its 9th academic year, has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 60,000 teachers, 22,000 schools, and 22 million students nationwide.

The We the People . . . program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective about the history and principles of our Nation's constitutional government. I wish these young constitutional experts the best of luck and look forward to their future participation in politics and government. Congratulations again to the team from Woodbridge High School of Bridgeville, DE.

A NEW POLICY NEEDED FOR CUBA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention my monthly newsletter on foreign affairs from April 1997 entitled "A New Policy Needed for Cuba."

I ask that this newsletter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The newsletter follows:

A NEW POLICY NEEDED FOR CUBA

For more than three decades, the United States has embargoed Cuba in an unsuccessful effort to force Fidel Castro from power. Last year, in the wake of Cuba's brutal shoot down of private U.S. planes in international airspace, Congress passed the Helms-Burton law, which tightened the economic sanctions. Opponents of the law feared it would hurt the Cuban people, not Castro. A year's experience shows they were right. Helms-Burton has helped Castro, weakened his opponents, brought more misery to ordinary Cubans and damaged relations with our closest allies and trading partners. We need a

new policy to promote a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.

HELMS-BURTON'S REACH

The Helms-Burton law tightens the noose on Cuba in two key ways. First, it grants U.S. citizens the right to bring suit in U.S. courts against foreign companies that have invested in or profited from expropriated properties in Cuba. (President Clinton has delayed the effect of this provision.) Second, the law bars from the United States corporate officers, principals, and shareholders (and their families) of any company that invests in expropriated property in Cuba. This law and U.S. policy limits sharply all contact between the United States and the Cuban people.

By isolating Cuba and tightening sanctions, Helms-Burton is supposed to move Cuba toward democracy. Rather than promoting peaceful change in Cuba, the law is hurting the Cuban people. Castro wants to stay in power, and this law helps him: Using the law as justification, Castro has cracked down on journalists and dissidents, solidifying his own position while suppressing the opposition. Cuba's dissidents refer derisively to it as the Helms-Burton-Castro Act.

Helms-Burton also gives Castro a new scapegoat for his economic failures. It eases pressure on him to open up the state-run economy. Modest reforms in Cuba before Helms-Burton have since been stymied. Cuba is not moving toward democracy and free markets—it is moving in the opposite direction.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Helms-Burton is also hurting ordinary Cubans. The embargo, tightened in the 1992 Cuban Democracy Act and codified and reaffirmed in Helms-Burton, has had a negative impact on the health of the Cuban people. Licensing requirements and outright prohibitions of sales to Cuba have drastically limited Cuban access to U.S.-produced medicines and medical equipment. According to recent studies, the health of women and children in particular has suffered as a result of Cuba's inability to obtain medicines. While Cuba's health problems are mostly the fault of Castro's disastrous policies, the U.S. denial of medicines and medical supplies has contributed to Cuba's deteriorating health.

Donations from the American people—who donate more to Cuba than anyone in the world—are also inhibited by current U.S. policy. Humanitarian missions to Cuba must fly through third countries. American citizens cannot send prescriptions or money to their family members in Cuba without an export license. In a country so clearly in need, it cannot be in the interest of the United States to delay or inhibit the provision of humanitarian supplies to Cubans.

RIFTS IN RELATIONS

No country in the world follows the U.S. embargo of Cuba. While Helms-Burton was intended to isolate Castro, it has isolated the United States, creating great rifts with our closest friends and allies. The European Union (EU), Latin America and Canada have condemned Helms-Burton. All object to the extraterritorial application of U.S. law, under which their citizens and companies are subject to penalty in the United States for their actions in Cuba.

Helms-Burton also spurred a challenge to the United States in the new World Trade Organization (WTO). The United States has persuaded the EU to back away from a WTO case for now and seeks to resolve the dispute through direct negotiations. But if these talks fail, proponents of Helms-Burton want the United States to walk away from any WTO proceeding by arguing Helms-Burton is a national security matter over which the

WTO has no jurisdiction. This approach would weaken the international trading system, which benefits the United States, and set a dangerous precedent: Any country could cite national security to justify protectionism, which costs U.S. jobs.

Helms-Burton has created other tensions. Canada and Mexico—our nearest neighbors and first and third largest trading partners—are contemplating a case against the United States under NAFTA.

RETHINKING CUBA POLICY

The United States should learn from its successful engagement with Eastern Europe. Communist regimes there fell not because they were isolated, but because they were penetrated by people, new ideas, and commerce. Our policy of engagement with China is based on the same view, and we should follow the same approach with Cuba. The Pope, who is traveling to Cuba early next year, is right to engage the Cuban people directly, as he did the people of Eastern Europe. He is not trying to isolate them or coerce them. Washington would be wise to follow. We should repeal Helms-Burton, restart direct flights, lift travel and currency restrictions, and begin exchanges, dialogue and humanitarian relief for the Cuban people. Step by step, we should lift the embargo in response to positive change in Cuba.

CONCLUSION

Helms-Burton has been a mistake. It has not brought change to Cuba. Instead, it has strengthened Castro and inhibited a peaceful transition to democracy and free markets. It has brought hardship to the Cuban people by denying them food and medicine. It has split us from the rest of the hemisphere, and forced us into fights with our allies and trading partners. It has threatened our leadership in the international trading system. Most important of all, it has made it more likely that change, when it comes to Cuba, will neither be peaceful nor democratic.

ISLANDERS OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Latte Magazine's Islanders of the Year, Mr. and Mrs. Jose and Rufina Tainatongo of Piti, Guam. Mr. and Mrs. Tainatongo were nominated by other Guam residents for this recognition based on their 13-year commitment in helping house foster children on Guam. Mr. & Mrs. Tainatongo have long been active in their community. In fact, Mr. Tainatongo ran a recent campaign for mayor of Piti.

The following is the text of a story based on an interview with the Tainatongos. This story was published in the April 1997 edition of Latte magazine.

[From Latte Magazine, April 1997]

JOSE AND RUFINA TAINATONGO

In 1984, a Child Protective Services worker told Jose and Rufina Tainatongo the agency desperately needed foster parents, and asked them to consider taking in kids.

Rufina was still deciding on her answer when the worker brought a couple of kids to her door two weeks later. She decided then and there: "The Lord says let the children come to me. I (couldn't) say no."

Thirteen years later, the Piti couple have been parents to 47 foster children. In their