

a reminder to us all that the officers who don a badge and patrol our streets are heroes and true public servants who risk injury and death to provide greater safety and protection for us all.

In recognition of the efforts of these officers, I want to express my continued and strong support for the effective anti-crime COPS Program which has put more officers on our streets—more than 150 in my district alone. Effective programs like this which support our peace officers and reduce crime are true living memorials for our fallen heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

CENTENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE  
AOA

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 16, 1997*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, thousands of doctors of optometry will be convening in St. Louis, Missouri on June 11–15, 1997 to celebrate the Centennial Congress of the American Optometric Association [AOA]. During the proceedings of this annual convention, Dr. Michael D. Jones of Athens, TN, will be sworn in for the 1997–98 term as the association's 76th president. I would like to take a few moments to congratulate Dr. Jones on achieving this high honor and to commend him for his professional and civic achievement.

Dr. Jones is a graduate of Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, and has practiced optometry in Athens since 1971. He is a past president of the Tennessee Optometric Association and the Hiwassee Optometric Society. In 1992, Dr. Jones was honored as Tennessee's Optometrist of the Year. And, in 1993, he was named Optometrist of the South.

In Athens, Dr. Jones has served as president of the Kiwanis Club, treasurer of the Jaycees, and on the boards of the United Fund and the YMCA. He also founded the community's Explorer Scouts program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Jones was first elected to the AOA's board of trustees in 1992 and has served the board in a number of capacities. The AOA is the professional society for the Nation's 31,000 optometrists. As president, Dr. Jones will lead the association in working to improve vision care in the United States.

Dr. Mike Jones has distinguished himself as an outstanding leader. I join his many friends and colleagues in offering him best wishes for a successful term as president of the AOA.

THE TRAGEDY OF ALCOHOL-RELATED DEATHS ON OUR NATION'S HIGHWAYS

SPEECH OF

**HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very tragic situation that afflicts one person every 30 seconds—

this problem is drinking and driving. This week Mothers Against Drunk Driving is sponsoring a National Youth Summit on Underage Drinking in the hopes of educating our young people about how dangerous and destructive driving is under the influence—and let me remind everyone this danger is not just to oneself, but to anyone else who may be on the road. I commend the organizers and participants in the summit for taking steps to educate Americans on the perils of driving under the influence.

Last week, I was watching the news and I saw the parents of a young college girl discussing the death of their daughter due to a drunk driving accident. This young, bright girl, with all of her hopes and dreams just starting to take form, lost these dreams when a drunk driver hit her car and in an instant everything was gone.

Friends, this is a serious problem and we need to do more to educate everyone—teens and adults alike—on the consequences of drinking and driving. Let me share some startling statistics not commonly discussed. In 1994, 40.8 percent of all traffic fatalities were accounted for by drunk driving accidents, and that number has risen since then. And do not think this could not happen to you because two of every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related accident in their lifetime. I am the father of five healthy beautiful children and I can not bear to think that unless we work to stop this, two of my five children will be affected by a drinking and driving accident.

It is crucial that we get the word out and take preventive measures to assure these senseless deaths stop. In my home State of Oklahoma, the State legislature just passed a law stipulating any underage driver caught drinking automatically loses his license until he reaches 21. I am glad Oklahoma is taking steps to prevent wreckless behavior, but I want to stress, that we need to educate more than our kids because this is everyone's responsibility and problem.

There is a powerful poem written through the eyes of a young girl who didn't drink and drive because her mom had said it was dangerous, and the pride she took in obeying her mother. But when she got in her car to go home she was killed by a drunk driver. The last line reads, "I have one last question, Mom, before I say good bye. I didn't drink and drive, so why am I the one to die?"

This question goes straight to the heart of the matter, and I sincerely hope if someone is going to drink they would have enough respect for the priceless gift of human life, not to get in a car and drive. This is a problem that affects everyone and I hope we would all take responsibility and work to end these tragic accidents that turn human lives, hopes, and dreams into statistics.

Congratulations to the youth who are participating in the underage drinking summit for making a commitment to be responsible and to protect other lives as well. We need your help in raising the awareness about the dangers of drunk driving.

THE MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT COMPLETION ACT

**HON. LINDA SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 16, 1997*

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, under the leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following:

Mr. Speaker, on the morning of May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted in an awesome display of nature's power. The 250 miles per hour avalanche and high winds destroyed almost 150 square miles of forest and sent a plume of ash toward eastern Washington like a slow-moving tidal wave.

In 1982, Congress enacted legislation establishing the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, protecting the 110,000 acres around the volcano for recreation, education, and research. The monument preserves this extraordinary event of natural history for future generations, and it also provides a living classroom where young and old alike can learn about nature's slow but steady process of healing.

Since the monument was created, new camping and picnic areas, trails, and visitor centers have been added as the number of visitors keeps climbing. Every year thousands of people trek to the rim of the crater to see firsthand a live volcano.

To make sure that the monument is protected now and for future generations, the 1982 act required the Federal Government to consolidate all the land and interests within its boundaries. The exchange of the surface rights was promptly accomplished. Unfortunately, however, the Federal Government has yet to finish obtaining all the privately owned mineral and geothermal resources within the monument boundaries. Even though the 1982 act mandated that all the private property be acquired by 1983, some still remains 15 years later.

Today, I am introducing the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act. This measure fulfills the requirements of the original 1982 act by establishing a process for the monument to obtain the remaining private geothermal and mineral rights. A companion measure is pending in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the work begun in 1982 needs to be finished. The Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act will allow us to complete that work, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA STATILE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 16, 1997*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Virginia Statile, a woman whose dedication to and compassion for the sick, elderly, and disabled of Hudson County is unmatched. She has given over 33 years of service to the community as executive director of the Visiting Homemaker Service of Hudson County.

Mrs. Statile began working as Visiting Homemaker's executive secretary on a part-

time basis. In a short time, her enthusiasm and devotion earned her the position of executive director. In that capacity of Visiting Homemaker Service of Hudson County, Mrs. Statile has spearheaded the growth of the organization from 25 Homemaker home health aides in 1964 to over 900 presently.

Mrs. Statile's accomplishments in the health care field are numerous. She has developed, and secured funding for, a large number of programs for senior citizens, including Meals on Wheels, Emergency Chore Service, Youth in Elderly Service, respite care, short term and long term senior care programs, and Senior Community Independent Living Service. Additionally, Mrs. Statile helped secure financing for a number of other community oriented ventures including: Child Abuse Service in an Emergency [C.A.S.E.], Families in Crisis, the Teaching Homemaker Intervention Program, and the Child Care Food Program.

Mrs. Statile's interest in helping her fellow Hudson County residents have led to memberships on a number of boards and committees which include: the North Jersey Home Care Association, the Hudson Hospice, the Hudson Commission on Human Relations, the Hudson County Coalition of Non-Profit Organization, the New Jersey Home Care Council, and the New Jersey Department of Human Services Home Care Advisory Committee.

The multitude of programs Mrs. Statile has developed and helped expand along with her active involvement in various humanitarian programs demonstrate that she is a person who goes above and beyond the call of duty. Her activities demonstrate a willingness to work selflessly and with great compassion for those less fortunate. AIDS patients, abused children and adults, and Alzheimer's patients are all people whose lives were touched by the extraordinary efforts of Mrs. Statile.

It is an honor to have such an exceptional woman working on behalf of the residents of my district. Mrs. Statile's desire to give so much time and effort to helping others should serve as an example for all of us. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this compassionate and dedicated woman.

#### HEMISPHERIC LEADERS DISCUSS CHALLENGES AHEAD

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to my colleagues' attention the attached statement on conclusion of "The Agenda for the Americas for the 21st Century". On April 28 and April 29, a group of leaders of the nations of the Western Hemisphere, that included former Presidents Ford and Carter, gathered in Atlanta to address the challenges facing the Americas in the 21st century.

As the attached statement attests, these leaders tackled the critical problems that must be addressed if we are to consolidate the impressive gains we have made in building a hemisphere that is resoundingly dedicated to free markets and democracy. The participants in this meeting are to be commended, and their conclusions merit serious consideration.

I ask that the attached statement be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### "THE AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

We, the members of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government, have met in Atlanta, Georgia on April 28-29, 1997 to assess the state of western hemispheric relations and to offer our views and recommendations on ways to help achieve the goals that we share—the pursuit of peace; the end of illegal drug trafficking; the reinforcement, deepening, and extension of democracy; the promotion of a free trade area of the Americas; and social justice.

The Council was established at The Carter Center after a Consultation on "Reinforcing Democracy in the Americas" in November 1986 by many of us. Since then, within the western hemisphere, we have worked to reinforce democracy at critical moments, including by monitoring and mediating 15 electoral processes in nine countries in the Americas. We have lent our support to freer trade, including by urging the U.S. Congress to approve the North American Free Trade Agreement. We have worked hard to reduce the region's debt and bring peace to Central America.

For these past two days, we have reviewed a wide agenda confronting the nations of the hemisphere—trade, drug trafficking, poverty, and issues related to security and democracy. Our council of 29 current and former Presidents and Prime Ministers of most of the nations of the Western Hemisphere bring diverging perspectives to the table, which we found sometimes helps us to consider different approaches to an issue.

We found ourselves in agreement on the basic goals, many of which were enunciated by the Western Hemisphere leaders in the Declaration of the Summit of the Americas in December 1994.

The Americas should conclude a Free Trade Area of the Americas by the year 2005 while making sure that the benefits of freer trade are shared by all the peoples of the hemisphere.

We should seek to eliminate the scourge of illegal drugs.

The remaining territorial disputes of the hemisphere should be resolved soon.

We should curb the purchase and sale of arms.

The benefits of democracy should be extended to all the nations of the hemisphere, and we should deepen democracy, protect press freedom, and eliminate corruption and the disproportionate influence of money in the politics of all our nations.

While we are committed to those goals, we have to express our great disappointment at the lack of progress in achieving them, and so we concentrated most of our time on how to translate those general statements into concrete steps forward. Let us identify, now, with greater precision what it is that we hope the leaders of the hemisphere should strive to achieve.

First, some general principles:

The issues on the agenda require cooperation and partnership, not unilateral dictation and paternalism.

Most of the difficult issues on the agenda have two sides—supply and demand on drugs, commodities, arms, bribery—and an effective strategy requires dealing with both sides.

The moral basis of the new community of the Americas is democracy. Freer trade will enhance the ties between our democratic nations.

#### 1. TRADE, INTEGRATION, AND POVERTY

We support the Summit Declaration to reach a Free Trade Area of the Americas by the year 2005. There has been great progress on negotiating bilateral and subregional free trade agreements, but thus, far, little progress toward the Summit goal of an

FTAA. To attain that goal, the governments will need to move more quickly than they have during the past two years.

All of our nations will benefit from freer trade, but that doesn't mean that everyone will benefit. The best defense of those people who suffer the increased competition of freer trade is not protectionism, but rather additional mechanisms to ensure that the benefits of freer trade are more widely shared and that those who lose the competition can be helped to adjust.

1. Fast-track: It is vitally important that the U.S. government obtains fast-track negotiating authority as soon as possible in order to begin serious trade negotiations. We were very encouraged in our discussions with U.S. leaders that there seems to be grounds for a workable compromise. The AFL-CIO wants adequate protections for workers and the environment in the trade agreement. In our intensive discussions with Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, the Speaker told us that he would support rapid passage of fast-track negotiating authority which included provisions for protecting labor rights and the environment, provided they are trade-related. We view this as a significant development that potentially goes beyond the existing NAFTA and hope Congress and President Clinton reach agreement on this as soon as possible.

2. Caribbean Basin Enhancement: It is vitally important that a Caribbean Basin Enhancement law is passed by Congress as early as possible to grant wider access to the U.S. market by the smaller and more vulnerable nations in the Caribbean Basin. These provisions will permit these countries to make the adjustment over an extended period of time to enter a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). ("Caribbean Basin" includes Central America and the Caribbean.)

3. Paths to FTAA: We explored several different ideas as to the best way to pursue an FTAA. Some believe that the U.S. and other countries should negotiate bilaterally; others would like for negotiations to proceed between subregional groups. We propose an alternative: the nations of the hemisphere should define clear and specific criteria through their talks within the 11 working groups set up at the Denver Ministerial, and nations or groups would become members of a growing FTAA as they meet these criteria. Special transitional provisions might have to be made for the smaller economies. Governments should encourage their private organizations to participate in this process.

4. Caribbean Basin Commodities: Several small Caribbean Basin nations are very dependent on a few commodities, such as bananas and sugar, whose markets are restricted. We urge the United States and Europe to expand market access to these products.

5. Reducing Poverty and Inequality: It is urgent to reduce poverty and injustice through development strategies and investments that contribute to social, economic, and fiscal justice through health, education, job training, housing, and support for small and medium enterprises.

Inasmuch as trade promotes growth, expanding trade can reduce poverty and inequalities as has been seen in Chile and the East Asian countries. But additional steps are necessary in order to compensate those who are hurt by the increased competition that comes from trade. Such steps would include increased productivity, technological transfer, and increasing annual rate of growth to more than 3% by generating more savings. Governments should also make education universal and higher quality for elementary school students and remove barriers to access by poor people to credit, land and education.