

the Glens Falls community are certainly near and dear to my heart.

The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make such places great places to live and raise a family. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis. As a former volunteer fireman myself, I understand, and appreciate, the commitment required to perform such vital public duties.

It has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully for the residents of my hometown, the members of West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1 continue to selflessly perform their duty without remiss. I can't say enough about the countless lives and millions of dollars in property they have saved by doing so over the course of their 50-year history.

That's why I am so glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to them today. And for that matter, the residents of their community will have the opportunity to show their appreciation at a parade marking this momentous occasion this Sunday, June 1, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of this fire company, both past and present, are truly great Americans. I am proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of volunteerism which has been such a central part of American life. We would all do well to emulate the service of the men and women who comprise Fire Co. No. 1 in West Glens Falls. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all Members to join me in paying tribute to them on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OPPOSES LATE TERM ABORTION BAN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, considerable press attention has been devoted to the American Medical Association's shift in position and endorsement of the late term abortion ban voted on by the Senate today.

In my view, no less attention should be devoted to the statement of the American Medical Women's Association, which has reiterated its strong opposition to any legislation intervening in medical and surgical care decisions.

My good friend, Dr. Debra Judelson, president of AMWA and a resident of California, has repeatedly pointed out that it is irresponsible for the Government to interfere legislatively with physician-patient autonomy. Physicians, not the President or Congress, should determine appropriate medical options, particularly with respect to a woman's constitutionally protected right to choose.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend my colleagues heed the strong statement of the American Medical Women's Association.

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ON ABORTION LEGISLATION IN THE 105TH CONGRESS

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—The American Medical Women's Association, "is committed to protecting the reproductive rights of American women and has opposed any legislative intervention for medical and or surgical care decisions," says current AMWA President Debra R. Judelson, MD. This week, AMWA reiterated its opposition to H.R. 1122 and S. 6, which seek to ban a particular medical procedure.

It is the opinion of AMWA's Executive Committee that legislative efforts to regulate abortion have been flawed. Concerns in the following areas have prevented AMWA from taking a position on recent legislative efforts focusing on abortion in the 105th Congress.

AMWA is gravely concerned with governmental attempts to legislate medical decisionmaking through measures that do not protect a woman's physical and mental health, including future fertility, or fail to consider other pertinent issues, such as fetal abnormalities. Physicians and their patients base their decisions on the best available information at the time, often in emergency situations. AMWA strongly opposes governmental efforts to interfere with physician-patient autonomy.

It is irresponsible to legislate a particular test of viability without recognition that viability cannot always be reliably determined. Length of gestation is not the sole measure of viability because fetal dating is an inexact science.

AMWA resolutely opposes the levying of civil and criminal penalties for care provided in the best interest of the patient. AMWA strongly supports the principle that medical care decisions be left to the judgment of a woman and her physician without fear of civil action or criminal prosecution.

Any forthcoming legislation will be carefully reviewed by AMWA based on the criteria outlined above, and AMWA will seek to ensure that there is no further erosion of the constitutionally protected rights guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*. Says AMWA President Debra R. Judelson, MD, "AMWA firmly believes that physicians, not the President or Congress, should determine appropriate medical options. We cannot and will not support any measures that seek to undermine the ability of physicians to make medical decisions."

AMWA has long supported a woman's right to determine whether to continue or terminate her pregnancy without government restrictions placed on her physician's medical judgment and without spousal or parental interference.

Founded in 1915, the American Medical Women's Association represents more than 10,000 women physicians and medical students and is dedicated to furthering the professional and personal development of its members and promoting women's health.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act. This bill, which will be introduced in an identical format in the Senate, is bipartisan and will represent, what I hope will be a fun-

damental departure from "business-as-usual" human rights policy.

The persecution of people of faith is the great untold human rights story of the decade. With the end of the cold war came freedom for millions living under Communism in the former Soviet Union, Central Eastern Europe. During those years, many people of all faiths worked together with the Jewish community on behalf of those suffering persecution at the hands of the Communist dictators. The Jewish community led the fight and the Christians, though sometimes late, raised their voices and demanded justice for their faithful. But, with the dawn of freedom came a feeling that the problem had been solved.

Sadly, it has not. Millions of people of all faiths live in daily fear of secret police, vigilantes, state repression, or discrimination.

Religious persecution—and especially the persecution of Christians—did not dissipate with the cold war. It has persisted and accelerated. It has gotten worse while the world and the United States have turned their efforts elsewhere. A few groups have tried to keep the flame flickering. I am grateful for their work and efforts to document this problem. My thanks go out to the Catholic Church, Nina Shea with the Puebla Program of Freedom House; Michael Horowitz with the Hudson Institute; John Eigner and all those at Christian Solidarity International; Steven Snyder with International Christian Concern; John Hanford and with Senator LUGAR and his associates; Voice of the Martyrs; Open Doors; Diane Knippers with the Institute for Religious and Democracy; Paul Marshall, author of "Their Blood Cries Out"; and many, many others. In the House, individuals like CHRIS SMITH, TONY HALL, TOM LANTOS, and NANCY PELOSI and others have long been champions of religious freedom.

But generally the world has been deaf. U.S. policy does not reflect an understanding of the seriousness and intensity of this human tragedy. We have turned away while 1.5 million—Christians and Muslims—have been killed in Sudan. Millions of house church Christians in China are forced to risk their lives and their freedom to worship in secret to keep their faith independent of government control. Christians in Pakistan are having a difficult time and so are the Coptic Christians in Egypt. Tibetan Buddhists have seen their holy places destroyed and their religious leaders imprisoned, tortured, raped and beaten. Bahai's are executed in Iran. Muslims in Sudan are suffering.

We cannot be silent any longer. When we come to the defense of the "least of these," those who are persecuted for their religious beliefs, we raise the comfort level for all who are persecuted by dictators. When we speak for Christians, we also speak for Muslims. When we speak for Jews, we also speak for Bahai's. We are speaking for all of whatever belief.

This legislation tracks the resolutions and bill language passed in the 104th Congress and calling for action. The American Christian community has recognized these facts and begun calling for action on behalf of the millions of Christians who are being persecuted on account of their beliefs. It has joined forces with the Tibetan community and others to urge the United States to do more, to speak out in defense of the "least of these."

The United States must take a new approach to this growing problem—an approach

that says we will no longer be silent when regimes terrorize or allow terror against its religious believers.

The bill does a number of things:

It focuses on persecution—abduction, enslavement, imprisonment, killing, forced mass resettlement, rape, or torture.

It establishes an Office in the White House to monitor religious persecution and requires the Director to report to Congress on whether a country has category 1 persecution—government involvement—or category 2 persecution—no government involvement but lack of government action to stem persecution. We ask that the Director look at persecution of Tibetans, Bahai's, and Christians—the three groups which were the focus of resolutions—but encourage the Director to examine persecution of vulnerable communities whenever it occurs.

It shuts off aid to category 1 and 2 countries and requires U.S. executive directors to vote against multilateral development banks against loans to persecuting countries.

It improves refugee and asylum procedures to ensure those seeking refuge from persecution are not turned away from a country which has historically welcomes religious victims.

Finally, and I want to emphasize this point, the bill imposes immediate and tough sanctions on the Government of Sudan until it ceases all religious persecution. The sanctions prescribed in this bill are virtually identical to those imposed on South Africa in the anti-apartheid act of the 1980's such as ban on flights, ban on investment, and a ban on imports. Though its difficult to quantify human suffering, after having traveled to Sudan three times since 1989, I can say with some experience that the persecution occurring there is some of the worst I've ever seen. Slavery, forcible conversion, the use of food as a weapon, torture, kidnapping of children. It's time the United States singled this country out as an example of one of the most egregious violators of human rights in the world.

This bill is not intended as a panacea. The international community, the President, and the Congress must remain vigilant and speak out on individual cases.

This bill is intended to increase the priority given to this issue in our foreign policy and put the persecutors on alert. The United States will no longer acquiesce.

Jackson-Vanik was the movement that crystallized concern in the 1980's on behalf of those suffering persecution in the Soviet Union. I am hoping that this bill will be its counterpart for the 1990's.

It's an important and vital first step. We have 25 original bipartisan cosponsors in the House and we expect this bill to pass and to result in real action.

I want to thank all those who worked to put this bill together including Anne Huiskes on my staff; Bill Morley and Gretchen Birkle on Senator SPECTER's staff; and Grover Joseph Rees and Dorothy Taft on Representative CHRIS SMITH's staff. I also want to thank those outside groups who have worked on this bill including Michael Horowitz with the Hudson Institute, Heidi Stirrup, Christian Coalition; Will Dodson, Southern Baptist Convention; Will Nance, Prison Fellowship; Melissa McClard, Family Research Council; Nina Shea, Puebla Program; Father Keith Roderick; Dr. Whalid Phares; Ann Buwalda, Just Law, David Adams, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;

and the many others who have helped us craft this bill. Their efforts and input are greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE WHITTIER HOST LIONS CLUB IN RECOGNITION OF 75 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND INVALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the men and women of the Whittier Host Lions Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. On Saturday, May 31, 1997, the Whittier Host Lions Club will have a special ceremony in honor of this momentous occasion.

Sponsored by the Santa Ana Lions Club, the Whittier Host Lions Club was chartered on May 27, 1922. It is part of the International Association of Lions Clubs, known throughout the world for its humanitarian service, fellowship, and organizational leadership. The primary focus of this organization is service to the local community and to those in need throughout the world. Each year, Lions Clubs provide goods and services to thousands of people around the globe.

The Lions Club International began in June 1917, founded by a Chicago insurance agent, Melvin Jones. He presented to a group of small business clubs his proposal of consolidating their small clubs into a strong influential club. Its goal would be to serve the community and humanity. At the first annual convention in October 1917, 23 clubs participated. Today, there are more than 40,000 Lions Clubs.

The Whittier Host Lions Club has adhered to the international motto of service with distinction. Its members have provided countless hours of service to the community. Through the efforts of its members, the Whittier Host Lions Clubs has provided eyeglasses for area schoolchildren and invaluable support to the YMCA, Camp Arbolado, and Whittier Intercommunity Blind Center. It has organized a recycling center, contributing \$20,000 annually to civic projects and, since 1962, an Arabian Horse Show, contributing \$30,000 to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the men and women of the Whittier Host Lions Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and in recognition of its outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

CALLING FOR A U.S. INITIATIVE SEEKING A JUST AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION ON CYPRUS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Cyprus problem has been a matter of concern to the United States Congress now in excess of 22 years. It is a situation that cries out for just redress and an end to the occupation of Cyprus

by foreign troops. Although the world has dramatically changed for the better during this decade, Cyprus remains as a pressing international problem. Indeed Cyprus has almost become a codeword for intractability in the realm of diplomacy.

I have been encouraged, nevertheless, by recent statements from high level officials of the Clinton administration, including the President himself, that indicate that there may be new willingness on the part of our Government to exert its leadership in promoting a solution to the Cyprus problem. I strongly believe that our Government should invest some of our prestige in such an effort, because Americans have always supported justice, and because we have significant interests that can be affected by instability in Cyprus.

Over the past year there have been a number of events and incidents that have increased tensions in Cyprus and in the eastern Mediterranean region. There is a disturbing trend of increased militarization of the island, already one of the most highly militarized parts of the globe. There are, however, also positive developments that could act to catalyze a peaceful and just solution. One of these is the pending negotiation on Cyprus' accession to the European Union that may begin by the end of the year. There has been increased diplomatic activity in Europe and in the U.N. to bring the two sides together.

The resolution I introduced last week points out the interests and developments regarding the Cyprus situation and urges the President to keep his pledge to give increased attention to Cyprus. I am pleased to be joined by a group of distinguished cosponsors including Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. MALONEY, that have shared an interest in Cyprus and the concern over what may arise from a continued stalemate on the island. It is our hope that this resolution will help spur the resolve of the Clinton administration to indeed make 1997 the Year of Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I request that a full text of House Concurrent Resolution 81 be inserted at this point in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 81

Whereas the Republic of Cyprus has been divided and occupied by foreign forces since 1974 in violation of United Nations resolutions;

Whereas the international community, the Congress, and United States administrations have called for an end to the status quo on Cyprus, considering that it perpetuates an unacceptable violation of international law and fundamental human rights affecting all the people of Cyprus, and undermines significant United States interests in the Eastern Mediterranean region;

Whereas the international community and the United States Government have repeatedly called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of Cyprus;

Whereas there are internationally acceptable means to resolve the situation in Cyprus, including the demilitarization of Cyprus and the establishment of a multinational force to ensure the security of both communities in Cyprus;

Whereas the House of Representatives has endorsed the objective of the total demilitarization of Cyprus;

Whereas during the past year tensions on Cyprus have dramatically increased, with violent incidents occurring along cease fire lines at a level not reached since 1974;

Whereas recent events in Cyprus have heightened the potential for armed conflict