

TRIBUTE TO BARRIE AND
MICHAEL GROBSTEIN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Barrie and Michael Grobstein, who will be honored this year with the Circle of Life Award, given annually for service on behalf of the Jewish Home for the Aging, the largest continuing residential care facility in Southern California. Barrie and Michael are truly worthy of this distinguished award.

Through their involvement with The Executives, a group of business leaders from the San Fernando Valley formed to support this critically-needed facility, the Grobsteins have been instrumental in ensuring that the Jewish Home for the Aging has the financial support it needs to continue to provide seniors with the highest level of care. With the help of Barrie and Michael, The Executives has become one of the Los Angeles area's most distinguished and successful charitable organizations.

Michael has served as a founding member, executive committee member, and as president for three years of The Executives and its predecessor, The Valley Jewish Business Leaders Association.

The Jewish Home for the Aging is a truly unique facility. The average age of its 750 residents is 90 years. Each of its two campuses has a full-service medical clinic with state-of-the-art equipment and is staffed by on-site physicians, nurses, and medical and rehabilitation therapists. The Home's medical department is affiliated with UCLA's Division of Geriatric Medicine, and has developed a national reputation for its research in aging, long-term care, and Alzheimer's disease.

Barrie and Michael have been instrumental in making all this possible.

In addition to his work on behalf of the Jewish Home for the Aging, with Barrie's support Michael has served on the board of many other charitable organizations, including the Institute for Arteriosclerosis Research, Temple Valley Beth Shalom, International College, Ryokan College, the Pacific Association of Schools and Colleges, two organizations supporting the premier cancer research charity City of Hope, the West Coast Father's Day Council for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Sherman Oaks Hospital, and many others. Barrie also has been active in education on the danger of cults, serving as a Speaker for the Jewish's Federation's Anti-Cult Movement. She is also a long-term member of Valley Beth Shalom's Sisterhood.

The Grobstein's efforts on behalf of these charities and community groups have been paralleled by success in the business world. With Barrie's help, Michael's accounting practice grew from a one room office in 1967 to almost two floors in the same office building today and in one of the largest regional CPA firms in Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, Michael and Barrie Grobstein, who this year celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, are two of the San Fernando Valley's finest community leaders. I urge you and all my colleagues to join me today in honor of their achievements. They have truly served their community with distinction.

IN MEMORY OF KEITH D. OGLESBY

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to honor Keith D. Oglesby, the late Postmaster General of the Greenville, South Carolina Post Office. I am joined by the entire South Carolina delegation in this request to honor Keith Oglesby by renaming the Orchard Park Station of the Greenville Post Office as the Keith D. Oglesby Station.

Mr. Oglesby was a tireless worker, community activist, and beloved boss. His involvement with charitable organizations aided those in the Greenville community, the state of South Carolina, and the nation as a whole. Mr. Oglesby was the chairperson for Greenville County's Combined Federal Campaign, hosted the First-Day of Issue ceremonies for the Organ & Tissue Donation Stamp, filled Christmas stockings for the Salvation Army, coordinated postal blood drives, participated in March of Dimes WalkAmerica and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Additionally, he received the Greenville Family Partnership's Volunteer of the Year Award in 1997.

As a supervisor, Mr. Oglesby always told his workers to "Do the right thing," and this motto permeated his actions and expectations. Local postal customers, employees of the Greenville Post Office, and higher management of the United States Postal Service recognize the contributions of Keith Oglesby to his community and his faithful service to this nation. He was honored posthumously with his second Benjamin Award—the Postal Service's top public relations honor given to recognize community outreach accomplishments.

The unexpected death of Mr. Oglesby shocked and saddened the community of Greenville, South Carolina. As we grieve his loss, we would like to pay tribute to Mr. Oglesby by renaming a facility in his honor. The Keith D. Oglesby Station would be a permanent memorial of his steadfast service to our community and the United States Postal Service.

EXTRADITE PINOCHET TO SPAIN
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CRIMES IN
CHILE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today, Monday, September 27, 1999, almost a year after his arrest in Britain for human rights abuses during his 17-year rule in Chile, an extradition hearing for former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet has begun. Over the next five days, Magistrate Ronald Bartle of the Magistrates' Court will consider evidence for and against the extradition request for General Pinochet to face charges in Spain.

On Sunday, September 26, family, friends, and colleagues of two victims of Pinochet's murderous regime were remembered here in Washington, DC. Former Chilean Ambassador and Cabinet Minister Orlando Letelier and

United States citizen Ronni Karpen Moffitt were assassinated on September 21, 1976, by Chilean agents on the streets of Washington when Letelier's car exploded from a car bomb. Should Spain's request to extradite Pinochet to face charges of torture and murder be granted, then I hope the Letelier and Moffitt murders might be included in that trial, or that the United States government would also request extradition to try Pinochet in the United States for these two murders and the murders of other Americans in Chile.

I call upon the United States government to release all documents regarding human rights violations and the actions of the Chilean military, police, intelligence, and security agencies during the Pinochet regime, including documents regarding the role of United States agencies prior to and during the 1973 coup and during the 17-year rule of General Pinochet. I submit for the RECORD, my statement at Sunday's memorial event at Sheridan Circle commemorating the 23rd anniversary of the murders of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Moffitt.

IN MEMORY OF ORLANDO LETELIER AND RONNI
KARPEN MOFFITT

Twenty-three years ago, international terrorism exploded on the streets of our nation's capital with the brutal assassination of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Moffitt, and it changed our world forever.

As my former boss, mentor and dearest friend Senator George McGovern said from the pulpit at the funeral for Orlando and Ronni: "If Orlando Letelier must die at the age of forty-four and dear Ronni Moffitt must die at the age of twenty-five because of the unbridled power of madmen, then there is no security for any of us."

I won't try to speak as to how the world changed for the Letelier, Moffitt and Karpen families, or for the friends and colleagues of Orlando and Ronni. Their personal grief and journeys during the past two decades are private. But their public lives and advocacy have been an inspiration to all of us, including myself.

They have been tenacious in their search for the whole truth about how this heinous act took place and who was responsible.

They have lent their support and personal resources to the search for truth about other human rights crimes carried out by the Pinochet regime in Chile.

And they have enshrined the memories of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Moffitt by annually recognizing individuals and groups in the United States and throughout the world who continue the struggle for basic human rights, human dignity and social justice.

We are now at a historic moment in the search for truth and justice for the people of Chile. The effort to hold General Augusto Pinochet accountable for the crimes against humanity committed by his government and by his orders is important for the people of Chile and for those everywhere who suffer under repression. I support and salute the individuals, lawyers and jurists in Chile, Spain and the United Kingdom whose efforts have brought about the arrest, and hopefully the extradition, of General Pinochet. Human rights law and advocacy have all been strengthened by their singular dedication.

At this moment in history, when Chileans are attempting to confront and address their own past and seek justice, it is time—indeed it is past time—for the United States to open all its files on Chile. In particular, the CIA must stop blocking the declassification of Chile files and support the President's effort to release all documents.

It has been more than a quarter century since the violent military coup overthrew

the democratically elected government of Chile. Open the files, release the documents, let the light finally shine on this dark and shameful period. It will set us all free.

HINDUS ABDUCT, ABUSE NUN IN INDIA

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to read an article from the Indian Express of September 24 which reported that a nun was abducted in the Indian state of Bihar. This is the state where a priest was beheaded last year. Will the religious violence in India never stop?

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing this terrible event to my attention.

Sister Ruby of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was abducted September 20 after being forced into a rickshaw in the village of Chapra. The kidnappers threatened to rape her. The two men accused Sister Ruby of trying to convert Hindus and they threatened to "teach all Christians a lesson."

This is unfortunately typical. Christians were subjected to a wave of church burnings, as well as attacks on prayer halls and schools earlier this year. Another priest was murdered last week. Missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, were burned to death while they slept in their Jeep by a Hindu fundamentalist mob. Last year four nuns were raped and four priests were murdered. In 1997, police broke up a Christian festival with gunfire.

These incidents are related to religious conversions by members of the lower castes. To the Hindu militants, all conversions are forced conversions.

But it is not just the Christians who have suffered from this kind of religious persecution. Many of my colleagues and I have detailed the religious repression of Sikhs and Muslims by the Indian government and its agents and allies. Sikhs continue to be murdered for their religion and their Golden Temple remains under surveillance by plainclothes police officers fifteen years after the Indian government's attack on the Sikh Nation's holiest shrine. Muslims have seen their most revered mosque in India destroyed and many of their adherents killed.

We should support the right of the minority peoples of Khalistan, Kashmir, and Nagaland to a free and fair vote on independence from India.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the Indian Express report on the abduction of Sister Ruby into the RECORD.

[From the Indian Express, Sept. 24, 1999]

NUN KIDNAPPED, STRIPPED IN BIHAR; BISHOPS PROTEST

(By Arun Srivastava)

PATNA.—A nun was kidnapped, tied up and stripped in Chapra on September 20.

The nun, belonging to the congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart (better known as Pondicherry Blue Sisters), was forcefully taken in an autorickshaw by two unidentified men on Monday morning to a

secluded spot. Her hands were tied behind her back, she was stripped and was forced to drink their urine.

The nun, who hails from Pondicherry, came to Bihar recently and does not know the dialect. She is an inmate of the St. Joseph's Convent in Khalpura Inchapra which is involved in working with the poorest of the poor.

She had left her convent around 9 in the morning for Gandhi Chowk from where she took an autorickshaw for the local post office. There were two men in the autorickshaw.

When she realised that she was being taken through an unfamiliar route, she asked to be dropped off. They did not stop the vehicle and one of them took out a knife, threatened to kill her and accused her of converting people.

He asked her why she and others were still in Chapra and why they have not left for south India. He told her that Christians would be taught a lesson once the elections were over.

According to the Bishop of Bettiah, who in a statement narrated the whole incident, the nun was dragged out of the vehicle, her hands tied and then she was stripped. The two men urinated in a bottle and threatened to rape her when she refused to drink.

Later she was given back her clothes and warned not to contact anyone on the phone. One of the attackers followed to make sure that she did as told. Director General of Police A R Jacob said: "I have been briefed by the Bishop of Patna about the incident." He added: "Right now, I am unable to say anything about the incident. But I am seriously looking into it. I can assure that no one will be spared."

Jacob has assigned IG A K Gupta and the SP of Chapra to "personally investigate the matter." He has also sent to Chapra a senior woman officer who knows Tamil to investigate the incident.

The DGP said the FIR was filed only today as the local police station refused to register the case yesterday because the petition was in English. He is also looking into the delay in registering the case. The Bishop of Bettiah, Rev Victor Henry Thakur, visited the convent. The Archbishop Benedict J Osta and the Bishop of Bettiah have strongly condemned the outrageous attack and have demanded a thorough probe.

They stated that the Christians will not be frightened by such threats and will continue to serve the poor and the distressed more zealously.

Allen R Johannes, press secretary of the Diocese of Bettiah, said the ugly and inhuman act has shocked the entire Christian community in North Bihar and is creating an atmosphere of fear and panic among the Christian minority as the news spreads over the state.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 22, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and was not present during rollcall vote 430. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1501, JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in the five months since the shooting of 16 innocent high-school children at Columbine High School in a suburb of Denver, Colorado, over 500 American citizens have died as a result of gun violence. What has the Republican leadership in Congress done to address this problem? Absolutely nothing. What is worse, the motion offered by Congressman JOHN DOOLITTLE does even less. This motion, which says that anything during the conference of the Juvenile Justice bill that could possibly harm the Second Amendment to the Constitution should be rejected, is a terrible motion. It is terrible because Congress should protect our neighborhoods, our police departments, and the American people. This motion does protect one group of individuals—the gun lobby. I make no apologies for standing up for our neighborhoods, our police departments, or the citizens of the 15th Congressional District of Michigan.

This motion does not protect our neighborhoods. Several Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, have offered reasonable, sane, and safe recommendations regarding gun control. The issue of guns is one that cuts across the whole of America's fabric, but it especially harms minorities and urban areas—similar to the area which I am honored to serve. By limiting the options of Members to posit real and reasonable constitutional limits to control the glut of guns in our nation, this motion makes our neighborhoods unsafe. All we are asking is that gun dealers perform background checks, that child safety locks be sold on handguns, and that former criminals be prevented from buying guns.

This motion does not protect our police departments. The Fraternal Order of Police Officers and the International Association of Police Chiefs have endorsed measures similar to the Brady law. These same organizations have both supported measures that would get rid of "cop killer bullets", assault weapons and high-powered rifles. This motion would, incredibly, not allow these measures to be considered by the conferees.

This motion does not protect the Constitution. We have all sworn to protect and defend the Constitution. It is Congress' job to make laws; it is the job of the women and men of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution. We do not need to establish the precedent of "pre-interpreting" the Constitution for the sake of a sound bite or political folly. This motion removes the option of interpreting the Constitution from the Judicial branch, presupposing that Members of Congress know what is best for the Constitution.

I will continue to fight for our Constitution. I will continue to protect our children, our senior citizens, our neighborhoods, our police officers. I say no to the glut of guns on our streets and to the gun lobby. I urge my colleagues to say no to the Doolittle motion.