

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR
MEMBERS OF U.S. ARMED
FORCES ENGAGED IN MILITARY
OPERATIONS AGAINST FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 130, a resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives for our American troops engaged in military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Last year, I traveled to the Balkans as a representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. There, I was able to see firsthand the violence and destruction caused by a deep-seated hatred between ethnic groups, and more specifically, by the policies of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and his oppressive regime.

For the past 2 years, the world has watched as the ethnic Albanian people in Kosovo have been subjected to numerous killings, rapes, torture, and other forms of violence and human suffering. I strongly believe that something must be done to bring about a permanent end to the egregious human rights violations that are occurring against these people.

I support the President's decision to allow our troops to participate in NATO air strikes against Serbian forces within Yugoslavia. I am closely monitoring this situation and offer my hopes and prayers for all of our young men and women who are bravely serving their nation in the name of peace.

PEACE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and with gratitude to Edmund Burke and paraphrase words he first spoke 224 years ago this week. As it is presently true that to restore liberty and dignity to a nation so great and distracted as ours is indeed a significant undertaking. For, judging of what we are by what we ought to be, I have persuaded myself that this body might accept this reasonable proposition.

The proposition is peace. Not peace through the medium of war, not peace to be hunted through the labyrinth of intricate and endless negotiations; not peace to arise out of universal discord, fomented from principle, in all part of the earth; not peace to depend on juridical determination of perplexing questions, or the precise marking the shadowy boundaries of distant nations. It is simply peace, sought in its natural course and in its ordinary haunts.

Let other nations always keep the idea of their sovereign self-government associated with our Republic and they will befriend us, and no force under heaven will be of power to tear them from our allegiance. But let it be once understood that our government may be

one thing and their sovereignty another, that these two things exist without mutual regard one for the other—and the affinity will be gone, the friendship loosened and the alliance hasten to decay and dissolution. As long as we have the wisdom to keep this country as the sanctuary of liberty, the sacred temple consecrated to our common faith, wherever mankind worships freedom they will turn their faces toward us. The more they multiply, the more friends we will have, the more ardently they love liberty, the more perfect will be our relations. Slavery they can find anywhere, as near to us as Cuba or as remote as China. But until we become lost to all feeling of our national interest and natural legacy, freedom and self-rule they can find in none but the American founding. These are precious commodities, and our nation alone was founded them. This is the true currency which binds to us the commerce of nations and through them secures the wealth of the world. But deny others of their national sovereignty and self-government, and you break that sole bond which originally made, and must still preserve, friendship among nations. Do not entertain so weak an imagination as that UN Charters and Security Councils, GATT and international laws, World Trade Organizations and General Assemblies, are what promote commerce and friendship. Do not dream that NATO and peacekeeping forces are the things that can hold nations together. It is the spirit of community that gives nations their lives and efficacy. And it is the spirit of the constitution of our founders that can invigorate every nation of the world, even down to the minutest of these.

For is it not the same virtue which would do the thing for us here in these United States? Do you imagine that that it is the Income Tax which pays our revenue? That it is the annual vote of the Ways and Means Committee, which provide us an army? Or that it is the Court Martial which inspires it with bravery and discipline? No! Surely, no! It is the private activity of citizens which gives government revenue, and it is the defense of our country that encourages young people to not only populate our army and navy but also has infused them with a patriotism without which our army will become a base rubble and our navy nothing but rotten timber.

All this, I know well enough, will sound wild and chimerical to the profane herd of those vulgar and mechanical politicians who have no place among us: a sort of people who think that nothing exists but what is gross and material, and who, therefore, far from begin qualified to be directors of the great movement of this nation, are not fit to turn a wheel in the machinery of our government. But to men truly initiated and rightly taught, these ruling and master principles, which in the opinion of such men as I have mentioned have no substantial existence, are in truth everything. Magnanimity in politics is often the truest wisdom, and a great nation and little minds go ill together. If we are conscious of our situation, and work zealously to fill our places as becomes the history of this great institution, we ought to auspiciate all our public proceedings on Kosovo with the old warning of the Church, *Sursum corda!* We ought to elevate our minds to the greatness of that trust to which the order of Providence has called us. By adverting to the dignity of this high calling, our forefathers turned a savage wilderness into a glorious nation, and have made the most ex-

tensive and the only honorable conquests, not by bombing and sabre-rattling, but by promoting the wealth, the liberty, and the peace of mankind. Let us gain our allies as we obtain our own liberty. Respect of self-government has made our nation all that it is, peace and neutrality alone will makes ours the Republic that it can yet still be.

HONORING DAVID E. SMITH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the accomplishments of a man who has made it his life's work to protect and defend human dignity, and to ensure the safety of our shores, for our citizens and our children. On April 23, friends and family will gather to honor the career of State Commander David E. Smith, for a lifetime of service, including more than 20 years as a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

A lifetime resident of Michigan, David Smith's introduction to the United States Armed Forces began with his grandfather, who served in World War I, and his father, Earl, who served in World War II. Upon completion of his tour of duty, the elder Mr. Smith moved his family to Christmas, Michigan, and later Mount Morris, in the Flint area. Mr. Smith enlisted in the United States Army on June 20, 1960, and served for six years, three of which were in Germany as a member of the 7th Army. He also served with the 1st Armored Division in Fort Hood, Texas, and the 1st Army at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. During this time, he rose to the rank of Sergeant.

In May of 1966, Sergeant Smith was medically discharged with service connected disability, however has continued to serve his country as he worked for the Department of the Army in Dover, New Jersey, before returning to Michigan in 1967. He began a career with general motors, which spanned three years before his disability prevented him from continuing. Showing determination to excel despite his disability, Mr. Smith and his family moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to be close to VA physicians. Mr. Smith began a new career, one that lasted five years until his disability rating was upgraded to 100% and he was ordered to cease working altogether.

In July of 1974, Mr. Smith joined the Disabled American Veterans as a like member. He began regularly attending DAV meetings in the fall of 1983. His regular attendance of Chapter Service Officer trainings prepared him for his future roles as Chapter Adjutant, Treasurer, and Service Officer. For three years, Mr. Smith served as Chapter Commander, and has held every statewide Vice-Commander positions, prior to his current position as State Commander. He has been honored as Chapter Service Officer of the Year on five separate occasions, and was recognized as Michigan Disabled Veteran of the Year in 1990.

Mr. Speaker, as we owe much to our nation's veterans, Commander David Smith has acknowledged the fact that his accomplishments would not have been possible without support from his wife Peggy, and his children, all of whom, are veterans as well. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in

congratulating him for this dedication and perseverance.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEART
CENTER AT PARMA COMMUNITY
GENERAL HOSPITAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the opening of the Heart Center at Parma Community General Hospital and the hospital's continued dedication to meeting the healthcare needs of the community.

Parma Community General Hospital, a not-for-profit, community-based hospital dedicated to bringing high quality health care services in a familiar, cost-effective setting, received numerous awards in 1998. According to a study by a national organization, Parma Hospital was rated first in quality of care in orthopedics of the 31 hospitals in its six-county region. In addition, Parma Hospital ranked in the top five in overall performance based on all services offered.

The nursing staff, a critical element in Parma Hospital's excellence, also received accolades for their commitment to quality. Mary Ann Hassing, R.N., in the Small Wonders Maternity Unit, was named Health Care Worker of the Year by the Ohio Association for Hospitals and Health Systems. In addition, Karen Krauth, R.N., certified Diabetes Educator and Renee Knapp, R.N. who works in the Emergency Department, were chosen by the Plain Dealer readers as the Best of the Best.

Last year, Parma also became the first hospital in the area to sign the pledge created by the National Healthcare Workers Safety Program and convert to needle safety blood drawing products and IV angiocatheters. Parma also provided care for a record number of patients in the Emergency Room in 1998.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the accomplishments of Parma Community General Hospital and the Sunday, March 28, 1999 opening of the Heart Center at Parma Community General Hospital.

CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the organizing work of Cesar Chavez and to memorialize his lifelong struggle for justice, respect, and decent living conditions for America's farm workers.

Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, on a small farm in Arizona. When he died in 1993, at the age of 66, Cesar was President of the United Farm Workers of America. For most of his life, Cesar toiled on farms—both picking fruit and organizing workers—and dedicated himself to improving the plight of migrant workers.

Cesar grew up living as a migrant farm worker in the Southwest, and migrated with his family in their struggles to earn a living. His experiences taught him the importance of

collective action and the importance of organizing to address America's economic and social inequity.

Cesar Chavez and his family were living in the East San Jose barrio of Sal Si Puedes, roughly translated this means Get Out If You Can, in 1952. That year, Cesar met Fred Ross Sr., an organizer for the Community Service Organization (C.S.O.), one of the first civic action groups in the Mexican-American communities of California and Arizona. Fred Ross became his mentor, and together they built 32 chapters of the C.S.O., organizing thousands of Mexican Americans to become active leaders of their communities. Cesar taught these leaders how to organize and win battles to end discrimination in education, housing, employment and health care. He led successful citizenship, voter registration, and get out the vote campaigns in both urban and rural communities throughout California. Because of his efforts, more than 500,000 new voters were added to America's rolls in the 1950's and early 1960's.

Due to his determination and hard work, he rose from his humble origins to become the national director of CSO. He departed in 1962 to found the National Farm Workers Association. Against great odds, Cesar led a successful five year strike and boycott that rallied millions of supporters to the farm workers movement. He forged an international support coalition of unions, religious groups, students, minorities and fair minded consumers.

From the beginning, he adhered to the principles of non-violence practiced by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1968, Cesar fasted for 25 days to reaffirm the UFW's commitment to non-violence. The late Senator Robert F. Kennedy called Cesar "one of the heroic figures of our time" and joined him in Delano when he ended his fast.

Cesar's work has had a lasting impact on our nation. Seventeen million Americans honored the grape boycott, and thousands joined his non-violent struggle for justice in more active ways, through picket lines, civil disobedience, going to jail, and working as five dollar per week plus room and board volunteers, the same compensation that Cesar earned. My San Francisco District Director, Fred Ross Jr., son of Cesar's mentor, was one of these young people inspired by Cesar to join the cause and help migrant workers win the respect, dignity, and decent living conditions that they deserved.

On August 8, 1994, Cesar posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor in the United States. Recently, the U.S. Department of Labor honored him by inducting him into its Hall of Fame.

I support House Joint Resolution 22, To Commemorate the Birthday of Cesar E. Chavez, which would declare March 31 a Federal holiday in his honor. Cesar dedicated his life to improving the living conditions of America's workers. I urge my colleagues to recognize his life's work.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON HIGH
SCHOOL CHOIR

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to thirty extraordinarily gifted young men and

women from Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District who are in Washington this week to display their talents before the nation.

Under the leadership of Mr. Reginald Gaston, the Hamilton High School Choir has become one of the best concert and gospel choirs in the State of Tennessee. Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, the Hamilton Choir has earned national recognition for their superior ratings in the recent Mid-America Choral Festival in Orlando, Florida.

It gives me great honor, Mr. Speaker, to present the names of these thirty fine young representatives Tennessee's Ninth District: Marlon Mitchell, Mario Albright, Jason Mitchell, Jacinth Ragland, Jattir Ragland, Phillip Britteum, Jonathan Anderson, Burl Toler, Jared Bledsoe, Tre' Canady, Royry Walker, Rickeya Townes, Felecia Wiggins, Sally Ousley, Yamina Tunstall, Sekida Norwood, Tawanda Dean, Sukeeya Haley, April Johnson, Christian Kirk, Sharonda, Walker, Ranata Adams, Thais Polk, Jovannii Ayers, LaDaris Spearman, Paige Brown, Yolanda Bolton, Ashley Wheeler, Monique Joiner, Tinisha Daniels, and Ms. Adrienne Strong. The hard work of these young people defies the inaccurate notion of an "uncommitted generation." The young people of this nation possess an overwhelming level of dedication and aptitude, and the students of the Hamilton High School Choir serve as a testimony to that.

We must continue to encourage the young people of this nation. We must continue to remind them of their potential. Moreover, we must congratulate them when they reach their goals and fulfill their potential. In that spirit, it gives me great pleasure to present this inspirational group of young men and women to official Washington, to my colleagues and to the hundreds of Americans who will be touring the people's capitol. May their voices ring from the steps of the capitol and echo the dedication and commitment of their generation.

THE CHARITABLE GIVING TAX
RELIEF ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my Ways and Means Committee colleagues Messrs. COYNE and HERGER and Mrs. THURMAN in introducing the Charitable Giving Tax Relief Act.

Identical to a bill we introduced in the 105th Congress, the Charitable Giving Tax Relief Act will allow taxpayers who do not itemize their tax returns to deduct a portion of their charitable giving. Specifically, non-itemizers whose cumulative annual charitable donations exceed \$500 will be able to deduct 50 percent of any charitable donations over that amount.

Under current law, non-itemizers receive a standard deduction while only taxpayers who itemize their deductions receive a direct tax benefit for giving to charity. Non-itemizers make up the vast majority of tax filers with two and a half times more returns than itemizers. Moreover, non-itemizers are typically middle to lower middle income level taxpayers who, despite their modest earnings, still give quite generously to charitable causes. In fact, non-itemizers earning less than \$30,000 give the