

I'm pleased that the state of Ohio has stepped up to the plate and passed a farmland preservation bill. As a co-author of national legislation to preserve for agricultural production, I am gratified that our state will now join dozens of other in adopting a policy for land reuse and for the voluntary set-aside of land for agricultural production in perpetuity.

Preserving our farmlands means revitalizing the core of our cities, townships and villages. The Mayor of Fostoria, Ohio had it right recently when he said, "the best thing I can do to protect farmland is make my city worth investing in."

For America's first two centuries, our communities have grown without more constraints. We could easily cast away old city neighborhoods for the suburbs and treat prime productive land as though it were no different from asphalt. Those choices won't be the same for those who live in the 21st century as the world's population reaches eight to twelve billion people.

I'm reminded of the words of Daniel Webster:

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

We must put people and vision back at the center of our planning efforts. We must be conscious of our region and the earth as an ecosystem that needs tending. A common vision for an American future that is sustainable must be our objective.

CHILDREN'S DAY IN TURKEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, later this week the Republic of Turkey will celebrate "Children's Day" as has been the custom every April 23rd since the early 1920s. Such festive occasions are important reminders of the wonderful blessing that children are to family and society alike. Regrettably, the joy of this celebration will not be shared by all children in Turkey. Recently, I chaired a hearing of the Helsinki Commission that reviewed human rights practices in Turkey, an original signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. The disturbing testimony presented at that hearing underscored the vulnerability of children.

Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Harold Koh, cited the case of two-year-old Azat Tokmak to illustrate how terrible and dehumanizing the practice of torture is for everyone involved, including children. Azat was tortured, according to Mr. Koh, in an effort to secure a confession from her mother. He testified: "In April [1998] the Istanbul Chamber of Doctors certified that Azat showed physical and psychological signs of torture after detention at an Istanbul branch of the anti-terror police. Azat's mother, Fatma Tokmak, was detained in December 1996 on suspicion of membership in the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Azat was burned with cigarettes and kicked in an effort to make her mother confess." Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a two-year-old child—a baby—being tortured by police.

At the same March 18th hearing, Stephen Rickard, Director of the Washington Office of Amnesty International USA, observed, "There is something Orwellian about calling units that torture and beat children and sexually assault their victims 'anti-terror' police." Mr. Rickard displayed a photograph of Done Talun, a twelve-year-old girl from a poor neighborhood in Ankara, to give a human face to the problem of torture in Turkey. "For five days, she was beaten and tortured while her frantic family asked for information about her whereabouts and condition," Rickard said. Done was accused of stealing some bread. Her torture reportedly occurred at the Ankara Police Headquarters. "Is this young girl's case unique? Unfortunately, it is not," he concluded. Mr. Rickard presented the Commission with a recent AI report: "Gross Violations in the Name of Fighting Terror: The Human Rights Record Of Turkey's 'Anti-Terror' Police Units." The report includes a section on the torture of children.

Mr. Douglas A. Johnson, Executive Director of the Center for Victims of Torture, testified that there are thirty-seven different forms of torture practiced in Turkey today. Addressing the torture of children, Johnson observed, "twenty percent of our clients over the years were tortured when they were children, and usually that was to use them as a weapon against their parents," similar to the case of two-year-old Azat Tokmak.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Clinton Administration to press the Government of Turkey to eliminate the climate of impunity that has allowed children like Azat and Done to be subjected to such gross abuse at the hands of the police. Then, and only then, will children such as these—"the least of these"—be able to fully partake in the joy of this special Children's Day set aside to celebrate their lives and those of all children in Turkey.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, gun related violence is an issue that has, in recent years adversely affected the lives of American children and adults. We have a responsibility, as leaders and parents to address this problem and work towards creating a solution. Children should feel safe in our Nation's urban and rural areas, and in order to create an environment that is a safe one, we must deal with the issue of the misuse and abuse of guns. I feel that this issue may be addressed by requiring manufacturers to fit firearms with a child safety lock. Therefore, I felt that it was necessary to introduce the Child Safety Lock Act of 1999.

This bill will prohibit any person from transferring or selling a firearm, in the United States, unless it is sold with a child safety lock. Further, this legislation would prohibit the transfer or sale of firearms by federally licensed dealers and manufacturers unless a child safety lock is an integral component of the firearm.

A child safety lock is a locking mechanism that attaches to the trigger guard of a firearm. The device fits over the trigger guard and the

trigger, preventing the firearm from unintentionally discharging. Once the device is properly applied, it cannot be removed unless it is unlocked.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, more than 5,000 innocent boys and girls have lost their lives due to unintentional firearm related death. Between 1983 and 1994, 5,523 males between the ages of 1 and 19 were killed by the unintentional discharge of a firearm. The loss of these young lives can be prevented, which is why this legislation is necessary.

To improve the quality of life for children and adults, and avoid the continued senseless bloodshed and loss of life of children around this country, we should work together to pass the Child Safety Lock Act of 1999. It is our obligation to protect our children. This bill does just that, it protects our children and it protects their future.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION AS INTRODUCED

Section 1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the "Child Safety Lock Act of 1999."

Section 2. Findings

Presents findings to support the need for this legislation.

TITLE 1—CRIMINAL PROVISIONS

Section 101. Handgun safety

Defines what a locking device is, provides for locking devices and warnings on handguns and penalties related to locking devices and warnings.

TITLE 2—REGULATORY PROVISIONS

Section 201. Regulation of trigger lock devices

Establishes general authority for the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations governing trigger lock devices.

Section 202. Orders inspections

Allows the Secretary of the Treasury to issue an order and/or inspections regarding a trigger lock device which is in violation of this title.

Section 203. Enforcement

Allows the Secretary of the Treasury to assess civil penalties and/or criminal penalties for violation of a provision of this title.

Section 204. No effect on State law

This title does not annul, alter, impair, or affect, or exempt any person subject to the provisions of this title from complying with, any provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, except to the extent that such provisions of State law are inconsistent with any provision of this title, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

Section 205. Definitions

Defines terms used in this title.

TITLE 3—EDUCATION PROVISIONS

Section 301. Portion of firearms tax revenue to be used for public education on safe storage of firearms

Uses 2 percent of the firearms tax revenue and uses it for public education on the safe storage and use of firearms.

HONORING MR. JOHN P. VASSAK FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special person. This morning I have the

pleasure of meeting the North Salem Middle School's 8th Grade Class on the steps of the U.S. House of Representatives.

This is not the first time I have met with the fine young men and women of the middle school. What makes this visit so extraordinary is that this year marks the 25th time Mr. John P. Vassak—a dedicated social studies teacher—has personally escorted his classes to our nation's capitol.

By investing his time year after year to bring his students to Washington, DC he excites their minds and instills in them a greater understanding for how our government works. He is able to show them the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the White House while he teaches the importance of the checks and balances in the three branches of our government. He is also able to point out the various monuments to our heroes who have served to protect the freedom we all enjoy.

Through his generosity of time and talents, Mr. Vassak has exemplified the pride for our nation and instills in these children the respect for our democracy it so deserves. These children will understand the foundation of our government and their rights and responsibilities in our democracy. Because of Mr. Vassak's dedication, they will forever be better citizens. Congratulations to you, Mr. Vassak.

CONGRATULATING THE BOWIE
BLADE-NEWS ON WINNING NEWS-
PAPER OF THE YEAR

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Maryland's most informative and well respected newspapers, "The Bowie Blade-News." The Blade-News was recently named Newspaper of the Year for its division, by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association. In addition, Editor John Rouse and five other members of the editorial staff were recognized for their work in various categories for a total of 14 awards.

Blade-News photographer Sharon Tazelaar received a first-place award for the division in the category of Spot News Photo, beating out photojournalists from daily newspapers such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun. Other Blade-News staff receiving awards were Sports Editor Christine Krapf, and staff writers Cheryl Allison, David Emanuel and Donna Reifsnider.

Having been involved in public service in Maryland for much of my life, I have had the distinct honor of working with John Rouse and his staff of reporters and photographers. Rouse, who has held the title of Editor at the Blade-News for 27 years has worked hard to ensure that the Bowie Blade-News upholds the Capital-Gazette Newspapers philosophy which is, "Every issue of every newspaper represents a battle for excellence." Under Rouse's leadership, the Bowie Blade-News has become a vital source of information for the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Capital-Gazette Newspapers, which owns and publishes the Bowie Blade-News, has a long and rich history of informing the people of Maryland and is one of the oldest newspaper publishers in the coun-

try. The company's original newspaper, the Maryland Gazette, was first published in 1727 and many of the reports published in the Gazette were copied by Benjamin Franklin and other Colonial editors for their own newspapers. This newspaper also has the distinction of having had the first woman editor and publisher of a newspaper in the American Colonies.

The Maryland Gazette also survived strong local sympathies for the Confederacy, all the while sharply criticizing the movement to dissolve the Union. In fact, the newspaper was saved by President Abraham Lincoln when he appointed the publisher as the federal paymaster for the state of Maryland, helping the publisher to subsidize his newspaper.

Under the guidance of John Rouse, the Bowie Blade-News is upholding this tradition of seeking out the truth and providing the information to the surrounding community. It plays a vital role in the daily lives of the people who rely on it for news and information about their neighborhoods. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such an honorable news organization in my Congressional District and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bowie Blade-News on being named the 1998 Newspaper of the Year by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association.

AUTHORIZING AWARDING OF GOLD
MEDAL TO ROSA PARKS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to one of our Nation's heroes. Rosa Louise McCauley Parks has been called the Mother of the modern civil rights movement. She was born in Alabama in 1913 and grew up in a racially segregated world. Rosa was forced to endure the horrors of white hooded racists who burned crosses and terrorized blacks. She was part of a generation of black children who were denied access to a public education and denied their basic human rights as equal citizens under law. But Rosa Parks was among those who championed the cause of right over might, for the sake of black Americans and all Americans. She overcame her fears of the segregated society in which she lived and faced down the racial hatred that clouded her childhood.

December 1, 1955, marked a turning point in the life of Rosa Parks. After a hard day of work, she claimed a seat on a Montgomery city bus and then she refused to give it up to a white male. Her actions inspired the Montgomery bus boycott that led to the Supreme Court ruling overturning the laws of Alabama. This simple act of courage changed her life forever. Her decision is now remembered as the spark that lit the path of the march for civil rights. In 1955 Rosa Parks stayed in her seat and stood up to scores of unjust and racist laws. She has spent the rest of her life working and struggling for justice and equality for all.

Mrs. Parks' peaceful defiance of racial segregation made her a legend in the history of this Nation. Today, children who understand little of the real horrors of racial segregation

know the tale of Rosa Parks and how she helped to lead our nation to the end of this truly terrible chapter in our history.

Today, Mrs. Parks is a legend who reminds us that though much has been accomplished since that cold December night in Montgomery AL, nearly 44 years ago, the struggle to end racism and inequality is far from over. I salute Rosa Parks for her innumerable contributions to our Nation—she is a woman whose story will inspire generations to come. I urge passage of H.R. 563, authorizing the President of the United States to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Mrs. Rosa Parks.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY AND OZZIE
GOREN AND THEIR FAMILY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friends, Ozzie and Dorothy Goren, and their children, Jerry, Carol, and Bruce, who are all being honored this year by Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. Every member of the Goren family gives tireless and selfless service to a wide variety of Jewish organizations and agencies. The Goren family is legendary for its generosity and commitment to human rights, civil rights and human relations.

The Gorens have not only served their community in Los Angeles, they have extended their benevolent service to many institutions in Israel as well. Since their first visit in 1962, Ozzie and Dorothy have returned 62 times. Like few other visitors, the Gorens have left their mark on Israel. If you are in Mitze Ramon, you can visit the Dorothy and Ozzie Goren Day Care Center, which serves children from infancy to 3 years old. Together with our mutual friends, Richard and Lois Gunther, the Gorens created a special park in Tel Aviv where Arab and Israeli children play together every day.

The Gorens taught their children well and the entire family is involved in philanthropic activities. Jerry Goren, (the Goren's oldest son) and his partner Julia Coley, have implemented a law and public school magnet program at Dorsey High School in southwest Los Angeles. Daughter Carol, together with her husband Rob Corn, volunteers at the Board of Hertz School, the Colorado Humane Society and the Jewish Family Service of Denver. Bruce, Dorothy and Ozzie's youngest son, met his future wife, Susie, during a leadership mission to Israel. Now a successful businessman, he is a past board member of Jewish Family Service of Santa Monica. Susie is active with the Stephen Wise Temple board, the Jewish Federal Council and is completing the Wexner Heritage Program.

Among Dorothy's notable achievements is service as past president of Jewish Family Service, as a member of the Board of the Jewish Home for the Aging, and as the first woman to chair the overall United Jewish Fund Campaign.

Ozzie has also chaired the United Jewish Fund Campaign and served as Jewish Federation President. His close work with the Southern California Human Relations Commission and the Urban League has benefited