

Korean war. We owe them a debt of gratitude which we can never repay. For these are the men and women who risked their lives to defend the freedom of another country, and in doing so defended our own freedom.

I am very proud to represent the many veterans who reside in New York's 12th District. Today, however, I would like to take a moment to commemorate the valor of one of those veterans. Mr. Miguel Bach, who is one of my constituents, is highly decorated veteran of the Korean war. He served in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division and the 45th Infantry Division. While on active duty in Korea in December of 1952, then Private First Class Bach was wounded during a battle in North Korea. For this he was awarded the Purple Heart. He later attained the rank of staff sergeant. In addition to the Purple Heart, Staff Sgt. Bach has been awarded with the Silver Star, Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star for his service to the nation.

This nation owes its many freedoms to the thousands of men and women who have shown courage, such as that displayed by Staff Sgt. Bach. I wish to personally thank each and every one of our combat veterans. On this day I specifically wish to extend my warmest thanks to our veterans of the Korean war and say how proud I am to represent Staff Sergeant Bach and his many fellow Korean war veterans in New York's 12th District. Our nation is forever in their debt.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAVID MOORE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a special service officer, Captain David Moore, commander of Coast Guard Group and Air Station Corpus Christi, who retires this week.

Captain Moore is the model service officer for the Coast Guard. In addition to just being an outstanding man, he deals squarely with whatever comes up, and he is a tireless advocate for the United States Coast Guard and the men and women who serve in his command.

This Coastie from the heartland (Iowa) began his service with the U.S. Coast Guard as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard Icebreaker *Glacier*, deployed to both the Arctic and Antarctica, where he developed a love of the earth's polar regions. He later earned his Naval aviator wings in Pensacola, FL.

While stationed in Alabama, after his first Coast Guard aviation tour, he was the operational commander for recovery operations after the onslaught of Hurricane Frederick. More importantly, while there, he met and married the former Lisa Scott of Mobile, Alabama.

Returning to the Arctic, Captain Moore was stationed at Kodiak, Alaska. Following that, he moved to Air Station San Francisco where he deployed support to the Exxon Valdez cleanup and responded to the San Francisco Bay Area earthquake in 1988.

In 1994, he returned to Alaska, stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, the area to

which he and Lisa will return upon his retirement. In 1996, he went south again, this time as chief of the Intelligence Division, Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda, California. He came to South Texas in 1998, assuming command of Group and Air Station Corpus Christi.

During his time in South Texas, he has overseen a growth in the Coast Guard facilities in Port Isabel/South Padre Island and was the incident commander for Hurricane Brett last year.

He is highly decorated; his personal awards for service include: 4 Coast Guard Commendation Medals, 4 Coast Guard Unit Commendations, 6 Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendations, a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, 5 Humanitarian Service Medals and both the Arctic and Antarctica Service Medals. Captain Moore has accumulated over 6,000 flight hours, and his flight accomplishments include instructor pilot and chief of the Training Division at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this unique patriot as he and his wife leave South Texas for life as civilians in Alaska.

IN HONOR OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA'S TEN YEARS OF AIR QUALITY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the outstanding environmental achievements of Lake County, California. June 28th of this year will mark the tenth consecutive year that the California Air Resources Board has designated Lake County as the only air district in California to attain all state ambient air quality standards. This is a great accomplishment for Lake County, as the State of California's Ambient Air Quality Standards are far more stringent than Federal standards, which makes this accomplishment even more remarkable.

The attainment of these air standards is a shared community achievement by the people of Lake County. The agencies, industries and individuals of this region have all contributed to the superior air quality of Lake County. There are many factors which have been involved in Lake County's success. All the best available control technologies in the geothermal, plastic fabrication and mining industries have been implemented. There has been a massive retrofitting of older gasoline stations and asphalt plants and a successful burn ban has been invoked during the summer season to decrease smog levels. Along with help from the public, these projects have been key factors in Lake County's continuous achievement in meeting state air quality standards.

There are thirteen official air basins in the state of California and the Lake County basin is the only one which complies with all ten of the state standards and has been the only one able to do so on a consistent basis. By implementing the Geyser's Air Monitoring Program, the Lake County Geyser industry has been able to drastically reduce the naturally occurring emissions of hydrogen sulfide gas, which is a known air contaminant. Yet, these gey-

sers are still able to generate electricity for nineteen power plants which themselves create enough electricity to power 880,000 homes.

Mr. Speaker, it is proper that we honor the people, industries and government of Lake County, California for their outstanding success in creating a healthy environment. They have been able to achieve standards of air quality which all communities should strive for. It is an honor for me to represent the people of Lake County, first as their State Senator and now as their Congressman. Through their efforts they have created a community which is both a safe and healthy place to live for all its citizens.

CATHOLIC PRIEST MURDERED IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a publication entitled the Burning Punjab reported recently that another priest was murdered in India on Tuesday, June 6, 2000 by militant Hindu fundamentalist extremists. He was murdered in his mission near Mathura in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The priest, Brother George, was a 35-year-old member of the Borivilil order.

According to reports, the killers locked up Brother George's servant, broke into his room, and beat him to death. The assailants quickly escaped following the brutal attack. Because the crime seems to form a pattern with a previous incident in which a priest and two nuns were beaten in their rooms in Kosi Kalan, many people are beginning to believe that this act was the work of Hindu nationalist militants associated with a branch of the RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP. Several Christian organizations in India, including the All-India Catholic Union, the United Christian Forum of Human Rights, and the All-India Christian Council, have lodged strong protests about the incident with the government. They also condemned the attempt by the National Human Rights Commission to minimize two violent incidents against Christians in April. Unless the National Human Rights Commission begins taking these incidents seriously, it unfortunately will be regarded as a puppet for the government.

Mr. Speaker, just recently I informed my colleagues that many people already believe that the March massacre of 35 Sikhs at Chhatti Singhpora was the responsibility of government forces. In fact, two separate investigations have already implicated Indian government counterinsurgency forces in that brutal massacre.

If we discover that these recent crimes have been committed by this group of BJP militants or government forces, India will have much explaining to do to this Congress. In fact, they should be held accountable for all their senseless actions. For years, I have been providing this Congress with reports that the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984; 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947; more than 65,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988; and tens of thousands of Asamese, Manipuris, Tamils, and Dalits.

As a result, I still believe we should cut off U.S. development aid to India until it respects the human rights of its people. Also, if we are looking for terrorism in South Asia, why are we completely ignoring India? Finally, we should openly support self-determination for the people of Christian Nagaland, of Khalistan, of Kashmir, and all the other nations seeking their freedom from India.

We must make it clear that oppression in India must end and all people in South Asia must enjoy freedom. This pattern of oppression of Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities is not going to end until America, the only superpower in the world, takes a strong stand and makes it clear to India that these actions are not acceptable, especially in a country that claims to be democratic.

I am placing the article from *Burning Punjab* into the RECORD.

[From the *Burning Punjab News*, June 7, 2000]

CATHOLIC PRIEST MURDERED IN HIS MISSION HOME

New Delhi—A Catholic priest was murdered in his mission home near Mathura in Uttar Pradesh last night, All-India Catholic Union (AICU) alleged here. Quoting information from Archbishop of Agra Diocese Vincent Concessao, AICU said in a statement that "brother George, a 35-year-old member of the Borivili order, was found battered to death in Nevada in the Adviki post area on the Mathura bypass." The Union also alleged that though there were no indications about the motives, the crime seemed to follow the pattern of violence at Kosi Kalan earlier this year in which a priest and two nuns were assaulted and their rooms ransacked. "Early information said some persons, still to be identified, entered the house, locked up the servant, and then entered George's room. They beat him up till he was dead and then escaped in the night," the statement said. Besides AICU, other church and human rights groups, including the United Christian Forum for Human Rights and the All-India Christian Council, lodged strong protests with the Government on the violence. The church groups also condemned the alleged attempt by the National Commission for Minorities, which sent a team to Mathura and Agra in April to probe the attacks on Christians, to "trivialise" the violence in its report.

THE CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2000

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce, along with several of my colleagues, the Classroom Modernization Act of 2000, otherwise known as the CMA. This legislation will provide the necessary federal response to ensure that all children receive a high-quality education in a safe, suitable, and fully equipped classroom.

Research shows that academic performance suffers when students are in school buildings that are below par. Safety code violations, outdated science equipment, inadequate vocational education laboratories, environmental hazards, structural impediments to personal safety, and facilities that are not user friendly for disabled students, can all adversely affect the degree to which students learn.

Joining me today in the introduction of CMA are three Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce who have been involved from the beginning in developing the legislation. Representatives ISAKSON, CASTLE, and McKEON have devoted considerable time and effort to this initiative, and the results bear their imprints.

I have said repeatedly that the primary responsibility for school construction is and should remain at the state and local level. In FY 1995, President Clinton chose to rescind funds that Congress appropriated for the school construction program authorized in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In FY 1996, the administration did not request any construction funds, and Department of Education budget documents stated:

The construction and renovation of school facilities has traditionally been, the responsibility of state and local governments, financed primarily by local taxpayers; we are opposed to the creation of a new federal grant program for school construction. . . . No funds are requested for this program. . . . For the reason explained above, the Administration opposes the creation of a new federal grant program for school construction.

However, I have come to believe that the federal government can provide a measured response to this urgent need without usurping state and local decision-making. That is exactly what the Classroom Modernization Act does. It assists states and local educational agencies, including charter schools, with the expenses of federal statutory requirements and priorities relating to infrastructure, technology, and equipment needs.

Specifically, it provides assistance to states and local schools to help them comply with federal statutory and regulatory requirements. Increasingly, states and school districts are finding that they must spend local funds on federal mandates. The CMA would help alleviate that burden. It is only proper that the federal government provide financing for such activities as facilities modifications in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and asbestos removal from school buildings in order to comply with the Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act.

It is also important that internet wiring, improvements in vocational and science laboratories and equipment, and school facility renovations undertaken to comply with fire and safety codes should be allowable uses of funds at the local level.

Charter schools should also benefit significantly through CMA. Charter schools are public schools established under state law. Although a relatively new concept, charter schools are making great strides in improving and reforming public education. Initial reports show parental satisfaction is high, students are eager to learn, teachers are enjoying teaching again, administrators are set free from bureaucratic red-tape, and more dollars are getting to the classroom.

Unfortunately, charter schools have faced roadblocks in financing the construction and acquisition of school facilities. Often those states that do allow charter schools do not provide a dedicated funding stream for capital improvements or new construction for charter schools. The bill I am introducing today remedies this situation by assisting with the infrastructure expenses of charter schools.

CMA provides flexibility in the use of funds for charter schools. Specifically, as an incen-

tive for states to direct funds to charter schools, the bill does not require a match for federal funds directed toward charter school infrastructure activities. As an incentive for states to operate a state guaranteed loan program in which charter schools participate, CMA allows states to retain funds for the administrative costs of operating such a program.

I ask my colleagues in the House to take a look at the Classroom Modernization Act of 2000 and consider it as a carefully measured approach to dealing with school facilities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Chairman Goodling as a co-sponsor the Classroom Modernization Act of 2000 to pay for federally mandated construction cost and start-up costs for charter school construction.

For years, the Federal Government has passed construction-related mandates on to local school boards for everything from asbestos removal and handicap access, to special education classrooms and IDEA related cost. Each requirement has failed to include a single dollar of federal money. Our proposal will fund these unfunded mandates and free up local dollars for school improvement.

The \$150 Million dollars for start-up charter school related construction cost would be meaningful in expanding new charter school applications, and for more private sector and parental involvement in local schools. Both the White House and the Congress have verbally promoted the public charter school movement, and now we are making a meaningful financial commitment to charter schools.

HONORING TROOPER RODNEY GOODSON

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trooper Rodney Goodson for performing above and beyond the call of duty.

While on duty at the Red Lion Barracks, Mr. Goodson witnessed a traffic accident on a busy highway. One of the cars involved in the accident began to spin uncontrollably. Mr. Goodson attempted to stop the circling automobile but was unsuccessful. He then ran after the still spinning car, and reached through the broken drivers side window in order to steer the vehicle. When this too failed, Mr. Goodson steered the damaged car into his own.

In honor of this heroic achievement, Mr. Goodson received the Prosecutor's Commendation award at the PROCOPS Banquet on May 18.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Goodson for his heroism, above and beyond the call of duty. He risked his life to protect the lives of others. In doing so, he has