

The 10th Congressional District Youth Congress convened in 1998 to work on advancing democratic principles by involving youth in activities to improve their schools and communities. Providing an open forum for discussion, the Youth Congress brings students together to establish themselves as a strong voice in community issues and initiatives.

A student run organization, the Youth Congress is an advocate for parent and community participation in shaping students to reach their maximum potential. The Youth Congress endeavors to embrace and promote all forms of diversity in race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation, and works to bring understanding and acceptance to every aspect of local schools and communities. The students work to achieve these goals through promoting nonviolent organizing principles, and encouraging their schools to actively embrace peace.

Concerned about the overwhelming presence of violence in their schools and a growing intolerance for diversity, the Youth Congress conducted a year long study of all aspects of violence, including peaceful resolutions. The students assembled a district-wide coalition of public officials, police forces, school administrators, teachers and parents, to form a network of experience, expertise, and idea exchange. Drawing on this wealth of knowledge, the Youth Congress drafted a resolution to encourage and inspire action by their school administrators and the government officials.

The action points of the resolution are as follows:

We, the Students of the 10th Congressional District Youth Congress, for our safety and continued growth as problem solvers, critical thinkers, and involved citizens, urge you to adopt the following policies and programs:

Establish a core curriculum throughout all high schools on conflict resolution and diversity education. This program should devote time evenly to nonviolent conflict resolution training and in-depth studies of diversity training and acceptance. The diversity training should include, but not be limited to, studies of the civil rights movement, gay and lesbian issues, native American history, a study of the Holocaust, and a wide range of cultural and ethnic education studies.

Implement peer mediation and other proven student-to-student problem-solving initiatives.

Form a parent/student advisory board and task force charged with development and promotion of honor codes and disciplinary policies. The advisory board and task force will work to increase parent education and establish workshops to help parents teach and support nonviolent and cooperative problem-solving for families and communities.

Establish student review boards with oversight of honor codes and disciplinary policies. The review board will also promote on-going conflict resolution awareness and training for all students and staff.

Establish a policy that no student be removed from the student population without due process, and a plan for the student's eventual reentry or a clear and specific action plan for the student and family.

Review the role of uniformed and non-uniformed police officers as well as security staff. Promote the role of police and security as facilitators or models of effective conflict resolution. Police officials should be resources to

encourage students and staff to respect differences, as well as being informed liaisons with youth- and family-serving organizations in the community.

Work to reduce class size to create an atmosphere conducive to appropriate learning and one that is less prone to create conflict.

Provide access to mental health services, through creative partnerships with community-based health and mental health providers. Establish the presence in all schools of a full range of mental health services for students and staff. Special emphasis should be placed on continuing staff training, assessment and mental health counseling for all students and families, and establishing strong links with community social service agencies.

Pass reasonable and uniform gun control laws within our cities, including registration and safety lock laws.

Study the impact of a culture that among other things, has sold violence as entertainment and promotes insensitivity to human suffering. Encourage print and electronic news media to balance their coverage of tragedy, terror, death and disaster with attention to the aspects of human existence that ennoble, enrich and empower students, families and communities and in doing so begin to tell new stories about all of us.

The students and youth of the Cleveland area will play a significant role in replacing our culture of violence with a culture of peace. The model they set forth this day can be used as a model in cities all across our nation.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the work of the 10th Congressional District Youth Congress, as these students continue to lead the way in establishing long lasting peace in our schools and communities.

BRING GEN. AUGUSTO PINOCHET TO JUSTICE IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the murder in Washington, D.C. of Orlando Letelier and his assistant Roni Karpen Moffitt by the Chilean intelligence agency (DINA) has been a point of contention for the Chilean and United States governments since it occurred in September of 1976. Letelier was an important figure in the democratically elected government of President Salvador Allende and he came to this country after being imprisoned and beaten in Chile and then released by the Pinochet dictatorship from the position he had held, Chile's ambassador to the U.S. There is compelling evidence that Gen. Pinochet ordered his assassination. Moffitt died because she happened to be driving in the car with him which had been wired with a bomb.

Now that Pinochet has had his immunity revoked by a Chilean court, U.S. authorities have begun to review whether sufficient grounds exist to authorize his extradition.

Joshua G. Hill, a Research Associate with the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), authored a brief research memorandum on Pinochet's involvement in the assassinations and steps being taken to bring him to justice. I commend to my

colleagues this brief paper on a case that has remained of such great importance to so many people in the U.S. and Chile.

"Pinochet and the Letelier Case," by Joshua Hill, research associate, Council on Hemispheric Affairs, Washington, D.C.

PINOCHET AND THE LETELIER CASE

BACKGROUND

Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet's seventeen-year reign was one of terror and murder. Not only were well over three thousand political opponents killed or "disappeared" in Chile (including several U.S. citizens), but Pinochet's murderous group extended into the United States as well. Orlando Letelier, one of the most famous Chilean dissidents living abroad was murdered September 21, 1976 on the streets of Washington, D.C. Now that the Santiago Court of Appeals has removed General Pinochet's immunity, the U.S. Department of Justice is reviewing the possible extradition of Pinochet to stand trial for the car bombing murders of Letelier and Roni Moffitt, an American colleague of Letelier's at Washington's Institute for Policy Studies. According to the evidence presented at the time of the trial, the bomb was detonated by remote control. Letelier was killed instantly, while Roni Moffitt died when a metal shard pierced her body. Her husband, Michael, who was in the back seat, miraculously survived the blast.

THE INITIAL TRIALS

The Department of Justice led by Attorney General Janet Reno reopened the Letelier case once Pinochet returned to Chile after being held under house arrest, in Great Britain. Accusations arising in Chilean and Spanish courts have rejuvenated interest in bringing Pinochet to justice for the fatal car bombing. In a 1978 U.S. federal trial, Gen. Manuel Contreras, the former head of the Chilean National Intelligence Directive (DINA) was convicted along with seven others, including the DINA operation director, Pedro Espinoza, in the deaths of Letelier and Moffitt. In subsequent trials between 1978 and 1990, two more DINA operatives and two Cuban exiles were also convicted. The Espinoza trial exposed evidence that could have possibly implicated Pinochet in the murders, but until now, Pinochet has been able to hide behind his immunity clause that he himself implemented before he left office.

THE MOUNTING EVIDENCE AGAINST PINOCHET

In March and April of this year, the U.S. Justice Department and FBI investigated and interviewed witnesses in Chile. They were allowed to submit questions through a Chilean judge to forty-two subpoenaed people. John Dinges, a journalist and author who obtained a secret memo from a Chilean reporter, claims that an affidavit exists attesting to the existence of an order from Pinochet to Espinoza to murder Letelier. Compounding this testimony, it is a fact that Pinochet revoked Letelier's Chilean citizenship only ten days before his assassination in a response to growing outcries by Letelier against Chile's atrocious human rights policy. "What was important to me about the stripping of his citizenship was the timing of it—just 10 days before the assassination," said E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., a former federal prosecutor who won two other cases against Chileans involved in the murder of Letelier. "It clearly shows that the efforts of Letelier was making to bring pressure on Chile-were working. He was getting under the junta's skin."

After his imprisonment in the United States, the Chilean government sentenced Contreras in 1995 to seven years for murder. Since it is highly doubtful that Contreras was acting without the President's approval,

this conviction strengthens the case against Pinochet. In fact, in Contreras's 1997 affidavit, he stated that no DINA missions were ever undertaken without prior consent from Pinochet.

U.S. DOMESTIC PRESSURE IS APPLIED

Adding to the domestic political pressure in the U.S., on May 26 California Congressmen George Miller and thirty-four other Congressmen sent a letter to President Clinton to insist that the U.S. continue to press the Chilean government for greater assistance in carrying out the investigation of Pinochet's complicity. They labeled the Letelier case the worst incident of terrorism committed by a foreign government on U.S. soil and the letter requested the president to focus on discussing the investigation in his meeting with Chilean President Ricardo Lagos in Berlin on June 2. It also called for the possible extradition of Pinochet to the United States if the evidence continues to point toward a significant connection between the former Chilean dictator and Letelier's murder.

The extradition of Pinochet may be unlikely due to his advanced age and ailing health, but many members of Congress and others still are calling for a trial and a conviction to reinforce the principle that the U.S. will not tolerate terrorism on its soil. The Letelier case represents the effort to demonstrate that no one is above the law, not even a former dictator and self-proclaimed president.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ISRAEL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation, along with Congresswoman NITA LOWEY, in an effort to correct a grave injustice being committed against our friend and ally in the Middle East; Israel.

Many of my colleagues may not be aware that a number of nations have not established full diplomatic relations with Israel. Israel currently maintains diplomatic relations with 162 countries. Approximately 25 countries do not have any diplomatic relations with Israel at all. Another 4 countries have only limited relations.

In order for Israel to be a full member of the world community, she must establish diplomatic relations. The Israeli Embassy tells me that Israel is actively seeking to establish and upgrade their relations with several countries. This has proven difficult with many of the Islamic nations, such as Pakistan and Indonesia.

In 1994, Representative Lee Hamilton had language included in the State Department Foreign Relations FY94-95 Authorization bill that stated the Secretary of State should make the issue of Israel's diplomatic relations a priority and urge countries that receive U.S. assistance to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Unfortunately, despite this provision, the U.S. government has not made this issue a priority.

At the beginning of this year, during an International Relations Committee hearing, I asked Secretary of State Madeleine Albright about Israel's diplomatic relations with coun-

tries receiving U.S. assistance. The Secretary replied that she considers Israel's relations with the world community and other nations essential to peace and stability and has been actively encouraging countries, such as Indonesia, to establish full relations with Israel. I could not agree more.

I believe the U.S. should be doing everything possible to help Israel establish these relations. In fact, Congresswoman LOWEY and I worked together to include a provision in the Report to the FY 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that urges Israel's Arab neighbors to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

However, more needs to be done. That is why Congresswoman LOWEY and I are introducing the "Israel Diplomatic Relations Act," to help promote Israel's role in the international community.

Our legislation spells out clearly the importance of Israel's status in the international community and the need for Israel to receive the recognition she deserves. It also requires an annual report to Congress by the U.S. Department of State on U.S. government activities to help promote Israel's diplomatic relations in the world community.

This report is of critical importance because it will require our embassies to focus attention on Israel's diplomatic relations.

I urge my colleagues to help us promote peace and stability in the Middle East by supporting and cosponsoring this critical legislation.

HONORING NORM ANTINETTI

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a very special person, Mr. Norm Antinetti as he enters into a well-deserved retirement after 40 years of dedicated service to Oakdale High School.

Norm's list of accomplishments is impressive. He has the distinction of holding the longest tenure in the history of Oakdale High. During that career he coached football, baseball and the love of his life, basketball.

There's a saying in Oakdale, Mr. Speaker: If you grew up in Oakdale and played basketball, you know Norm. He's as much a fixture on the court as his red Oakdale Mustangs baseball cap or jacket is on him.

As a coach, he guided teams to four Valley Oak League championships and won four other major tournament championships. He coached the Kiwanis Large Schools South All-Star basketball team twice and started Oakdale's 30-year-old Rotary Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament.

He's been named the California Interscholastic Federation—San Joaquin Athletic Director of the Year, Stanislaus District Coach of the Year, Valley Oak League Varsity Coach of the Year and Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coach of the Year to name only a few of his accolades.

It is rare that we are able to recognize such a selfless person. He is a fitting example of what is right about getting involved with our young people and being a positive role model for them.

I consider it a privilege to call him friend and am very proud to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Norm Antinetti.

HONORING MINNIE ELIZABETH SAPP

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that today I honor Minnie Elizabeth Sapp, who recently celebrated her one-hundredth birthday. Mrs. Sapp had the rare fortune of seeing a complete century unfold. It was on July 12, 1900 that Mrs. Sapp was born—in the log house built by her grandfather, James Waymon Mitchell, on Lost Creek in White County, and it was on July 12, 2000 that we celebrated her one-hundredth birthday.

On Christmas Day in 1921, Mrs. Sapp married Homer Floyd Sapp in the same room in the log house where she was born. The couple traveled by buggy to Homer's father's home, at what is now Rim Rock Mesa at Bon Air. Six years later they moved to a forty-acre farm on Corolla Road.

The couple had seven children. The two boys died as infants, and sadly one daughter, Helen, passed away at 14. The other four daughters survived: Josephine, Norma, Evelyn, and Betty. Although her husband Homer died in 1980, Mrs. Sapp continues to live at the farm that the couple moved to 73 years ago.

In 1993, Mrs. Sapp wrote her personal memoirs, and among her memories are recollections of lighting the house with coal lamps and making lye and soap. The United States has changed much since the days of her childhood, but her memories of quilting, walking barefoot to free school and later attending boarding school at Pleasant Hill Academy, carrying water from the spring, and keeping the fire going year round have shaped a strong, loving woman who is devoted to her family and friends.

Two weeks ago I had the honor of attending Mrs. Sapp's birthday celebration, and on the 16th of July the Bon Air United Methodist Church honored her with a service, singing, and presentation of a plaque. The family and friends who surround her serve as a testament to the impact this amazing woman has on all who meet her.

Truly, Minnie Elizabeth Sapp is a blessing to her community. Mrs. Sapp's devotion to family and religion has seen her through 100 years, and I am confident that it is her love of life which will fill every day that is to come. That is why it is in the spirit of all who know and love her that I wish to congratulate Mrs. Sapp on her one-hundredth birthday celebration.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY FRANK PUCKETT

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, today I draw my colleagues' attention to the years of service that Mr. Frank Puckett has provided to the