

and to wish her all the best as she enters this new phase of her life.

## CONCERNING VIOLENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 24, 2000*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is voting on House Concurrent Resolution 426 regarding the current violence in the Middle East. I believe it is appropriate for the United States to express solidarity with Israel, but it is with reluctance that I am voting in favor of this resolution.

I am concerned about the timing and perception of this resolution. The United States has an essential role to play as facilitator of peace. The United States must be careful to encourage the peace process, and not detract from it. I am concerned this resolution may be perceived as placing entire blame for the violence on the Palestinian leadership. That is not the case, and I hope it will not be perceived in that way. In fact, in order to reach a long-lasting peace, both sides will eventually have to accept some responsibility for the current situation.

I remain a strong supporter of Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship. But it is clear the demonstration by Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem's Old City was an ill-advised provocation. And there probably couldn't have been a worse time for a provocation. Mr. Sharon must have understood how his actions would be perceived. In fact, the Israeli government understood this danger, which is why they provided Mr. Sharon with a security force.

At the same time, Chairman Arafat has clearly used Mr. Sharon's visit as an opportunity to drastically change the dynamics of the peace process. With the recent violence, including the desecration of the West Bank holy site of Joseph's Tomb, Mr. Arafat's ability and willingness to prevent violence and maintain peace throughout Palestinian controlled areas have come into serious question.

On two occasions imprisoned Palestinian militants were released from jail. Although there have been some assurances made that these individuals are being rearrested, militant Palestinian organizations have disputed that, declaring most remain free. In addition, incitement to violence continues to be broadcast from Palestinian Authority radio and television stations. I am hopeful Mr. Arafat will have the ability and willingness to address these issues and restore calm and stability to the areas he is responsible for controlling.

Now is the time for responsible leaders to call on their people to abandon violence as a means of achieving their goals. I am hopeful both leaders will work to restore stability to the region, condemn the use of violence and reiterate their commitment to the peace process. The violence must stop in order for the parties to re-engage in that process.

## HONORING OUR SENIORS

**HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, we all realize that maintaining good health is imperative to enjoying a long, fulfilling life. And reauthorizing the Older Americans Act is an excellent way for us to provide seniors with the opportunity to live life to its fullest.

The 1965 Older Americans Act created a series of federal programs specifically designed to meet the service needs of seniors. Although older persons may receive services under other federal programs, the Older Americans Act is the major vehicle for organizing and delivering supportive and nutrition services to senior citizens.

Thousands of elderly and disabled Americans rely on quality services such as those provided by the Administration on Aging, and programs like nutrition services, family care giver, elder abuse prevention, long term care, senior community service employment and Native American programs for the elderly.

We, in Congress, must make sure that seniors receive these much needed services and benefits in the most efficient manner possible. Along with state and local agencies, including national associations like Green Thumb, Congress must work diligently to ensure that older Americans can look forward to long, productive lives within their own communities and around the nation.

Seniors serve as grandparents who provide care for numerous children, strengthen families, tutor students, operate computers, teach crafts, work as librarians, and provide many other important community services. Through these efforts, and countless others, senior citizens have helped to make America the great country it is today and will continue to make significant contributions for years to come. Therefore, I challenge all Americans, young and old, to work with me on issues critical to our seniors.

## AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. ASA HUTCHINSON**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 24, 2000*

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chairman LEACH, Chairman LAZIO, Mr. LAFALCE, and my colleagues on the House Banking Committee for their tireless work on moving legislation that brings some much-needed reforms to the housing industry. For the most part, S. 1452 is a product of which we should all be very proud.

Furthermore, I am pleased to see that several components of H.R. 1776, the Housing and Economic Opportunity Act, have been included in S. 1452. As my colleagues may remember, H.R. 1776 passed our Chamber earlier in the year by an overwhelming and bipartisan vote of 417 to 8. However, there is one particular omission that concerns me. Unfortunately, this omission may ultimately have an

impact on the number of families who may realize the American dream of homeownership.

The provision that has been omitted from S. 1452 is section 102 of H.R. 1776. Section 102 requires that the Federal Government perform a housing impact analysis before it issues new regulations. The impact analysis would determine if a significant negative impact on affordable housing would result from those new regulations. "Significant" would be defined as increasing consumers' cost of housing by more than \$100,000,000 per year. Further, Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1776 stipulates that the private sector would have an opportunity to submit an alternative to the proposed regulation if it would have less of a negative impact on the cost of homeownership.

As with the other provisions in title I of H.R. 1776, the goal of the housing impact analysis is to alert federal agencies and the general public of the impact of regulation on housing affordability. Ultimately, the objective would be to help bring down the cost of a home by minimizing regulations that pose a barrier to homeownership. The housing impact analysis addresses this issue by requiring the Federal Government to perform an "internal check" to see if the regulation might be constructed in a better way that would not lock individuals out of homeownership.

I see this internal check as a positive action, Mr. Speaker, and I am concerned that this worthy provision, a provision 417 of my colleagues supported, was left out S. 1452. I hope that this concept does not die with the closing of the 106th Congress, but is reviewed again next year, with the commencement of the 107th.

## SAND CREEK MASSACRE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, on November 29, 1864, John M. Chivington and his troops invaded the Native American village of Sand Creek in southern Colorado. At least 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians were murdered along the banks of Sand Creek. The stories of this massacre have been passed down through generations, however, the victims have not received the recognition they deserve.

Last year the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Study Act was signed into law. This Act directed the National Park Service to study, survey, and locate the site of the Sand Creek Massacre and assess the suitability of making the site a part of the National Park Service. From this study, the Park Service identified 12,480 acres as the site of the massacre.

Since then, Senator CAMPBELL and I introduced legislation to designate the 12,480 acres as a National Historic Site. I have worked closely with the Kiowa County Commissioners as well as the landowners within the boundaries of the site to insure private property rights are protected. While the legislation authorizes the Park Service to negotiate for property from willing sellers only, traditional agricultural operations inside the national historic site will continue until the private property owners decide to sell their land. Additionally,

the bill will grant decedents of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes access to allow traditional observations on the land.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation is long overdue, and this bill appropriately recognizes the massacre.

**“CALIFORNIA RECLAIMED WATER  
ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY”**

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join Senator BARBARA BOXER in introducing the California Reclaimed Water Act for the 21st Century.

The recent string of wet winters in California should not let us forget that water shortages and drought are quite normal in our State. I strongly believe that investment in reclaimed water technology—water recycling—can help us “drought-proof” any of our community water supplies in California.

Projects that recycle water result in a net increase in available local water supplies and can decrease the need for water that must be supplied and often imported from other sources. Because wastewater for recycling is available even when other water supplies are diminished, recycled water can assist in providing a long-term, reliable, local source of water even during droughts.

Our farmers, urban dwellers, sport and commercial fishing interests, tribes, mountain communities and environmentalists all seek a more reliable and a more certain water future. Recycled water plays an important part in meeting California's water needs today and will play an even more important role in the next several decades.

About 3% of the water supply in the San Francisco Bay Area is now recycled. Water managers hope that eventually as much as 40% of the water will be recycled, perhaps as much as 500,000 acre-feet per year. California cities need planning help and financial assistance to find markets for the recycled water, and to construct the treatment and conveyance facilities needed to get the treated water to identified markets.

Recycled water can be used for irrigation of golf courses, parks, school lands, business campuses, and highway medians, and for groundwater recharge, wetlands development, and industrial purposes. We have to start thinking about recycled water as a critical component of the water supply picture in California.

Californians and government agencies have recently affirmed their support for water recycling, first with the passage of the California water bond last March, and more recently with the approval of the CALFED water agreement which broadly sets a course for California's water future. Water recycling and reuse is a major element of both these new actions and policies.

The Federal government's support for water recycling was initially authorized in the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992. The Bureau of Reclamation's so-called “Title XVI” program origi-

nally approved financial assistance for planning, design and construction of four water recycling projects in California. More projects were approved in 1996.

The legislation I introduce today builds upon these Congressional efforts, voter ballot initiatives and agency studies. Senator BARBARA BOXER has today introduced identical legislation in the U.S. Senate.

The bill authorizes a series of new Title XVI water recycling projects and directs the Secretary of the Interior to work with various water districts throughout the State on water recycling activities. Specific projects included in the bill are: Castaic Lake Water Agency; Clear Lake Basin Water Reuse Project; San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Project; Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Project; San Pablo Baylands Water Reuse Project in Sonoma, Napa, Marin and Solano Counties; State of California Water Recycling Program; Regional Brine Lines (salt removal) in Southern California and in the San Francisco Bay and the Santa Clara Valley areas; Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination Demonstration and Reclamation Project; and the West Basin Comprehensive Desalination Demonstration Program.

These projects will have the capacity to produce hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of useable water. Each acre-foot of recycled water produced by these projects will reduce the demand in California for imported water from the Bay-Delta and the Colorado River.

Unlike traditional Bureau of Reclamation water projects, these water recycling projects require a majority of funds to be locally provided. Consistent with Title XVI limitations on recycling projects as authorized in 1992 and 1996, the projects proposed in my bill require 75% local funding. Federal cost sharing is limited to 25%. Moreover, this bill specifies that none of the funds can be used for annual operation and maintenance costs. Those annual expenses are the responsibility of the local water districts or management agency.

I strongly believe that water recycling will continue to play an important and growing role in total water management strategies to provide a safe and sustainable water supply in California and in many other parts of the country. The water recycling projects authorized by the legislation I am introducing today are part of a long-term solution to some of California's most difficult challenges. Water recycling is not the only solution. But, water recycling and water reuse can play a significant part as these projects can be designed, built, and placed in service within a short time.

**CONCERNING VIOLENCE IN  
MIDDLE EAST**

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 24, 2000*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 426, Concerning the Violence in the Middle East.

It is truly disheartening to witness the renewed violence that has plagued Israel and

the Palestinian territories for nearly thirty days. World leaders, especially President Clinton and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, have made numerous attempts to engage the Israeli and Palestinian leaders in negotiations toward an immediate cease-fire agreement that can realistically be implemented. Unfortunately, the latest emergency summit that took place in Egypt on October 16 had little impact on the cessation of violence or the pacification of hostilities.

The United States, as one of the foremost advocates of a sustainable Middle East peace agreement, must be very careful not to actively create conditions which defeat the very progress we are trying to achieve. H. Con. Res. 426 suggests that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) are the sole parties responsible for the current tragic state of affairs. By supporting this type of inaccurate portrayal, we damage our credibility as a neutral party genuinely seeking to bring about a peaceful solution to an extremely volatile situation.

On October 4, 2000, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1322, condemning the surging violence by both Israelis and Palestinians, and the destruction of holy sites in the city of Jerusalem. This resolution passed the Security Council without a single opposing vote—the United States was the only nation to abstain. Due to language in the UN measure regarding the provocation of violence by Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon, and the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians by Israeli troops, H. Con. Res. 426 expresses its desire for the President exercise UN veto power to “ensure that the Security Council does not again adopt unbalanced resolutions addressing the uncontrolled violence in the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority.” Yet H. Con. Res. 426 itself is undeniably unbalanced and fails to acknowledge any responsibility on the part of Israel.

The conflict in the Holy Land has endured far too long, resulting in the unnecessary loss of human life, creating a rift between ethnic and religious groups, and eroding the historic and aesthetic attributes of the area. A lasting peace agreement will require the commitment of both Israeli and Palestinian leaders and citizens. At this fragile moment in Middle East history, let us not assign blame to one group or another, but rather suggest shared responsibility. The goal of the U.S. is to foster mutual, unwavering effort on the part of both parties to desist from violence and to accept negotiation as the only means of political action.

Last month, I further demonstrated my commitment to the negotiation process by supporting H.R. 5272, the Peace Through Negotiations Act of 2000. This measure strongly encourages the Palestinian Authority not to undermine the prospects of peace by unilaterally declaring Palestinian Statehood. Before the United States can be accepted as an honest broker in these or any negotiations, it must demonstrate an even-handed approach with both parties. H. Con. Res. 426 undercuts this goal.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to the surviving family members of the individuals killed on both sides of the conflict. May the memory of those victims serve as a catalyst to end the cycle of violence.