

yourself struggling, just remember God will be there to help you. He wants to help everyone, including the leaders of our nation.

It is important to pray for everyone, but it is especially important to pray for our leaders because they make the choices that affect all of us. Our prayer is that the leaders will seek God's help and guidance. Our leaders need our prayers because they have the pressure of running this nation and may not always seek God's will. We need to pray that they will see that if they humble themselves before God, they will find guidance and the answers they need. They can have the peace and happiness of knowing they can share their burden with someone who will never betray them or hurt them. God loves the leaders and we need to pray that they will love God.

Some things we need to pray for the leaders are protection, health, and family. We need to pray that God will shelter them from destruction and shield them from harm. We also need to pray for their health. The leaders need to be strong and healthy so that they might call on God and guide our nation where it needs to go. Another thing to pray for is their families. That God would keep them happy and strong and give the leaders time to be with them and that their families would support them as much as they can.

The reason we came to Washington, DC is to show that we believe that God will make a difference in our nation. I once read a scripture in James that said that if we pray, we must believe God will answer us. I encourage you to believe that God will make a change in the leader's lives and in the lives of others you pray for. Christian leaders in the past such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln who had Christian values led our nation through some hard times successfully. As we are here in Washington, DC, I encourage you to keep praying that our leaders will answer to God, for that is why we came here; to pray and listen for God's call. Listen to God and He will lead you. Have a wonderful evening and God bless you.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY AMANDA STEVENS, "AMERICA'S
CHILDREN PRAY"

Hi! Good evening everybody. My name is Amanda Stevens and I am very happy to be here today. I am eleven years old and I was born on July 20, 1988. I love the Lord with all my heart and that is what I am here today to talk with you about. I found the Lord at nine years old at Gateway Christian School, but the school that I go to now has brought me closer and closer to God. I told the Lord that I knew that He was there and I wanted Him to be with me always. It's amazing the different ways that people come to find Him. I have learned that God knows every action, every thought, and every move I make. He has done so much for me and I am very grateful for that. I know in my heart that no matter where I go, He will always be with me.

I started attending Harbor Church Schools halfway through the school year, just four months ago, and within the first week of attending the school, I heard about this trip to Washington, DC. I was really excited but most everyone I talked to told me not to expect to be able to go because I was new and other kids would be chosen. But I applied anyway and as I was going through the process, a voice in my heart told me "You're going, so get ready!" I really believe that I have been called to this and God has something great in store.

I really hope to accomplish a lot while I'm here and that people will learn from something I've done. I would be happy if I could

just minister to someone and tell them about the Lord. I would like to show people that it doesn't matter if you're just a kid when God calls you to do something. You don't have to be an adult to go out and minister and make a difference. If you simply live a life pleasing to the Lord and shine His light wherever you go, people will listen to you and their lives will be changed. We are all part of the huge world wide family of God and hopefully, if we all work together, we can make a difference. Just as a farmer plants seed, we are all planting the seeds of salvation in everyone we meet, and then someone else will come along and water the seeds until it grows into something beautiful.

Unfortunately, some of our leaders today are not Christians and so we especially need to pray for them. But even Christians need prayer. Sometimes, we fall short and feel like we can't even pray for ourselves. We need to be there for our leaders when they feel like that.

I want to thank you for listening to me tonight. Each one in our group was given the assignment of writing a speech. However, I'm not here because I have to, I'm here because I want to and God has called me. I pray that you will hear the call that He is giving to you today also and that together, He will use us to change our nation. Thank you.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY DRAKE MUNOZ, DIPLOMATIC
BANQUET

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I am Drake Munoz and I am happy to be a part of the National Children's Prayer Network. I am here to pray for the leaders of this country.

When I was five years of age, I received the Lord. His Word became my manual for life. If you have a question, God will answer that question. He has also helped me through bad times. For example, one of my pets died and I got very sad, so I went to the Lord and He helped me with my problem. As you can see, once you accept the Lord Jesus Christ, your whole life will change. You will also want to go deeper into His Word. I believe that if you receive the Lord Jesus Christ, all of your sins that you have done will be washed away by His blood. If you do not know the Lord, I would encourage you today to accept Jesus as your personal Savior.

I think we do not only need to pray for the leaders of our country, but for other countries which have problems just like ours. We need to pray that their country would stay strong, and that they would keep their eyes on God. Tonight, our prayer focus has been on the nation of India. There are many differences between our two nations, yet we are a lot alike. Our lifestyle and our food may be different, but we also have something in common. We both have houses, but not made of the same material. Most important, they want to have a normal life just like us.

Right now, I would like to give a message to our current leaders in office. Remember that God gave you a great gift to lead a country as big as the United States of America. I believe that you should treat this responsibility carefully. Also that you would listen to God's direction to lead such a big country. If you have a question, ask God. He will direct you what decision you need to make. The President has a big job which a lot of people could not handle, so all we should be praying for him. I think we should all pray for his health and that his family would be okay. Also that he listens to God to run this country because without God no one can run this country or any other country.

I would like to thank you for your time and patience. I would like to end in a word of prayer.

Dear Jesus, I would like to thank you for such a wonderful day that you have given us. I would like to ask you Lord that you would put your hand over the current leaders of this country. We all know how hard they are working to run this country. It is a tough job that people think is easy, but they do not know what they have to do everyday. I would like to ask you to put your hands over the families of these leaders, that the job they are doing is not affecting their family time. We ask that you would give them the strength to continue to work hard. I ask that you put your hand over India, that they would be a better country, that they would keep strong in faith, and they would put their eyes on You. In your Precious Son's name, Amen.

WRITE IT ON THE GATE

(By Lin Story)

The gate is a place of entry. It's the door through which provision for the household enters. It is a gathering place and at times a place where businesses transactions occur. In Bible times it was a place where counsel was given and disputes were judged. The gate is also a place of exit. What happens at the gate makes a difference to those who are inside. As you stand at the gate of the White House, remember it is just like the gate of your own heart. What you allow to enter and what you allow to exit will make a great difference in the life you will lead. The Ten Commandments were given to us as an act of God's mercy. He knew we needed to be told and reminded of the way in which we were to relate to God and to our fellow man. In his mercy, he told us the truth. The Ten Commandments are not unreasonable laws given to hold us in bondage. Jesus came as a fulfillment of God's law. That means he gave the law a clear purpose. Because of Jesus our salvation comes through faith and repentance but our quality of life is found in obedience to God's law. If we will obey His law with grateful hearts then we will rejoice in the blessing of obedience. Today at the gate of this most important house we celebrate the gift of God's law. And we thank Him for the freedom that His law brings into our lives and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET MARTIN
COLE OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Margaret Martin Cole of Madison County, AL. Margaret is a dear friend of mine and a friend of my entire community. Today she is being awarded the Madison County Democratic Women's Division's Lifetime Achievement Award. Today's recognition sheds light on the years of good deeds Margaret has accomplished.

She has been a vital leader in the Madison County Democratic Women since she helped form the group in 1961. She has seen it all and has led the women in several capacities. In the past 39 years, she has promoted good citizenship by encouraging Alabamians to exercise their right to vote. She has done everything from serving as a poll worker to organizing Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign for Madison County. Presently, she serves as the Chair of the John F. Kennedy Scholarship Committee.

Margaret's commitment to her community is not limited to the political arena. As founder of the Gothic Guild, she has served as their President and on their Board of Directors. She has also contributed her time and manifold talents to the Historic Huntsville Foundation, the Huntsville Press Club and Trinity United Methodist Church.

I believe this is a fitting honor for one who has given so much to the betterment of our community and our nation. I commend Margaret for her lifetime of achievement and I want to express my sincere gratitude for her bold work for the Democratic party and the patriotic ideals she believes in.

A TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER
SYLVESTER MICHAEL SIKON

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to one of our unsung heroes, Petty Officer Sylvester Michael Sikon. On February 16, 1945, Petty Officer Sikon made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country during World War II—he gave his life.

On Friday, May 5, 2000, a long overdue tribute will be given to this distinguished individual—a Memorial service will be held at the Arlington National Cemetery. Petty Officer Sikon will finally take his rightful place among the other heroes of this great nation.

This day would not be possible without the dedication of one person—Mr. Leo Sikon, Sylvester's cousin. Leo's tireless determination to make sure this country does not forget his cousin's sacrifice will not go unnoticed.

Leo said that a tear would come to his eye every Memorial Day because, on that day, tribute was paid to all our fallen soldiers, except his cousin. This Memorial Day, he will again shed a tear, but his tears will be for the pride he feels for a cousin who lost his life to protect freedom.

2000 NATIONAL FINALS FOR THE
WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN
AND THE CONSTITUTION
PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the outstanding achievements of a group of student scholars from my hometown high school in Findlay, Ohio.

On May 6–8, 2000 more than 1200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Findlay High School will represent the state of Ohio in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges representing various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the simulated congressional committee. The judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder described the national final as "the place to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

Findlay High is currently researching and preparing for the upcoming national competition in Washington, D.C. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People . . . national finals. It is always my pleasure meeting with these students and their instructors. Their quest for knowledge coupled with their interest in our government is to be applauded.

HONORING THE CARRAWAY
METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEMS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Carraway Methodist Health Systems for their leadership and vision in providing rural health care for residents of Alabama. Today I am especially mindful of the tremendous contribution of Carraway to the high quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Winfield, Alabama. The dedication and vision begun by Doctor Ben Carraway is continued by his son Doctor Robert Carraway and the staff of the Carraway Methodist Health Care System. By investing time and money to provide health care services to Winfield beginning in 1981, Carraway has been a pillar of stability and a witness to the importance of community. Winfield Hospital, established in 1949, became Rankin Fite Memorial Hospital in 1964. Rankin Fite became part of the Carraway system in 1981 and under their leadership has enjoyed steady progress in the range of health care services available to the citizens of Winfield. The facility was renamed Winfield Carraway Hospital in 1985, and then Carraway Northwest Medical Center in 1993, and is currently serving Winfield with the help of a multi-million dollar expansion in 1998. What began as a fa-

cility of four doctors and one surgeon is now a campus of state-of-the-art care centers, including the Northwest Regional Cancer Center, and employs over three hundred fifty persons, including nineteen doctors. I thank the Carraway family and their staff for recognizing the importance of providing the highest quality health care not just for those who live in large cities but for smaller communities as well.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS GEORGE SANTOS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, next week committees in Congress will continue crafting the defense authorization and appropriation bills that will fund our national security needs for another year and set policies that will determine longer-term defense priorities.

Much of the attention these bills receive will focus on weapons programs and the budgetary minutiae necessary to provide for our national defense. These issues are critically important to ensure our common defense. Our men and women in uniform need the best equipment to do their jobs.

However, we must not lose sight of the personal risks and sacrifices the men and women behind this equipment face every day. The technical advances present in today's military have done much to reduce these risks, but Americans still put their lives on the line every day around the world. These brave individuals choose to serve our country for many reasons, but all share the risk and sacrifice this service brings.

Recently, the district I represent lost a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. Private First Class George Santos was one of 19 Marines who were killed on April 8th in an accident on a routine training mission in Arizona.

Private Santos dreamed of becoming a Long Beach police officer, but first joined the Marines because it represented both a challenge and an adventure. Santos and 18 other Marines died when their Osprey aircraft crashed near Yuma, Arizona. At age 19, George Santos gave his life in service to our country. We will remember and honor that sacrifice.

Each year is filled with memorials of battles recent and not so recent. We tend to focus on particular numbers, such as the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon or the 50th anniversary of our victory in the Second World War. Apart from these memorials are the private ones shared by families across this land who remember children, siblings, grandparents, or friends lost in service for every one of us. As we reflect on these heroic individuals, we must remind ourselves that freedom comes with a cost. But we can take solace in knowing that people like George Santos defend our freedom every day. All of us owe a great debt of gratitude to the brave members of our armed forces who purchase our peace of mind with their sacrifice.