

much work to be done to reach the goal of having a fully operational Refuge System by 2003.

The legislation I am introducing today recognizes the vital importance of the Refuge System and the fact that the System will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 3 years. Under the terms of this bill, a Commission will be established to promote awareness of the System; develop a long-term plan to meet the priority operations, maintenance and construction needs of the System; and to improve public use programs and facilities.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commission would be composed of 11 voting members, including the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, the chairman and ranking minority members of the House Resources and Senate Environment and Public Works Committees, plus the congressional members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, would serve as ex officio members.

The Commission would be charged with the responsibility for preparing a plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the System, coordinating activities to celebrate that event, and hosting a conference on the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Commission would issue annual reports and would terminate no later than September 30, 2004.

Finally, this bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and submit to the Congress a long-term plan to address priority operations, maintenance, and construction needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that my subcommittee will conduct a hearing on this legislation in the near future. The American people deserve the finest Refuge System in the world. This bill is an appropriate next step in our efforts to ensure that the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, one of our Nation's greatest conservationists, will live on in the years ahead.

Ahead, I want to thank my distinguished colleagues for joining with me in this endeavor, and I urge enthusiastic support for the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act.

**TRIBUTE TO MS. ELIZABETH ROSE CARROLL—CELEBRATING THE FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION, AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY**

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2000*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I honor a very talented young lady from my congressional district, Elizabeth Rose Carroll of Springdale High School. Elizabeth is the top winner of the 2000 18th Congressional District High School Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery.

Elizabeth's pen and ink entitled "Petals in the Past" depicting a veiled woman of a bygone era holding a bouquet, was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I know that, with her obvious talent, many successes await Elizabeth.

I look forward to seeing "Petals in the Past" displayed along with the artwork of the other competition winners from across the country,

and I am pleased to be associated with Elizabeth's artistic talents.

Congratulations, Elizabeth. I wish you the very best of luck in the future.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING VIETNAMESE-AMERICANS AND OTHERS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM**

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce this House Concurrent Resolution which expresses the sense of Congress regarding Vietnamese-Americans and others who seek to improve social and political conditions in Vietnam.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to Communist forces. The current Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues under an oppressive Communist regime that limits and denies its citizens fundamental rights, such as the right to free speech, the right to religious worship, and the right to associate with others who do not agree with the government. During the past 25 years, many people, including Vietnamese-Americans have participated in peaceful protests, freedom rallies, candlelight vigils, hunger strikes, and other demonstrations to bring awareness and attention to the social and political situation in Vietnam.

It is important that we recognize the work of Vietnamese-Americans and others who labor continuously to bring attention to the injustices and human rights conditions in Vietnam. In addition, we must never forget those who risked and gave the ultimate sacrifice—their lives—in defending and attempting to bring freedom and democracy to Vietnam.

Traditionally, the former Republic of South Vietnam and presently in Vietnamese-American communities all across America, June 19 represents a day to commemorate and honor both fallen and living heroes who have dedicated or are continuing to dedicate their lives to bringing international attention to the human rights situation in Vietnam. The Vietnamese-American community may be relatively young, but it has a consistent record of bringing issues such as human rights abuses, political and religious persecution, and labor exploitations committed in Vietnam, to the attention of the American public.

Many of my own constituents have shared with me the horrors and their own personal stories of how they and their families have endured living under Vietnam's Communist regime without fundamental human rights. While many of them were lucky enough to escape from Vietnam, many more people have not been as fortunate.

It is my strongest hope that the citizens of Vietnam will one day be free: free to elect their own leaders and government, free to worship as they please, free to speak and print their own opinions without fear of persecution or harassment, and simply free to live their lives without government intrusion. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this

important resolution because it reaffirms Congress' commitment to Vietnamese-Americans and others whose work keeps the spirit of freedom alive for those still living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MYRA (CASIMIRA) LENARD**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2000*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I have a heavy heart. It is in great sadness that I honor my dear friend, Myra (Casimira) Lenard, who fought her courageous and long bout with grave illness so valiantly. On Monday afternoon, May 1, Myra passed from this life after having served as the long time Executive Director of the Washington Office of the Polish American Congress. For nearly 20 years, she became the much revered force representing Polish Americans here in our Nation's Capital. Her fortitude was to be admired as she guided the Congress through the tumultuous times of Solidarity and Martial Law. What a gift that she lived to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall, and then saw the fulfillment of a life-long quest as Poland left the Warsaw Pact and became a member of NATO. She may be best remembered, though, for leading the charge to convert proceeds of the Polish American Enterprise Fund into the Polish American Freedom Foundation. It was Myra who worked tirelessly with the White House and Members of Congress ensuring that voices of Polish Americans in our country would be heard. It was Myra who sacrificed so much to fight for those unable to do it themselves.

Born in Poland, she emigrated to the United States as a small child, where she spent many years involved in Chicago's Polonian organizations. There she met the love of her life, Casimir I. Lenard, whom she married and then moved with him to Washington, DC in 1962. Once here, she immediately began volunteering her time to needy, worthy causes. Her talents were recognized as she ultimately achieved a leadership position at the Polish American Congress. Myra was the worthy recipient of numerous awards, including the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit—the highest civilian award granted by Poland, presented by Polish Foreign Minister Wladslaw Bartoszewski in 1995. At a meeting of the Supervisory Council of the Polish National Alliance in December 1998, she and her husband were enrolled in the PNA's Legion of Merit. The list of her accomplishments cannot fully capture the fullness of this dynamic, gracious, dedicated and politically brilliant woman. Truly she was a freedom-lover.

Mr. Speaker, may we gain some small comfort in knowing the spirit and fire that Myra carried through her life that helped bring freedom to her first homeland inspired thousands who have been touched with her light and love. May peace bless her always. And may the work to which she dedicated her life—with family and career—stand as a living testament to this regal and loving woman. America is fortunate indeed that she chose this nation as her permanent homeland.

THE E-COMMERCE ENHANCEMENT  
ACT OF 2000

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2000*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Electronic Enhancement Act of 2000, a bill that will identify the continuous challenges facing small and medium-sized businesses and will assist them in overcoming these obstacles when they enter the world of e-commerce. I developed this legislation after recently hosting an E-Commerce Forum in my District, which was designed to ensure that small and medium-sized businesses have access to the booming e-commerce industry. With more than 300 business people in attendance, it was obvious to me that while there is great interest from small and medium-sized businesses for going online, these businesses face a number of challenges as they enter the world of e-commerce.

Specifically, this bill will establish an outside Advisory Panel made up of representatives from the Technology Administration, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Small Business Administration, the Modernization Forum, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, along with other relevant parties, to determine the needs of small and medium-sized businesses. Based on the assessment of the Advisory Panel the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) will establish a pilot program for assisting small and medium-sized businesses in e-commerce. Competitive grants would be awarded to existing MEP centers that submitted e-commerce assistance proposals. The e-commerce needs of businesses will vary between regions of the country and along industry lines. Therefore, the needs of the community can be best served by relying upon the local expertise of current MEP centers rather than establish a national "one size fits all" program.

E-commerce is a facet of our economy that will enable numerous businesses to experience strong growth. Last year, e-commerce was a 100 billion dollar a year industry. In the next three years that number is expected to be 3 trillion dollars—a full 1/3 of our current 9 trillion dollar economy. The power of the Internet is the power to overcome the social, geographic and economic disparities that have traditionally stifled growth for all types of businesses. No longer is the small manufacturer in Michigan limited to buying his raw materials from one or two distributors or supplying his product to only nearby clients. Such business to business e-commerce will increase the efficiency of supply chains and even allow manufacturers to find new markets online. The same situation applies to the retailer. Up until a few years ago, the Main Street shop owner was limited to selling her goods to walk-in traffic. With the advent of online commerce, any retailer can sell to anyone in the United States and to almost anyone in the world.

These are the kinds of advantages that e-commerce can bring to business owners across the country. We must be sure that we do not leave any business behind, especially America's small and medium-sized businesses who are the backbone of our economy and the realization of the American dream for so

many. This legislation will allow small and medium-sized businesses to overcome the hurdles they face as they enter the e-commerce arena.

I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join in supporting this important legislation.

INTERNET NONDISCRIMINATION  
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3709) to make permanent the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act as it applies to new, multiple, and discriminatory taxes on the Internet.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express concerns about HR 3709, the Internet Nondiscrimination Act, a bill which extends the moratorium contained in The Internet Tax Freedom Act of 1998 for five additional years until 2006.

As a former Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Missouri state house and former president of National Council of State Legislators (NCSL), I believe we need to address this issue with an eye toward creating a win-win situation for our states and localities, our mom and pop retailers on Main Street and the technology sector. I am not convinced that this bill has balanced all interests in a manner which achieves that goal.

I want electronic commerce to prosper and I support eliminating discriminatory taxes on this type of commerce. However, I also support finding a way to ensure Main Street businesses and state and local governments are not penalized by competitive advantages enjoyed by internet commerce companies. We need a level playing field and I am committed to finding one.

Not leveling the playing field could result in billions of dollars in lost revenue to states. By 2003 states will lose a total of approximately \$20.1 billion in revenue if businesses are not required to collect the use taxes that are owed by purchases on electronic commerce. My state of Missouri will lose a projected \$395 million—how will Missouri make up that revenue stream to ensure adequate funds for public education, critical infrastructure needs and other important state programs?

The piecemeal approach in HR 3709 prevents comprehensive solutions to the subject of taxes on the Internet. The existing moratorium does not expire until October 21, 2001. Merely extending the moratorium does not address the main issue of providing a level playing field for sales tax collection. In the coming 17 months which remain in the existing moratorium, we must consider comprehensive solutions.

Without a measured and thoughtful approach to addressing this complex issue we jeopardize the basic services which our constituents rely upon from our states and localities. We must sustain growth of the Internet and e-commerce with an appropriate revenue collecting structure built upon a foundation of fairness and equity to Main Street merchants.

MORE ANTI-CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES  
IN INDIA

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2000*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to read some recent articles showing that the repression of Christians in India continues. The RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, has apparently published a booklet on how to besmirch Christians.

According to an article in the May 5 issue of India Abroad, the RSS has published a booklet on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases. It cites a Hindustan Times report that says the booklet, entitled "Save Hindus—Attacks and Laws," contains "guidelines for framing charges, false as well as genuine, against minorities." The booklet has been in circulation for three months, according to the article.

If India cannot learn religious tolerance, it is not deserving of the support of the free countries of the world. It is time to declare India a violator of religious liberty and other human rights until the situation improves. India should allow Amnesty International into Punjab and other troubled states to conduct an independent human-rights investigation. This has not happened since 1978. What is "the world's largest democracy" hiding? India should also hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other states seeking their freedom from India.

I would like to introduce the article from India Abroad that I mentioned earlier into the RECORD for the information of the House and the public.

[From India Abroad, May 12, 2000]

ATTACK ON CHRISTIANS

New Delhi—A group of Christians who were distributing copies of the Bible and other evangelical literature in Vivekanandnagar, Ahmedabad, were reportedly attacked by activists of the right-wing Bajrang Dal on May 5.

The Christians were attacked with lathis (canes) and sharp-edged weapons, the reports said, adding that three persons were injured in the incident.

Samson C. Christian, executive member of the All India Christian Council, alleged that the attack was pre-planned as the Bajrang Dal was aware that members of the Operation Mobilization Association of Christians (OMAC) had been preaching in the area.

In a related development, reports stated that the Sangh Parivar, comprising Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological parent of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and its affiliate organizations, have brought out a booklet in Gujarat, containing guidelines on how to implicate minorities in court cases, The Hindustan Times reported.

The 12-page booklet, titled "Hinduno Bachao—akraman ane kayedo" (Save Hindus—attacks and laws), contains guidelines for framing charges, false as well as genuine, against minorities under existing laws, the report said, adding that the booklet has been in circulation for the past three months.