

Bill is very active in the community. In addition to his work with the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, he continues to dedicate time as Chairman of the Board of the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts of America; as a Member of the Board of Directors for the National Conference for Community and Justice; as Chair of the Advisory Panel for the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Electronic Media Division; as President of the Board for the Need-Kids of All; and as a Member of the Board for the Cincinnati Arts Association. Bill has also helped to support Big Brothers and Big Sisters; Scouting for Food and Clothing; Family Cancer Care; and the United Negro College Fund, among others.

Bill and his wife, Marilyn Lewis Moll, have two sons and two grandchildren. All of us in the Cincinnati area appreciate Bill's contributions to our community, and we congratulate him on receiving the 2000 Silver Medal Award.

HONORING THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, in today I salute an organization that has been making wishes come true for two decades. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an organization that fulfills the wishes of children fighting life-threatening illnesses. This organization's sole purpose is to bring happiness to children who confront harsh realities.

Eighty-thousand children worldwide have had their wishes fulfilled by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In Maryland alone, more than 1,200 children have had wishes fulfilled. This organization understands the fragility of life, and the wishes they grant are a true gesture of humanity.

I think fondly of the way they helped one of my own constituents. Chris Palmer of Cheverly, Maryland was diagnosed with Sickle Cell Anemia as a baby. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, fulfilled a wish for Chris in November, 1998. I, along with Chris and his family are very grateful to the Make-A-Wish Foundation for all they have given him.

I am proud of Chris Palmer's courageous fight with his illness. I commend the Make-A-Wish Foundation's devotion in bringing happiness to children like him. I also salute the many volunteers and donors who support and make up the backbone of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

I invite those interested in learning more about the Foundation to contact them at 1-800-722-9474 or on the internet at www.wish.org.

DAY OF PORTUGAL

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a very important community in the 18th Con-

gressional District. On Saturday, June 9, 2000, the Portuguese community will celebrate the Day of Portugal in Hilmar, California.

The Central Valley of California has long been a home for many from the Azores region of Portugal. Our communities have been enriched by the contributions of the Portuguese community. In honor of this distinguished celebration, three mayors from Portugal will be in attendance to participate in honor of the Portuguese culture. The mayors—Jorge Manuel Perira Rodrigues, President-Camara Municipal da Madalena; Manuel Joaquim Neves da Costa, President-Camara Municipal das Roques do Pico; and Eng. Claudio Gomes Lopes, President-Camara Municipal das Lajes do Pico—have traveled to the Central Valley of California for this celebration.

Many families have immigrated from Pico to the Merced County area over the years. Many have achieved prominent status in the areas of business, education, and politics. These families have maintained close ties to Pico and the Azores.

I consider it an honor and privilege to recognize the Day of Portugal and the special guests who have traveled so far to share it with our community.

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in calling for the prompt scheduling of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

It is unconscionable that two years to the day since the shocking murder of James Byrd, Jr., we still have not been able to consider legislation that will help us better prosecute and, more importantly, help prevent the commission of hate crimes. Sadly, since the senseless murder of Mr. Byrd, the news has continued to be filled with stories of terrible crimes being committed against people just because of who they are—the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, the murder of a Filipino-American postal worker, Joseph Illete, and the wounding of children and others at a Los Angeles Jewish community center, and less than two months ago in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the murder of five people including an African American man, a Jewish woman, two Asian Americans and an Indian man. And these are just the incidents that made the headlines. We never even hear about the thousands of other hate crimes that, for whatever reason, go uncovered by the media or are not reported to law enforcement officials.

As elected leaders, it is incumbent upon us to set an example not just in expressing our outrage about these crimes, but by putting new teeth into our anti-hate crime law enforcement activities. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would ensure that hate crime protections are extended to all Americans and would provide resources to local law enforcement agencies who must investigate and prosecute hate crimes in their communities. We must take this important step to send the message that no one should have to live in fear simply for being who they are.

In fact, we came very close the past two years to getting the Hate Crimes Protection

Act enacted but could not in the face of Republican Leadership opposition. So, once again, I call upon them to drop their opposition and allow Hate Crimes Protection Act supporters to have the opportunity to make their case on the House floor and pass this critical legislation. Continued inaction is a disgrace to the memory of all hate crimes victims and to their families. It is also a disgrace upon us and who we are as a people.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST POINT LAKE AND DAM IN TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize the West Point Dam and Lake Project in West Point, Georgia. On June 17, 2000, the U.S. Corps of Engineers will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the West Point Dam and Lake Project.

Construction of the West Point Dam and Lake Project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1962, for the purposes of flood control, hydroelectric power, recreation, fish and wildlife development and downstream navigation. Later, water quality was added as an authorized project purpose. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction of the project in December 1965. Impoundment of the lake began in October of 1974, and the project was dedicated with a formal ceremony held at the dam on June 7, 1975.

West Point Project continues to provide substantial benefits to the region. It protects residences and businesses along the Chattahoochee River downstream from flooding, and provides low-cost electric power during periods of peak demand. It also provides a water source for downstream navigation along the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint Rivers Waterway.

There are over 10,000 acres of intensively managed wildlife habitat on the lake, as well as 38 public recreational areas for the outdoor enthusiast. The lake hosts an average of over 2 million visitors each year who come to enjoy multiple recreational opportunities such as camping, boating, picnicking, fishing, hunting, and more. It provides an enhanced quality of life to those who live on or near its shoreline.

West Point Project's 25-year history of public service is worthy of commemoration. It has been a pleasure to work closely with the citizens and authorities who keep West Point Lake and Dam Project in excellent condition.

The true spirit of public service and cooperation at West Point Lake is exemplified by the West Point Lake Task Force, chaired by Ken Manning and co-chaired by Dr. Art Holbrook and Dr. Harry McGinnis. The Task Force provides a vital, credible, and active avenue for constituents of the Seventh District to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Corps of Engineers. This group has also served our community by providing beneficial information to help as we strive to understand the complexities of this most valuable natural resource.

The cooperative spirit in which the Corps of Engineers works with our Task Force and with the local government, is exemplified by Eddie

Sosebee in LaGrange, Colonel David Norwood in Mobile, Alabama, and Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army, in Washington, D.C.

HONORING THEODORE AND
MAXINE ALBERS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor Theodore and Maxine Albers for being recognized by the Mesa County Civic Forum for their lifetime of contributions to Mesa County. The Civic Forum's mission is to promote citizen influence regarding the important issues affecting Mesa County's quality of life through better understanding, objective, non-partisan dialogue, and support for citizen action. Without question, Theodore and Maxine have upheld this mission to its fullest extent and are distinguished role models that every citizen should seek to emulate.

Theodore and Maxine have a longstanding record of reaching out to the Grand Junction community. They have played an active role in numerous community organizations throughout their years as residents in the area. Together, they have worked in both the public and private sectors of the local economy and, most notably, have been extremely influential in the field of education, particularly at Mesa State College. In 1992, Mesa State College honored the couple by giving them the Distinguished Service Award, naming Albers Hall in their honor and forming the Albers Scholarship Fund as part of the Mesa State College Foundation.

The former President of Mesa State College from 1970–74, Theodore currently sits on the Mesa State College Board of Trustees and is an active member in such organizations as Club 20 and the Lions Club. Maxine served with great distinction as a Mesa County Commissioner from 1974–1988 and today is a member of the Women's Foundation of the Colorado Advisory Council and the Mesa County Republican Women. These are but a hand-full of the literally dozens of community causes to which the Albers have dedicated their time and energies.

Mr. Speaker, the active role that the Albers have played in Grand Junction has contributed immeasurably to the betterment of our community. The Civic Forum plays a crucial role in the community and Theodore and Maxine Albers embody the ideals of service and sacrifice that this distinguished organization promotes.

For all these reasons, Mr. Speaker, the Albers eminently deserve the thanks and praise of this body. Colorado is clearly a better place for having known these outstanding Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUGLAS
ISCOVITZ

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Mr. Douglas Iscovitz, of Weston, Florida. I am very pleased to say that Douglas was recently named the Florida Principal of the Year by the Florida Association of Secondary Administrators and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The selection process for this distinction is an arduous one. After having been nominated for the award, the first-round finalists must submit paper-work detailing school accomplishments; the principal's track record of dealing with students, staff, and the school; the principal's ability to solve academic and social problems; community involvement; and positive school climate. After closely examining his work, it is clear that Douglas' accomplishments exemplify the tenets espoused by the Florida Principal of the Year award.

As the Principal of Indian Ridge Middle School, Douglas has founded new programs and encouraged students to excel in existing growth fostering programs. In this sense he has taken a very active role in his school. His most meritorious program is the "Write On America!" project, a project in which students write to prominent people who have made significant contributions to the greatness of our nation. Requesting an autographed photo, inspiring messages, and words of advice, the "Write on America!" program has proven itself to be a wonderful way to teach Indian Ridge Middle School students about history and writing. It is clear that Douglas' efforts have made a lasting impression on those in the school and in the community as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Douglas Iscovitz for his extraordinary achievements and exemplary effort in bettering the Indian Ridge Middle School. It is truly an honor to be named the Florida Principal of the Year, and it is an honor for the residents of South Florida to be able to call him one of our own. Indeed, Douglas has made a remarkable impact on the students at Indian Ridge Middle School. His accomplishments are something that both he and the entire state of Florida can be proud of.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SONAM
ZOKSANG SEEK TO PRESERVE
TIBETAN CULTURE AND IDENTITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago in the Cannon Rotunda, we had the pleasure of viewing a magnificent exhibit of the photographs of Sonam Zoksang, a Tibetan photographer who has sought to use his photographic art and his considerable skill to preserve Tibetan culture and identity.

Sonam Zoksang was born in the small Tibetan village of Kyirong, but his parents fled to

India just a month after he was born. He made the first visit to the country of his birth in 1993 when he was 33 years old. As a result of that visit, he made it his goal to capture the devastation that his people have experienced on film for all the world to see. Since that first visit to Tibet in 1993, he has been compelled to return each year.

Mr. Speaker, over the last seven years, Mr. Zoksang has seen the situation in Tibet worsen dramatically. The Chinese government has given incentives to non-Tibetan Han Chinese to encourage them to move into Tibet, and increasingly this has made Tibetans a minority in their own land. The growth in Chinese immigrants has increased Sonam's greatest concern for the future of Tibet—the children. He states that in "addition to all the problems they have in common with Tibetans in general, there is little or no educational opportunity for them in Tibet. Every year hundreds of Tibetan children risk their lives to escape to India, crossing the Himalayas on foot in the frigid winter to taste the air of freedom."

In explaining his photographs, Sonam Zoksang said: "I feel very strongly that many young Tibetans have no hope, no dreams, and no future to live for. No Tibetans seem to be truly happy with their situation, and moreover, they feel threatened with their very extinction." In an effort to preserve the culture of the Tibetan people, Sonam Zoksang has risked his life to document the changes taking place inside Tibet. The Chinese would refuse him a visa to enter the Country, so he has had to risk his life and his freedom in order to record through his photographs the traditional culture and the rapid and systematic way in which it is being destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sonam Zoksang for his outstanding photographs and the great contribution which his work has made to preserve Tibetan culture and to strengthen the identity of the Tibetan people.

TRIBUTE TO HILLTOP—50 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Hilltop Community Resources Inc., an organization that provides a range of invaluable services to the residents of Mesa County who are in need of special assistance and care, as they celebrate their 50th birthday. In recognition of this tremendous landmark and Hilltop's considerable efforts to improve life for those who are less fortunate, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this tremendous organization.

Hilltop originated as the Mesa County Society for Crippled Children and Adults in 1950, offering outpatient services for people with disabilities. In the time since, Hilltop has incorporated a number of helpful services to assist its patients with their ailments and needs. Hilltop creates independent living communities that provide care and comfort for their citizens and offer the Elder Care/Assisted Living program that ensures elderly residents the opportunity to stay active in their daily lifestyle with