

them as well, because we know that they are coming back and getting that much stronger.

I want to congratulate our quarterback, too, our quarterback for the Tennessee Titans and Eddie George and Al Del Greco, and we can go on and on with the great players we have had, and Marcus Robertson, who was hurt in the game before, who was decent enough through his foundation to give us or send four young people to Washington, D.C. to a youth violence event.

Those are the kinds of examples we need in the future, not just football players but football players with courage, football players with character that will set an example to our young people as we move into the 21st century and prepare for the future.

ELIAN AND FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, there are those who doubt the argument that returning Elian Gonzalez to Cuba actually means returning a 6-year-old boy to the Castro regime. There are those who question the importance or relevance of the sacrifice that Elian's mother made to ensure that he would live in freedom. There are still others who would question Elian's ability to express his own desires and to help determine his own fate.

However, those who have lived under totalitarian rule do not doubt. They know what it means to live in fear, in fear of persecution, in fear of arrest, in fear of torture and even death because of one's belief. They have suffered enslavement and subjugation by Communist regimes which not only stole their present but destroyed their future by exerting absolute control over their children's lives. Someone once said, it is easy to take liberty for granted when you have never had it taken from you.

I ask those who seek to oversimplify this case by advocating Elian's immediate return, without a court hearing and without following U.S. law, not to make that mistake. I ask them to hear the pleas of the members of organizations such as the Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, who are appealing to Congress to act in Elian's case.

They write: "We know from recent past experience that Communist regimes are dangerous to the health and spirit of people under its control." For this reason, this group has asked us "to use our good offices to help a little boy to live in freedom."

I ask Members to listen to Vietnamese-American refugee advocate Hai Tran, who reminds us of how many Vietnamese mothers wiped off their tears and sent their children away to a seat on that rickety boat so that they might have a future, how many Vietnamese mothers and their children died

at sea in search of freedom away from that bamboo gulag. Because he knows the value and the sanctity of freedom, Hai Tran believes it is Elian's right to life and liberty here in the United States.

I ask those who support INS's unilateral decision to return Elian to Cuba to heed the questions proposed by Susan Rosenbluth in her editorial for the newspaper Jewish Voice and Opinion. She writes, "Imagine a Jewish father in Addis Ababa circa 1983, or Moscow circa 1987, or Damascus circa 1990, or Tehran right now.

Imagine the boy's mother finds a way to escape with the child. In the midst of the plan, something goes wrong and she dies, but miraculously, the little boy makes it. When he wakes up, he finds himself in Tel Aviv surrounded by his family, but the father is still in the country where dictators have the last word. Would the boy be returned to whatever totalitarian nightmare his mother had rescued him from?"

Susan Rosenbluth continues, in the Jewish Voice and Opinion, "If our hearts know the right answer for the hypothetical Jewish child in that story, then we must understand that Elian Gonzalez, the little boy whose mother died trying to rescue him from Cuba, belongs in the U.S., and that if his loving father could speak freely, that is what he would say, too.

After focusing on these statements, it is difficult to discount the importance of considering the environment that Elian would be exposed to in Cuba. It becomes readily apparent that a forum must be provided where the mother's wishes and ultimate sacrifice are also evaluated. This can only take place, justice can indeed only be served by allowing a court of law to hear the case.

The INS disagrees because it is applying Cuban law to the case. Congress, however, must be guided by U.S. laws and international standards requiring due process.

President Harry Truman once said, you know that being an American is more than a matter of where your parents come from. It is a belief that all men are created free and equal, and that everyone deserves an even break.

That is my belief, and I know it is my colleagues', as well. I ask that we live up to our commitment to uphold and protect the rights endowed to all human beings, and that we search our consciences before making a summary judgment to send Elian back to Castro's Cuba.

We have an opportunity to make a difference in this little boy's life; to demonstrate, through our actions, our adherence to the principles that are the rubric of our democratic society; to send a message from our resolve on behalf of oppressed men, women, and children everywhere. Let us not squander it.

TRIBUTE TO KURT WARNER, A REAL AMERICAN HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about a tribute to a very special person. President Reagan once observed that those who say there are no more American heroes, well, they just do not know where to look.

Paul Simon asked a haunting question in his song many years ago, "Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio? A Nation turns its lonely eyes to you." America has always wanted heroes, and too often in sports we have found counterheroes.

I want to pay tribute tonight to a real American hero, a gentleman by the name of Kurt Warner. The Warner story has been documented in the last week or so by many sports scribes, and I do want to ultimately submit for the RECORD an article which was written by the sports editor of our local newspaper, Bob Brown in the Rochester Post Bulletin.

I guess I have a special feeling for Kurt Warner for a lot of reasons. First of all, his grandparents are from Faribault, Minnesota, which is in my district. Second, he went to the same college that I did, the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Third, he worked for the Hy-Vee grocery store in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and so did I. Fourth, I guess I would have to say, his wife, Brenda, spent several of her formative years living in a home on West Ninth Street in Cedar Falls, Iowa, right next to my parents.

So I guess I have had a fairly special relationship, even though Kurt Warner and I have never met. But I have followed his career from the time he was at UNI, and I have come to appreciate not only his talents on the field, but the kind of human being that he really is. We saw that yesterday, and we have seen it as his career has developed.

He has kept his head on straight. He has kept his focus on the things that were important in his life. The story is just such a powerful story. It could not have happened to a nicer individual.

The story of Kurt Warner is one that every American should be proud of. He went to college and was red-shirted his first year, spent 3 years on the bench, and finally got his chance to play at the University of Northern Iowa. He led his team to the midconference championship. He was not drafted by anybody in the NFL, but he was allowed to come to the Packers' training camp. He was cut. After he was cut by the Packers he returned to Cedar Falls and worked at that Hy-Vee grocery store I talked about earlier.

The great thing about Kurt Warner is that he never lost his faith. Like the parable of the talents in the Bible, he understood that almighty God had given him special talents, and he was expected to make the most of them, so he stuck with those talents long after

some of the experts would probably have encouraged him to give up.

But the story of Kurt Warner goes on. Not only did he go on to lead the Rams this year to the NFL championship in the Super Bowl and to the MVP award, but I think the story is much more powerful. After the game was over, he gave tribute and paid honor to where the real honor belonged, and he gave all of the glory to his savior, Jesus Christ. I just want to say, it took a special kind of courage for him to do that.

The story, as I say, goes on. Not only has Warner battled obstructions on the field to get where he is, but he has also had his share of off-the-field struggles, as well. His in-laws were killed in a tornado in Mountain View, Arkansas. Kurt and his wife Brenda's oldest son Zachary has been blind since suffering a head injury in an accident when he was a baby. Zachary is only able to see objects that are held very close to his face. He has been that way since he was an infant, when his father, Brenda's first husband, accidentally dropped the child during a bath.

Zachary has head injuries, but Kurt went on to adopt the child. He says later in this interview, "To go home and see how he struggles with everything he does helps keep things in perspective," Warner said. "I have realized how special a child he must be to go through life with the excitement and the joy he has, even though he has to struggle doing everything he does."

The story of Kurt Warner is a powerful story, and we in America I think owe him a big thank you, because for one brief, shining moment, we were all privileged to watch a real hero perform his art and perfect our lives.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I would like to say a special thank you to Kurt Warner. Good luck to he and his wife Brenda. We wish them only the best. As Paul Harvey would say, lead on.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article of January 29, 2000, from the Post-Bulletin.

The article referred to is as follows:

[From the Post-Bulletin, January 29, 2000]
WARNER HAS STORY TO TELL: QUARTERBACK'S
TALE IS MEMORABLE

The story of this Super Bowl is Kurt Warner.

What the St. Louis Rams' quarterback has gone through to become the National Football League's Most Valuable Player this season and to lead his team to the Super Bowl is amazing, utterly amazing.

Here are some things about Warner you might want to keep in mind as you watch him play in Super Bowl XXXIV Sunday against the Tennessee Titans.

He went to high school and college just down Highway 63 from us. Born in Burlington, Iowa, he attended Cedar Rapids Regis High School, lettering in football, basketball and baseball. He played college football at Northern Iowa University in Cedar Falls.

He was redshirted his first year at Northern Iowa, sat the bench for the next three years and started only as a fifth-year senior. Warner wasn't even on full scholarship until

his last year in college. He did pass for 2,747 yards and led Northern Iowa to a Gateway Conference championship in 1993.

Warner wasn't drafted by any NFL teams. He went to the green Bay Packers' training camp in 1994. He was cut before camp was over, but he was there long enough for Packers quarterback Brett Favre to tag him with the nick-name "Pop" Warner.

After he was cut by the Packers he returned to Cedar Falls and worked for six months stocking shelves at the Hy-Vee grocery store there.

Warner went on to play with the Des Moines-based Iowa Barnstormers in the Arena Football League for the next three seasons. He holds virtually all the Barnstormers' passing records, including 79 touchdown passes in one season (1997). He passed for 10,164 yards and 183 touchdowns in three seasons in Iowa.

Warner signed as a free agent with the Rams on Dec. 26, 1997 and then spent the summer of 1998 playing in NFL Europe for the Amsterdam Admirals and led the league in passing and touchdowns.

Warner, a devout Christian, spent time in Amsterdam, a city known for its red light district, leading a bible study class.

Warner rejoined the Rams for the 1998 NFL season, and spent the first 14 games on the inactive list. He saw his first NFL action of his career in the fourth quarter of Rams' final game against San Francisco and completed four of 11 passes for 39 yards.

Warner was back with the Rams this season, only because the Cleveland Browns passed him over in the expansion draft. The line on Warner as he entered this season was: Has potential to develop into a solid quarterback in the league . . . raw talent with outstanding arm strength and accuracy.

The Rams had signed Trent Green who played at Washington last season, to be their quarterback, but he suffered a knee injury in the preseason and was out for the year. In stepped Warner and the rest is history. He led the NFL in passing and with his 41 touchdown passes became only the second player in NFL history to throw for more than 40 touchdowns in a season.

Not only has Warner battled obstacles on the field to get to where he is, but he has had his share of off-the-field hurdles, too. His in-laws were killed in a tornado in Mountain View, Ark., in 1996. Kurt and wife Brenda's oldest Zachary, has been blind since suffering a head injury in an accident when he was a baby.

Zachary, is only able to see objects that are held close to his face. He's been that way since he was an infant, when his father, Brenda's first husband, accidentally dropped the child during a bath. Zachary's head hit the side of the tub, which damaged his brain and ruptured his retinas.

The accident almost killed the child, and doctors warned Brenda that if Zachary lived he'd never be able to see or walk or talk. He survived, despite seizures in the hospital, and when the Warners got married, Kurt adopted the boy, and his sister, Jesse, 8.

"To go home and see how he struggles with everything he does helps me keep things in perspective," Warner said. "I have realized how special a child he must be to go through life with the excitement and joy he has even though he has to struggle doing everything he does."

So that is the Kurt Warner story. It's difficult not to pull for a guy like him.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I begin by congratulating my very good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) for his very thoughtful special order. Representing Los Angeles, the

former home of the Rams, I would like to extend hearty congratulations to Kurt Warner and Dick Vermeil and all associated with the Rams organization for their very impressive and exciting victory towards the end yesterday.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1838, TAIWAN SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-490) on the resolution (H. Res. 408) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1838) to assist in the enhancement of the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE PIPELINE SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 1999, a liquid gasoline pipeline owned by the Olympic Pipeline Company ruptured and spilled over 200,000 gallons of gasoline at Whatcom Falls Park, a 241-acre park in my district in the city of Bellingham. Gasoline was carried into Whatcom Creek, where it reportedly filled the creek at depths of up to 10 feet.

The spilled fuel was inadvertently ignited by two 10-year-old boys, Wade King and Stephen Tsiorvas, who were playing with bottle rockets at the creek. The resulting fireball raced down the length of the creek for a mile and a half, killing King, Tsiorvas, and an 18-year-old fly fisherman named Liam Wood. Swaths as wide as 200 feet along the creek were burned within minutes.

The explosion of June 10 caused millions of dollars in property damage and did immeasurable harm to the families and friends of Wade King, Stephen Tsiorvas, and Liam Wood.

I have long held reservations about our system of pipeline safety regulations. In 1996, I voted against the pipeline deregulation bill because I felt it