

will see solar power cars race from Chicago to Southern California, over the Great Plains, the Rockies and the great American desert. Clearly, solar power offers something for everyone.

In October 2000, at the Utility Photovoltaic meeting in Baltimore, Department of Energy officials announced that more than 100,000 solar energy systems had been installed in the U.S. since the beginning of the solar roof initiative. Under the Clinton administration, the Department of Energy had organized 51 partnerships from coast to coast—dedicated to working on matters such as interconnection, electricity restructuring, and Federal solar purchases.

Through the efforts of the solar industry, with the support of the federal government, solar technology has made substantial progress in recent years. The cost has been reduced to \$.20 per kilowatt hour, and further reductions are expected. As a result, sales are increasing at a dramatic rate. Sales of photovoltaics within the United States has been growing at a rate of 25% a year. The United States photovoltaics industry is a strong exporter, with almost 70% of U.S. production going to export sales. There is room for growth in our exports. Currently, the U.S. has about 20% of the world market and Germany and Japan each has a larger market share than our country.

I believe that we need to continue the Federal government's role in promoting the development of this technology. The Federal government should continue to be a major customer, and help the technology reach its full potential. My bill will express Congressional support for the type of program established by the Clinton administration, and provide the necessary funding. My bill establishes a goal for the Federal government during the next five years to acquire photovoltaic systems for Federal buildings which will produce at least 150 megawatts of electricity. This will accomplish the goal of the 20,000 solar roof initiative. The bill authorizes appropriations of \$210 million a year for the next five years, the level of funding needed to purchase approximately 18,000 photovoltaic systems. The bill also establishes a program for evaluation of the systems used in Federal facilities to ensure that the government is encouraging development of the most advanced technology.

Mr. Speaker, using Federal government procurements to "jump start" a technology is not without precedent. In fact, photovoltaic technology itself is a product of space technology, and was advanced by NASA in the Hubble space station program. As a result, photovoltaic systems power nearly every satellite today as they circle the earth. Similarly, in the early days of the computer era the cost of microchips was prohibitive. Large-scale purchases by the government (NASA and DOD) helped bring the costs down to commercially competitive levels. As another example, the General Services Administration, using its FTS 2000 telecommunications contact, was also successful in promoting advancements and enhancements in telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the program established by my bill can make a major contribution to energy efficiency, protection of the environment and reduced dependence on foreign energy. I will be working to incorporate this program in any energy legislation passed in this Congress.

AMERICA HAS EARNED OUR RESPECT AND ALLEGIANCE EVERY DAY

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on July 4, our nation will commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—an astounding historic achievement for liberty and freedom. It's sad that in 2001, political correctness has replaced patriotism and respect for America's achievements with cynicism and even disrespect.

James Merna, Past Maryland Commandant of the Marine Corps League brought this example to my attention during his speech entitled, "Heroes and Role Models for Today and Tomorrow," at the Elks Club Flag Day Observance in Frederick, Maryland on June 10.

In May, Mr. Fran Parry, a track coach from Gaithersburg High School in Maryland was suspended for 12 days. Why? He confronted and reprimanded a student who was disrespectful during the Pledge of Allegiance. The student replied that he wasn't American and didn't have to be respectful during the Pledge.

It took support and pressure from other students, parents and the community after the incident became public before Coach Parry was reinstated.

America has earned our respect and allegiance every day.

I submit Mr. Merna's entire speech for the Record and I urge my colleagues and all Americans to read it.

REMARKS OF JAMES E. MERNA, PAST MARYLAND STATE COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, AT THE ELKS CLUB FLAG DAY OBSERVANCE, FREDERICK, MD, JUNE 10, 2001
"HEROES AND ROLE MODELS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW"

Thank you for inviting me. I am honored to speak to the Elks, one of America's largest and most influential fraternal organizations.

At the outset, allow me to extend my congratulations to the Frederick Elks Lodge on the celebration of your 100th anniversary this year. This is an accomplishment of which you should be justifiably proud, for a century of service in brotherhood to each other, to your community, and to the nation. I wish you many more years of good fellowship and service.

I have a number of ties to the Frederick community, forged in years of friendship and admiration. Let me mention just three:

(1) The Shangri-La Detachment, Marine Corps League. This great organization was originally formed here in Frederick, I believe, in 1948. After many years of service, it became somewhat inactive. A few of us came here in 1968, helped reissue its charter and get it reinvigorated, and today it flourishes as one of the most active detachments in the entire League. I made many good friends here, among them, your own Tommy Grunwell, Ken Bartgis, and the late Charlie Horn.

(2) Ben Wright, your football coach here at Governor Thomas Johnson High School. Earlier in his career, before he coached your Patriots, he coached three of my four sons when he was the head football coach at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, in Greenbelt.

He's a true winner in every respect, athletically and morally.

(3) My son John Merna, Major, U.S. Marine Corps. Two summers ago, John commanded a reinforced Marine rifle company (Echo 2-5) on a five month cruise in the South China Sea. The float was part of the Seventh Fleet whose purpose, besides being a good will mission for the U.S., was to conduct amphibious exercises and training with designated Asian forces.

Nonetheless, let me offer a few of my observations on the current fervor, or the lack thereof, for patriotism in America today, and what needs to be done, if anything, particularly with regard to our youth.

We can start by asking ourselves, who still observes Flag Day today? We may see a few houses in our neighborhoods who will fly their flags on their porches or in their front yards. But, increasingly, we no longer feel compelled to honor the flag. That kind of patriotic display is steadily being regarded as old-fashioned or tedious. Contrast today to a little more than 100 years ago when Flag Day in 1894 drew some 300,000 people to city parks in Chicago alone. Unfortunately, powerful forces in our society, popular culture, and political circles oftentimes emphasize our cultural differences, rather than our unity as Americans.

Let me mention a recent incident that occurred only two and a half weeks ago, just down the 270 Pike from here, in Gaithersburg, Maryland, which should give us cause for concern. Many of you may already know the story. It was in the Washington Post on May 23rd. It involves a local high school track coach from Gaithersburg High School who was suspended for 12 days for confronting a student who was disrespectful during the school's reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I was incensed as soon as I heard of this incident. Here we have a 27-year veteran of the Montgomery County school system, a highly successful track coach who has won three state and 15 regional titles, suspended from his teaching and coaching jobs only because he attempted to get a student to show respect while the Pledge of Allegiance was being recited in the school.

The coach's name is Fran Parry. He lives a stones throw from here, in nearby Clarksburg. I called and spoke to Coach Parry Tuesday, just five days ago. He told me that it was a spontaneous event, that the student who is a football player and who was on the track team, rushed past the coach who asked him to stop while the Pledge of Allegiance was being recited. The student angrily replied that he wasn't an American and didn't have to. The coach told him that was a bad attitude and that he had relatives who died for the very freedoms that the student enjoys. The student just laughed at Coach Parry and said "So what." The coach told me he didn't think too much of the incident until the next day when he was summoned to the principal's office and told he was being suspended from his duties and placed on administrative leave.

The student is black. Coach Parry told me 80 percent of his track team is African-American and they backed the coach 1000 percent. There was not one dissenting voice among them. The coach met with the student's parents, expressed regret over the incident but told them he wouldn't change his message. He was then told by the Deputy Superintendent that he was on leave indefinitely and that there would be an investigation focusing on whether he was a racist.

Coach Parry told me that the community was unbelievably behind him. Families and students called. He had 29 calls one night from people that he didn't even know, from all cultures. Chris Core, on WMAL Radio,

Washington's most popular afternoon radio talk show, had a two-hour call in. Chris Core supported the coach "110 percent." Only two callers dissented. The very next day, Coach Parry told me, he was called by the principal and told he was being reinstated.

So here's a case of a student who shows blatant disrespect for the symbol of our freedom and the American way of life, who places the tenure and career of an outstanding and highly successful coach in jeopardy, and walks away blameless. At the same time, Coach Parry was told that he was "too caustic," was suspended from his job for 12 days, and given a letter of reprimand.

Something's wrong here. The wrong guy has been punished. This is political correctness at its zaniest. Whatever happened to accountability and personal responsibility for one's own behavior? Instead of being portrayed as the villain, Coach Parry should be hailed as a patriot. Webster's dictionary defines a patriot as "one who loves his country and zealously supports its authority and interests." The coach did what you and I would have done under the same circumstances. Thomas Paine, in one of his most favorite quotes, said, "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country, but he that stands for it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

There's more to this story, as I found out in talking to Coach Parry. As I said earlier, the student used to be on the track team at school. He and the coach knew each other well. The student sometimes ate his lunch in the coach's office, used his microwave. Coach Parry even drove him home after track practice at times when he needed a ride. But the student had an attitude problem, and it came to the fore with his disrespect for the *Flag of Allegiance*.

Where does Coach Parry derive his patriotic fervor? From his dad and his uncle who fought with the Marines on Iwo Jima, the bloodiest battle in World War II. His uncle was with the Third Marine Division. He landed on the beach at Iwo with 48 Marines in his platoon. When he left on a stretcher, 40 of the 48 Marines were killed. The remaining 8, including himself were wounded. Coach Parry's dad was with the Fourth Marine Division. After he learned that his brother was wounded, he visited him later aboard a hospital ship off Iwo.

And if that isn't proof enough of Coach Parry's patriotic heritage, I learned that his great-great-grandfather served in the American Revolutionary War as a sergeant in the First Maryland Regiment, and was wounded in battle in New Jersey while pulling down a British flag. What a legacy. I mention this family history only to put in perspective the total picture. The bottom line, as Coach Parry told me, is that "people do care—I'm testimony to that." He told me that he had just received in the mail an unsolicited musical tape of patriotic songs from a group called "Friends of America" from Fort Collins, Colorado. One of the songs was "I'm Proud to be an American." To that, I can only add, thank God that Coach Parry is an American. He's All-American, first team, in my opinion.

From this example of Coach Parry, it proves the point that coaches hold a unique place in the educational system of this country. They are not only teachers of young men and women, they are also their leaders. They test their spirit, and at the same time force them to test themselves. Coaches do as much to build the character of the future leaders of our country as any other group.

Let me tell you about another great coach—one who I regarded as the best coach in America—my high school coach at St. Agnes Home for Boys in Sparkill, New York,

one of the two orphanages where I was raised.

His name was Jim Faulk, an inspirational leader unsurpassed. When he was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 1978, the program citation read: "Jim Faulk not only was the coach, he was 'Mr. Everything' at St. Agnes. He did it all. He was the athletic director, the guidance counsellor, the social worker, the disciplinarian, the trainer, the varsity and J.V. coach for all the sports, which included football, basketball, baseball, wrestling and golf. In his spare time he also ran a full sports program for the alumni. He even drove the school bus." In his acceptance speech, he said, "I made it only because of the gutsy kids I coached at St. Agnes." I know he said it because I was there.

Jim Faulk came to St. Agnes in 1933, fresh out of the University of Alabama. Through the years, he turned down lucrative offers from Villanova and other prestigious colleges to remain at a much lower salary with the orphan boys and kids from broken homes. He devoted his life to St. Agnes—and to the Dominican nuns there—helping needy youngsters advance through life.

He produced football teams so tough that few schools wanted to play him. One of the schools that accepted the challenge was St. Cecelia's High School in Englewood, New Jersey. Its young coach then, just out of Fordham, later went on to fame as head coach of the Green Bay Packers and the Washington Redskins—Vince Lombardi.

Coach Faulk tried to set up a game with the New York Military Academy, an exclusive prep school for West Point. They only played us when our coach had them flunking we were a fancy prep school like them—they thought we were St. Agnes Prep. Little did they know we were an orphanage with ragtag uniforms and sometimes borrowed equipment. Anyway, we established a relationship and ended up playing them for many years.

During World War II, Coach Faulk took a leave of absence from St. Agnes to join the Marines. He was a Captain in command of artillery units and saw extensive combat in the Pacific, including action at Guadalcanal. He remained in the Marine Corps Reserve in later life and retired as a full colonel.

He wrote many inspiring letters from his combat assignments during the war that were reprinted in a newsletter sent out by the nuns to St. Agnes men serving in the military around the globe. He always addressed his letters "To the Fightingest Boys in the World." In one of his letters, as he was aboard ship and waiting to go over the side, he wrote:

"There is absolutely no group of men in this wide world as loyal and devoted to its alma mater and to each other as you fighting boys from St. Agnes. No doubt, as you move from place to place in your travels to all continents and mingle with men from all states and nations, you must begin to appreciate more and more that spirit of St. Agnes—the spirit that is so much a part of your daily lives.

"No one but a St. Agnes boy could understand that deep loyalty and respect you have for each other. Stick together in war as you did in peace. Let the Sisters back home know where you are and what you are doing. Whether a private or a captain, you all speak the same language; you all have the same ideals and you are all heroes in my book. The Sisters feel likewise. They are bursting with pride and joy over your accomplishments."

That's the type of man Coach Jim Faulk was—always caring, inspiring, encouraging and motivating St. Agnes men to excel and achieve. And many St. Agnes graduates heard his message and followed in his footsteps. Let me mention some of them.

St. Agnes had as many as 600 kids fighting in World War II. Over 40 were killed, hundreds were wounded, and many were decorated for bravery. Guys like: Charlie Loesch, who lost his leg in the muddy mountains of sunny Italy. (His reaction: "when I get my artificial leg, everything will be just the same as when I had two genuine legs"); 1st Lt. A.J. Fabrizi, who completed 50 bombing missions over enemy territory with the 15th Air Force in Italy; Francis Mahon, who went back to Walter Reed Hospital for the third operation to save his eye; the mother of Bill Callahan wrote to let us know her son was a P.O.W. His address then was Stalag 17 B, Germany; Frank Napoli paratrooper, won the Silver Star and the Purple Heart after major landings in Sicily and Salerno, Italy; Sam Torresse who Coach Faulk wrote to and said, "I was sorry to hear about your wounds . . . it will take more than a Nazi to flatten you"; Jim Nestor—Coach Faulk talked to other Marines who were with him when he gave his life on a ridge in the Marianas "trying to prevent a breakthrough of fanatic, drunken Nips"; and Captain David Loeser, Army, killed in action in Luxembourg, the first St. Agnes kid to attain the rank of Captain.

I could go on and on, but as Coach Faulk said, these were gutsy kids, and true heroes they were. They were my legacy, they are yours, and they are America's.

Literally hundreds and hundreds of St. Agnes men, including two brothers and myself, joined the Marine Corps, inspired by the example set by Coach Faulk. I had two other brothers join the Navy. Coach Faulk was, in my opinion, probably the greatest unofficial recruiter the Marine Corps ever had.

Jim and his wife Betty were never blessed with children. We took care of that. Some of us named our children after him. My oldest son is named James Faulk Merna. Coach Faulk was very proud of his namesake and visited him with much pride when he was a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. Our son graduated with the Class of 1987, is married with two children, and is a lawyer with the most prominent law firm in Atlanta.

Coach Faulk once told me in a letter, while I was in Korea during that war, "One character trait that I admired in all of you St. Agnes men—you went out into the world with two strikes on you, and never expected to be embraced, gave your all for your country when it asked, and, now, most of you are raising families who can truly say—my father came up the hard way."

Now you can see why I said earlier that someone like Coach Faulk was the greatest coach that I have ever known. Our nation needs strong coaches like Coach Faulk, Coach Parry, and Ben Wright, because they are doing as much to build the character of our future leaders as any other group of men or women.

One last final thought. Our nation is in the midst of a huge nostalgia fest with the Second World War. A number of "Greatest Generation" books have been written, the best by Tom Brokaw of NBC News, box-office attendance records have been set for the new blockbuster movies like "Saving Private Ryan" and now "Pearl Harbor." There has also been significant publicity about the World War II Memorial now finally approved for the Mall in Washington, D.C.

Let us build on this momentum. We have elections coming up next year, and another Presidential election in 2004. As George Will pointed out recently, during the last administration, at times, we had a president, a CIA director, a Secretary of Defense, a Secretary of State, and a National Security Advisor, none of whom had any military experience. It's almost as appalling in the Congress. According to the National Association for Uniformed Services, in 1965, 82% of the members

of Congress and 80% of the staffers had military experience. Now less than 1/3 of Congress and 5% of their staff have had any military experience. And on the civilian side, only 6% today of Americans younger than 65 have ever served in uniform.

Those numbers by themselves are not alarming because it's recognized that we are not at war and we have at present an all-vol-

unteer military. We just need to be sure that we elect public officials who have a greater understanding and a strong commitment to support our national security and defense by deeds, not mere words. We need their solid support, as well as from local school board officials, for military recruiters who were denied access to high school campuses 19,228 times in 1999.

Thank you for inviting me to participate in your Flag Day celebration today. As members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, you have long set an example the rest of us must try to follow if we are going to preserve for our future generations the same priceless treasures of liberty and freedom which our forebears passed on to us.