

Gerald also occupied the role of civil servant for many years. He worked as a Town Manager for Surfside for nine years, and then served as a City Administrator and Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Lighthouse Point for 23 years. In addition, he was past president of the American Society of Public Administrators and the Municipal Finance Officers of America. In recognition of his outstanding public service, Gerald Renuart was honored by then President Jimmy Carter.

As a retired Naval Officer, Gerald Renuart will be given full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on July 20, 2001. These honors serve as an example of the caliber of man he was and will compliment the other accolades received by Mr. Renuart in recognizing him as an admirable and exceptional member of his family, community, and nation.

Mr. Speaker, Gerald Renuart was both well-loved and widely respected by all those blessed to have known him. He is survived by his father, Firmin, his two brothers, Michael and Robert, his sister, Claudette Voehringer, his loving wife of 40 years, Maureen, his children, Shirley Dion, Ronald and Daniel, and eight grandchildren. Gerald selflessly served his country. His life's work was his dream. And his family was a source of admiration and great pride. Today we celebrate Gerald's life, which serves as a wonderful example to all who follow in his footsteps.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 229, to honor Paul D. Coverdell. Had I been present I would have voted "yes." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 230, commending the United States military and defense contractor personnel responsible for a successful in-flight ballistic missile defense interceptor test on July 14, 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yes." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 231, on agreeing to the substitute amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "no." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 232, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. Had I been present I would have voted "yes." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 233, on agreeing to the amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "yes." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 234, on agreeing to the amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "no." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 235, on agreeing to the amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATIONS TO CYRIL SWEENEY FROM CASTLEKNOCK, DUBLIN, IRELAND, ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor and congratulate Cyril Sweeney, a true friend of mine from Castleknock, Dublin, Ireland, who celebrated his 60th birthday this past July 7th.

Cyril, the fourth of nine children, was born in Muckerstown, County Dublin, and raised in County Meath. Educated at Kilbride Primary School, Ballinkill STB and University College, Dublin, Cyril distinguished himself as a student and went on to become an accomplished horticulturist. For a number of years Cyril has been the proprietor of Sweeney Landscapes Ltd. in Dublin.

Most importantly, however, Cyril is the proud father of six children and grandfather of four grandchildren. And most significant to me, Cyril's eldest son John married my daughter Erin this past February 17th. While everything about the wedding and the reception went well, it was acknowledged by all that the highlight of the day was the speech Cyril delivered at the reception. The consensus of those in attendance was that Cyril's speech—which explored and explained life and its mysteries and its unexpected twists and turns—ranks alongside Cicero's Orations, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the 1916 Easter Proclamation.

I wish Cyril the happiest of birthdays and many more to come.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two students from my district who are the recipients of the National Security Education Program's David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship Awards. Since its creation by Congress in 1991, the National Security Education Program has awarded over 1,300 undergraduate scholarships and over 700 graduate scholarships.

The program addresses the need to increase the ability of Americans to communicate and compete globally by knowing the cultures and languages of other countries. Scholarships are awarded to undergraduates to study abroad in subjects critical to United States national security. Recipients earn their awards through a rigorous national merit-based competition that includes hundreds of applicants.

Ms. Sarah Chankin-Gould of Long Beach, California, attends Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. With the National Security Education Program scholarship, she will study international relations and Spanish language and literature in Mexico.

Ms. Frances Sullivan-Lewis, also of Long Beach, is enrolled at Brandeis University in

Waltham, Massachusetts. She plans to study history and East European language and literature in Russia.

I commend these two students for their hard work throughout their scholastic careers and I am proud to recognize their accomplishments.

HONORING LEO KOLLIGIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leo Kolligian for his extensive contributions to the educational community in California's San Joaquin Valley. Most recently, Mr. Kolligian's commitment to education was demonstrated by a generous gift made to the University of California, Merced.

Mr. Kolligian, a longtime University of California regent, has been a strong proponent of expanding the UC system to respond to the increasing demand for quality public higher education in the state of California. As chairman of the Board of Regents, Mr. Kolligian was at the forefront of the efforts to add three new campuses in the University of California system. The first of these will be built in Merced, in the San Joaquin Valley. A ceremony was held at the UC Center in Fresno, CA, announcing that the library on the campus of UC Merced will be named after Mr. Kolligian and his late wife Dottie.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Leo Kolligian for his dedication and generosity to education in the San Joaquin Valley. I urge my colleagues to join me in lauding his commitment to expanding the educational opportunities available to the people of California.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID CURRY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to David Curry of Sedalia, Missouri, who was recently named the Missouri Economic Development Council District 4 Volunteer of the Year.

The Missouri Economic Development Council is an association of professionals and volunteers that is dedicated to improving the economic climate of Missouri through programs of professional development, public policy, marketing and communication. The Missouri Economic Development Council recognizes that professional developers have an enormous task. It is only by the work of volunteers that these professionals and their respective communities are successful.

Mr. Curry has been involved with Pettis County, Missouri, economic development since the early 1970s. He was instrumental in forming the first industrial development group that brought many industries to Sedalia. Today, these businesses serve as the basis for the area's economic well-being. Currently, Mr. Curry serves as President of the Sedalia-Pettis County Community Service Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, David Curry deserves to be recognized for his tireless commitment to the

betterment of Sedalia. I know that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating him on a job well done.

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S
INVASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 27th anniversary of one of the most devastating events in Greek-Turkish-Cypriot relations. On July 20th 1974, troops from Turkey started a campaign that displaced almost 200,000 Greek Cypriots from the northern part of the island of Cyprus. Throughout this invasion, over 1,600 men, women, and children disappeared. To date, the Turkish government declines to supply any information regarding their whereabouts. After twenty-five years, Greek Cypriots still remain refugees within their own country and are not allowed to return to their homes.

Turkey has spent a great deal of time working to modify the demographic structure in Northern Cyprus. The Turkish government has resettled 80,000 Turkish citizens to this area, mostly to the homes of the Greek Cypriots who were evicted. Turkey also promoted a "unilateral declaration of independence" by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) in 1983, although this was condemned by the UN Security Council and the U.S. government. Turkey is the only country that officially recognizes the TRNC as a sovereign state to this day.

As atrocities against various ethnic groups plague our world today, it is time to confront the aggression of the Turkish government against the Greek Cypriots. Although there have been attempts to settle this dispute peacefully, Greeks on Cyprus continue to suffer, especially when you take human rights into consideration. They are often banned from attending school and work, are not permitted to obtain medical care, and are kept from their families living in the Republic of Cyprus. This is a gross infringement on their basic human rights and clearly violates of international law.

Mr. Speaker, although there have been numerous UN resolutions for Turkey to return these refugees to their homes and withdraw its troops, the Turkish government has unashamedly ignored these requests. With the entire international community working hard to remedy this issue peacefully by continuously requesting that the Turkish government respect the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Cyprus, it is disconcerting to watch as they disregard these various offers of help. Not only is this an affront to the United States, but the global community as a whole.

In spite of these setbacks, the United States, as well as the rest of the international community, must carry on their effort to find a peaceful resolution to this struggle that has split Cyprus in two. As a member of Congress, I will continue to do all that I can to bring about Justice for the Greek Cypriots.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for Roll Call votes 233, 234, and 235 on July 17, 2001. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call vote 233 and "nay" on Roll Call votes 234 and 235.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION
OF THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I have opposed a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. I believe burning the flag is an offensive and disrespectful act. In some cases, it is an act that is already illegal under statute. However, I do not support amending the Constitution to make it a criminal offense to burn any flag under any circumstances.

I can state with confidence that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can agree that the liberty and freedom guaranteed by our Constitution, and symbolized by our grand old flag, is our nation's greatest strength. Everyday, the freedoms that surround us in our homes, schools and places of work here in this chamber, are a constant reminder of what our flag means, and what has been sacrificed to ensure its lasting stability and continuity in our nation. Every day Congress is in session, we pledge allegiance to this flag, "and to the republic for which it stands."

The willful destruction of our nation's flag is deeply offensive. The flag is a symbol of our national unity and a powerful source of national pride, and deserves to be treasured and treated with respect at all times.

Yet, despite my love for my nation and the flag, and my deep admiration for the men and women who fought and died defending our nation, I cannot support this well-intended resolution.

I believe it is important that we take heed to the constitutional parameters that will be reduced as a result of this amendment. One of our most cherished liberties, and one in which the Framers of the Constitution placed a heavy hand upon, is our freedom of expression. Every individual in America is truly free to express his or her opinions, without threat of hindrance or persecution. From time to time we undoubtedly may disagree with another's opinion or action. Nonetheless, this does not mean that their views should be constricted by the Constitution. If any limits are placed on this freedom, we are opening the possibility that others can be placed on our freedom of expression at a later time. Unfortunately, I believe this amendment will indeed serve to reduce that freedom which we all love and hold

dear to our hearts. If we start down this dark path, we are opening the door to a precedent of extreme consequences. We must not allow this to occur.

It is critical in this debate to remember that what provides for our freedom and our supreme rule of law is not the flag itself, for this is a mere symbol. What binds our nation, what our soldiers swore and died to protect and what all Americans cherish, is the fundamental beliefs held in our Constitution. The flag is the symbol of the Republic, the symbol of what the Constitution provides: the rights that all Americans enjoy. As the distinguished senior Senator and Constitutional Scholar from the state of West Virginia, Senator ROBERT BYRD, so eloquently stated, "That flag is the symbol of our Nation. In a way, we might say that flag is the symbol of our Nation's history. That flag is the symbol of our Nation's values. We love that flag. But we must love the Constitution more. For the Constitution is not just a symbol, it is the thing itself!"

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION
OF THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 36, legislation which proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States allowing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, our flag is not just cloth; it is a potent symbol of our history and the march of freedom. Our flag has flown over the battlefields of the Revolutionary War, inspired our national anthem as it remained aloft over Fort McHenry, stood for national unity in the Civil War, served as a clarion call to freedom in two world wars, and even stands on the moon as a symbol of peaceful exploration on behalf of mankind.

For millions of people around the world, the American flag represents a commitment to democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. It is a living representation of mankind's aspiration for freedom.

Millions of veterans have rallied to our flag in time of crisis. These men and women have fought and died under the Stars and Stripes to defend our nation and to liberate people overseas who have been caught in the web of tyranny. The blood of our veterans has been shed to protect our flag and all that it stands for. Many of our veterans have sacrificed their lives so that our flag could continue to fly.

To allow our flag, which represents all Americans—which holds out to the world the promise of liberty—to be desecrated, would be an affront to the people of this country and others around the world who are stirred by this symbol of democracy. Freedom of speech is an important American right. But freedom of speech is not a license to desecrate the fabric of our freedom. It is proper, and it is time, to protect our cherished flag from abuse with a Constitutional amendment.