

Reaffirming further our support for the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child;

Pleased that the WVF is a part of the Coalition Against the Use of Child Soldiers;

AVC also supports the Coalition Against the Use of Child Soldiers and the findings of the Report 'Impact Of Armed Conflict On Children.' AVC also (a) urges upon the International community to offer special care and protection of refugee and internally placed children and (b) further urges international support for the findings of the Report, including calling upon governments to prevent the recruitment and demobilization of children under the age of 18.

VI. BAN ON "ANTI-PERSONNEL" MINES

Noting that the US used the phrase "global humanitarian tragedy caused by the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines"

Reviewing the long-standing position of AVC in support of the total ban of land mines, or anti-personnel mines;

Noting at the same time that generals of the US Armed Forces established that land mines hurt the US more than they helped our Armed Forces;

Continuing to observe that around the world children and women and other civilians have sustained injuries and even death from land mines;

AVC continues respectfully to urge the President of the United States to adopt a strong position with the goal of eliminating land mines, or anti-personnel mines, from our global life.

VII. WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION—A HALF CENTURY OF AVC SUPPORT

Reviewing with gratification the more than half century history of the WVF and the founding membership of AVC in WVF in 1950 as well as the continuing AVC membership now in 2001;

Reviewing also the long and consistent programs and work of WVF in behalf of veterans as well as those who have suffered on account of war—the WVF program always including support of the UN;

Recalling the guidance of WVF by the CREDO created by the late UN Undersecretary General Ralph J. Bunche . . . the Credo having the celebrated phase "None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in war";

Noting that WVF has consistently brought veterans from all over the world to its General Assemblies, Council meetings, and such special meetings as the the 1990 Conference on the Mediterranean held in Malta, and observing that WVF has celebrated its 23rd General Assembly (Paris 2000);

Taking pride in the fifty-year leadership of WVF Presidents and Secretaries General;

The American Veterans Committee continues to support without reservation the World Veterans Federation and looks forward to continuing membership and contribution to WVF programs.

VIII. THE SOUTHEAST BALKAN STATES

Having goals of peace, security, and development in the Balkans and well aware that what was once Yugoslavia is now Yugoslavia/Serbia (including Montenegro), Bosnia-Herzegovinia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia and further recognizing that this European sub-region also includes such nations states as Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Turkey;

Noting with appreciation that the World Veterans Federation (WVF) brought together its member organizations (International Conference, Luxembourg, 5-7 May 1996) to arrive at "principles to be followed and measures to be taken" for attainment of those goals . . . and that the Luxembourg International Conference carefully took into ac-

count the position adopted in Dayton (Ohio/USA) with respect to Bosnia-Herzegovinia;

Aware that peoples of different ethnic, religious, and historical background do have differences, sometimes substantial almost insurmountable differences;

Noting further that the Stability Pact includes a "Coordinator," a citizen of a nation not among those of the Eastern Balkans;

Supporting the Stability Pact and the elections of a democratic state and urging the peoples to support the results of the elections wherever in the Balkan States;

Also supporting the position that individuals accused of "war crimes or crimes against humanity" must be brought before the appropriate court;

Believing with respect to the totality of the Balkan States that "recognition by every State in the region of all the other States in the region and renunciation of all forms of nationalism leading to the notion of 'greater State,' ethnocentrism, xenophobia, and intolerance toward minorities";

Continuing to respect the final act of Helsinki, which emphasizes the security and cooperation in Europe;

The American Veterans Committee continues to adopt the position that mediation and discussion, together with (a) peace-keeping, economic, and infrastructural support from NATO and the UN, including in both instances the US, and (b) vital governing provisions of Bosnia-Herzegovina and other Balkan States will lead to a state of multi-ethnic, multi-culture, and multi-denomination with full respect for the rights of all the people concerned.

IX. ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Applauding in the early days of AVC the establishment of the nation of Israel;

Supporting the leadership of President Jimmy Carter in bringing together Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and Egypt's leader Anwar Sadat;

Noting with satisfaction the further movement toward conciliation, reconciliation, and peace formulated by Palestinian Authority and the present and immediate past Prime Ministers of Israel;

Urging the leaders of Israel and Palestine today to continue using mediation in arriving at agreements, including an agreement with respect to East Jerusalem;

AVC continues to support the right of Israel to peace and economic and sociocultural development and the use of the instruments of discussion and mediation in the consideration of all elements and aspects of difference and conflict between Israel and its neighboring peoples and nations—whether they be Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, or any other nation state, AVC in supporting the above stated development in Israel in no way implies that it does not support similar development of Palestine as well as all other nations as they too seek peace and improvement of the quality of life for their peoples.

X. CUBA

Observing that Fidel Castro has been in power in Cuba for more than forty years and that all efforts to remove him and change his regime have been and continue to be futile;

Recalling that the US has resumed relations with Germany, Japan, and Vietnam after devastating wars and relations with Russia subsequent to the Cold War;

Believing that the Helms-Burton Act has not been and will not be effective in achieving its stated goal(s), and judging further that this Act of Congress has only created conflict between us and our close allies;

AVC believes that the US appropriate to the present times should establish diplomatic relations, permit commercial relations, continue to provide humanitarian aid,

and end the application of sanctions that adversely affect Cuba and our allies.

HONORING RICHARD "AL" SEAGLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Richard "Al" Seagler for his service to our great nation in World War II. Anticipating that he would get drafted, Al courageously enlisted with the Navy. It is my pleasure to pay tribute to Mr. Seagler for the sacrifices he made in preserving the freedom of our nation.

Mr. Seagler experienced many sleepless nights as Japanese forces made countless attacks on his construction battalion that was located on the island of Guadalcanal. The campaign at Guadalcanal cost America a great number of lives before the United States decidedly took the island and changed the course of the Pacific Theater in World War II forever. Mr. Seagler played a vital role in America's course of action by directing a construction battalion whose job included providing a workable infrastructure for American troops and maintaining open supply lines in Guadalcanal.

These important construction battalions were known as "Seabees," but their name and recognition have since disappeared from our national memory. Mr. Seagler sweated his days away in order to sustain the American operations in the region. In addition, Al accomplished many great feats in the construction battalion while dodging the enemy's bullets, living in a disease-infested jungle, and laying down to sleep to the sound of the Japanese fighter planes bombing the Guadalcanal coast.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Seagler showed great courage and heroism as a soldier in World War II. Therefore, it is my privilege to acknowledge his honor and pride for our great Nation. Al is still an active citizen in Montrose, Colorado where he has served as a role model for both young and old. I commend Mr. Seagler for his distinguished service to the state of Colorado and our great Nation.

STATEMENT ON HOWARD AND RIETA PARK CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE GLOBE

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Howard and Rieta Park, a couple from my hometown of Stonington, CT, who, on June 10, 2001, concluded a 31,000-mile sailing journey around the world.

Traveling on their 53-foot Sparkman and Stevens yawl, named COMET, the Park's odyssey took them across the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal to the Galapagos Islands, across the Pacific to the French Marquesas, the Cooke Islands, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, and New Caledonia.

They trekked to the Great Barrier Reef along the Australian coast, across the Indian

Ocean, around the tip of South Africa's Cape of Good Hope and through the southern Atlantic Ocean on their way to St. John, the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Parks finally came home to Stonington, where they began their journey in November 1998.

To plan to undertake such a daunting journey is impressive enough—to complete the journey is truly remarkable. The trip was not without danger. Howard Park spoke of one day when he saw what he believed to be a whale alongside their craft. As COMET neared the submerged figure it rolled and dove under the boat, lifting the entire vessel out of the water for a moment.

As the tail of the creature rose behind the yawl's rear, Howard Park did not see a whale's tail but the back fin of a shark. The 60-foot beast was a shy, basking shark, and the silently moving boat had startled it. Howard Park said the image of this giant tail rising out of the water would remain with him forever.

There were also sites of extraordinary beauty. The Parks had not seen land for 19 days when they approached the Marquesas Islands. They waited until dawn to pull into port, giving them the opportunity to watch the sunrise over the volcanic peaks of Hiva Oa. Describing what they saw, Howard Park said, "There were high, high mountain peaks and indescribably beautiful vegetation."

Why undertake such an intimidating journey? The answer lies within the heart and soul of mankind. We are inquisitive, and we dream. Throughout history men have sought to find out what lies beyond the next hill—what waits to be discovered beyond the horizon, and they have followed their dreams into reality.

That we might know the unknown we have traveled to the depths of the oceans and have reached far beyond our own globe to the distant stars. It is our nature to dream—and to try and satisfy that dream.

The Parks have experienced the journey of a lifetime. And why not? Life is a finite adventure. There is only one, certain end. We should make our voyage as sweeping, as productive, as positive, and as exhilarating as possible.

Reflecting on life's adventure, Theodore Roosevelt said, "He must long greatly for the lonely winds that blow across the wilderness and for sunrise and sunset over the rim of the empty world. His heart must thrill for the saddle and not for the hearthstone. The joy of living is his who has the heart to demand it."

I commend Howard and Rieta Park on their exceptional achievement. As we go through life, may we, like the Parks, treasure images that will remain with us forever. And like Theodore Roosevelt, may we realize that the joy of living is his who has the heart to demand it.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to express for the people

of Southeast Texas and for myself our sympathy for those who have lost loved ones in the horrible tragedy our country suffered yesterday.

I have received many messages of well wishes and sympathy from constituents and friends literally around the world. A member of the French parliament, for example, asked me to please transmit his profound sympathies to the U.S. Congress and the American people.

We thank you all for your prayers and support. The United States of America is strong, and will not be shaken by such a cowardly act which killed so many of our countrymen.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a slightly different message than my colleagues have spoken of so far, a message about children. As adults, we have the ability to process this tragedy much differently than how our children process this. We must be sensitive to our children's needs, and give them an opportunity to discuss their feelings. I'd like to take a moment to paraphrase a column by Cordelia Anderson that I received this morning:

As adults, we need to be calm and focused for the children. We need to receive support from other adults, so that we are able to effectively guide our children. We must talk with our kids and listen to them, find out what their fears are, what their concerns are, and then try to address them as directly and as calmly as possible. We must try to reassure them that there are adults there to help them and to protect them, and after giving them time to talk and to share, to return them to their regular routine of school. Our children are worth the time that we take to do this, and it is indeed important.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the police, the firefighters, the emergency personnel and the magnificent citizens who sacrificed their lives or who are still helping in this disaster. My heart and the hearts of my constituents go out to the people of New York and of Washington, DC. I urge my fellow citizens to support our President as we take swift and decisive action against the persons who perpetrated this tremendously horrendous act of cowardice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, and I ask that God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO JOEY BISHOP

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Joey Bishop is a great American. He began his work in the boxing industry in 1939 at the Dick Mettee Gym training boxers. In 55 years, Joey Bishop won 250 amateur bouts, 38 senior bouts, and has refereed 3,500 bouts. At the age of 72, his record of 288 wins and 0 losses remained unscathed when he retired after defeating Canadian Welterweight Champion Boysie Phillips. This most impressive victory gave him the Indianapolis Senior Boxing Welterweight Championship belt.

Joey Bishop is not only an excellent athlete, but he is also an Army Veteran. He participated in the Special Services Boxing Unit, and won the Pan American Lightweight belt in 1943, and the Pan Am Welterweight title in 1944. Joey has also served for over 15 years on the Ohio Boxing Commission.

It is my honor and a privilege today to pay tribute to Joey Bishop. It is a privilege and an honor to represent such a fine American, and I will always consider Joe as my friend.

IN OUR DARKEST HOUR, AMERICA STANDS UNITED AND STRONG

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, like my constituents in the Dayton, Ohio, area, and all Americans, I am shocked and horrified by the brutal terrorist attack on our Nation on September 11. I am saddened for the victims and their families.

It was an act of pure evil. And yet even this evil is not so great that it consumes the good which still abounds in our great Nation.

Carl Sandburg wrote, "I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision."

I am profoundly moved by the spirit of the American people who have responded to the crises with a generosity almost unimaginable. I am uplifted by the mood among members of Congress who have abandoned all partisan differences to pass critical legislation. I am deeply proud to see how our leaders are working together around the clock.

In my district, citizens are calling me to ask if they can give money back to the government to assist with an antiterrorist campaign. A company in the Dayton area which manufactures protective equipment for firefighters is donating boots, gloves, and masks to the New York fire department. High schools in my community set up collection barrels at the football games for people to give food and equipment for the rescue effort.

At this darkest hour, all of America is acting as one in a way I've never seen before. In our unity, we are strong—strong enough to rebuild from this attack and strong enough to overcome the terrorists behind it—and to emerge stronger than before.

In one of his fireside chats in 1940, just before America entered World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt said, "We defend and we build a way of life, not for America alone, but for all mankind."

Once again, Americans are called to defend themselves and civilization itself. I am proud to say that we are up to that challenge.

MUSLIMS LOVE PEACE AS MUCH AS ANYONE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, almost 60 years ago during World War II, our Nation imprisoned Japanese Americans in internment camps simply because of their ethnic background. Today, we are all rightly horrified by this action. In the aftermath of this week's