

During our hearings, the members of the International Relations Committee stated that they will support legislative restrictions on the entry into the United States of foreign government officials associated with repression of religious rights; this legislation makes our assertions a reality, and further extends protected freedoms from discrimination to other categories.

Mr. Speaker, the question is, what can Americans do to help uphold values of tolerance, human rights and dignity in foreign countries—especially in nations which are our friends and allies. I believe, that the Freedom to Trade Act is a necessary safeguard to protect our people from religious intolerance and other forms of discrimination wherever it rears its ugly head. For these and many other reasons I urge my colleagues to support the Freedom to Trade Act, and together we can take the necessary steps to eradicate the evils that seek to destroy the free world.

8TH DISTRICT OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE FIRST AID COUNCILS CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer my sincerest congratulations to the 8th District of the New Jersey State First Aid Council on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

I am sure that you will agree that in light of recent events, the importance of emergency medical services has never been more evident.

What makes this group all that more special is that they volunteer their time to provide this life-saving service to the communities in which they live.

I know personally many Emergency Medical Technician's who, without thought to their personal safety, left their homes and jobs to respond to the call for help in New York City following the attack on the World Trade Center. Many more of these wonderful volunteers were at the ready to respond when called.

The recent attacks on the World Trade Center highlight the work that these people do day in and day out without asking for any recognition. Every community in New Jersey is all that much more safer because of these people.

The New Jersey State First Aid Council is an organization designed to bring its members together for the purpose of discussing methods of improving ambulance services, the reduction of loss of life, the development of better service through educational programs, and to foster a spirit of harmony and friendship among the various non-profit volunteer squads.

Membership in the New Jersey State First Aid Council is open to all organizations that meet the New Jersey State definition of a volunteer first aid squad and are either specialized industrial squads, emergency squads operating ambulances and serving the general community, or are support organizations such as heavy rescue, water rescue, extrication, and search and rescue.

The New Jersey State First Aid Council serves the entire state of New Jersey and is broken down into districts to better serve its member organizations.

The 8th District of the New Jersey State First Aid Council was officially formed on October 16, 1951. The original volunteer emergency squads were from Basking Ridge, Chester, Millington, Peapack-Gladstone, Far Hills-Bedminster, and Bernardsville.

Over the past 50 years the membership has changed but the mission has been the same—to provide the best emergency medical care at no cost and to support the volunteers in providing this service.

Today the following organizations are proud to be part of the 8th District of the New Jersey State First Aid Council: Basking Ridge Fire Co. #1 First Aid & Rescue; Bernardsville Fire Co. #1 First Aid & Rescue; Chatham Emergency Squad; Chester First Aid Squad; Liberty Corner First Aid Squad; Long Valley First Aid Squad; Mendham First Aid & Rescue Squad; Mendham Township First Aid Squad; Morris-Town Ambulance Squad; New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department First Aid Squad; Peapack-Gladstone First Aid Squad; and Randolph Rescue Squad.

I would also like to acknowledge the officers of the 8th District of the New Jersey First Aid Council for the fine work that they do. In addition to the time they volunteer on their individual squads they serve the Emergency Medical Services Community as a whole as officers of this fine organization. They are: President: Karen Corica; Chairwoman: Jane McArthur; Vice-Chairman: Jim McConnell; Second Vice-Chairman: Fred Miller; Recording Secretary: Bob Molloy; Corresponding Secretary: Bob Molloy; Treasurer: Paula Oswald; and Chaplain: Debbie Smith.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you will join me in honoring the 8th District of the New Jersey State First Aid Council on this very special occasion. Events of the past month have shown us all what a valuable service these fine organizations and its members provide to the community. To all, I say congratulations.

ST. MARY OF CZESTOCHOWA CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, which will be celebrated on October 21.

At the turn of the last century, an increase in the Polish Catholic population led to the need for a third church in the Nanticoke area. The original St. Mary's church was a simple wooden structure located at the corner of Hanover and Grove streets. It was home to a congregation of approximately 500 parishioners, although an estimated 2,000 people worshipped there.

Nearly five years to the day of its dedication, the first church was destroyed by fire. Under the leadership of the first resident pastor, Rev. Adolph E. Nowicki, a new church was built at the corner of Hanover and Field

streets and was blessed and dedicated soon thereafter.

St. Mary's present pastor, Rev. John S. Krafchak, is the eighth pastor to serve the parish, having served since 1983. He also served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's from 1960 to 1966. During his 18 years as pastor, Father Krafchak has continued to support the efforts of the church's organizations, the spiritual needs of the congregation and the material upkeep of the parish.

Father Krafchak's first major undertaking was the construction of a new rectory, which was completed in 1985. A Holy Hour of Prayers for Priests was begun in 1986 and has been held once a month since its inception. It was also around that time that air conditioning was installed in the church. With the 1988 consolidation of all the parish schools in the Nanticoke area into Pope John Paul II School, St. Mary's school became the home of Head Start, a federal pre-school program offered to Nanticoke-area children ages 3 and 4 from low-income families. St. Mary's has also teamed with St. Stanislaus Church to promote the Renew 2000 program, a parish renewal endeavor to foster spiritual growth among their parishioners. The parishes have also held consolidated Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes since 1996.

In preparation for this year's 100th anniversary, the interior of the church was painted and refurbished with carpeting and most significantly, an imported replica of the famous Our Lady of Czestochowa image, measuring more than 7 feet in height, was placed on the wall above the main altar. The church organ was also reconditioned to return it to most of its original musical capabilities.

One of the portions of St. Mary's history of which the parishioners can be most proud is that the parish has been the mother of 39 vocations, 18 to the priesthood, 20 to the sisterhood and one to the deaconate. The parish also acknowledges the dedication of another parishioner, Henry Gonshor, who aspired to the priesthood but was called to his eternal rest before finishing his preparatory studies.

Over the past 100 years, St. Mary's has seen the formation of the following organizations, most of which are still flourishing today: St. Cecilia's Choir, Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality, the Holy Name Society, the Sacred Heart Society, Third Order of St. Francis, Purgatorial Society, the Catholic Council of Women and the Usher's Club. These organizations have helped unite many parishioners throughout the years toward a common cause of service to God and the Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the 100 years of dedication, faith and good works of the people of St. Mary's Church, and I wish them all the best.

SUPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, prior to the Soviet occupation in 1979 Afghanistan was a country on the path to modernization. Afghan women were doctors, lawyers, judges,

civil servants, in short, they were a vital aspect of Afghan society.

Women were active members of society. They attended universities. They had the right to vote. They participated in many sectors of the work force. However, decades of war, drought, famine, and oppression have taken a hefty toll on the entire population, and women in particular.

In a country where women were once equal and respected members of society, they are now shrouded into silence. Life for women in Afghanistan no longer exists. They live in seclusion, unable to interact with others.

In 1996, a now notorious regime known as the Taliban moved into the capital city of Kabul and began imposing their strict moral code. The Afghan people awoke one morning to find that their lives had been changed overnight. The Taliban announced the imposition of their new rules over Afghanistan's national radio.

Women were no longer allowed to work or attend school. Women were no longer permitted to leave their homes without a male relative. If they were caught outside without the accompaniment they were lashed with whips. Women were no longer allowed to wear nail polish. If they did, their fingernails would be

pulled out. Making excessive noise when walking was also grounds for punishment.

Afghan women have lived under this magnitude of oppression for five years now, and it has taken its' toll. Depression and suicide rates in Afghanistan have dramatically increased. Previously, suicide was virtually unheard of, now many women see it as the only means to end their suffering. Some women are choosing to end their lives by drinking a caustic soda, a solution that causes severe pain and takes three days to take effect.

I know of one Afghan woman named "Rozia" who managed to escape Kabul and find refuge in America. She left Afghanistan after her husband was taken away and subsequently killed by the Taliban. His only crime was that he did not subscribe to the Taliban mentality. She was forced to flee her homeland with her four young children, eventually making her way to San Diego.

She is one of the lucky few that has managed to escape. However, even in America she is frightened to speak out against the Taliban in fear that they will punish her remaining family members in Kabul.

The plight of the Afghan women under the oppressive hand of the Taliban has been going on for over five years. These egregious

violations of human rights must end. In addition, the women of Afghanistan—freed from this oppression—must have an opportunity to play a role in the rebuilding of a more open society. Only then will Afghan children grow up believing life holds something besides being a freedom fighter or a terrorist.

TRIBUTE TO RUSH LIMBAUGH

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Rush Limbaugh is an inspiration to all of us. Although he is facing a personal challenge, it is not stopping him from continuing to be a champion for our cherished way of life. Rush has been a strong voice for freedom, free enterprise and our military during this difficult time in history. I salute you, Mr. Limbaugh. You're a great American.