

WELCOME IMAM HENDI AND  
COMMENCEMENT OF RAMADAN

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to extend a warm welcome to Imam Hendi.

He is here with us today as guest chaplain and here to observe the commencement of Ramadan—the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal.

Imam Hendi has spent his life educating and working with youngsters and students to guide their spiritual development and to educate them on the tenets and faith of Islam.

He was the first Muslim chaplain designated by Georgetown University where he currently serves.

Back in 1991, I was the first Member of Congress to invite an imam to pray before the House.

Today we share again the rich religious diversity of America by welcoming Imam Hendi.

This morning, at the commencement of Ramadan we send our greetings as our Muslim citizens and Muslims around the world prepare for this holy month of spiritual renewal.

Islam is one of the largest world religions, and one of America's major religions.

Muslims from all over the world are valued members of our American communities.

And this Muslim community comes together in the United States from all corners of the world: the Middle East, Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and Africa to celebrate their faith in our country.

In this month of introspection, faith, prayer and cleansing, together we share the horror of American Muslims felt when they witnessed criminals use their sacred faith as an excuse for their crimes.

While we will not excuse the criminal acts of September 11, so too can we never excuse those who seek to blame Muslims as a whole for those acts.

Nor will we, as a Nation, tolerate acts of violence and hatred directed towards those who practice Islam.

This has been made clear, from the President on down.

There can be no battle between the United States and the Muslim world, because the United States is part of the Muslim world.

Today we have 6 million Muslims in the United States, and that number continues to grow.

We welcome our Muslim citizens, and we value them, and we send them our best wishes.

I would like to close by stating my support as a cosponsor of Congressman John LaFalce's resolution, H.Res. 280; to express solidarity and support for members of the Islamic community in the United States and around the world while commending them for their faith in Islam.

HONORING GENE PARKER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a truly dedicated volunteer, Ms. Gene Parker, from

Southwest Colorado. Gene has spent over a century of her life working to help better understand previous cultures and the archeological preservation of the Anasazi culture.

Ms. Parker began her work as a volunteer for the Bureau of Land Management's Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, Colorado. Her duties include the inventorying of the center's collections, where she is relied upon to verify that each piece was properly documented for its historical study. Gene has also volunteered her services to the center's library, assisting with special events as they occur. She is also a member of the Anasazi Historical Society.

Gene has dedicated her time and effort for two days a week for the past fifteen years. Following recovery from a broken hip in 1999, Gene remained committed to continue her duties where she has amassed 1,814 volunteer hours.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Gene for her service to help preserve the artifacts of the ancient Anasazi culture. Her dedication to a worthwhile cause certainly deserves the praise of this body. Because of her efforts, many will now be able to better understand the Anasazi culture.

ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL'S  
FOOD DRIVE COMMITTEE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Food Drive Committee at Saint Joseph's High School in Metuchen, New Jersey. For over thirty years, this Food Drive Committee has provided Thanksgiving food baskets for thousands of needy families throughout New Jersey.

This charitable food drive was inaugurated under the guidance of Brother George Woodburn. Currently, the Food Drive Committee operates under the auspices of the Saint Joseph's Student Council. Annually, this food drive provides hundreds of Thanksgiving food baskets to various food shelters and organizations for distribution to families in need.

The success and longevity of this event is due to the compassionate efforts of Saint Joseph's dedicated administration, faculty, and students. As a result of Saint Joseph's kind-hearted efforts, this month-long food drive enables hundreds of needy families to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner.

For four decades, Saint Joseph's has also been dedicated to the education and leadership development of young men residing in Central New Jersey. This institution prepares young men for post-secondary academic success, while also enabling them to acquire the skills and values essential to become responsible young adults.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Saint Joseph's High School for its dedication and commitment on behalf of needy families throughout New Jersey.

DULCE AND DECORUM EST . . . BY  
JAMES F. CAHALAN, PH.D.

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD.

DULCE AND DECORUM EST

JIM CAHALAN, MAY 5, 2001

They once were boys, like you and me, Just little boys, not heroes then; Just small and ordinary.

No one could have known that when Their country called them overseas They'd give their all, more than could bear We who stayed in tranquil leas, Gave out medals, but no care.

We must engrave this one bold truth Of noble men who give their all, Keep us free from harm, forsooth, Safe, content, and out of thrall;

Who leave behind their homes and wives All to brave those hellish places, Sacrifice their very lives, Saving our eternal blazes,

And work to make much, much the less Of strife and human misery: Dulce et decorum est Pro patria vivere.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BERNICE  
ELAINE FORCE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Bernice Elaine Force who recently passed away in Glenwood Springs, Colorado on October 25, 2001. She began her life in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, born to Fred and Bessie Bishop Barber, where she attended the University of Michigan School of Nursing. After her marriage to Jack Force in 1932, the couple moved to Mesa, Colorado.

Throughout her life, Bernice was dedicated to providing healthcare services to those who were in need. She served in several hospitals throughout the state including Veterans Hospital in Grand Junction, Faith Hospital in Collbran, and Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs.

In her free time, Bernice enjoyed various activities and interacting with others who were in her life. Her most cherished time was spent with family. She was a dedicated wife, mother of three, grandmother to five, and great-grandmother of four. Bernice enjoyed gardening, fishing, baking and cooking. She was also an active member of her church.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Bernice Elaine Force. She devoted most of her ninety years to others and will be missed by those she touched. Her family and friends are grateful for her dedication and service to Glenwood Springs. As we mourn her passing, our thoughts are with those who knew her.

TRIBUTE TO HOUSING OPTIONS & GERIATRIC ASSOCIATION RESOURCES, INC.

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Housing Options & Geriatric Association Resources, Inc., an organization dedicated to improving the lives of homeless, elderly, mentally ill, physically challenged, and HIV/AIDS infected individuals in the Bronx. This invaluable organization celebrates the grand opening of its Scattered Site Housing Program and Supported Housing Unit on November 15, 2001.

H.O.G.A.R.'s mission is not only to raise awareness of the housing and health issues facing burdened groups of society, but also to provide ways of dealing with these issues. Not only does H.O.G.A.R. spread the word that a number of individuals diagnosed as mentally ill end up on the streets each year, but it also maintains a program to find housing for these people and has even opened a 12-bed supported housing unit that emphasizes community reintegration.

Mr. Speaker, H.O.G.A.R. also recently implemented the Scatter Site Housing Program for HIV/AIDS infected people. This program provides relocation assistance, access to counseling services, access to primary health care, recreational activities, daily life skills training, and classes in healthy meal preparation to name just a few things. Essentially it is a program to ensure that people living with AIDS, actually have some quality of life. Often those who are sick and poor are left to the wayside. H.O.G.A.R. is there to pick these individuals up and to show them how to stand alone.

An amazing group of men and women give H.O.G.A.R. its heart and soul and continually fuel its efforts. It is because of them that H.O.G.A.R. exists and succeeds in its mission. We will never be able to accurately assess exactly how many lives H.O.G.A.R. has saved or how many lives it has helped give meaning and hope to. We can only be sure that any addition to this organization is worthy of great celebration. That is why my son, Councilman elect, and myself are so honored to be named special guests of H.O.G.A.R.'s grand opening of these two new program units.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the H.O.G.A.R. directors and staff for their immeasurable contributions to those most in need and most overlooked and in thanking them for their ceaseless efforts.

THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP ACT OF 2001

**HON. W. J. (BILLY) TAUZIN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, last week, Senator HOLLINGS and I joined together to introduce legislation to emphasize the prohibition on foreign government ownership of American telecommunications and broadcast infrastructure. This is not a new concept. It has been

the law for more than fifty years in order to protect the American national interest.

We have been dismayed this year by the FCC's approval of the Deutsche Telekom acquisition of VoiceStream Wireless Communications and the SES-Astra acquisition of GE Americom Communications. For several years, we have repeatedly expressed the most serious reservations about the Commission's interpretation of the foreign government ownership provisions of Section 310 of the Communications Act. We have repeatedly pointed out that companies controlled by foreign governments are too often motivated by political considerations that may be against the interests of the United States rather than by the working of the competitive marketplace.

Notwithstanding our stated concerns, the Commission approved the Deutsche Telekom acquisition of VoiceStream in April of this year, revealing the clear differences between the Congress and members of the Commission about the meaning and application of Section 310. The proposal of SES-Astra to acquire GE Americom presented the same concerns, and I asked the Commission to conduct a "vigorous review;" of the proposed acquisition to assure that our national interests were protected. However, instead of the vigorous review that was needed and requested, the Commission allowed the International Bureau to rapidly approve this significant acquisition in a pro forma manner. Indeed, once that approval had been given, SES-Astra revealed that it had not fully revealed the substantial extent of foreign control in the company, but the FCC staff again gave its prompt pro forma approval with no public notice.

Commissioner Michael J. Copps issued a statement noting that SES-Astra's failure to reveal the full extent of its foreign ownership and stating that the Telecommunications Act required the FCC to provide the opportunity for public notice. We agree. We believe the Commission has exceeded its authority in this area and has not weighed fully the full national interest considerations in foreign government ownership of our telecommunications infrastructure, especially in the wake of recent events that have heightened our concerns about the security of our homeland.

Accordingly, we introduced legislation to make it clear that foreign governments are not allowed to own or control American telecommunications, satellite, or broadcast networks, whether directly or indirectly. This legislation does not break new ground, but rather simply reaffirms, in no uncertain terms, that the telecommunications, broadcast, and Internet facilities that underlie our freedom of speech and our economy cannot be made vulnerable to the actions of foreign governments.

We suggest that it serves neither the public interest nor the interest of the applicants for the FCC to approve any mergers of this type, or for that matter to allow the SES-Astra acquisition of GE Americom to go forward without the full Commission seriously addressing our concerns.

AMERICAN SPIRIT FRAUD PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in the days following the terrible tragedy that befell America on September 11, 2001, we have experienced a reaffirmation of the American Spirit in the heroic acts of some Americans and the selfless giving of others. Americans have opened their hearts to the families of the victims of the September 11th tragedy and heeded the calls for assisting those victims. Americans from all walks of life have to date contributed in excess of \$1 billion to charities and other organizations supporting the victims of the tragedy. While the overwhelming majority of fund-raising efforts in response to the September 11th terrorist acts are legitimate, unfortunately, there have been a few fraudulent fundraising efforts capitalizing on this National tragedy.

As unacceptable as it may be, the September 11th tragedy, as other tragic emergencies, have spun deceit and fraud perpetrated by unscrupulous persons manipulating the emotions of generous citizens so that they may fraudulently line their pockets. Scam artists often use the telephone and Internet to prey on emotions—for example, by being rude when asked for specific information or insinuating that people who decline to give are unpatriotic. By taking advantage of the moment and acting quickly, these criminals are often able to raise thousands of dollars before they are caught. And when they're caught, the FTC has tepid legal authority to make them pay for their offense.

H.R. 2985, the American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act, introduced by Reps. DEAL and BASS, takes measures to prevent scam artists from capitalizing on national tragedies and takes additional steps to penalize those practices. The bill takes the needed step of strengthening the Federal Trade Commission Act so the Commission can punish those unscrupulous scam artists.

The bill gives the Commission the power, during times of presidentially-declared national emergency or natural disaster, to crack down hard on unfair or deceptive acts or practices that take advantage of the emergency or disaster. If the Commission acts to stop the fraud administratively, this bill doubles the civil penalties from \$11,000 to \$22,000 for each violation. Alternatively, if the Commission opts to go to federal district court for an injunction to stop the fraud, the bill gives the Commission the authority to demand civil penalties of \$22,000 for each violation, a punitive power the FTC currently does not have at their disposal. The increased penalties are available for unfair or deceptive acts or practices committed within one year after the President terminates the emergency period under the National Emergencies Act or within one year of the disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Those are needed changes to the FTC Act. It is unfortunate that such changes were necessitated by the horrific events of September 11th. Yet, we must put all those engaged in fraud or contemplating fraudulent acts that