

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PRAYER FOR AMERICA

**HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2001*

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a poem entitled "Prayer For America" written by Miss Ruth Werner, a constituent of mine who lives in Bangor, Pennsylvania. Miss Werner was inspired to pen this poem following the September 11th attacks. I was touched when she gave me this poem and thought that my colleagues in the House of Representatives, the Senate and President Bush would enjoy it as well.

#### PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Dear Heavenly Father,  
We pray for peace on earth.  
Let it begin with us.  
With you as our Father we are all made one.  
We are all brothers and sisters.  
Let us walk in each other in all 50 states and  
throughout the world with President  
Bush, Vice President Cheney and all the  
Leaders.  
With children and adults, male and female,  
with families and people who are lonely,  
with rich and poor, with people who have  
homes and the homeless;  
With all kinds of people with different car-  
reers and with the unemployed;  
You love all your children of the world  
whether red, yellow, black or white.  
We are all precious in your sight because you  
love everyone with an unconditional  
love; always ready to forgive.  
Today God let this be our prayer because we  
know that United We Stand Divided We  
Fall.  
Let us stand for peace for America, a most  
beautiful land.  
And let us keep this as one nation under you  
with liberty and justice for all.  
It makes us proud to be an American to be  
among the red, white and blue as we are  
just passing through, but most impor-  
tantly we are honored to be Christians  
who believe in you and will live with you  
and our loved ones in our heavenly home  
forever.  
God we know you will bless the USA today  
and always.  
In your name we pray, AMEN  
I commend Miss Werner for her heartfelt  
words and for her dedication to God and  
country.

### COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS DAY 2001

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2001*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, the nation and the World will observe World AIDS Day 2001.

World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to focus the world's attention on this global pandemic. It is a day to remember those living

with AIDS and those who have died from the disease.

Like our recent tragedy, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has challenged many to have courage and hope in spite of grief, anger, and despair. More than 60 million people worldwide have been infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic 20 years ago, and current statistics point to an even greater spread of the disease than anticipated.

HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa. Worldwide, it is the fourth biggest killer. According to a United Nations report, by the end of this year there will be an estimated 40 million people living with HIV worldwide.

In the United States, research has shown that the number of AIDS cases among some populations has decreased. Unfortunately, we have not seen similar declines in new HIV cases among people of color or our Nation's youth. Today, at least half of all new HIV infections in our country are among people under age 25. Young Americans between the ages of 13 and 25 are contracting HIV at the rate of two per hour.

World AIDS Day has special significance in my community of South Florida, which has more HIV/AIDS cases than 44 states.

As we observe World AIDS Day 2001, we must reaffirm our commitment to work together to protect all our citizens from the threat of HIV. By promoting, education, research and care, we can reach millions of individuals who face life-changing decisions that can affect their health and the future of our Nation and the world, and help those who are already affected by this disease.

### INTRODUCTION OF A SIMPLE RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESIDENT TO USE HIS POWER TO RELEASE LIHEAP EMERGENCY FUNDS TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT OF 9/11/01

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2001*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of people who recently have been laid off from work are reliving the terrorist attacks in the economic aftermath of September 11th.

As of today, 638,000 layoffs have already been announced in our country.

Fewer than 2 out of 5 employers who have handed out pink slips in the third quarter of this year indicate that they anticipate calling their laid off employees back to work.

The nation's unemployment rate soared from 4.9 percent in September to 5.4 percent in October.

In Los Angeles County the unemployment rate is 6 percent.

In my congressional district, the City of El Monte has an unemployment rate of 7.6 per-

cent and South El Monte has an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent.

All of this in time for Christmas—and the cold winter to follow.

It is our duty—and responsibility—to help those who are suffering the ripple effects of the worst domestic attack in our country's history.

We need to act immediately, because the federal government's assistance is needed now.

The resolution that I bring before the House today would encourage the President to answer this immediate need by expanding the Low Income Energy Assistance Program—LIHEAP.

The LIHEAP program is a federally funded block grant program that helps ease the energy cost burden of low-income households.

The need for this program has been great.

Residential heating oil prices were 48 percent higher in 2000 than in 1999.

Residential natural gas prices were 44 percent higher in 2000 than in 1999.

Higher prices mean an added burden to those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, there are many more people who will need this energy assistance because of our country's recent tragedies.

Unfortunately, the more people there are—the less there is to go around.

LIHEAP has two pots of money—one which goes to States in the form of a block grant and another that is distributed by the President for emergency use.

This resolution will encourage the President to use this emergency fund in our current time of uncertainty to help those who have lost their jobs as a result of the attack on our nation.

We must act now to get our country's working families through this horrible time.

The other body has already passed a similar resolution.

I encourage my colleagues to adopt this resolution and ask the President to use his powers to release LIHEAP funds to those who have lost their jobs in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks and to those that have suffered prolonged unemployment since early this year.

This bill is a step in the right direction and could mean the difference between a family's financial ruin and their foundation for the future.

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EDWARD JESSER

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2001*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Edward "Ned" Jesser, resident of Mahwah, New Jersey, and proud

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and enthusiastic supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Jesser will be honored today at the "Evening with the Governors" 2001 Good Scout Awards of the Northern New Jersey Council Boy Scouts of America. With more than forty years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America, he will be the recipient of the Distinguished Scouter Award. The Boy Scouts of America pride themselves on producing fine citizens, strong family members, and community leaders. In this respect, Ned Jesser truly leads by example.

Today, Mr. Jesser sits on the Executive Board of the Northern New Jersey Council of Boy Scouts. However his involvement with the scouts began some forty years ago as the President of Bergen County Council of Scouts. It is his firm belief that scouting truly creates good lives and good citizens. Mr. Jesser has said that "scouting is the only national organization that is making a major effort to bring a better and healthier life for our boys." Clearly, this man is recognized as a leader for scouts—and a committed one at that!

As I am sure Mr. Jesser's wife Ruth can attest, Mr. Jesser is a very active member of the Bergen County community. Mr. Jesser served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Summit Bank for twenty years. In addition, he has sat on many boards in our county. To list just a few of his involvements: President of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, President of the New Jersey Bankers Association, and Trustee of Lafayette College. As a man who is generous with his time and his talents, Mr. Jesser has truly contributed to making northern New Jersey a better place to live.

A fine citizen, a family man, and an involved community leader, Mr. Jesser is not only an outstanding role model for Scouts, but also an outstanding example of the fine residents of Bergen County. He contributes much to both the development of young men in our region, and to our community itself. Ned Jesser, we are lucky to have you with us.

IN HONOR OF P.O. NIURCA  
QUINONES AND P.O. DARRELL  
CLARK

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Police Officers Niurca Quinones and Darrell Clark in recognition of their outstanding work to rid the streets of Bedford-Stuyvesant from the scourge of drugs.

Officer Quinones joined the New York City Police Department on April 30, 1991. Officer Clark joined the New York City Police Department on October 15, 1990. Both officers were assigned to the 79th Precinct, where they worked together as partners. As a unit, they have done an outstanding job in serving the community of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

In a short period of time, these officers have successfully reduced the presence of drugs and the number of drug-related crimes. In the past two years alone, these officers executed 48 search warrants leading to 97 arrests. Officers Quinones and Clark also recovered 14 guns, 300 rounds of ammunition, 436 decks of heroin, 1 large bag of heroin, 167 vials of

crack, 412 glass vials of crack, 10 oz. of crack, three pounds of marijuana, 51 bottles of hydro, 284 bags of marijuana, and over \$9,000 in illegal funds.

Mr. Speaker, Officers Quinones and Clark are two outstanding examples of New York's finest. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help clear the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of dangerous drugs and criminals. As such they are more than worthy of our praise. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring these two dedicated public servants.

### A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD AND DOLLY MASON

### HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2001*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Edward and Dolly Mason, and to honor the memory of their son, Eddie. On March 10, 1999 Eddie Mason died of a sudden and unexpected heart attack. The death of their son, less than three weeks before his nineteenth birthday, was a bitter and heart wrenching tragedy for the Masons. I know the Mason family; it has been personally painful for me to witness their struggle to cope with such an inconsolable loss.

Eddie Mason was a vibrant young man who embraced life; one who sought the opportunities presented each day. At the age of fifteen, he was diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia, a degenerative neurological disease that impairs muscular function throughout the body. His condition, however, was not life-threatening. Indeed, Eddie's passion for athletic endeavors was unquenchable. From an early age, Eddie was an avid participant in soccer, baseball, football, and wrestling; he also pursued karate, achieving the rank of Green Belt after eight years of training. Yet, Eddie's excellent physical conditioning offered no protection against the deadly symptoms of his disease.

The Masons' grief for their son will never be completely assuaged. Ed and Dolly, however, hoped to preserve Eddie's memory at the community church their family has attended for many years. Accordingly, twelve months ago, the Mason family resolved to construct the tower that now stands between the sanctuary and rectory of St. Luke's Church in Edgemere, Maryland. I was honored to be present at the ground breaking ceremony held on March 27, 2001, the twenty-first anniversary of Eddie's birth. Seeing such familial devotion and community support is something I will not soon forget.

On Sunday, October 14, at St. Luke's Church, a thirty-five-foot bell tower, the home of "Eddie's Bell," was officially blessed. In the presence of over 350 neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens, the Masons' tribute to their son was consecrated, and "Eddie's Bell" rung for the first time.

Friends, family, neighbors, and even strangers have helped sustain the Masons since the terrible event of March 10, 1999. Yet, the newly created monument was not a community effort. The money and time required for the bell tower were invested solely by Ed and Dolly Mason. "Eddie's Bell" was a gift from "Mom and Dad" to the son they love so much.

The bell tower has become a centerpiece of St. Luke's Church. Each day the bell is rung at noon and six p.m.—its bold notes call members to worship before each weekend mass. The bell's toll can be heard up to two miles away, a range which includes the Mason home. I sincerely hope that Ed and Dolly will take comfort in the notes of "Eddie's Bell," knowing that all the love and devotion they feel for their son has been given musical form.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Mason family in Maryland's Second Congressional District, and I ask that my colleagues join me in offering them our deepest condolences for their loss, congratulations on their dedication to family and community, and our very best wishes for the future.

### EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING EFFORTS OF PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES OF KOREAN ANCESTRY TO REUNITE WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN NORTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2001*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 77, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress to reunite United States citizens with their family members in North Korea.

North and South Korea have made significant progress in their relationship, as has the United States made very important steps in its relationship with both North and South Korea in the past two decades. H. Con. Res. 77 is the next step.

This very important resolution recognizes the need to reunite Americans of Korean ancestry with their family members in North Korea.

Over 500,000 Americans of Korean ancestry were separated from family members with the division of North and South Korea. This simple measure will bring about a long awaited family reunion, over 50 years later.

I believe it is very important for the United States to be involved in reunification and peace efforts in Korea, and this resolution brings us one step closer. This is a significant effort in mending relations with North and South Korea, and their relationship with the United States.

### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTMAS

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, Christmas during wartime is an unsettling conflict in vision and emotion for Americans. A peace-loving nation, the United States has always been resolved in the face of tyranny to crush the purveyors of terror and to vanquish the enemies of freedom; and with firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence. Celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace is a testimony to authentic liberty, and invigorates