

women, despite the threat to themselves and their children, stay in these abusive relationships. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one of the major reasons women stay in them is a lack of resources or fear of independence—a sense that there is nowhere else for them to go, and there is nowhere for them to get help. They believe that if they leave their partners, they will be forced into poverty and unable to provide for their children.

Strong women fought to break all women free from the shackles of being second-class citizens those many years ago. We vote, we work, and we succeed on our own. But too many still need help to enjoy this freedom completely. One of the most impressive programs that I have come across in my years in public service that addresses these concerns is New Choices/New Options. This program provides these new heads-of-household with the skills necessary to compete in today's marketplace. It is a program focused on providing assistance for displaced homemakers. What is most notable about this program is that in addition to teaching career development skills, it helps to instill a new sense of self-confidence in the women who participate in this program. Many women who come from abusive relationships not only need job training, but perhaps more importantly, they need the tools to help rebuild their lives—they need us to help them become pioneers for their children's futures.

Participants work one-on-one and in group settings to assess their needs and then design a plan to help meet these needs. They learn conflict resolution techniques and develop effective decision-making skills. This program helps participants build a safe and secure future for themselves and their families. It is so crucial that these women break this new ground like their sisters before them so they can break the cycle of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a societal ill that can occur at any time, to anyone. Let us confront this issue head on, so that during some future celebration of Women's History Month, someone can take to this very floor and commemorate the end of domestic violence.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS PLAGUING OUR SOCIETY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss a tragic and horrible situation plaguing our society, the incidences of school shootings. I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the following article by Mr. John Telfer, which appeared in the Midland Daily News on Sunday, March 11, 2001. He offers great and truthful insight into the appalling social problem of school shootings. He correctly writes that the answer is not more unnecessary gun laws, but rather we must find a solution that addresses the moral breakdown in our society. He truly writes about "The Heart of the Matter."

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

(By John Telfer)

President Bush, in the aftermath of the latest school shooting, did not make a new

call for gun control when commenting on the tragedy. Instead, he focused on the heart of the matter: "All adults in society can teach children right from wrong, can explain that life is precious," he said.

The media seemed almost disappointed. The last line of an Associated Press story read: President Clinton used a rash of school shootings during his term to call for stiffer gun control laws. Bush did not mention the issue.

Thank goodness. It is time for America to stop trying to use Band-Aid fixes to solve problems of the heart. Instead of seeking more gun control, we should be asking why some of our children think it is OK to kill people they dislike.

Let that sink in a moment. Some of our children think it is OK to shoot a person who has hurt them. That's a gun control issue? We need to face the facts as a nation that these kids no longer believe the commandment "thou shall not kill" applies to them. They have come up with their own definition of reality and it has nothing to do with what most people would deem morally correct.

A radio commentator the other day said we shouldn't be surprised by the violent actions of some young people. Every day they live in a world that encourages them to come up with their own definitions of right and wrong, from sexual promiscuity to illegal drug, alcohol and tobacco use to underage viewing of violent R-rated movies and more.

We encourage young people to come up with their own solutions to problems in school and life, often telling them there is no wrong answer. We don't want to place limits on their answers—that might stifle creativity. We expose them to images, concepts and viewpoints that require maturity to understand. We expect them to make good choices.

But in giving them all this freedom to choose, some kids are having a hard time figuring out where the boundary line is between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. The fact is our children need boundaries. They need rules. They need to know there are many incorrect solutions to the problems they are encountering. They need to be taught what is right and what is wrong and they need it pounded in their heads over and over and over again until you are so sick of doing it you are ready to throw in the towel as a parent. And then they need it again.

It's time for America to quit asking "why" these shootings keep happening. We know that answer. These kids have sick hearts. And they don't know the morally correct way to deal with the problems they are facing.

Our kids need to be taught right from wrong. They need to have boundaries they cannot cross without facing consequences. They need to know some values and beliefs are not negotiable. And they need all of these things while being taught under a forgiving umbrella of love. Then, and only then, will America be attacking the heart of the problem.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD P. MCFARLAND UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieuten-

ant Colonel Richard P. McFarland as he prepares to culminate his active duty career in the United States Air Force. Rich is the epitome of an outstanding officer and leader.

Lieutenant Colonel McFarland received his commission more than 20 years ago from the United States Air Force Academy. A graduate of Auburn University, as well as the Air War College, Rich McFarland has met the many challenges of military service as an Air Force Officer, and has faithfully served his country in a variety of command and staff assignments.

Rich concludes his career as the Special Assistant for Space, C3I and Intelligence in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs; he was instrumental in advising the Defense Department leadership on a broad range of national security issues of immediate interest to Congress. Rich's extensive knowledge of intelligence matters and space operations are instrumental in his role as the chief advisor to the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense and other Department of Defense Officials regarding national security strategy issues.

Mr. Speaker, service and dedication to duty have been the hallmarks of Lieutenant Colonel McFarland's career. He has served our nation and the Air Force well during his years of service, and we are indebted for his many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of the United States. I am sure that everyone who has worked with Rich joins me in wishing him and his wife, Anne, health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

THE CLEAR YOUR GOOD NAME ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, according to the Source of Criminal Justice Statistics, there were more than 10 million arrests in 1999 alone. Many of these arrests led to criminal convictions and helped make our streets and communities safer. The men and women of law enforcement play a critical role in enforcing our laws and creating a just society. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their service.

However, as any police officer will tell you, sometimes someone is arrested who is not guilty of any crime. It could be a case of mistaken identity or of someone being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Perhaps someone falsely accused an innocent person or simply lied to the police. When the mistake or false accusation is discovered, the innocent person is free to go, but the record of the arrest can haunt him or her for the rest of his or her life.

Today, we are announcing the introduction of the Clear Your Good Name Act, which would require the expungement of voided arrest records in order to clear the names of innocent people.

The bill defines a "voided arrest" as any arrest followed by the release of the person without the filing of formal charges, by dismissal of proceedings against the person arrested, or by a determination that the arrest was without probable cause. The bill would require expungement of voided Federal arrest

records and would provide a financial incentive to States to provide for expungement of voided State records. Some States have enacted laws requiring the expungement of voided arrest records, and we want to encourage other States to follow their lead. This bill would make States with expungement statutes eligible to receive a 10-percent increase in crime control funding. Specifically, it would increase the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance programs. For 2001, Congress appropriated \$569 million for these programs. If every State passed an expungement law, the cost would be \$56 million. These funds are used to reduce drug demand, improve effectiveness of law enforcement operations, and assist citizens in preventing crime.

When people are mistakenly arrested and then released after it is determined that they are innocent, they should not have to carry the burden of the mistaken arrest with them for the rest of their lives. We know that arrest records can prejudice opportunities for schooling, employment, professional licenses, and housing. But innocent individuals who have done nothing wrong should not be marked for life.

Lt. Manny Gomez is a perfect example of how an innocent person with a voided arrest record was unfairly denied access to a job. Before I tell his story I want to say a few words about Lt. Gomez. He came to my office two years ago to inform me of this problem, and has worked diligently with my staff and with other Members of the House and Senate to correct an injustice. He has been called "tenacious" by the NY Daily News, and has been profiled in the New York Times. He has worked with the NY City Council and with the NY State Assembly to pass expungement legislation. He is an example of a crusader who stays focused, works hard, and demands results. We are lucky to have him as a champion of this cause.

This is his story. In 1995, Lt. Gomez, two army duffel bags by his side, was approached by police officers in the train station because he happened to fit the description of someone they were looking for. He told them he was not the person, but he went voluntarily to the police station. Within five minutes another officer determined that indeed he was not the person they were looking for, and he was released after he gave the police his name and address. He was unaware that the encounter generated what is called a voided arrest record. Years later when he applied for a job at the police department, he told them—what he believed to be true—that he was never arrested. Unfortunately, the voided record had not been expunged, and the police found the record and accused him of not being truthful. The case of mistaken identity had come back to haunt him, and he was not allowed to become a police officer. He was never aware that he was arrested, so he then began searching for the reason for the record. After he investigated his case and discovered what had happened, he found that there was no law to provide for the expungement of voided arrest records, even if the person was completely innocent of all charges. After a lengthy battle over several years he was finally able to explain the situation to the police department. The police department has since realized that

it was in error and will allow him to become a police officer. Unfortunately, not everyone is as capable as Lt. Gomez, and many people are unfairly harmed by voided arrest records that are never expunged. Thus the need for this bill.

I am hopeful that with a strong coalition working together we can pass this legislation and enable innocent people to clear their good names and go about their lives free from the harmful effects of a mistaken arrest.

ENERGY AND GLOBAL WARMING

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about the direction President Bush is taking on energy and global warming.

The overwhelming majority of climate scientists agree that the earth's atmosphere is warming, and human activities, especially combustion of fossil fuels, are contributing to the warming trend.

Robert Watson, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has said, "We see changes in climate, we believe humans are involved, and we're projecting future climate changes much more significant over the next 100 years than over the last 100 years."

Coastal areas, such as my district of San Francisco, will face serious challenges from global warming. Sea levels are rising both because ice sheets are melting and because the ocean is expanding as it absorbs heat from the atmosphere. The projections for the rise in sea level between 1990 and 2100 range from a low of 3.54 inches to a high of 34.64 inches—close to three feet.

President Bush says, "My Administration takes the issue of global climate change very seriously." During his campaign, he pledged to reduce emissions from electric utilities, including carbon dioxide. Last week, responding to a concerted campaign from the electric utility and fossil fuel industries, he broke that promise. The environment, and the human communities around the world that will be harmed by climate change, will suffer the consequences.

Instead of encouraging the U.S. to reduce our dependence on the fossil fuels that cause global warming, by using energy more efficiently

The Administration has made drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge the centerpiece of their energy policy. They say we need oil from the Refuge to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. They even point to the electricity shortages in California as a reason to drill for oil in the Refuge. But oil is used to generate less than one percent of California's electricity, truly a negligible amount.

Not only would oil from the Refuge do nothing to help California, but it would also do very little to increase America's energy supply. Over the next half century, the coastal plain of the Refuge would contribute less than 1 percent of the oil consumed in the U.S.

The Administration is using the energy crisis to score victories against the environment,

both on climate change and drilling in the Arctic Refuge. If they can roll over environmental protection in these areas, none of our environmental laws and regulations will be safe from attack.

I call on President Bush to stand up for the American people and the environment. We must move quickly to counter global warming—our future depends upon it.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the celebration of Greek independence, and I thank our colleagues, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), for reminding us of the important role Greece has played in the past and plays now.

It is important that we join together to celebrate the 180th anniversary of Greek independence and to pay tribute to a nation which is considered the birthplace of democracy. Lest we forget, the world owes a great deal to the nation that first developed the concept of majority rule, a concept that is at the very heart of our own institutions.

In 1821, Greek patriots rose up against the Ottomans, who for nearly 400 years had curtailed their basic civil rights. The struggle of the Greek patriots won the support of many in Western Europe and in the United States. The French, the British, and the Russian governments, strongly identifying with the descendants of a nation that had so strongly influenced Western civilization, intervened on behalf of the Greeks, forcing the Ottoman Empire to recognize Greece as an independent state in 1829.

Our nation has greatly benefited from the contributions of Greek immigrants who have substantially contributed their toil, their knowledge and their skills to our American society. We have been blessed with a strong, vibrant Greek-American community who have significantly contributed to our culture, our prosperity, and who have deeply embraced the ideals of Democracy.

Greece has been an island of peace and security in a sea of troubles which have embraced the Balkans, and today plays an important role in assisting in our efforts to bring peace and security to the entire region. With regard to Cyprus, Greece is still in the process of trying to reconcile the 27-year occupation of that Island by the Turkish army.

Thousands of Greeks fought and died for their independence in the same fashion that America's founders fought and died. As Greece prepares to welcome the world to the Athens Olympics in 2003, let us join in celebrating this very special Greek Independence Day, and let us hope and pray that we can soon celebrate peace and reunification on Cyprus.