

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM ACT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to better coordinate the Federal Government's response to terrorism. Each year, hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens work and travel overseas, including a growing number of U.S. employees who work on behalf of the energy industry. Regrettably, as we have seen in recent years, U.S. citizens are increasingly at risk by terrorist organizations who hope to exact revenge for U.S. policies, or in the name of greed. Because of a confusing maze of differing of diplomatic and law enforcement concerns, the U.S. victims of such acts are often unable to attain justice, even when the whereabouts of the perpetrators are known by federal authorities.

While the Department of State and the Justice Department can work effectively with nations sharing an extradition treaty with the U.S., too often the lack of such treaties or diplomatic barriers have allowed terrorists to hide from justice behind layers of bureaucracy. Worse still, there is little effective coordination between State and Justice to provide updated information to victims and their families, and neither agency compiles a complete report accounting the federal government's efforts to bring terrorists to justice.

Under this legislation, the Secretary of State would be required to designate an existing Assistant Secretary of State to monitor efforts to bring justice to U.S. victims of terrorism abroad. I believe this provision provides the Department of State with the necessary flexibility to designate the tasks required under this bill without dictating the creation of a new post, or elevating the Office of Counterterrorism with duties most appropriately performed at the level of the Assistant Secretary.

Under this bill, the Assistant Secretary would be required to work directly with the Justice Department and other applicable Federal agencies to identify and track terrorists living abroad who have killed Americans, or engaged in acts of terrorism that have directly affected American citizens. In addition, the Assistant Secretary would provide an annual report to Congress on the number of Americans kidnapped, killed or otherwise directly affected by the actions of international terrorists. Also included in the Annual Report to Congress would be a thorough detailing of what actions State and Justice are undertaking to obtain justice for U.S. victims of international terrorism, and a current list of terrorists living abroad.

One of the most important components of this legislation is the direct assistance of State and Justice in defining outdated or ineffective laws that prevent the aggressive pursuit of international terrorist by the Federal Government. To that end, as part of the Annual Re-

port, the Assistant Secretary would work with the Justice Department to make specific recommendations to Congress on legal remedies needed to bring individual terrorists to justice in the U.S. Should enforcement problems exist, the Assistant Secretary would provide Congress with proposed changes to U.S. law that would allow Justice and State to bring terrorists to justice in the U.S. Further, the Annual Report would work with State to detail known international terrorists, and make recommendations to Congress on best methods of pressuring host governments—such as cutting off aid, or imposing sanctions. To maintain adequate safeguards, the President would be provided with a national security interest waiver, which must be accompanied with an explanation to Congress when executed.

As Members of Congress, we have a profound duty to provide an effective response when our constituents have been the victims of international terrorists while traveling or working abroad. Through passage of this legislation, we can take important steps in coordinating the Federal Government's response, and ensuring that we have the information necessary to address our laws or diplomatic policies to provide for the aggressive pursuit of terrorists. We can not stand back while our citizens are victimized, or let the lack of coordination between agencies dictate a denial of justice.

I urge my colleagues to better safeguard our citizens by supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN TRESKY TOERGE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the American Mothers, Inc., 2001 Maryland Mother of the Year, Susan Tresky Toerge. A resident of Potomac, MD, Mrs. Toerge is an example of a truly altruistic individual as shown through her efforts to her family and to her students.

As an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, Mrs. Toerge has impacted the lives of many children across the country educating them on the ways of our country during a point in time when many of these children are most likely frightened and uncertain of their new surroundings. Through her comforting and valuable life lessons, Mrs. Toerge helps these children overcome the challenges faced with being in a new country. In her work and home life, Mrs. Toerge demonstrates that it is possible for women to balance the role of a devoted parent with a full time job and still participate actively in her community. She is truly a role model for women everywhere.

The Maryland Mother of The Year program is sponsored by American Mothers, Inc. (AMI) which was founded on the objective to "develop and strengthen the moral and spiritual

foundation of the home, the community, the nation and the world." AMI is also the official sponsor of Mother's Day and has developed outreach programs that include parenting workshops, tutoring and literacy programs.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Susan Tresky Toerge, whose contributions to her family, state and community have made her truly deserving of the title of Maryland Mother of the Year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOKUM CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Yokum Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, of Malta Bend, Missouri, which will be celebrating its 120th anniversary on May 20, 2001.

Yokum Chapel Church may not have the largest membership but it has continued to serve the people of Malta Bend for the last twelve decades. Malta Bend is a small town with an African-American population of less than five percent. This church and its dedicated congregation have become an integral part of the community that it calls home.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the congregation of Yokum Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church for their outstanding accomplishment. It is with great pride that I honor their achievement on their one hundred and twentieth anniversary.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX RATE REDUCTION ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Capital Gains Tax Rate Reduction Act. If enacted, this legislation will reduce the top capital gains tax rate from 20% to 10%. Additionally, the lower rate of 10% would be reduced to 5%. The measure would also repeal the 5-year holding rule.

This legislation is needed to spur today's ailing economy. From past rate reductions, we know that the economy responds to the lowering of rates. The impact of reducing the tax burden on investments is to increase activity in the markets. When the tax is reduced, individuals have an incentive to sell assets. These sales spur economic growth, as well as generate revenue for the federal coffers.

Please join me in cosponsoring this important tax rate reduction bill.

● 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.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE NORMAN SISISKY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, the death last week of our friend and colleague NORM SISISKY claimed one of our great leaders, and took away one of my respected and personal friends in Congress.

NORM symbolized the very best there is in public service. A good family man, NORM was widely respected for his honesty and integrity. He was also one of the most wonderful, witty and funny people I have known.

On the Intelligence Committee, where I had the privilege to serve with NORM, you could always count on him to give everyone a hard time. Whether he was grilling the director of the FBI, or just kidding around with staff, NORM was relentless when it came to dispensing good humor and well-intentioned grief. But he always did so in the most embracing and engaging way. With a sparkle in his eye, NORM always had the unique ability to say the right thing to break the tension and put a human face on our work.

But there was so much more to NORM SISISKY than just his great sense of humor. When it comes to military and national defense matters, there was no one more knowledgeable or more committed than NORM. His expertise in military affairs enabled him to serve both his district and our nation well.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee and the Intelligence Committee, NORM led the fight to improve our nation's military readiness, enhance our national security, and ensure America's leadership in the world. We owe a great debt of gratitude to NORM for his persistent and visionary leadership on defense matters. Clearly, our military and intelligence communities have lost a great friend.

NORM came to Congress after a long and successful career in the private sector. He put his business skills and knowledge to work in many productive ways, especially helping lead the fight for a balanced budget and smaller government. NORM epitomized the kind of public servant our founding fathers had in mind when they wrote the Constitution: a skilled and successful businessman giving back to his community, and leading Congress with his thoughtful and pragmatic advice.

We will miss NORM's knowledge, his leadership and his wonderful sense of humor. Our friend from Virginia made a huge impact in Congress, both as a leader and as a friend. My sympathies go out to NORM's wife Rhoda, their four sons Richard, Mark, Stuart and Terry, and their entire extended family.

COMMENDING THE 3M FOUNDATION FOR ITS PRESERVATION EFFORTS

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to mention a recent action by a corporation based in my home State of Minnesota that will go a long way toward improving the quality of life of our residents.

On March 20, 2001, the 3M Foundation gave the Nature Conservancy of Minnesota a gift of \$3.2 million to preserve and restore two areas of grassland in the State. Appropriately, it was also the first day of spring. This is the largest gift ever given to the state chapter. The gift will be used to purchase prairie and forest land and to promote community-based conservation efforts. This effort will have a significant and long-lasting impact on Minnesota's wildlife and vegetation. 3M's gift is one that will truly keep giving, offering current and future generations access to some of Minnesota's finest natural treasures.

I commend 3M for its commitment to preserving Minnesota and it is my hope that the good work 3M does will serve as a national example to increase corporate giving and involvement in communities across the country.

THE 15TH NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege to participate in an extraordinary event, the 15th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. This year it was held at Snowmass Village at Aspen, CO. Sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and others, this event provides disabled veterans the chance to engage in various outdoor and indoor sports activities.

More than 300 severely disabled veterans took to the ski slopes, tackled rock climbing, went scuba diving, or played sledge hockey. This wonderful program is much more than a source of fun and athletic challenges; it is designed to assist in the rehabilitation of veterans with severe disabilities. Physical activities are essential to improving physical fitness, refining motor skills, and building self-confidence.

Many of these men and women at one time thought that their disability ended hopes for an active, vibrant life. Instead of viewing their physical condition as a barrier to recreation, these individuals saw the opportunity to overcome the obstacle posed by their disability.

The men and women at the clinic did not dwell on adversity; rather they eagerly engaged in the physical trial of sports. This event demonstrated the courage and abilities of these veterans. It also serves as an inspiration to others to be bold in redefining what the disabled can do.

I had the privilege of being Chairman of the Veterans' Health Subcommittee and I now

serve as its Vice Chairman. I worked with the VA, the DAV, and other wonderful groups in strengthening the services provided to veterans and I look forward to continuing this cooperation. The Veterans are the only group of Americans that have earned their benefits, they didn't just happen to be here, they earned it on the battlefield, they earned it in service to America.

Serving America's veterans mean exploring new options for enhancing their quality of life. The Winter Sports Clinic exemplifies an innovative approach to honoring the men and women who served in uniform.

CONGRATULATIONS STANLEY GWIAZDOWSKI—2001 PAL JOEY AWARD WINNER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to fellow Milwaukeean Stanley Gwiazdowski, the St. Joseph Foundation, Inc. 2001 Pal Joey Award winner. Stan will be honored April 23rd at the annual Pal Joey dinner.

Stan is a worthy recipient of the prestigious Pal Joey Award as he has served his country, church, community and family faithfully for many years. He graduated from St. Hyacinth School and South Division High School. Drafted into the Army in 1941, Stan was chosen to attend infantry officers school at Fort Benning, Georgia. Sent overseas for the first time, Stan joined the 34th Infantry Division in Africa. His later Army assignments led him to units in Italy, North Africa and France. Stan received numerous military honors, including the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Upon his return to the United States, Stan transferred to the Army Reserves. He retired from the Reserves in 1980, after nearly 35 years of military service to his country.

In 1946, Stan was sworn in as a City of Milwaukee police officer. He proudly served in all of the southside Milwaukee districts and was promoted to patrol sergeant and desk sergeant positions. He retired in May of 1980.

Throughout the years, Stan also found time to serve his community. He is the current secretary of the South Side Business Club, a member of the Milwaukee Society, the St. Joseph Foundation, the secret International Mushroom Pickers Society (IMPS), the Reserve Officers Association and Retired Officers Association.

Stan married Rose Kalinowski in 1946. The couple has been blessed with seven children and 12 grandchildren. An avid sheephead player, Stan is quick with a joke and to volunteer whenever and wherever he may be needed.

It is my distinct pleasure to join Stan's many friends and family members to salute his many years of service to the Milwaukee community and especially the St. Joseph Foundation, Inc. May God continue to bless you and your family, Stan. Sto lat!