

Islam is a way of life for millions of Americans, and we in the Congress want them and all Americans to know of our Nation's view that Islam should be understood as a faith that firmly upholds the values of respect for the individual human being, the value of the family, and justice for all. We join the growing American Muslim community in condemning those who try to tell us otherwise and who commit crimes against humanity in the name of Islam.

Congress has expressed itself formally in condemnation of those who, in the wake of the events of September 11, took illegal actions against people solely because they were, or seemed to be, Muslims. Moreover, we support the President in his forthright expressions against all such illegal actions, his prosecution of those who commit such crimes; and we join President Bush's assurances that our efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom against terrorism are not directed against Islam or against Muslims.

Mr. Speaker, to the contrary, we embrace our fellow citizens who are Muslims and all those of the Muslim faith who are temporary or permanent residents here as adherents of one of the three great religions in the monotheistic tradition.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this holy month, we extend our warmest greetings to the American Muslim community; and we wish them a blessed Ramadan.

AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE SYSTEM

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that terrorists should be brought to justice. But what kind of justice? The American jurisprudence system is the envy of the free world with its emphasis on due process. Yet the recent executive order substitutes our American justice system for military tribunals, where officers sit as judge and jury with secret evidence, secret witnesses, secret verdicts, and even secretly handed-down death sentences.

This order is not reflective of the workings of the great solons of the law whose likenesses ring this Chamber. This is not reflective of Jeffersonian democracy. This is Kafka's trial writ large. We cannot, we should not let the actions of terrorists cause us to reject our American system of justice. The ultimate terror in a democracy is the destruction of constitutional principles.

Let us defend against terrorism, and may we always remain one Nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

URGING ACTION ON AIRLINE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, if you read Roll Call today, you will realize that the majority leader of the other Chamber decided at a very important engagement with President Putin to make a joke about his height. A few months ago, he seemed to make the same reference to our own President when he questioned his international stature. The gentleman must obviously have a height fetish. Rather than focusing on things we can do for our country, he is making fun of the gentleman's stature.

Our President has led us successfully in Afghanistan. The words from the field include: "The Taliban's on the run"; "we're focusing in on bin Laden"; and "we're going to achieve our goal because the United States and its allies remain committed to the end of terrorism."

I salute our President. I urge the majority leader of the other body to quickly take up the airline security bill which the House passed which includes options for localities to hire the kind of screeners they need to protect the traveling public. I also urge him to take up the economic stimulus bill that is ready at his desk and ready for the American economy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to make mention of Members of the other body.

WELCOMING IMAM YAHYA HENDI

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the new Democratic Caucus working group on Central Asia and the Middle East, please let me warmly welcome Imam Yahya Hendi to the people's House.

His prayer ascends to the God of us all, who "shows us the straight way, the way of those on whom grace is bestowed, and whose portion is not wrath, so we will not go astray."

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent a region of our Nation where Muslims for generations along with faith-filled people from all denominations and those of secular persuasion have joined together in an interfaith mission to promote tolerance, understanding, and to advance social justice.

We have built homes for the poor through Habitat for Humanity. We work together in the campaign to erase hatred. Ours is a peaceful community and a patriotic community. Indeed, in

my district, Muslims have made history. They have become prominent citizens in all walks of life: medicine, engineering, law, business, education, and entertainment.

Our citizens built the first mosque in Ohio and the third in our Nation. And just after September 11, people of faith joined hands around our Perrysburg mosque in a strong show of unity with our common bond to the Creator of us all.

During the upcoming Ramadan, Christmas, and Hanukkah seasons, may our national mosaic shaped by people who have come here willingly from throughout the world shine beautifully as an example of how people can live together with respect for one another and without fear.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO CORAL GABLES FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Coral Gables First United Methodist Church, and I congratulate its clergy and its parishioners.

Since July of 1926, when 100 Coral Gable citizens gathered to charter a United Methodist church, First United has been a spiritual beacon to its community.

With the current leadership of Senior Pastor John Harrington, the church continues its mission of serving south Florida by reaching out to all communities with its message of hope and love. Church members operate a "Pastor's Pantry" and a "Sharing Place" to provide immediate food and clothing needs to the destitute.

The Church also supports many ministries: Habitat for Humanity, the Community Partnership for the Homeless, the Agape Women's Center, and the Riverside House, just to name a few. Funding missions all over the world that bring the promise of Jesus Christ and that relieve suffering in the world have always been priorities for the Coral Gables First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my congressional colleagues to join me and the Matson family in congratulating the Coral Gables First United Methodist Church. May it continue serving with love and devotion as a spiritual center for many of our south Florida residents.

CHINA IS DESTABILIZING THE WORLD WITH AMERICAN CASH

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a report said China is selling missiles to

our enemies. The report said China sold missiles and technology to Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Pakistan. In addition, China sold nuclear technology to Iran and Pakistan, and it has been confirmed by American officials. The report further said that these Chinese sales will enable Iran to deploy nuclear warheads in the near future.

Beam me up here. China is destabilizing the world with American cash. That is no laughing matter. I yield back all those American flags that were recently passed out at the Wizards game that were made in China.

THE TIME IS NOW TO PASS AN AIRLINE SECURITY BILL

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass an airline security bill.

The holiday season is going to begin next week, and millions of Americans will be flying to see their loved ones. It is ridiculous that Congress is dragging their feet. It should have been done weeks ago.

We need to make sure that the skies are safe for all people so they feel secure. It is understandable that folks are still anxious about flying. That is why we must act. We must reach a compromise. We must restore confidence in the American public so they will fly on the planes, and we must send a message to the terrorists that they are not going to scare us into changing our way of life.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The Chair will extend the number of 1-minute speeches to 15 on each side.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. For nearly 7 million Muslims in America and more than 1 billion worldwide, this is a period of introspection and faith. As Muslims prepare for the daily fast, they begin a month of deep spirituality and communal observance.

Like many things related to Islam in America, Ramadan is not well understood by most Americans. The word "Ramadan" comes from the Arabic root word for "parched thirst" and "sun-baked ground."

Some say the word expresses the hunger and thirst felt by those who spent the month in fasting. Others sug-

gest it is so-called because, during Ramadan, hearts and souls are more readily receptive to the admonition and to the words of God, just as sand and stone are receptive to the sun's heat.

Ramadan is a beautiful work that truly captures the spiritual and the physical renewal of this most treasured time for Muslims. Americans have benefited immensely from learning more about these traditions.

I join my colleagues today in sending our message of solidarity and warm greetings for a blessed beginning to the holy month of Ramadan for all Muslims, here at home and around the world.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN JEOPARDIZES NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Nuclear Regulatory Commission joined the Department of Energy in what appears to be a collusion to ignore public safety. An NRC statement said that it believes that the Department of Energy has done all the work necessary for approval to license Yucca Mountain. Earlier this week, the Yucca project chief for the DOE said that the analysis for terrorist threats would not, I repeat, would not, be included in a final report to the Secretary of Energy.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the last time I checked, we were at war with terrorism; and it seems to me that a giant mountain filled with 77,000 tons of nuclear material located near Las Vegas, Nevada, makes an unfortunate, yet attractive, target for these evil terrorists. It is simply reckless and irresponsible for the DOE and the NRC to ignore the threat of terrorism.

It is obvious that the DOE and NRC are on a mission to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain at any price. Unfortunately, that price may be the safety of the American people.

PUTTING BOOKS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I just left a wonderful event at Union Station sponsored by First Book, Coca Cola, and Scholastic Educational Services.

We all know that the mission of First Book is to put a book in the hands of children and encourage them to read. They are going to be there the rest of the day, so I am encouraging people to go by, sign this giant book, because for every signature that they get, some child is going to get their very own book to read.

RECOGNIZING THE VISION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARRY W. COLMERY

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vision and achievements of Mr. Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Colmery's efforts led to the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. This bill made a college education possible for 2 million veterans and has also allowed for more than 2 million others to buy homes for their families.

In December of 1943, Harry Colmery, the National Commander of the American Legion, wrote the first draft of what became the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, known as the GI Bill. Thanks to the work of Mr. Colmery and others, his bill was signed into law by President Roosevelt some 6 months later.

The GI Bill continues to serve as a fitting reward to servicemen and women who have risked their lives to protect our freedom. Millions were able to better themselves and their families through higher education.

For this reason, I am asking President Bush to posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

AVIATION SECURITY

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, if we want to revitalize the airline industry, we have to get people back on the planes. It is clear that people do not feel safe flying. Airlines are losing money, and the number of passengers is way down. Yet, here we are, more than 2 months after the events of September 11 without an agreement on airline security.

To prevent future attacks and to restore the public's confidence in flying, we must take steps. We cannot just hope that the same security companies that have committed gross violations of current law will do a better job in the future. We have Federal oversight of private, for-profit companies right now; and the current system is not working. This is a very real problem, and it deserves a real solution.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should stay in session and pass an aviation security bill that protects the flying public.

WE NEED A REAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR AMERICA

(Mr. TOOMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of Americans are losing