

the subcontinent and no Sikh representative has signed the Indian constitution.

India claims that these freedom movements have little or no support. Well, if that is true, and if India is "the world's largest democracy," as it claims, then why would it not hold a plebiscite on the status of Kashmir, of Nagaland, of Khalistan? Wouldn't that be the democratic way to resolve these issues without a violent solution?

Until that day comes, Mr. Speaker, we should support self-determination. We should declare our support for a plebiscite in Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and wherever they are seeking freedom. We should stop aid to India until all people in the subcontinent live in freedom and peace. These measures will help bring the glow of freedom to everyone in that troubled, dangerous region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Wall Street Journal article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 4, 2002]
INDIA'S KASHMIR AMBITIONS

Western worry over Kashmir has focused on Pakistan's willingness to control terrorists slipping over the border with India, and rightly so. But that shouldn't allow U.S. policy to overlook India's equal obligation to prevent a full-scale war from breaking out in Southwest Asia.

That obligation has come into focus with today's Asian security conference in Kazakhstan. Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan will both be on hand, and everyone has been urging a bilateral meeting on the sidelines. But so far Mr. Vajpayee has ruled out any dialogue until Pakistan presents evidence that it is acting against the Kashmiri terrorist groups crossing the U.N. line of control to attack Indian targets.

This is shortsighted, not least for India, because it allows Mr. Musharraf to take the moral high ground by offering to talk "anywhere and at any level." On Saturday the Pakistani leader also went on CNN to offer an implied assurance that he wouldn't resort to nuclear weapons, as something no sane individual would do. This went some way toward matching India's no-first-use policy and could be considered a confidence-building measure, however hard it would be for any leader to stick to such a pledge were national survival at stake.

India's refusal even to talk also raises questions about just what that regional powerhouse hopes to achieve out of this Kashmir crisis. If it really wants terrorists to be stopped, some cooperation with Pakistan would seem to be in order. We hope India isn't looking for a pretext to intervene militarily, on grounds that it knows that it would win (as it surely would) and that this would prevent the emergence of a moderate and modernizing Pakistan.

This question is on the mind of U.S. leaders who ask Indian officials what they think a war would accomplish, only to get no clear answer. India is by far the dominant power in Southwest Asia, and it likes it that way. Some in India may fear Mr. Musharraf less because he has tolerated terrorists than because he has made a strategic choice to ally his country with the U.S. If he succeeds, Pakistan could become stronger as a regional competitor and a model for India's own Muslim population of 150 million.

The danger here is that if India uses Kashmir to humiliate Pakistan, Mr. Musharraf probably wouldn't survive, whether or not fighting escalates into full-scale war. That

wouldn't do much to control terrorism, either in India or anywhere else. It would also send a terrible signal to Middle eastern leaders about what happens when you join up with America. All of this is above and beyond the immediate damage to the cause of rounding up Al Qaeda on the Afghan-Pak border, or of restoring security inside Afghanistan.

No one doubts that Mr. Musharraf has to be pressed to control Kashmiri militants, as President Bush has done with increasing vigor. The Pakistani ruler was the architect of an incursion into Indian-controlled Kashmir at Kargil two years ago, and his military has sometimes provided mortar fire to cover people crossing the line of control.

But at least in the past couple of weeks that seems to have changed, as Pakistani security forces have begun restraining militants and breaking their communications links with terrorists already behind Indian lines. In any case, the line of control is so long and wild that no government can stop all incursions. More broadly, Mr. Musharraf has already taken more steps to reform Pakistani society than any recent government. U.S. officials say he has taken notable steps to clean up his intelligence service and that he has even begun to reform the madrassa schools that are the source of so much Islamic radicalism. (The problem is that Saudi Arabia hasn't stopped funding them.)

The Pakistani leader has done all this at considerable personal and strategic risk, and it is in the U.S. and (we would argue) Indian interests that the process continue and succeed. He deserves time to show he is not another Yasser Arafat, who has a 30-year record of duplicity.

As it works to defuse the Kashmir crisis, the U.S. has to press Mr. Musharraf to stop as many terror incursions into India as possible. But it also must work to dissuade Indian from using Kashmir as an excuse to humiliate Pakistan, a vital U.S. ally. The U.S. has a long-term interest in good relations with India, a sister democracy and Asian counterweight to China. But self-restraint over Kashmir is a test of how much India really wants that kind of U.S. relationship.

A SIXTH DISTRICT BOY SCOUT TEACHES NEW RESPECT FOR THE U.S. FLAG

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, with the recent court decision concerning the Pledge of Allegiance, more attention than ever has been brought to the American flag. I want my colleagues to be aware of a recent action by a Boy Scout in my congressional district who took it upon himself to come up with a new way to honor our beloved symbol of freedom. He is to be commended for his thoughtful patriotism.

Ryan White, a member of Boy Scout Troop 20 in High Point, North Carolina, was looking for an appropriate project to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. After doing some research, Ryan discovered that the federal flag code does not detail any particular way to dispose of a flag that is no longer fit to display. (Our office had sent Ryan a Congressional Research Service report on flag law.) So, Ryan decided to organize a large, public flag disposal ceremony. His idea was so well de-

signed and thoughtful, I want everyone in Washington and around the nation to be aware of his concept.

This past May, the city of Thomasville conducted a Memorial Day Freedom Celebration at Cushwa Stadium. Ryan White was invited to be a part of this patriotic program. His ceremony was so well received that day, the hope is that Ryan's idea will spread throughout the country. His program was formulated to show proper respect for our flag and to stir the patriotic spirit of everyone who witnessed the ceremony.

I will paraphrase the words of Ryan White's program to explain the ceremony he developed to retire a worn-out flag. First, the audience will stand and sing God Bless America as the flag is being lowered. Next, a designated Color Guard properly folds the flag to be retired and it is carried to a special kettle for burning. The song Taps is played as the flag is burned. Finally, as the new flag is raised, the participants remove their hats, or salute if in uniform, and join in the signing of the Star Spangled Banner.

Ryan discovered in his research that the flag code is somewhat vague about how a worn-out flag should be retired. It states: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Ryan took this information and developed a ceremony that is dignified and patriotic. He has set a standard that can be used for years to come.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Ryan White of Boy Scout Troop 20 in High Point, North Carolina, for his outstanding Eagle Scout project. No matter what any court may rule, Ryan White has demonstrated that we can honor the flag in a patriotic and dignified way.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LORI A. NIMMERFROH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress today to honor a dedicated nurse and mother of two from Denver, Colorado. Lori A. Nimmerfroh was an exceptional woman who exhibited unrelenting passion and spirit throughout her life. She passed away only in March, far too early, at the age of 38. She will be remembered as a remarkable woman whose memory will be celebrated forever by her family, friends, and patients.

Lori Nimmerfroh graduated from Grand Junction High School and continued her higher education at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She later received her nursing degree from the University of Northern Colorado and began working for Mercy Medical Center in Denver. In 1997, she attained the position of clinical nurse coordinator for Rose Medical Center, and was promoted to nurse manager of the medical intensive care units in the surgical ward in 1999. Her colleagues honored her in 2000 when she was awarded the Rose Leader of the Year Award and was nominated for the Nightingale Award in 2002. Lori also had an enormous impact on her family, her parents Diane and Dick

Reineer, brother and sister Steve and Jodi, her husband Paul, and two sons Nick and Hunter.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to join the loved ones of Lori A. Nimmerfroth in the mourning of her loss. She positively contributed to the betterment of her community, state, and nation. I would like to express my deepest condolences to her friends and family, and offer the recognition of this Body of Congress to the many impacts, both small and large that Lori made. While we will all miss her tremendously, all who knew her will be incalculably better off because she played a role in their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SAFETY ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that represents a firm commitment to protect the safety of the American public and to protect the welfare of wild animals that are increasingly being maintained as pets. This legislation identifies and provides a solution to a growing national problem that must be addressed.

The bill, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, would amend the Lacey Act and bar the interstate and foreign commerce of dangerous exotics, including lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, cougars, and bears, for use as pets. The legislation would not ban all private ownership of these prohibited species; rather, it would outlaw the commerce of these animals for use as pets.

The legislation specifically exempts zoos, circuses, and others that are currently regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act. Instead, the bill is specifically aimed at the unregulated and untrained individuals who are maintaining these wild animals as exotic pets.

According to best estimates, there are more than 5,000 tigers in captivity in the United States. There are perhaps more tigers in captivity than there are tigers in their native habitats throughout the range in Asia. While some tigers are held in zoological institutions, most of the animals are pets, kept in cages behind someone's home in a state that does not restrict private ownership of dangerous animals. And it's not just tigers: there is widespread private ownership of other dangerous animals, including lions, cougars, and bears. At a time when almost anything can be bought on the Internet, it is unsurprising that the animals can all be purchased through the more than 1,000 web sites that promote private ownership of wild animals.

Problems arise because most owners are ignorant of a wild animal's needs, and local veterinarians, sanctuaries, animal shelters, and local governments are ill equipped to meet the challenge of providing proper care. Wild animals, especially such large and uniquely powerful animals as lions and tigers, should be kept in captivity by professional zoological facilities. Only curators of these facilities have the knowledge and know-how to

meet the animals behavioral, physical, and nutritional needs.

People living near these animals are also in real danger. There is a laundry list of incidents of dangerous exotics seriously injuring and killing people. In Loxahatchee, Florida, in February, a 58-year-old woman was bitten in the head by a 750-pound pet Siberian-Bengal tiger mix. In Lexington, Texas, in October last year, a three-year-old boy was killed by his stepfather's pet tiger. Earlier that year in August, a pet lion bit a woman trying to feed peaches to some captive bears.

The Captive Wildlife Safety Act represents an emerging consensus on the need for comprehensive federal legislation to regulate what animals can be kept as pets.

A wide range of groups and institutions, for example, oppose the private ownership of carnivores. The U.S. Department of Agriculture states, "Large wild and exotic cats such as lions, tigers, cougars and leopards are dangerous animals."*** Because of these animals' potential to kill or severely injure both people and other animals, an untrained person should not keep them as pets. Doing so poses serious risks to family, friends, neighbors, and the general public. Even an animal that can be friendly and love can be very dangerous."

The American Veterinary Medical Association also "strongly opposes the keeping of wild carnivore species of animals as pets and believes that all commercial traffic of these animals for such purpose should be prohibited."

This bill is just one part of the solution to help protect people and exotic animals. States will continue to play a major role. I hope to see the grassroots effort directed at the state and local government level, to increase the number of states and counties that ban private ownership of dangerous exotic animals. Already, 12 states ban private possession of large exotic animals, while 7 states have partial bans.

The Captive Wildlife Safety Act is supported by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, The Humane Society of the United States, The Fund for Animals, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. I also want to thank the actress Tippi Hedron for raising awareness of this issue on Capitol Hill. Tippi operates an animal sanctuary, and often has the sad and expensive task of rescuing these animals after their owners realize the lion or tiger is a safety risk and cannot be properly cared for.

I ask my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, and I hope that the Resources Committee, on which I serve, will take up the legislation in an expeditious manner.

ALIEN CHILD ORGAN TRANSPLANT ACT OF 2002

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the "Alien Child Organ Transplant Act of 2002", a bill that would provide coverage under the Medicaid program for organ transplant procedures. Under my bill, children under 18 years of age who are currently residing in this country and develop a medical condition that requires an organ transplant would be able to receive Medicaid coverage for the procedure.

Many of my colleagues may not be aware of this, but current law does not allow legal permanent residents to receive Medicare coverage for a life-saving measure such as an organ transplant. And I am referring to legal permanent residents, that is, immigrants who are here legally.

Melannie Veliz is such an immigrant. Melannie has cystic fibrosis and the disease has left her with only marginal lung function. She is very ill and her lung capacity is about one-third of what it should be. In her delicate state, she is susceptible to bronchitis and infections. This means she has trouble, sometimes, playing. Sometimes, she can't go to school or be with her friends. She can rarely do the things that every child deserves. No matter where he or she was born.

Melannie, is an 11-year old student at Smith School in Aurora, Illinois. She lives with her parents, Christian and Johanna, and her younger brother. Melannie, who was born in Chile, traveled here with her family on visas, as required by the law. Unlike most immigrants who come to America seeking a better life, the Veliz family came to America not simply seeking a better life—but life. Life for Melannie.

The Veliz family came here looking for life-saving procedures that were not available in Chile. Unfortunately, although their entry into this country was completely within the law—the laws of this nation have kept Melannie from becoming healthy. I am referring to the current punitive laws and harsh rules which prohibit people, including children, from accessing key public services, including Medicaid, due simply to their immigration status.

Melannie's health can be improved and her life could be saved through a double lung transplant. The procedure is risky but can be done. Her dream of a better life is not being blocked by medical technology. No. Melannie's immediate dream was denied because she is not able to participate in the Medicaid program.

However, thanks to the initial enterprising spirit of Melannie's teacher, Maria López, her supporters were able to obtain significant donations to secure the operation. The goal at the time was \$309,000. This was before the hospital decided that the original estimates were inaccurate and that at least \$450,000 would be needed to ensure that Melannie would receive the necessary aftercare. But the human spirit never gives up. And nobody gave up in the quest to secure the needed funds. Fundraising efforts were so successful, thanks in no small measure to the direct involvement of the Cacique Foundation, that Melannie and her supporters have now secured more than the \$450,000 needed for the operation.

As a Member of Congress, I pledge to continue my fight in defense of the rights of immigrants specially those who, like Melannie, are very young and most vulnerable. I will continue to compel my colleagues to recognize that the harsh penalties that they impose on people because of their immigrant status can—and must—be overturned.

Not simply for the health of those kids who are affected by these laws, but for the health of our nation, so that we can truly live up to the standard of decency that we so often attribute to America.

Melannie has been fortunate enough to benefit from generous donors, but she has been a victim of the not-so-generous laws. She has