

and firefighters at Ground Zero. Against a background of terrible tragedy, he symbolically affirmed the importance of rank-and-file public workers in American society. Hopefully the letter of the proposed Homeland Security law will be amended to reflect the spirit of that vital gesture.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. JAMES WITHERS IN ADDRESSING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF PITTSBURGH'S HOMELESS POPULATION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Dr. James Withers, the Director of Operation Safety Net in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Withers recently received national recognition from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Health Leadership Program. The prestigious award includes a \$120,000 grant to provide additional funding for his program.

Dr. Withers, a Forest Hills internist and member of Mercy Hospital's medical and teaching staffs, founded Operation Safety Net to address the health care needs of Pittsburgh's homeless population. The program partners volunteer medical professionals and medical students with former homeless people to provide medical care to the city's unsheltered homeless.

Dr. Withers launched Operation Safety Net in 1993, after spending almost a year visiting Pittsburgh's streets dressed as a homeless person to learn about their health care needs. He and a friend walked down countless dark streets, alleys, and abandoned buildings to find people in need of medical care. He even carried his medical supplies in a backpack to ease their concerns.

Now, the 16 Operation Safety Net teams of volunteers, students and former homeless, do much the same, searching out those in need of care. Dr. Withers, or "Doc Jim" as he is known on the street, still walks with the teams several nights a week.

The project now provides care for about 900 patients annually—the majority are substance abusers and many suffer from mental illness.

In addition to helping Pittsburgh's unsheltered homeless population, Operation Safety Net also offers a valuable experience for the medical students and residents who participate as volunteers—giving them a hands-on lesson in caring for disadvantaged patients.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. James Withers for this national award and express my gratitude for his determination and leadership. His lesson reaches well beyond the medical students and residents who volunteer with Operation Safety Net. It carries a message for all of us.

Dr. Withers' nominator for the award put it best by saying, "Jim's advocacy, creativity, and leadership are tireless. He teaches all who are willing to listen, in Pittsburgh and beyond, that each of the homeless has a name and that each has a story."

CONGRATULATING THE CALIFORNIA ARMENIAN HOME

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the California Armenian Home on the occasion of celebrating 50 years of dedication and service to the needs of the elderly people in the Armenian community on September 21, 2002. The California Armenian Home was established to provide housing for the aging population who could no longer live on their own.

In 1952, the California Home for the Armenian Aged opened with accommodations for 35 persons in downtown Fresno, California. Since its inception, the Home has evolved into a community of 168 residents and is considered to have one of the highest standards of senior care. The highly skilled nursing staff provides excellent care for assisted living.

The California Armenian Home was dedicated in honor of the K. Arakelian Foundation and the Armenian-American Citizens' League. Prior to the Home's grand opening, sponsorship of only eleven rooms in the Home had been assured, leaving twenty-four rooms without sponsorship. Mrs. K. Arakelian, a widow of one of the Home's founders, was concerned and decided to coordinate a "Grand Opening Shower." More than 600 persons attended the shower and brought gifts such as blankets, sheets, pillows, and cash donations to help complete furnishing the Home.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the California Armenian Home of Fresno on the occasion of their 50th year anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the California Armenian Home many more years of continued success.

A GRAVE AND GATHERING DANGER

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon take up the question of whether to authorize the President to use any necessary means, including military force, to require Iraq to abide by its agreements with the United Nations to destroy its stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons. There is of course no question that Saddam Hussein has repeatedly violated these agreements and that he continues to pursue the development of weapons of mass destruction. The only real question is whether Congress and the United Nations will enforce these international resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the President and I believe that it is important that we act promptly on this issue. The President made clear in his address to the General Assembly of the United Nations that there is a clear and compelling case for forcing Saddam Hussein to obey UN agreements or face real and immediate consequences. As we prepare to debate this issue, I urge my colleagues to review the President's remarks because I believe this speech not only could help avert a

new Persian Gulf war but also could help restore credibility to a United Nations that has been drifting toward irrelevance.

I have been a strong and consistent supporter of the United Nations. I believe it is essential that we have a strong, credible and effective international forum where disputes can be debated and resolved without bloodshed, where problems that stretch beyond the boundaries and resources of any one nation can be tackled by the joint efforts of many countries and where those who flout the laws of civilized behavior not only face condemnation but international penalties with real bite.

In his speech, President Bush presented two challenges. One was to Saddam Hussein to abide by a series of UN resolutions over the past 12 years requiring him to halt production of weapons of mass destruction, to end internal political repression in Iraq and to abide by the terms of the ceasefire that ended the Gulf War. The other challenge was to the United Nations to enforce its own resolutions, if Saddam continues to murder and maim within Iraq while furiously working to complete his arsenal of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

By ordering Saddam to disarm and then failing to take any effective action to enforce those orders, the United Nations has endangered its own credibility. Since the 1991 ceasefire, the UN Security Council has issued 12 specific demands for Iraq to comply with requirements to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and other steps. Iraq has repeatedly and brazenly refused. As a result, UN weapons inspection teams left Iraq four years ago, ending any check on Saddam's growing arsenal.

President Bush made clear that this steady drift into danger will not be allowed to continue. Saddam has a well-documented history of invading neighboring nations like Iran and Kuwait, and using highly lethal concoctions of poison gas and nerve agents despite all prohibitions in international law and in civilized behavior. He also has a fully documented history of gassing entire villages of opposition groups within Iraq, as in 1988 when attacks against Kurdish villages killed hundreds of women and children.

The President puts it very simply: "The history, the logic and the facts lead to one conclusion: Saddam Hussein's regime is a grave and gathering danger. To suggest otherwise is to hope against the evidence. To assume this regime's good faith is to bet the lives of millions and the peace of the world in a reckless gamble, and this is a risk we must not take."

President Bush then posed two unavoidable questions that only the United Nations can now answer: "Are Security Council resolutions to be honored and enforced or cast aside without consequences? Will the United Nations serve the purpose of its founding or will it be irrelevant?"

The only adequate response to those questions is forceful and unequivocal action by the United Nations to require that Iraq immediately comply with the terms of the 1991 ceasefire and subsequent UN requirements, beginning with the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction. These demands are not onerous or outrageous. They simply require that Iraq abide by the same standards of human decency that guide every civilized nation. To demand less would be to abandon millions of innocent people within Iraq and to endanger millions more throughout the rest of the world.

It would also set the precedent that the malignant whims of a determined dictator can reduce the United Nations to a hollow debating society that cannot uphold the promise of world peace.

A war against Iraq by a renewed international coalition or by the United States alone would be a grave and sobering step with many risks and unknowns. We cannot and should not take such a step without full consideration by the United Nations and the Congress, as the President has promised. But the dangers of continued inaction, of endless dithering, are too frightening to ignore. We must act to support the President.

SARASOTA CONCERT BAND

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States of America were honored by a special performance of Charles Gabriele's "Ave Maria" presented by the Sarasota Concert Band, conducted by its director Maestro William Barbenera, at the band's September 2nd concert. Lorraine Murphy-Renfroe and Douglas Renfroe were the solo vocalists.

Members of the band who performed in the tribute were: Patricia Dominowski, Adrienne Clover, Kelly Hatin, Valerie McManus, Lindsey White, Tom Hughes, Kelly Jacobs, Jave Martin, Pan Winkle, Phil Hohman, Estella Lilly, Maria Herrera, Calvin Wright, Megan Jefferds, Harry Phillips, Lynn Miller, R.C. Summers, George McLain, Marc Levensen, Kristen Constantino, Liz Jefferds, Joe Martinez, Dick Thierry, Gerry Snyder, John Hietala, Dave Jacobs, Jacob Bradley, Robert Moore, Merrill Wilson, Eric Vanzylveld, Andrea Hatin, Robert Thurston, Marvin Luckett, Charles Wilson, Bill Namack, John Haswell, Lara Fetzek, Chuck Evans, Laurita Noller, Pam Winkle, Robert Andrews, Jack Brokensha, Mike Dubi, Carolyn Gallmeyer, Fred Gallmeyer, Jeff Hanscom, Joe Hruby, Ann Jefferds, Marc Levensen, Faye Luckett, William Namack, Eddie Pawl, Bryson Sanders, Dianne Saunders, Michael Saunders, Paul Worrell, Lisa Barbanera, Kim Clark, Diane Jolly and Melissa Martinez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this most commendable musical tribute to the victims.

IN HONOR OF JACQUELINE ELLAM AUTRY, RECIPIENT OF THE HONORARY CONGRESSIONAL HORIZON AWARD

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jacqueline Autry, who will receive the Honorary Congressional Horizon Award on September 27, 2002 at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. The Honorary Congressional Horizon Award is presented annually to individuals who have personally contributed to expanding the opportunities for all Americans,

and who have set an exceptional example for young people through their successes in life.

Success has always followed Jackie Autry. As a young woman in 1959, she started her career at Security First National Bank, working first as a switchboard operator, then as an Assistant Manager of Operations, and then Manager. At the young age of thirty-two, she was appointed to the position of Vice President, where she remained until July 17, 1981, when she married the American cowboy legend, Gene Autry.

Mrs. Autry has clearly demonstrated her selfless devotion to the community of Los Angeles. Her invaluable contributions to the community include serving as President of the Palm Springs chapter of the American Red Cross and serving as Treasurer and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Eisenhower Medical Center and Hospital. She has also served as President of Community Blood Bank of the Desert and currently serves as Director and President of the Autry Foundation.

Mrs. Autry also has the venerable distinction of being the only woman ever to serve on the Major League Baseball Executive Council and Board of Directors. She continues to serve the sporting community while acting as Honorary President of the American League of Major League Baseball.

Over the years, Mrs. Autry's remarkable breadth of involvement with the community has been a benefit and an inspiration to many. I am proud to honor the contributions of Mrs. Autry. It is through her accomplishments that we are inspired to believe in the power of each American to make a difference in our nation. In acknowledgement of her service, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in recognizing the achievements and contributions of Jacqueline Autry.

IDAHO PUBLIC LANDS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the people of Idaho are fortunate to have the incredible resources of the public lands for work and play. Our public lands provide forest, mineral, and grazing resources, as well as access to a wide variety of outdoor recreation pursuits. The beauty of Idaho's mountains and rivers draw thousands of tourists to our state, injecting millions of dollars into our state's economy and supporting thousands of small businesses. So it is fitting to draw attention to an expedition that recently passed through Idaho.

American Frontiers: A Public Lands Journey is drawing attention to America's public lands legacy through a two month, 3,000 mile journey entirely on public lands and waters. Two teams of adventurers, including teachers, a firefighter, a nurse, a reporter, and several outdoor enthusiasts began this trek on August 1, one team starting from the Canadian border, the other from the Mexican border. The two teams will join together on September 28, 2002 in Salt Lake City on National Public Lands Day. The northern group journeyed into Idaho while they were on the Continental Divide Trail, and hit the halfway point in their journey in the Targhee National Forest.

We all treasure the special moments spent in awe of the natural wonders around us, and

stand to gain from a better understanding of America's public lands legacy. My thanks go to the Public Lands Interpretive Association and the many sponsors and partners organizing this special journey. I encourage you to read more about this incredible journey on America's public lands by visiting the interactive website www.americanfrontiers.net.

REPRESSION OF MINORITIES CONTINUES IN INDIA—SIKHS, MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS CONTINUE TO BE TARGETED

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am distressed about two recent articles that show the continuing repression of minorities in India. One article appeared in The Hindu, an Indian newspaper. It said that over 5,000 Muslims were killed in the violence this spring in Gujarat. Then the Times of India reported that a group of Indian police officers fired on a group of peaceful Sikh protestors. These articles show that minorities such as Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others continue to suffer the worst kind of repression in "democratic" India.

In Gujarat, the police were quoted as saying that they were ordered to stand aside and let the Muslims be killed. This was strangely reminiscent of the 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi. It is part of India's pattern of repression of its minorities. Now, it comes out that peaceful Sikh protestors who were simply holding a peaceful protest against what they see as desecration of their gurus and their scriptures were fired upon by Indian police. What kind of a democracy fires on peaceful protestors engaged in peaceful action?

Christians continue to be oppressed as well. Churches have been burned, prayer halls have been attacked, nuns have been raped, and priests have been murdered. Militant Hindu nationalists burned a missionary and his two young sons to death while they slept in their jeep. A few years ago, police fired on a Christian religious festival that was peacefully promoting the theme "Jesus Is the Answer."

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop U.S. aid to India. It is time to declare our support for self-determination for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the peoples demanding their freedom from India. We cannot just stand by and allow India's repression to go on with our support. Self-determination is everyone's birthright. Freedom is everyone's birthright. It is time for America to follow our principles and support it.

The Council of Khalistan issued an excellent press release on the police firing at the peaceful demonstrators. I would like to insert that into the RECORD at this time. In addition, I would like to place the article from The Hindu into the RECORD to show my colleagues the ongoing repression of minorities in supposedly democratic India.

INDIAN POLICE FIRE AT PEACEFUL SIKH PROTESTORS

INDIA AGAIN SHOWS IT IS NOT A DEMOCRACY

WASHINGTON, DC, August 5, 2002.—The Times of India reported on August 1 that police in Malout fired on a crowd of peaceful