

CARSON'S QUESTION OF
PRIVILEGE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support of Ms. CARSON's resolution and my even stronger support of Amtrak. As Ms. CARSON's resolution recognizes, Amtrak provided a vital transportation alternative during the weeks and months following the attacks of September 11th. The importance of Amtrak, however, goes far beyond simply providing an alternative mode of transportation in times of crisis. Amtrak serves more than 500 stations in 46 states, provides employment to thousands of workers, and provides a significant economic impact to small communities throughout the country.

Specifically, in my state of New Mexico the most recent figures show that New Mexico Amtrak ridership totaled 95,278 passengers. Amtrak also employed 63 New Mexicans totaling wages of \$3.62 million. Three Amtrak routes run through New Mexico; the Southwest Chief route, the Texas Eagle route, and the Sunset Limited route. All three of these lines are of vital importance to the number of small communities through which they run. Communities such as Raton, Las Vegas, and Gallup, all three of which are in the 3d Congressional District, which I represent, depend heavily on the Amtrak passengers to bring their dollars to these local economies. Without Amtrak, these communities would experience devastating economic hits that would threaten the very existence of these wonderful places.

That is why it is so important that we provide Amtrak with the level of funding they have requested—the level of funding they deem necessary to maintain and improve their existing services. The President's request of \$521 million will result in a severe cutback of Amtrak's services, which will, in turn, result in a devastating impact on the communities that Amtrak currently serves. I urge my colleagues to not only support Ms. CARSON's resolution, but also support an increase to \$1.2 billion of funding for Amtrak.

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR BOWMAN

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Taylor Bowman, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, who was named a top youth volunteer this year by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The awards program, now in its seventh year, is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. A record 28,000 high school and middle level students submitted applications for this year's program.

Taylor, who graduated from Fort Mill High School this year, developed and led a mentoring program that paired high school athletes with potential at-risk students from a local elementary school.

When Taylor first began tutoring a new student from Puerto Rico in his mother's third-grade class, he was reminded of "a turtle with his head in his shell trying to forget about the world outside." But as he worked with him each week, Taylor said, "I saw the turtle come out of his shell."

Soon, other teachers were asking Taylor for help with their limited-English and academically challenged students, but he knew he didn't have enough time to help everyone. So, after getting permission from his coach and the elementary school principal, Taylor recruited 37 members of his high school cross-country team and other friends to become mentors, as well. He also applied for grant money to purchase incentive rewards and fund a hot dog picnic, Christmas party, and other activities.

The success of the first year convinced Taylor that other schools could also benefit from the program, and he began recruiting other volunteer schools and teams. "It took a lot of time and effort," Taylor says, "but it was worth it. Life is much better when you take time to help a child."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards in recognizing Taylor Bowman as one of South Carolina's top youth volunteers.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DONALD F.
DEVOS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rev. Donald F. DeVos, president of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM), who peacefully left this world on Saturday afternoon, September 28, 2002.

Don dedicated his life to serving the least, the last, and the lost. I witnessed this firsthand as late as March of this year when I met with Don in my office. He was here in Washington, 81 years old, resplendent in his attire, walking the marble halls of Congress strongly advocating on behalf of Michigan's at-risk and abused youth.

Don brought tremendous vision, leadership, grace and love to his work. He came to the Mission in 1990 to just "help out" and two years later he became the organization's president. When Don arrived, the Mission quietly operated on a small budget, with few facilities, and a narrow focus in the city. Under Don's strong leadership, the Mission expanded its services and has become the largest provider to the homeless and addicted in southeast Michigan.

In 1998, Don DeVos was awarded Executive of the Year by United Way Community Services. A year earlier, the City of Detroit awarded the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries Agency of the Year. Today, the Mission has an \$8 million budget, operates facilities in 18 locations throughout the Metro area, including Highland Park and Howell. The Mission successfully transforms the lives of gang members, drug addicts, prostitutes, juvenile offenders, and the homeless with time-tested, cost-effective programs, and through the power of the Living Gospel. The Mission's programs,

which include drug treatment, transitional housing, education, job training, and youth assistance, have a combined success rate of 77 percent.

Don would often say that his most satisfying moments came when he would meet someone who held out his or her hand and said, "Mr. DeVos, I went through your program and it changed my life!" It occurred at his favorite lunch spot, Mario's restaurant; on the street outside his office on the notorious Cass Corridor; even the doorman to Don's apartment building was once a Mission resident. This is Don's legacy.

While Don's energy and inspiration came from above, the person who gave him daily encouragement and strength was his beloved wife, Betty, who passed away last year. Losing his life-long partner was difficult for Don. Now they are together again.

Don was a graduate of Union High School in Grand Rapids. After graduating in 1942 from the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago he served in the U.S. Navy. Beginning in 1944, Don worked with Christian leaders throughout the world, including the Rev. Billy Graham, to found Youth for Christ International and to direct public relations for other faith-based international organizations, including World Vision and Global Concern. Before coming to the Mission, he founded a long-term residential treatment program in Texas for young substance abusers that has changed the lives of thousands of boys and girls.

In Don's office hangs a beautiful motto that reads, "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you." The greatest thing I can say about Don is that he lived every day of his life by this sacred promise.

Don DeVos died one year, one month, and one day after his beloved wife, Betty.

DISSENTING VIEWS ON CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA ANNUAL REPORT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Executive Commission on China released its inaugural report today. I am one of nine commissioners from the House. Because of my concerns that this report inadequately addresses the Government of China's continuing human rights abuses, I could not vote to support it. I want to share with our colleagues my dissenting views on the report.

DISSENTING VIEW

While this first report by the Congressional Executive Commission on China (CECC) contains some worthwhile recommendations and observations on the continued human rights abuses in the People's Republic of China, I do not believe it sufficiently describes and addresses the degree to which these human rights abuses can be laid at the feet of the Government of China.

In a recent letter to all CECC commissioners, human rights advocate Harry Wu outlined several human rights issues in China that should have been included or discussed with more vigor and analysis in this report. I share in Mr. Wu's analysis.

For example, the section of the report on village elections gives the impression that

the practice of village elections may be a positive development in a transition to democracy in China, without seriously analyzing whether or not the Communist Party may use village elections as a method of establishing control in the rural regions. The report says that "critics of the process say that the Communist Party manipulates the outcome[s]", but it does not adequately assert that China's rulers may use village elections as part of a strategy to maintain control.

On another matter which Mr. Wu raises, it is perplexing that the report fails to reflect the debate this year in Congress and in the Bush Administration about China's planned birth policy, particularly regarding whether or not the Administration would withhold funding from the United Nations Population Control Fund. This important issue is not addressed in this, the first, report of the commission and is conspicuous by its absence. The commission recently held a hearing on this subject, and I believe the report should address in detail China's planned birth policy.

Similarly, I agree with Mr. Wu that the report fails to discuss China's state-sponsored harvesting and trafficking of prisoners' organs, where a common thief can be executed in order for his organs to be sold for transplanting. Can you imagine being imprisoned for a minor offense and ending up being shot in the head and having your kidneys or corneas removed to be sold? Congress has held numerous hearings on this issue and the news media has written about this issue, but the report fails to discuss this horrible practice.

I also believe the recommendations on religious freedom should be stronger. While these recommendations may be well-intentioned, they lack the necessary depth of discussion in addressing the Chinese Government's continued persecution of believers of all faiths—Roman Catholics, Protestants, Falun Gong practitioners, Muslim Uighurs, and Tibetan Buddhists.

Furthermore, I am concerned that this commission may not be willing to be a direct advocate on behalf of human rights and religious freedom, through letters or conversations with Chinese officials.

As I stated at a commission hearing this year, this panel should follow the model of the Helsinki Commission and be vocal in its advocacy for individual cases and human rights in general. I agree with John Kamm, president of the Dui Hua religious freedom organization, who has done more than almost anyone I know for human rights in China, who said at a commission hearing, "The model should be the Helsinki Commission . . . I foresee a day when this commission . . . is an arsenal of human rights."

The Helsinki Commission does not hesitate to write directly to leaders of member countries advocating human rights and religious freedom. The Helsinki Commission has done more than almost any other entity to bring freedom, hope and democracy to the former Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc countries. The CECC ought to follow this successful model. But, clearly, this has not yet occurred, and it is almost as if the CECC is afraid that it will offend the China Government.

If I were a prisoner in China today, I wonder if I would have the same amount of trust and hope in the CECC to take up my case with Chinese officials as Soviet dissidents had in the Helsinki Commission, which was a tireless advocate with officials in the former Soviet Union.

While there are those of us on the commission on differing sides of the China PNTR issue, I am concerned with the perception that many of the commission's staff are

more skilled in the areas of business and trade than in the area of human rights. As the law that created the CECC states, monitoring China's compliance on respecting human rights is a primary task of the commission. I believe the commission's efforts would be enhanced if staff expertise were more balanced, especially to include more staff who have the passion for promoting human rights in China. While I know that the commission staff is composed of competent and skilled professionals, and they are people of integrity, I have been very disappointed with their shortcomings in human rights and religious freedom advocacy.

For the reasons outlined above, I believe this report has some serious gaps in its coverage of human rights in China and I cannot sign the report.

This commission was created with a mandate to promote human rights in China. Unfortunately, I do not see this happening. Human rights organizations have expressed similar concerns to me and some have even questioned whether the commission should continue to exist. I have similar questions regarding the continued viability of the commission.

Lastly, an observation: the fundamental problem in China in regard to the government's human rights abuses and restriction on human liberty is not the "law" in China, but the "regime" in China. The root problem in China is not just a faulty legal system, but a corrupt, totalitarian, oppressive, communist ruling regime that consistently violates human rights and religious freedom of its own citizens—Roman Catholics, Protestants, Falun Gong practitioners, Muslim Uighurs, Tibetan Buddhists or almost anyone who strives to worship and live with liberty.

RECOGNIZING ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th Anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Eggertsville, New York.

Throughout this coming weekend, parishioners will gather for a variety of celebrations to honor this milestone, and dedicate recent building renovations.

First incorporated on December 18, 1827, St. Paul's was founded by Rev. Vincent Phillip Meyerhoffer, a Hungarian immigrant who served as a Chaplain in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the Napoleonic wars. Rev. Meyerhoffer came to Buffalo in 1819, and founded St. Paul's in order to serve the area's German-speaking population.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church has been an important part of the spiritual and of civic life of our community; and I ask that this Congress join me in wishing the clergy and parishioners of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church our sincerest best wishes on its 175th Anniversary celebration.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PATSY T. MINK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness at the passing of my colleague and friend PATSY MINK.

But I also rise in great joy and gratitude as I reflect on the paths she cleared for so many people.

PATSY MINK blazed trails for women and people of color. She was a stalwart progressive voice and aggressive leader on issues important to the American people.

She is known all over this great country for her work on minority affairs and equal rights. Various groups have called her an inspirational role model for students and an "American political trailblazer extraordinaire." The National Organization for Women called her a valiant champion.

One of her greatest successes was the passage of Title IX, which she sponsored. Title IX literally leveled the playing field for women in academics and athletics, bringing countless women into athletics in high schools and colleges and universities, and helping to fuel the successes of many professional women's teams today.

PATSY MINK's biggest fans were also her most important fans—the people she represented in Congress for 24 years, as well as the Hawaii Legislature and the Honolulu City Council, where she consistently advocated on behalf of and delivered for her constituents. This tireless work explains why her local papers described her as "a true champion of the people."

While there are words in honor of her vibrant life in service to the American people, perhaps the most fitting tribute is to strive to capture her extraordinary spirit in this great House as we continue the critical work she devoted her life to achieving—expanding job and education opportunities for women, promoting peace in our troubled world, and fighting for social justice.

My own special memory of PATSY was of the annual gift of chocolate covered macadamia nuts she gave Members of Congress from her native Hawaii. She was not only thoughtful, she was an all around class act.

Mr. Speaker, we all came to Congress to help better the lives of people we represent. We fight hard everyday to achieve results that will improve the quality of life for people in our hometowns. But few can claim the results that PATSY MINK delivered for the people of Hawaii. She is an inspiration to all of us. While being a role model for so many young people in Hawaii and across the nation, she is also a role model for each of us.

God bless her distinguished career in public service. And may God bless her family.