

we must pray in gratitude for those who have given a life of service to us. That service is a sacred trust and no small contribution to our ability to live the quiet and peaceable life that St. Paul mentioned.

In gathering this morning for this sacrifice of the Mass, as we place before the altar our very selves, our many needs and our petitions, we must also thank God. We thank Him especially for His providence in the history of our country, raising up in difficult moments leaders, such as Presidents Washington and Lincoln, to help us through our trials. Moreover, we thank God for the leaders and public servants of our own time, who truly strive to protect our country's justice and peace, ensure for us the opportunity to work for the fulfillment of God's plan in our lives and in society.

**TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY AND  
NATO ENHANCEMENT RESOLUTION OF 2002**

SPEECH OF

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 7, 2002*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 468 which expresses the House's support for the further enlargement of NATO at the upcoming Prague summit. I believe that such an expansion would further U.S. foreign policy interests by ensuring peace and stability in Central Europe.

As during the first round of enlargement in 1999, countries joining NATO must support and implement the democratic principles that serve as the foundation of the countries that established the alliance. It is essential to the continued viability of NATO that new members fully abide by Western values, including respect for religious and national minority rights.

Mr. Speaker, over 2,000,000 Hungarians live as minorities in Romania and Slovakia as a result of borders being drawn without the affected populations allowed to express their views through plebiscites. These minority communities had their religious, educational and community properties confiscated by the Communist regimes. Following the historic changes of the early 1990s, laws had been passed in these countries providing for the restitution of or compensation for these confiscated properties. However, the implementation has been extremely slow, especially when it comes to the return of the properties of Hungarian religious and educational institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is essential that countries seeking to join the alliance of free and democratic countries represented by NATO make significant strides to protect religious and minority rights and expeditiously restore or compensate the minority communities for the illegally confiscated properties. The stability of the region and indeed of NATO requires that the member countries take all measures necessary to ensure ethnic and religious harmony within their borders. Therefore, it is critical that the governments of Romania and Slovakia take immediate measures to ensure religious and minority rights and fully implement the laws designed to restore properties confiscated from the Hungarian and other minorities. NATO members must adhere to these minimum requirements of free democratic societies that the alliance and the United States represent.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATS' EARNED LEGALIZATION AND FAMILY UNIFICATION LEGISLATION**

**HON. RICHARD A. GEPhARDT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. GEPhARDT. Mr. Speaker, before September 11, 2001, our country's leaders from the Executive Branch to the Congress were actively engaged in exploring a fundamental re-crafting and rewriting of our immigration policies. Due to the horrific events of September 11, 2001, that agenda had to be delayed as our country struggled to find ways to ensure our security, while still respecting the civil rights and essential dignity of the immigrants within our country.

Since September 11, Congress has taken important steps to secure our borders and enhance our nation's security against the terrorist threat. The sound policy rationales that were propelling us to re-craft our immigration laws before September 11 continue to exist today and are even more urgent. To the core values of family unity, fundamental fairness and economic opportunity that we articulated in the Democratic Statement of Principles on Immigration a year ago, we now add a pressing concern—the need to bring the undocumented population out of the shadows and into the light of greater accountability so that they too can aid in effectively securing our great nation. The need for comprehensive immigration reform has not abated, and our resolve to move forward in this effort remains.

**EARNED LEGALIZATION AND FAMILY UNIFICATION**

Today, Democrats are introducing legislation that will take the first step toward comprehensive immigration reform that will recognize immigrants who have been working and contributing to this country while also increasing our security. Our earned legalization legislation will ensure that hard-working, tax-paying immigrants will be able to adjust their status and live legally if they have resided in the United States for at least five years, have a work history of at least two years and are able to pass a background check.

Our legislation will benefit both America and an immigrant population that has embraced the American Dream. It will streamline the enforcement of our immigration laws and allow us to shift important enforcement resources to tracking down those who have come to the US to do us harm. Reducing the number of undocumented immigrants in the US will enable us to better focus on individuals who pose a real terrorist threat. At the same time, our legislation rewards work by ensuring that qualifying immigrants can move on with their lives free of the fear that one day they or members of their family may be sent away from their adopted country forever.

Our legislation will also speed the reunification of families, so that our immigration system will not force families to choose between long years of separation and undocumented immigration. We value family-based immigration because it solidifies important family ties and creates stronger communities. Yet, our current immigration system puts extreme stress on families, forcing them to wait many years before they can be reunited. We believe it is not in the best interest of our communities to force such long separations.

We must recognize, however, that this is but a first step, and that much more remains to be done. There has been much debate about the need for new and expanded temporary worker programs. Even as we debate the merits of legalizing the hard-working population already in the United States, we acknowledge that a comprehensive immigration policy debate must address future flows of immigrants and their impact on the US labor force. Indeed, President Fox of Mexico continues to press the Bush Administration for movement in this area. We must consider reasonable policy options for regulating, limiting and controlling this future flow of immigrants in a way consistent with our nation's highest values.

As Presidents Bush and Fox resume bilateral migration discussions, and we encourage their efforts, we note that immigrants come from many different countries which highlights the importance of having broad and expansive discussions of the myriad issues presented by immigration trends. As the discussion continues, it is vital that the issues we set forth below are thoughtfully and effectively addressed and are key elements to any future legislative or administrative efforts.

**ADJUSTED STATUS FOR WORKERS CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES AND TOWARDS REGULARIZING THE STATUS OF FUTURE IMMIGRANTS**

Consistent with our original Democratic Statement of Principles on Immigration, we recognize that to achieve the comprehensive immigration reform that we outlined, the status adjustment of undocumented immigrants currently residing in the United States who do not otherwise qualify for our earned legalization proposal must be addressed. We should find a way to place these undocumented workers and their families on the same path to legalization as those who qualify for our earned legalization proposal.

In addition, we must seek to regularize the flow of immigrants who cross our border. By seeking regularization, a legal mechanism could be provided for recent arrivals to the US to work while not undermining the wages, benefits standards and legal protections of US workers and local labor markets. Such an effort should include the following essential elements: (1) a thorough and accurate methodology for determining the need for foreign workers and the application of the most reliable labor market tests; (2) accurate wage determinations based on relevant wage information, union contracts and benefits and the development of new formulas that reflect industry standards; (3) equitable labor protections for foreign and US workers, including the right to organize—foreign temporary workers should not be used to undermine union organizing efforts; and (4) the Department of Labor must be given the necessary enforcement resources and procedures to ensure full compliance and temporary foreign workers must be provided a private right of action to ensure full compliance.

As we move forward in the development of any new efforts, we also recognize the necessity of avoiding the failures of past guest-worker programs. We must ensure that existing visa programs are reformed to function properly and as intended, and we must direct the necessary resources to training for US workers and better link such training to available jobs.

## CONCLUSION

We enter this debate recognizing that immigration reform can be a complex issue; indeed, previous immigration reforms have failed to meet the high standards that we establish for ourselves in this debate. For precisely this reason, we intend to lead a comprehensive immigration reform debate that unflinchingly addresses the difficult questions that are critical to any serious policy discussion. We look forward to the challenges ahead and to reshaping our immigration policy to strengthen America's control over its borders and to reflect the American values of hard work and family.

## U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS

## HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of America's key foreign policy priorities in this new era—our relationship with India, a democracy with more than one billion people. U.S.-India relations continue to expand and to grow deeper in many areas, from economic and trade relations, to political and diplomatic ties; from the promotion of democracy internationally, to cooperation in such areas as environmental protection, health care, the exploration of outer space and the development of information technologies. Two areas in which our bilateral relationship has made particular progress are security cooperation and partnership in the international campaign against terrorism.

One tangible example of this newfound cooperation is taking place right now in Alaska. The second Indo-U.S. Joint Military Exercise began September 19 and will continue until October 11. The aim of the joint exercise is to learn from each other's experience and procedures towards achieving interoperability. Troops from the two countries are carrying out para-drops, scouting/airborne assault missions and progressed with various levels of joint firing exercises. The first joint airborne military exercise between the two countries was held at Agra, India in May of this year. I'm pleased to report that the distinguished Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Lalit Mansingh, traveled to Alaska on October 7, to witness the exercises. The Ambassador met Brigadier General John M. Brown III, Commander of the U.S. Army Alaska at Fort Richardson, who expressed his appreciation of the professionalism, discipline and adaptability of the Indian armed forces.

Defense cooperation between our two countries has emerged as one of the most important dimensions of the overall U.S.-Indian bilateral relations. A major joint naval exercise, named "Malabar IV" was successfully completed in the Indian Ocean last week. The Executive Steering Groups of all the three defense services are scheduled to meet again later this year to develop plans for additional joint exercises, training and other areas of cooperation.

Another recent example of our joint commitment for a more stable and secure world was the U.S.-India Security and Non-Proliferation Dialogue held in New Delhi September 23–24. India continues to make substantial progress

in meeting U.S. non-proliferation goals and is also committed to vigorously enforcing stringent export controls on dual-use technologies.

Mr. Speaker, since last September 11, the struggle against the international terrorist threat has been an overriding priority in all of our international relations. As President Bush told the world with admirable clarity, "Either you're with us or you're with the terrorists." India has clearly risen to the occasion and made it clear that it stands with us and against the terrorists—without any ambiguity.

In the year since September 11, 2001, India and the U.S. have forged an ever-closer partnership in the struggle against international terrorism—a partnership that had actually began in January 2000 with the establishment of the U.S.-India Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism. The Commission has met five times since, and high-level consultations between key officials are ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the Bush Administration's recognition of the importance of India as a growing ally of the United States. The pace of bilateral engagement since President Bush took office has been unprecedented. The National Security Strategy of the United States, transmitted by President Bush to Congress in early September as a declaration of the Administration's policy, calls India "a growing world power with which we have common strategic interests." The report further states: "The Administration sees India's potential to become one of the great democratic powers of the twenty-first century and has worked hard to transform our relationship accordingly."

Our President and Prime Minister Vajpayee of India have established a strong working relationship, which symbolizes the friendship and partnership between our countries. We welcomed Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to the United States last month for the U.N. General Assembly meeting. During his stay in New York, the Prime Minister met with President Bush, and also attended commemoration ceremonies for 9/11—a further indication of the deep sympathy and strong sense of solidarity that the Indian government and people feel regarding the attacks on America.

At their November 2001 meeting, President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee issued a joint statement outlining the broad scope of bilateral relations. The statement affirmed their commitment to complete the process of qualitatively transforming bilateral relations in pursuit of their many common goals in Asia and beyond. In addition to the increasing exchanges and technical cooperation in the defense and security areas, the President and Prime Minister also stressed the importance of policies to enhance the economic and commercial ties between our nations, and agreed to dialogue and cooperation in the areas of energy, the environment, health, space, export controls, science and technology, including biotechnology and information technology.

A major part of the human dimension to our bilateral relationship is the Indian-American community. Numbering more than 1.7 million, the community has played a leading role in bringing together our two great democracies. The community has also worked to educate us, the elected Representatives of the United States, about the importance of U.S.-India relations to build the security and prosperity that will benefit both of our peoples and create a more stable world.

## HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE OF REGGIE FARMER

## HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous service that Rutherford County Sheriff's Deputy and Air National Guardsman Reggie Farmer has given to his Middle Tennessee community and his grateful country.

Reggie has been serving active duty in the Air National Guard for the past year in the nation's ongoing war against terrorism. In fact, he just recently returned from Afghanistan where our brave military men and women have been fighting terrorists and restoring order in the war-torn country.

In his civilian life, Reggie serves Rutherford County citizens as a sheriff's deputy and Kittrell Elementary School students as a school resource officer. Reggie resumes his duties at Kittrell Elementary School on Tuesday, October 15, the day he officially retires from the military.

Reggie began his military career in April 1978 after enlisting in the United States Air Force. After leaving active duty in the Air Force, Reggie enlisted in the Air National Guard where he has been deployed all over the world. I congratulate Reggie on a long and honorable military career and join the rest of the citizens of Rutherford County in welcoming back home a true American hero.

## TRIBUTE TO ELSIE BAILEY, NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to Elsie Bailey, a constituent of mine from Whiting, New Jersey, who was recently elected President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, on August 28th, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Elsie Bailey was sworn in as President at the American Legion Auxiliary's 82nd National Convention. The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization, with more than 10,500 units in every state and some foreign countries.

Founded in 1919, the Auxiliary consists of women whose husbands or other male relatives are members of the American Legion. The Auxiliary has over a million members today, including more than 15,000 in New Jersey, and operates hundreds of volunteer programs. Their dedicated and generous members provide thousands of hours of service to our Nation's veterans and to the communities in which they live. Through their efforts, millions of dollars have been raised to support veterans programs, as well as to support both national and local charities.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud of the fact that Elsie Bailey is the first woman from