

witnessed Bob's work to bring collaborative quality research to Texas Tech through his determined efforts to establish the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Plant Stress and Water Conservation Laboratory in Lubbock. Bob traveled to Washington on a regular basis to testify before the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and to explain the need for an ARS laboratory in Lubbock that would focus on the plant and crop needs in semiarid production environments such as in West Texas. I am pleased that after all of his hard work, funding was provided for this important facility, which is now nearly constructed and that houses research initiatives between ARS and the University. Thanks to Bob's efforts, scientists have used this facility for research critical to plant science which will keep our farmers the most efficient producers of food and fiber in the world.

I know Bob will be missed by faculty and students alike, but his support and enthusiasm for Texas Tech and agriculture will endure. Bob has always been a Red Raider, and he always will be in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure today to express in this public forum my thanks to Dr. Bob Albin for his outstanding service to Texas Tech University and American agriculture and wish him all the best in his retirement.

ANOTHER CHURCH ATTACKED IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently another Christian church was attacked in India. The Associated Press reported on February 17 that about 50 militant, extremist Hindu fundamentalists attacked a Catholic church on the outskirts of Bangalore. Unfortunately, this is just the latest incident in a long-standing campaign of repression against Christians and other religious minorities in India, which appears to be tacitly supported by the government. Last year, a cabinet member was quoted as saying that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. This is part of the Hindutva ideology of the ruling BJP and its parent organization, the RSS, which was founded in support of the Fascists.

This latest incident seems to mirror with so many other actions perpetrated by Hindu militants under the umbrella of the RSS. They have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned churches. They have attacked Christian schools and prayer halls. It was Hindu militants under the RSS umbrella who burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death while they slept in their jeep, all the while chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. India subsequently threw Mr. Staines's widow out of the country rather than let her continue his work providing health services for the downtrodden. The RSS itself published a booklet on how to file fake criminal cases against Christians and other religious minorities. Indian police used gunfire to break up a Christian religious festival. More than

200,000 Christians in Nagaland have been murdered by Indian forces. In the face of this pattern of repression, abuse, and tyranny, Prime Minister Vajpayee told an audience in New York, "I will always be a Swayamsewak," invoking the self-designation of RSS members.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Indian government has done little to stop or prevent these acts of violence. If the abuse and repression of Christians were the only story, it would be bad enough, but it is not. Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities have faced repression also. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and many thousands of other minorities, including Tamils, Dalit "untouchables," Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris and others. According to the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners, and we know the numbers the government admits to are generally low. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners.

To make it worse, Mr. Speaker, it was reported in the January 2 issue of the Washington Times that India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in the province of Sindh to destabilize Pakistan, which has been a solid, strong ally in the war on terrorism. In addition, India's aggressive military maneuvers have forced Pakistan to shift troops away from the border with Afghanistan to the Indian border, possibly creating an escape for Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists. In effect, India's actions are abetting the Al Qaeda terrorists.

In light of all this repression and terrorism America must make a strong stand. We must make it clear that such practices are unacceptable for countries that proclaim democratic principles and for countries that seek U.S. support. To do so, we should stop U.S. aid to India until these abuses are ended and we should publicly support the freedom movements within India's borders by calling for a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Independence for Kashmir, Khalistan, predominantly Christian Nagaland, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. These measures will help shine the light of freedom on everyone in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Associated Press article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Associated Press, Feb. 17, 2002]

POLICE: HINDU EXTREMISTS HIT CHURCH

BANGALORE, INDIA.—About 50 Hindu hardliners attacked a Roman Catholic church in southern India on Sunday and injured several worshippers, police said.

V.V. Bhaskar, the police chief in the city of Mysore, declined to say how many people were hurt in the attack, which happened on the outskirts of the city.

The assailants threw stones at the church before forcing their way inside, breaking furniture, smashing windows and attacking worshippers.

The men demanded the priest end what they said were efforts to convert local villagers, who are mainly Hindu, Bhaskar said.

Christians make up only a tiny fraction of India's 1 billion-plus population. About 80 percent are Hindus.

Some Hindu extremist groups have accused church officials of trying to attract poor Hindus with promises of money and jobs.

The worst attack against Christians in India took place in 1999, when an Australian missionary and his two children were burned alive by a mob.

TRIBUTE TO COACH JOE DASARO AND THE GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Joe Dasaro and the Grissom High School Wrestling team from Huntsville, AL. Earlier this month, they took home the 6A State Wrestling Championship, a title they haven't held since 1997. The Tigers won their sixth state championship title in the 19 years that Coach Dasaro has been leading the team. Grissom High School has always upheld the highest standards of excellence in all its endeavors, and this team of outstanding athletes is no exception.

The Grissom team scored 140 points—26 points above any other team in the tournament. Coach Dasaro has called the team solid and consistent, and I am proud of this group of athletes who have maintained an attitude of distinction in all that they do. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Coach Dasaro for his leadership and each member of the Grissom High School wrestling team for their commitment to achieving the championship title.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Midland and Permian Basin in congratulating the Midland Christian School football team in their great victory in the Class 4A state championship title in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. Their November victory over Denton Liberty Christian is an accomplishment that is truly deserving of recognition and praise.

The Midland Christian School football program has been built upon a solid foundation of hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship. The Mustangs have shown what today's youth can accomplish when teamwork and determination are applied. They will forever hold a place of honor in the pages of Texas athletics.

It is with great pride that I recognize the members of the Midland Christian School football team and their coach Greg McClendon for this accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the administration and fans that carried them through to victory. Thanks to their tremendous efforts, Midland, TX, is now home to the 2001–2002 Class 4A State Champions for the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. I congratulate the Midland Christian Mustangs for bringing home a state football title.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CAPTAIN GLEN
VETRANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Fire Captain Glen Vetrano of the Paterson Fire Department, who was recognized on Thursday, October 18, 2001 for his lifelong commitment to helping others.

Fire Captain Vetrano was chosen as the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson's 2001 Man of the Year. The enduring relationship between Glen and the Boys and Girls Club began long ago, when he was only 12 years old.

While enrolled in the old Hawthorne Boys and Girls Club, young Glen demonstrated his altruism and leadership by partnering with community leaders and parents in building a new, vastly improved facility. Even at such a young age, Glen's dedication and ability to lead was recognized, as he was named Youth of the Year for his efforts in the construction of the new building.

Glen Vetrano's desire to serve others certainly continued into his adult life as he chose a career in public safety. After being appointed to the Paterson Fire Department on June 2, 1986, he quickly rose into leadership positions, chosen by his peers as president of the Firefighters Association from 1992–1996 and as the current president of the Fire Officers IAFF Local 3860.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong resident and former Mayor of Paterson, I can definitively say that fire Captain Vetrano's capacity for giving is second to none. As a member of the Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson, Glen has been instrumental in the Club's successful growth initiative. Chairing the Marketing Committee and hosting the Club's Annual Winter Beefsteak, Glen Vetrano's devotion and steadfast leadership have produced countless successes for the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson. He has touched countless lives.

No time of year better illustrates the character of my friend Glen Vetrano than the Christmas season. He takes a very special interest in aiding those who might otherwise be overlooked during the joyous holiday season. Glen has founded the Holiday Dinner for the Clergy. He pioneered this dinner to honor those who have devoted themselves to the needs of our residents all year long. Of course, Glen is a staple at the Boys and Girls Club Holiday Party, assisting Santa and helping young people enjoy the Christmas season.

I consider my friendship with Glen Vetrano a blessing, and believe honoring him in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, is absolutely necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson, the City of Paterson, Glen's family and friends, all those who have been touched by his altruism, and me in recognizing the invaluable service of Fire Captain Glen Vetrano.

HONORING LIA M. JELINGER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit for the RECORD an essay written by Lia M. Jelinger of my district. Such a kind woman, she serves as an example for all of us and it is important to share her story. Her message is timeless, though it need be oft repeated:

It all started in WWII, whilst suffering under the German Occupation. I was a teenager then, and experienced suffering, hate and destruction. I made a vow, as young as I was not to be part of all this evil, but to show love and compassion the rest of my life toward my fellow men.

It was in 1957 when I immigrated to the United States with 5 kids in tow. My first job opportunity was to work as a nurse in pediatrics in a local hospital. After that I proceeded to become a foster mother and took care all together of 25 foster babies. A few years later I worked for Special Olympics, sewing banners, flags, and ribbons at home so I could be there for my family. I received the "Service to Mankind Award" and personal awards from Eunice Shriver.

In 1990 with so many blessings given to me I started working for the VA here in Toledo 3 days a week under a senior program. Later I found myself with too much idle time on my hands, which could be utilized and decided to volunteer on my off days.

I am 73 years young now and still going strong. I reckon that there are days of achy cracking bones, but that does not stop me to spread love and compassion I have for my co-workers and patients alike being cheerful and to make their day.

I had always wished to some day meet a WWII veteran and one day the opportunity presented itself. A frail old man entered the office and asked for some help with his hearing aid and made clear he was a WWII veteran. I proceeded to ask him where he was in combat and he told me he was in the Netherlands, fighting in the Battle of Arnhem and in Germany. I was overwhelmed since I came from the Netherlands and asked him permission to hug him and so I did thanking him for his contribution towards our freedom. He then started to cry and told me that nobody ever did that to him.

I want to honor those who lost their lives and those who are still living. It was a horrible experience that we went through as civilians also, but the good thing about it for me is, that it formed character.

God bless this great country of ours and may God keep all those courageous men and women then and now safe with his protection and loving care.

TRIBUTE TO JOY BRYSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to undertake a sad, yet heart-warming mission—to honor a most cherished staff member, Mrs. Joy Bryson, on her retirement from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Joy has been serving for the past eight years as Administrator to the Minority. Pre-

viously, she served for nine years as Chief Clerk to the then majority—a position she devoutly wished to reclaim. Throughout all of these years she served all of the Members of the Committee and to staff with grace, uncommon ability, and a cheerfulness that always bespoke her name—with joy.

Prior to joining the Committee, Joy served as Office Manager for our late distinguished Chairman, Jim Howard. More importantly, Joy served for 14 years the people of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey as if they were her own family, in the process earning their gratitude and affection.

In recognition of her abilities, Chairman Howard asked Joy to take on the important position of Committee Administrator. She continued in this position under the following three Chairmen, Glenn Anderson, Bob Roe, and Norm Mineta, and filled a similar position when we became the minority in 1994. I know that Chairman Roe and Secretary Mineta share my gratitude for Joy's many important contributions to the effective operation of the Committee and its staff.

Joy has been the Committee's expert on the intricacies of the rules governing the Congressional Administrative process; such as our internal budget rules, and our rules on travel, ethics, and retirement. As a former congressional staffer I know well the complexities involved. When someone knows the rules and procedures as well as Joy does, she can anticipate and solve problems of which Members and staff may be blissfully unaware. I know of many occasions when Joy's expertise saved Members and staff much time and effort, and ensured that administrative actions were done right, the first time.

Although Joy knows all the rules and procedures, she is anything but a "green eyeshade" type of public servant. Her professional talents include considerable literacy skills. She has a graceful writing style and a good sense for the telling anecdote—told with a special Southern charm. Joy's talents were particularly well displayed when she helped Members prepare speeches, letters and extensions of remarks, expressing our appreciation for distinguished public service, or our thanks for assistance we received.

Joy was also an excellent recruiter for the Committee. Through her efforts, the Committee consistently attracted an exceptional group of staff assistants, who were highly competent, enthusiastic team players; invaluable for the successful functioning of the Committee.

Joy's greatest contribution to the Committee flowed from her personal qualities—her cheerfulness, her interest in her colleagues, and her maturity and common sense. Joy worked with a number of Staff Directors most of whom had little supervisory experience. She took it upon herself to carry out the sometimes thankless task of breaking them in to the human side of the job, their responsibilities in dealing with personal and work problems of the staff. Joy's dedication to this task, her empathy for the perspective of the administrative staff, and her charm and perceptiveness, gave her great influence, and made the Committee a much better place to work.

Supplementing her public service, Joy has been an active volunteer in community service. I particularly appreciate her dedicated service on behalf of the Jo Oberstar Memorial Lecture Series on Breast Cancer Awareness,