

took in establishing himself as a valuable leader in the Pueblo community. His loving wife Lorraine, sons Ronald and Bruce, and stepson Scott survive him. His dedication to family, friends, work, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress, and this nation. Although Tink has left us, his good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those he touched. I would like to extend my regrets and deepest sympathies to his family and friends during their time of remembrance and bereavement.

#### A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I offer this prayer for America.

(to be sung as an overture for America)

My country 'tis of thee. Sweet land of liberty of thee I sing. . . . From every mountain side, let freedom ring. . . . Long may our land be bright. With freedom's holy light. . . .

Oh say does that star spangled banner yet wave. O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

America, America, God shed grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. . . .

I offer these brief remarks today as a prayer for our country, with love of democracy, as a celebration of our country. With love for our country. With hope for our country. With a belief that the light of freedom cannot be extinguished as long as it is inside of us. With a belief that freedom rings resoundingly in a democracy each time we speak freely. With the understanding that freedom stirs the human heart and fear stills it. With the belief that a free people cannot walk in fear and faith at the same time.

With the understanding that there is a deeper truth expressed in the unity of the United States. That implicit in the union of our country is the union of all people. That all people are essentially one. That the world is interconnected not only on the material level of economics, trade, communication, and transportation, but interconnected through human consciousness, through the human heart, through the heart of the world, through the simply expressed impulse and yearning to be and to breathe free.

I offer this prayer for America.

Let us pray that our nation will remember that the unfolding of the promise of democracy in our nation paralleled the striving for civil rights. That is why we must challenge the rationale of the PATRIOT Act. We must ask why should America put aside guarantees of constitutional justice?

How can we justify in effect canceling the First Amendment and the right of free speech, the right to peaceably assemble?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Fourth Amendment, probable cause, the prohibitions against unreasonable search and seizure?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Fifth Amendment, nullifying due process, and allowing for indefinite incarceration without a trial?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Sixth Amendment, the right to prompt and public trial?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Eighth Amendment which protects against cruel and unusual punishment?

We cannot justify widespread wiretaps and internet surveillance without judicial supervision, let alone with it.

We cannot justify secret searches without a warrant.

We cannot justify giving the Attorney General the ability to designate domestic terror groups.

We cannot justify giving the FBI total access to any type of data which may exist in any system anywhere such as medical records and financial records.

We cannot justify giving the CIA the ability to target people in this country for intelligence surveillance.

We cannot justify a government which takes from the people our right to privacy and then assumes for its on operations a right to total secrecy.

The Attorney General recently covered up a statue of Lady Justice showing her bosom as if to underscore there is no danger of justice exposing herself at this time, before this administration.

Let us pray that our nation's leaders will not be overcome with fear. Because today there is great fear in our great Capitol. And this must be understood before we can ask about the shortcomings of Congress in the current environment. The great fear began when we had to evacuate the Capitol on September 11. It continued when we had to leave the Capitol again when a bomb scare occurred as members were pressing the CIA during a secret briefing. It continued when we abandoned Washington when anthrax, possibly from a government lab, arrived in the mail.

It continued when the Attorney General declared a nationwide terror alert and then the Administration brought the destructive PATRIOT Bill to the floor of the House.

It continued in the release of the bin Laden tapes at the same time the President was announcing the withdrawal from the ABM treaty.

It remains present in the cordoning off of the Capitol. It is present in the camouflaged armed national guardsmen who greet members of Congress each day we enter the Capitol campus. It is present in the labyrinth of concrete barriers through which we must pass each time we go to vote.

The trappings of a state of siege trap us in a state of fear, ill-equipped to deal with the Patriot Games, the Mind Games, the War Games of an unelected President and his undetected Vice President.

Let us pray that our country will stop this war. "To provide for the common defense" is one of the formational principles of America.

Our Congress gave the President the ability to respond to the tragedy of September 11. We licensed a response to those who helped bring the terror of September 11th. But we the people and our elected representatives must reserve the right to measure the response, to proportion the response, to challenge the response, and to correct the response.

Because we did not authorize the invasion of Iraq.

We did not authorize the invasion of Iran.

We did not authorize the invasion of North Korea.

We did not authorize the bombing of civilians in Afghanistan.

We did not authorize permanent detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

We did not authorize the withdrawal from the Geneva Convention.

We did not authorize military tribunals suspending due process and habeas corpus.

We did not authorize assassination squads.

We did not authorize the resurrection of COINTELPRO.

We did not authorize the repeal of the Bill of Rights.

We did not authorize the revocation of the Constitution.

We did not authorize national identity cards.

We did not authorize the eye of Big Brother to peer from cameras throughout our cities.

We did not authorize an eye for an eye.

Nor did we ask that the blood of innocent people, who perished on September 11, be avenged with the blood of innocent villagers in Afghanistan.

We did not authorize the administration to wage war anytime, anywhere, anyhow it pleases.

We did not authorize war without end.

We did not authorize a permanent war economy.

Yet we are upon the threshold of a permanent war economy. The President has requested a \$45.6 billion increase in military spending. All defense-related programs will cost \$400 billion.

Consider that the Department of Defense has never passed an independent audit.

Consider that the Inspector General has notified Congress that the Pentagon cannot properly account for \$1.2 trillion in transactions.

Consider that in recent years the Department of Defense could not match \$22 billion worth of expenditures to the items it purchased, wrote off, as lost, billions of dollars worth of intransit inventory and stored nearly \$30 billion worth of spare parts it did not need.

Yet the defense budget grows with more money for weapons systems to fight a cold war which ended, weapon systems in search of new enemies to create new wars. This has nothing to do with fighting terror.

This has everything to do with fueling a military industrial machine with the treasure of our nation, risking the future of our nation, risking democracy itself with the militarization of thought which follows the militarization of the budget.

Let us pray for our children.

Our children deserve a world without end. Not a war without end. Our children deserve a world free of the terror of hunger, free of the terror of poor health care, free of the terror of homelessness, free of the terror of ignorance, free of the terror of hopelessness, free of the terror of policies which are committed to a world view which is not appropriate for the survival of a free people, not appropriate for the survival of democratic values, not appropriate for the survival of our nation, and not appropriate for the survival of the world.

Let us pray that we have the courage and the will as a people and as a nation to shore ourselves up, to reclaim from the ruins of September 11th our democratic traditions.

Let us declare our love for democracy. Let us declare our intent for peace.

Let us work to make nonviolence an organizing principle in our own society.

Let us recommit ourselves to the slow and painstaking work of statecraft, which sees peace, not war as being inevitable.

Let us work for a world where someday war becomes archaic.

That is the vision which the proposal to create a Department of Peace envisions. Forty-three members of Congress are now cosponsoring the legislation. Let us work for a world where nuclear disarmament is an imperative. That is why we must begin by insisting on the commitments of the ABM treaty. That is why we must be steadfast for nonproliferation.

Let us work for a world where America can lead the day in banning weapons of mass destruction not only from our land and sea and sky but from outer space itself. That is the vision of H.R. 3616: A universe free of fear. Where we can look up at God's creation in the stars and imagine infinite wisdom, infinite peace, infinite possibilities, not infinite war, because we are taught that the kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven.

Let us pray that we have the courage to replace the images of death which haunt us, the layers of images of September 11th, faded into images of patriotism, spliced into images of military mobilization, jump-cut into images of our secular celebrations of the World Series, New Year's Eve, the Superbowl, the Olympics, the strobe flashes which touch our deepest fears, let us replace those images with the work of human relations, reaching out to people, helping our own citizens here at home, lifting the plight of the poor everywhere.

That is the America which has the ability to rally the support of the world.

That is the America which stands not in pursuit of an axis of evil, but which is itself at the axis of hope and faith and peace and freedom. America, America. God shed grace on thee. Crown thy good, America.

Not with weapons of mass destruction. Not with invocations of an axis of evil. Not through breaking international treaties. Not through establishing America as king of a unipolar world. Crown thy good, America. America, America. Let us pray for our country. Let us love our country. Let us defend our country not only from the threats without but from the threats within.

Crown thy good, America. Crown thy good with brotherhood, and sisterhood. And crown thy good with compassion and restraint and forbearance and a commitment to peace, to democracy, to economic justice here at home and throughout the world.

Crown thy good, America. Crown thy good America. Crown thy good.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARILYN BEAVAIS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to a wonderful woman and true caretaker of the community. Sister Marilyn Beavais of Pueblo, Colorado has dedicated her life to assisting others in times of hardship and great need. This year as she celebrates her fiftieth year as a nun and forty-seventh as a nurse, I would like to highlight her accomplishments and kind heart before this body of Congress.

Last year, after a lifetime of volunteering for her community and its residents, Sister Marilyn retired from public service. She had been active with providing support and assistance to those in need through a wonderful organization known as Pueblo Services for Empowerment and Transformation for Well-Being. This organization, through efforts of volunteers like Sister Marilyn, has taught the less fortunate important skills and attitudes to improve their current standards of living. As a result of their kindness, many people today can credit the organization with providing the tools to improve their lives.

Since retirement, Sister Marilyn still maintains an active schedule and now spends her time volunteering for St-Mary-Corwin's Good-Medicine program. This program assists the community with general healthcare screenings and checkups to ensure a healthy population throughout the area. Her nursing and gentle disposition are a vital contribution to helping those in need, and I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Marilyn Beavais embodies the spirit of kindness and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. She has helped many individuals in need over the years and I am proud to represent her in my district. Sister Marilyn has been a model citizen to the community and I extend my thanks to her and her efforts, and am proud to bring her accomplishments to the attention of this body of Congress. Keep up the good work Sister Marilyn, and good luck in your future endeavors.

#### CONDEMNATION OF CHURCH BOMBING IN ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and communities of the Americans, Pakistanis, Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis, Ethiopians, Sri Lankans, British, Swiss, Germans, Australians, and Canadians who were killed or wounded in the barbaric church bombing in Islamabad, Pakistan on Sunday, March 17, 2002. I commend President Bush for his statement that we will bring those responsible to justice and I look forward to his action against the perpetrators. And, I greatly appreciate President Musharraf's condemnation and subsequent action to find and punish the criminals.

Men who seek to murder peaceful religious believers, particularly in the midst of their service of worship of God, reveal the depth of their uncivilized, brutal nature. Once again, extremists are using violence to attempt to intimidate people and gain power. These criminals who murder in cold blood, just like those who attacked the peaceful Pakistani worshippers in October of last year, must be brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to those families and their loved ones. To the families and friends of those killed, please know that our hearts and prayers are with you in this time of suffering and mourning. The Americans killed and wounded in Pakistan were

there to serve our nation and to serve people in Pakistan and the surrounding nations through their work in our Embassy or through NGOs. They are to be applauded and commended for their sacrificial service during this time of great difficulty in our world. And, they are to be admired for they have now paid the ultimate price for their service—they have given their lives.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS FOR WOMEN ACT OF 2002

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, this month is Women's History Month. In considering the integral role women have played in making America the great nation it is today and their daily contributions to the growth of our economy and the stability of American families, we are reminded yet again how important it is to ensure Social Security will continue to provide the economic security women need and deserve after a lifetime of sacrifice and hard work.

In looking at Social Security's history, it is no wonder it is so important to women. The first woman to serve as a Presidential Cabinet Member-Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins—was Chairwoman of the committee that designed Social Security, and the first beneficiary to receive a monthly benefit was also a woman—Ilda May Fuller.

Social Security's lifetime inflation-adjusted benefits, spouse and survivor benefits, and progressive benefit formula provide critical protections for women, because they live longer, earn less, take time away from the workforce to care for kids, and have less pension and asset income than men. Without Social Security, more than half of elderly women would live in poverty.

Although Social Security has successfully provided an effective safety net for two-thirds of a century, Social Security is facing serious financial challenges. Beginning in 2016, payroll taxes won't be enough to cover promised benefit payments and Social Security will call on the Treasury to make good on its obligations to the trust funds. Soon thereafter, payroll taxes taken out of the wages of our hard-working kids and grandkids will be the only source of revenue—and they will cover only 73% of benefits, and even less than that in future years. If we fail to enact a plan to save Social Security, the consequences would be devastating for millions of Americans, especially women.

For these reasons, restoring Social Security's solvency for the 21st century and beyond is a national priority for the public, Congress, and the President. We need to stop poisoning the well of bipartisanship, set aside political demagoguery, and fulfill our duty as Members of Congress by working together toward this goal. We can start building a foundation of common ground by taking a modest step to enhance Social Security benefits for women, without jeopardizing the financial position of the trust funds.

I've worked with the Social Security Administration to identify potential enhancements