

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 strobic 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

that we could make to help women, while ensuring the costs will not affect Social Security's ability to make benefit benefits in the long-term. I have found three provisions that, while modest in terms of overall impact, represent real help for just over 120,000 women when implemented. Today these provisions are being introduced as the Social Security Benefit Enhancements for Women Act of 2002.

These provisions increase benefits for certain widows, allow more disabled widows to qualify for disabled widow benefits, and enable certain divorced spouses to receive benefits sooner. These enhancements are particularly necessary, because elderly and disabled widows and divorced spouses are more likely to live in poverty.

Back in December, virtually all the Members of the House of Representatives voted to save Social Security soon, without benefit cuts or tax increases. I sincerely hope that by coming together to enhance benefits for women, we will build further consensus that will help us make the progress that is so desperately toward our larger commitment of saving Social Security for our kids and grandkids. We must not allow shortsightedness and election-year politics come between us and this goal; otherwise, our kids and grandkids will pay the price.

TRIBUTE TO MISSION, KANSAS,
MAYOR SYLVESTER POWELL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Sylvester Powell, of Mission, Kansas, who died on March 6th, at the age of 82. Sylvester Powell served as mayor of his northeast Johnson County community, which is located in the Third Congressional District, from 1955–65 and from 1977 until his death.

Sylvester Powell was born on May 12, 1919, in Springfield, Ohio. He was drafted into the Army in March 1941, and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, entered Officer's Candidate School. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and eventually attained the rank of captain. He served as a company commander in General George Patton's Third Army during the war. While in the Army, he met his future wife, Merle Cline, and they were married on July 21, 1943. Mayor Powell is survived by Merle, their son, Stephen, and their daughters, Janet and Dianne.

After leaving the Army and receiving an undergraduate degree from Wittenberg College, Sylvester attended law school at the University of Kansas City [now the University of Missouri-Kansas City], graduating in 1949. He was to practice law for the next 47 years, representing defendants in personal injury litigation.

The Powells moved to Mission in 1951, where he helped write the city charter that year, which established the city limits. Sylvester was elected to the city council in 1953 and was first elected mayor in 1955. As the Johnson County Sun recently noted: "Through Powell's tenure, Mission grew from a sleepy community to the vital retail area it is today. Many improvements were made to the city's

infrastructure during the Powell years. But perhaps Powell's greatest legacy was the \$8 million Sylvester Powell, Jr., Community Center, which opened in May 1999 . . . The almost 3-year-old community center was an instant success and surprised both detractors and backers by covering its operational expenses."

I knew Syl personally. As a lawyer and a public official he was truly outstanding. But most of all, Syl was a good friend who will be missed by his friends and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to place in the RECORD two recent pieces from the Kansas City Star regarding Mayor Sylvester Powell: an obituary that the paper carried on March 7th and a column by Mike Hendricks, reflecting the character and ability of the man whom we knew as "Syl," that the Star carried on the following day. I am proud to have known Sylvester Powell. As the Johnson County Sun said in a March 6th editorial: "People often wonder what one person can do. Syl Powell showed them." My only regret is that we will not soon see his kind in public service again.

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 7, 2002]

SYLVESTER POWELL JR., LONGTIME MAYOR OF MISSION, DIES AT 82

(By James Hart and Grace Hobson)

Mission Mayor Sylvester Powell Jr., who helped build the town he loved into a prosperous suburb, died Wednesday night. He was 82.

A World War II veteran and Kansas City trial lawyer, Powell was regarded by many as the dean of Kansas mayors. He served Mission in that capacity between 1955 and 1965, took a "12-year vacation" and returned to office in 1977, winning every election for the post since then, most recently in 2001.

"The people don't put somebody back in office that many times unless he's well-respected," said Police Chief Bob Sturm, who worked with Powell for more than 30 years.

Powell had suffered lung problems and had been hospitalized for weeks, Sturm said. The mayor loved his city, Sturm said, the way he loved his family and his church.

Officials in the city of nearly 10,000 will ask residents to lower their flags to half-staff today. A memorial service has not yet been scheduled.

Powell was fond of telling others how, when he first became mayor in 1955, Johnson Drive was a two-lane road and the city had an operating budget of about \$38,000.

He was elected to the City Council in 1953, and one of his first acts as a public official was to help place a traffic light at the intersection of Nall Avenue and Johnson Drive—a project he researched himself by recording traffic with a stopwatch.

Several decades and more than a few traffic lights later, Mission stands as a model municipality with a vibrant downtown and a solid tax base. Some of Powell's proudest accomplishments included his work to help with the development of Mission Center Mall, Johnson Drive's success as a retail area and construction of the community center that today bears his name.

"I like that little city and seeing progress made," Powell once said of Mission.

The secret behind the city's success, most people agreed, was the gruff trial lawyer who served as mayor. Powell, known as "Syl" around town, liked to visit the Mission City Hall every morning when he didn't have an appearance in court.

"He's a person who . . . takes a stand and says, 'OK, this is what we're going to do,'" Westwood Mayor Bill Kostar said in February.

While some critics said Powell held the city's reins too tightly, he clearly was in control of city government during his tenure.

The city did not hire a professional administrator until last year, after a consultant recommended the move.

"I don't think they're going to find anybody who can run the city better than I do," Powell said in 2000.

Last year, the city's management became a campaign issue in Powell's first election challenge since 1985, and he pledged to hire a professional.

City Councilman Lloyd Thomas, who has served since 1976, said Mission's strong financial position today was the result of Powell's control over the city's finances throughout the years.

"That's what you call being frugal," Thomas said recently. "He spends the taxpayers' money just like he does his own. He's very frugal with it."

Powell was able to build the city's sales tax base with development projects that didn't sacrifice Mission's small-town feel, Kostar said. That's a formula other mayors in northeast Johnson County want to emulate, he added.

Asked once why he stayed in office so long, Powell said: "Sometimes I think about retiring, but it's like giving up something dear to you. If you're running the city well, they ought to keep you in."

Councilwoman Laura McConwell will become Mission's new mayor.

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 8, 2002]

LUCKY FOR MISSION, MAYOR WAS TOUGH

(By Mike Hendricks)

When I read Syl Powell's obituary yesterday, the first thing that came to mind was the time he hijacked the Olympic torch.

No single act better defined the longtime mayor of Mission and the hardball politics he practiced, a style we don't see much of anymore.

It was 1996, the year of the Atlanta Games. Metropolitan Kansas City was to be part of the symbolic torch run. But the original route bypassed much of Mission, the northeast Johnson County town of 10,000 Powell had watched over like the overprotective father of a teen-age daughter.

The idea was for runners to cut through Mission on a short stretch of Shawnee Mission Parkway, but there wasn't going to be much chance for the city's residents to see it.

Powell had an idea. What if the torch run made a detour down Mission's main street, Johnson Drive?

"The torch is something we may not get a chance to see again, and I thought the people of Mission should be able to see it," Powell said at the time.

Naturally, Olympics officials blew him off. There was an international organization. Who was Powell but mayor of some pip-squeak town in the Kansas City suburbs?

Talk about a miscalculation. When the Olympics officials failed to respond to Powell's polite request, he turned Don Corleone and made an offer they couldn't refuse. Then he embarrassed them by letting the world know.

"I said, 'I hate to do this, but whether you like it or not, you're going to come down Johnson Drive . . . I'm going to barricade (Shawnee Mission Parkway) with public works, and you won't have a choice.'"

A threatened Olympic blockade? Sure enough, they changed the route.

It recalled the time Powell vowed to pull Mission out of the Mission Chamber of Commerce if the organization changed its name.