

A new, clear vision where people can live in harmony within their families, their communities and within themselves. A new clear vision of peaceful coexistence in a world of tolerance.

At this moment of peril we must move from paralysis of fear. This is a call to action: to replace expanded war with expanded peace. This is a call for action to place the very survival of this planet on the agenda of all people, everywhere. As citizens of a common planet, we have an obligation to ourselves and our posterity. We must demand that our nation and all nations put down the nuclear sword. We must demand that our nation and all nations:

Abide by the principles of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Stop the development of new nuclear weapons. Take all nuclear weapons systems off alert. Persist towards total, worldwide elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Our nation must: Revive the Anti Ballistic Missile treaty. Sign and enforce the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Abandon plans to build a so-called missile shield. Prohibit the introduction of weapons into outer space.

We are in a climate where people expect debate within our two party system to produce policy alternatives.

However both major political parties have fallen short. People who ask "Where is the Democratic Party?" and expect to hear debate may be disappointed. When peace is not on the agenda of our political parties or our governments then it must be the work and the duty of each citizen of the world. This is the time to organize for peace. This is the time for new thinking. This is the time to conceive of peace as not simply being the absence of violence, but the active presence of the capacity for a higher evolution of human awareness.

This is the time to conceive of peace as respect, trust, and integrity. This is the time to tap the infinite capabilities of humanity to transform consciousness which compels violence at a personal, group, national or international levels. This is the time to develop a new compassion for others and ourselves.

It is necessary that we do so, for at this moment our world is being challenged by war and premonitions of nuclear annihilation. When terrorists threaten our security, we must enforce the law and bring terrorists to justice within our system of constitutional justice, without undermining the very civil liberties which permits our democracy to breathe.

Our own instinct for life, which inspires our breath and informs our pulse, excites our capacity to reason. Which is why we must pay attention when we sense a threat to survival.

That is why we must speak out now to protect this planet and: Challenge those who believe in a nuclear right. Challenge those who would build new nuclear weapons. Challenge those who seek nuclear re-armament. Challenge those who seek nuclear escalation. Challenge those who would make of any nation a nuclear target. Challenge those who would threaten to use nuclear weapons against civilian populations. Challenge those who would break nuclear treaties. Challenge those who think and think about nuclear weapons, to think about peace.

It is practical to work for peace. I speak of peace and diplomacy not just for the sake of peace itself. But, for practical reasons, we must work for peace as a means of achieving permanent security. It is similarly practical to

work for total nuclear disarmament, particularly when nuclear arms do not even come close to addressing the real security problems which confront our nation, witness the events of September 11, 2001.

It is practical to work to make war archaic. That is the purpose of HR 2459. It is a bill to create a Department of Peace. HR 2459 seeks to make non-violence an organizing principle in our society. It envisions new structures to help create peace in our homes, in our families, in our schools, in our neighborhoods, in our cities, and in our nation. It aspires to create conditions for peace within and to create conditions for peace worldwide. It considers the conditions which cause people to become the terrorists of the future, issues of poverty, scarcity and exploitation. It is practical to make outer space safe from weapons, so that humanity can continue to pursue a destiny among the stars. HR 3616 seeks to ban weapons in space, to keep the stars a place of dreams, of new possibilities, of transcendence.

We can achieve this practical vision of peace, if we are ready to work for it. People worldwide need to be met with likeminded people, about peace and nuclear disarmament, now. People worldwide need to gather in peace, now. People worldwide need to march and to pray for peace, now. People worldwide need to be connecting with each other on the web, for peace, now.

We are in a new era of electronic democracy, where the world wide web, numerous web sites and bulletin boards enable new organizations, exercising freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, to spring into being instantly.

We need web sites dedicated to becoming electronic forums for peace, for sustainability, for renewal and for revitalization. We need forums which strive for the restoration of a sense of community through the empowerment of self, through commitment of self to the lives of others, to the life of the community, to the life of the nation, to the life of the world.

Where war making is profoundly uncreative in its destruction, peacemaking can be deeply creative. We need to communicate with each other the ways in which we work in our communities to make this a more peaceful world. I welcome your ideas. We can share our thoughts and discuss ways in which we have brought or will bring them into action.

Now is the time to think, to take action and use our talents and abilities to create peace: in our families, in our block clubs, in our neighborhoods, in our places of worship, in our schools and universities, in our labor halls, in our parent-teacher organizations.

Now is the time to think, speak, write, organize and take action to create peace as a social imperative, as an economic imperative, and as a political imperative. Now is the time to think, speak, write, organize, march, rally, hold vigils and take other nonviolent action to create peace in our cities, in our nation and in the world. And as the hymn says, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

This is the work of the human family, of people all over the world demanding that governments and non-governmental actors alike put down their nuclear weapons. This is the work of the human family, responding in this moment of crisis to protect our nation, this planet and all life within it. We can achieve both nuclear disarmament and peace, as we

understand that all people of the world are interconnected, we can achieve both nuclear disarmament and peace. We can accomplish this through upholding an holistic vision where the claims of all living beings to the right of survival are recognized. We can achieve both nuclear disarmament and peace through being a living testament to a Human Rights Covenant where each person on this planet is entitled to a life where he or she may consciously evolve in mind, body and spirit.

Nuclear disarmament and peace are the signposts toward the uplift path of an even brighter human condition wherein we can through our conscious efforts evolve and reestablish the context of our existence from peril to peace, from revolution to evolution. Think peace. Speak peace. Act peace. Peace.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4009

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I and my fellow colleagues are introducing legislation today because the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has not sufficiently proven to Congress that they can fix their organization on their own, and because they are continually being plagued by the same problems year in and year out. We are offering H.R. 4009 because we believe accountability is integral to any organization.

The INS has been inept, irresponsible and deficient in their ability to the performance of their duties. This bill will make the entire organization responsible, from the highest level down to the entry-level employee, by taking away restrictions on dismissing INS employees and placing them in the same category as FBI employees. This bill will also make permanent the authority of the Attorney General to remove, suspend, and impose other disciplinary actions on the employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). We are introducing this legislation in direct response to a hearing that was held on March 19, 2002 in the Judiciary Committee.

During the hearing, Commissioner Ziglar accepted responsibility for his Agency's action, or non-action. However, I am not confident that this will be the last time he will come before the Immigration and Claims Subcommittee for his Agency's mistakes.

My legislation will give the Department of Justice and the INS the proper tools to promote accountability. I believe it is a good first step on a long journey towards INS reform.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN
WOODARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to Mr. John Woodard, an incredible man, who recently passed away at the age of 76. John was loved by each and every person whose life he touched, and he will be sorely missed

by all who knew and loved him. He was a person of unquestioned integrity and of unparalleled morality, and is truly an inspiration to us all. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember John and pay tribute to him for his warm heart, and his many contributions to Saguache County and the State of Colorado.

John was born and raised on his family's homestead just southeast of Saguache, Colorado, which was founded in the 1890s by his grandfather and great-uncle. He completed his higher education at Colorado State University, and then returned to the ranch, working with the land as both a rancher and a cowboy. John was a life-long rancher and ranching educator, creating pamphlets and other materials on the subject. During World War II, he took time off from ranching to serve his country in the Pacific theatre. John continued his service to his fellow citizens by becoming Saguache County Commissioner, selflessly serving three terms beginning in 1958. His service and dedication to his community and to his state are exactly the attributes that made John the incredible person that he was. I, along with the people of Saguache County, am grateful for all of the hard work and passion that he lent to his job and to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of John Woodard, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, selflessness and love that he left with all of us. His dedication to the community of Saguache County was extraordinary, though his life was more so. John Woodard's life is the very embodiment of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress.

COMMENDATION OF THE MOBILITY PROJECT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the work of The Mobility Project, an organization which serves the underprivileged with disabilities in other nations.

The Mobility Project has distributed wheelchairs and other mobility aids, along with surplus medical supplies and physical therapy equipment, free of charge to the disabled poor in Vietnam, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and refugee camps in Kashmir. The volunteers with The Mobility Project give a tremendous amount of time and thorough care into ensuring that each wheelchair or mobility aid is properly adjusted to the individual for whom it is intended.

As you may know, in many places of the world the disabled are resented or are pushed out of active participation in society. Some are even left in as virtual prisoners in their rooms. The work of The Mobility Project gives hope to people and offers an avenue for the disabled to be productive members of their society. In addition to giving wheelchairs and other aids to those in need, The Mobility Project helps to provide remedial education, sports programs, and job training for the disabled poor.

I have seen the faces of refugees and other suffering people who have received the gift of

mobility as a result of the work of this organization. I watched the face of a young Pakistani girl who received a wheelchair—it will change her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to honor those in our world and in our nation who quietly, humbly, and ably serve people in need. The Mobility Project volunteers, particularly President and co-founder and Vice President and co-founder Ray Terrill, are role models for us all.

COMMENDING KANSAS YOUTH FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor three young students from my district who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Ashley Wright, Aishling O'Connor, and Emily Gipple have been named three of my state's top honorees in the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Miss Wright is being recognized for forming a vocal music performance class for developmentally challenged adults in her community. Miss O'Connor is being recognized for her effort to raise over \$30,000 to build an intergenerational playground for an inner-city neighborhood. Miss Gipple is being recognized for starting a school club that helps foreign exchange and limited-English speaking students make friends and integrate successfully into both the school and community.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution these young citizens have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Miss Wright, Miss O'Connor, and Miss Gipple are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought these young role models to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past seven years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 125,000 young people participating since its inception.

Miss Wright, Miss O'Connor, and Miss Gipple should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I applaud Miss Wright, Miss O'Connor, and Miss Gipple for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive im-

pact they have had on the lives of others. They have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play an important role in our communities, and that America's spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM PROTECTION ACT OF 2002

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002" to provide the Social Security Administration with the additional tools they need to fight activities that drain resources from Social Security and undermine the financial security of beneficiaries.

Many Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries have individuals or organizations called "representative payees" appointed by the Social Security Administration to help manage their financial affairs when they are not capable. At present nearly 7 million beneficiaries entrust their financial arrangements to "rep payees." Representative payees safeguard income and make sure expenditures are made for the beneficiary's good. Most of them are conscientious and honest, however, some are not. The current precautions have not prevented abuse as well as hoped. This bill raises the standards for representative payee positions and imposes stricter regulation and monetary penalties on those who fail their duties and their clients.

This bill also picks up where our 1996 legislation ended in stopping benefit payments to those who have committed crimes. In that year, Congress passed provisions denying Supplemental Security Income benefits to those individuals fleeing to avoid prosecution or confinement. Fugitive felons, however, can still receive Title II benefits that come directly out of the Social Security trust funds. This is not right and this legislation denies the money to those fleeing justice.

My legislation also provides tools to further protect the integrity of Social Security programs, protect Social Security employees from harm while conducting their duties, expand the Inspector General's ability to stop perpetrators of fraud through new civil monetary penalties, and prevent persons from misrepresenting themselves as they provide Social Security-related services.

My legislation not only prevents fraud and protects the Social Security programs, it also helps those who are legitimately seeking to receive benefits. Provisions from the Attorney Fee Payment System Improvement Act of 2001 to improve the attorney fee withholding process are also included in this bill. These provisions cap the current fee assessment and extend withholding to Supplemental Security Income claims, so more individuals with disabilities are able to receive needed help navigating a complex application process for benefits.

And finally, this legislation continues the great work of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act, helping individuals