

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 1ST ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS CAMPAIGN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Worcester, Massachusetts in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the senior meals program and the establishment of the 1st annual March For Meals Campaign.

The senior meal program serves approximately 1800 Meals on Wheels and lunch site clients per day under the Older American's Act. Worcester's Age Center Meals on Wheels is the second largest in the state. Last year the agency delivered 339,131 meals. Meals are delivered five days a week in Worcester and surrounding towns to elders who are frail, unable to leave their home without assistance, and unable to prepare a meal on their own. The average age of Meals on Wheels recipients in Worcester is 82 and for some, the driver is the only contact with another person they have during the day. Elders themselves make up almost all the volunteers who package and deliver Meals on Wheels. Throughout its 30 year history, Meals on Wheels has adapted to meet the needs of elders and also the volunteers who serve them. The collaborations developed by the Age Center with 14 Councils on Aging and health care professionals continue to be the basis for future efforts. The Age Center continues to meet important nutritional and social needs of a growing population of elders.

March For Meals is a nationwide public awareness campaign designed to bring attention to local senior meals programs throughout the United States. It will highlight the continuing importance of meal programs and the growing need for resources as the elderly population increases and more Americans need community-based nutrition services. Because March 2002 marks the 30th anniversary of the federal government's support of senior nutrition programs, in Worcester County, Friday, March 22, 2002 has been designated as local March For Meals Day.

Mr. Speaker, on March 22 Worcester County will begin the annual March For Meals event that will continue to support and focus attention on the importance of senior nutrition programs. I will join in a birthday party celebration at the Zion Lutheran Church to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the creation of Meals on Wheels. I know that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing this valuable program.

THE FAILURE OF ARAB LEADERSHIP

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop pretending that the Palestinian Leadership desires, or is even capable of, achieving

peace. Yasser Arafat and the current Palestinian Leadership are terrorists, just as surely as Mullah Omar and the Taliban, or Osama Bin-Laden and Al-Qaida. The United States cannot adopt a policy of negotiating with terrorists. Since the inception of this country we have embraced a foreign policy founded on the principles of fairness and right. We do not bow to expediency or terror. We stand for something greater. America's principled foreign policy is the foundation of our strength and credibility; it is, in large part, what makes this country great. To negotiate with terrorists would be to undermine this fundamental principle of our American strength. We cannot—we must not—negotiate with terrorists. If we are to remain strong and fair, we must sever our ties with Arafat, with Fatah, and with the PLO.

Some have been overly cautious not to call Yasser Arafat a terrorist. This is driven in large part by a cringing reluctance to recognize his obvious association with terrorist groups, and the current lack of any alternatives. But that very lack of leadership is the result of our reliance on Arafat and the Fatah terrorists. By removing America's diplomatic and financial support from these terrorist groups, the Palestinian people may finally be empowered to choose a leader—not the current leaders of war and martyrdom and self-aggrandizement—but a leader devoted to peace and the Palestinian self-interest.

The United States must not shirk from calling terrorists what they really are, and it is a grave mistake for the United States to call upon Israel to end its mission against terror in the West Bank. America must allow Israel to take its place beside us in the war against terror. How can we as a nation justify ridding the world of the Taliban and Al-Qaida if we continue to criticize Israel for ridding the world of Jihad, Hamas, or the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade. And what more evidence do we need of Arafat's direct involvement in these tactics of terror than his own handwritten notes authorizing payments to terrorists and their families? Arafat still pays the terrorists, provides the weapons, and offers political cover for their activities.

The current Israeli mission is intended to dismantle the growing terrorist network operating freely throughout Palestinian areas. Israel has already uncovered thousands of illegal weapons including Kassam missiles, car bombs, and explosive belts used for suicide missions. Cities of the West Bank, like Jenin, have become safe havens for terrorists, in the same way that murderers took refuge among the Taliban in Afghanistan. These are not the cities of peace in a nascent homeland. These are markets of death, waging a war against Israel, America, Jews and Christians, and all of the ideals of the free and civilized world.

Arab leaders throughout the Middle East must publicly embrace peace as a concept and condemn the tactics of terror. It is unacceptable for the leaders of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt to refuse to speak out against suicide bombers. These countries must renounce terrorism unconditionally whenever and wherever it occurs. The Secretary of State should not be going to the Middle East to pressure the Israelis to end their anti-terror operations. He should be in the Middle East to say loud and clear that if you are an ally of terrorists and terrorism, you are not an ally of the United States of America, and you will

never receive one penny of American foreign aid.

It is time for the Arab world to know the United States is serious about rooting out terror—wherever it dwells. The Arab world must stop the hateful rhetoric against the people of Israel and the West; its leaders must make clear to the Palestinians that their terrorist actions only prolong and jeopardize their historic quest for a homeland, and sow the seeds of despair and hate that will take lifetimes to undo. The Arab world must know that America and Israel stand together, partners in the war against terror.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JERRY VOGELSANG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serve and protect the citizens of this nation. Jerry Vogelsang has faithfully served his fellow countrymen for over fifty years; thirty years in law enforcement and 21 years in intelligence for the federal government. After a long and successful career as one of our nation's finest law enforcement officers, Jerry now resides in Craig, Colorado and I would like to acknowledge his contributions to this country.

Jerry began his service to this nation in the armed forces by joining the Navy in 1947. Years later he would go on to work for RCA as a field engineer, later joining the federal government in 1966, and began a long career in the field of intelligence. In 1968 Jerry began to work for the San Diego Sheriff's Department as a reserve officer, where he served for years as a gang unit detective. This position is an assessment to Jerry's excellence as a law enforcement officer; no other reserve officer has ever been assigned to a unit much less one as dangerous and important as a gang unit. Jerry retired from both the federal government and the sheriff's department in the late eighties.

Upon retirement, Jerry moved to Colorado but soon found that he was not suited for retirement. Driven by a duty to give back to his community, Jerry has volunteered at the Craig Police Department and the Moffat County Sheriff's department for over ten years. He has offered his experience, expertise and support to these departments and I am confident the force is grateful for his contributions. In addition to his status on the force, Jerry is regarded as a respected pillar of his community, is known as a devout husband, and a proud father of three.

Mr. Speaker, as a former law enforcement officer, I am well aware of the dangers and hazards our peace officers face today. These individuals work long hours, weekends, and holidays to guarantee their fellow citizen's rights and protection. They work tirelessly and with great sacrifice to their personal and family lives to ensure our freedoms remain strong in our homes and communities. Their service and dedication deserve the recognition and thanks of this body of Congress, and this is why I bring the name of Jerry Vogelsang to

light today. Thank you for all your hard work, Jerry, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIFORMED FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Uniformed Fire Officers Association in New York City (UFOA), which represents 2,500 lieutenants, captains, battalion chiefs, deputy chiefs, supervising fire marshals and medical officers of the New York City Fire Department. The fine officers represented by UFOA risk their lives daily to protect our community.

On September 11, 2001 the New York City Fire Department lost a total of 343 members in the attacks on the World Trade Center. Among the lost were 254 firefighters, 89 superior officers, 45 lieutenants, 20 captains, 17 battalion chiefs, 3 deputy chiefs and 2 staff chiefs. New York's Bravest also lost two of their most senior leaders, the Chief of the Department as well as the First Deputy Commissioner. Further adding to their devastation, the Catholic Chaplain, the much-loved Reverend Mychal Judge, also perished.

The men and women who comprise the New York City Fire Department, as well as the Uniformed Fire Officers Association, work so closely together, that they often think of and refer to one another as family. For many, the brave men who perished were more than colleagues: They were 343 members of their extended family.

Since the disaster, the members of the UFOA have worked together to continue a long held tradition among fire personnel, by joining together to ensure that the immediate families of those who perished—spouses and children—are cared for. They are also working

to ensure that the brave legacy of the firefighters lost that day endures, and that the heroes of September 11th are never forgotten.

UFOA is also working to ensure that veteran officers receive the support they need to rebuild their devastated agency. While the events of September 11th are unique, fires continue to threaten our community. The NYFD has done an outstanding job of pulling together to carry on with fighting some devastating fires that have broken out since September 11th. Their continued dedication and hard work deserves our strongest commendation.

For the bravery exhibited by the members of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association on September 11, 2001, and for the bravery they exhibit every day they show up to work to protect the rest of us, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to the members of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association and the invaluable contributions of the UFOA.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GEORGE THURSTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of George Thurston of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. George peacefully left us on a Monday, January 11, 2002 at the age of ninety-five. George was a popular member of the community and was often sought by many in the community for his listening ear, advice, and warm smile. He was known as a man of many interests and his foresight into the future needs of his fellow Coloradans is enjoyed throughout the State today. George was a remarkable man and I am honored to bring forth his good deeds and accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Born in Carbondale in 1906, George moved and eventually settled a few miles away Glen-

wood Springs, Colorado, where he quickly became a great contributor in the Western Slope community. George held many careers throughout his life including work for the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and work on Public Works projects to supply the state with our most valuable commodity, water. In 1940, George was named general manager of Holy Cross Electric Association, a local energy co-op that serves several surrounding communities. Because of his dedication and commitment to his fellow residents, George saw the company grow through the difficult years of World War II, and provide power to areas not served by the larger power companies. Among his greatest visions was the decision to provide several early ski slopes and resorts, including Aspen, with power. His good sense paid off and today the resorts in Vail and Snowmass owe part of their initial gambles to his trust and dedication to advancing his community.

Throughout his life, George was well known throughout his community as a leader and dedicated patriarch of his family. Later in his life, George could be found in his favorite place, the Colorado outdoors, enjoying his time at his mountain cabin with family. He is survived by a loving and dedicated wife of almost forty years, Dollie, daughter Karen, stepson Larry, and four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to George Thurston for the great strides he took in establishing himself as a valuable leader and visionary in the Glenwood Springs community. His dedication to family, friends, work, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and a grateful nation. Although George 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 George's family and friends during their time of bereavement and remembrance. George Thurston was a remarkable man and he will be greatly missed.