

than any problem we may face. We should open our Bible-right in the middle to Psalms and read out loud in our closet or our room Psalms 140-145. As we praise God first, we will realize the truth of the Scripture that says God inhabits the praise of his people, and He will give us peace in the midst of our circumstances.

Second, prayer is important because it reminds us of God's power. "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it shall be opened to you," Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:7. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened." Many times, we don't even bother to ask for help of guidance. God promises to give us wisdom if we just ask. He has the power to protect and provide. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; ... they will not overflow you," God says in Isaiah. "When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched."

Third, prayer not only gives us God's peace and power, but also His purpose. Many of you have said you saw several of us in Congress singing "God Bless America" on the Capitol steps as the sun set on 9/11 after the terrorist attacks. Some have wondered if that was orchestrated or not. Actually, late that afternoon, several of us met in Capitol Police headquarters to talk by telephone speaker with Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt, who were at an undisclosed location. After we finished talking with them about that evening's press conference, someone suggested that we pray together. The House chaplain offered to let us walk to one of the local churches, but we said that we didn't have to go somewhere to pray; we could pray right there. And we did. After the chaplain prayed, we had an opportunity to pray out loud. After a few moments, a few of us did pray. And when we concluded, we sang "God Bless America" as a closing prayer.

That night, after the Senate and the House leaders spoke at the press conference, members who had been at the prayer time a couple of hours earlier spontaneously broke out into singing that prayer, "God Bless America."

We cannot know God's will—God's purpose—if we won't talk with Him. As Rosalind Rinker has written, Prayer is the expression of the human heart in conversation with God. . . . prayer is a dialogue between two persons who love each other."

Peace, power, purpose! That is what prayer is about, and that is what we as one nation under God should be about! Dr. Charles Allen expresses it well in a poem:

"Worry? Why worry? What can worry do?
It never keeps a trouble from overtaking you.
It gives you indigestion and sleepless hours at night,
And fills with gloom the days, however fair and bright.
It puts a frown upon the face and sharpness to the tone;
We're unfit to live with others and unfit to live alone.

Pray? Why pray? What can praying do?
Praying really changes things, arranges life anew.

It's good for you digestion, gives peaceful sleep at night
And fills the grayest, gloomiest day—with rays of glowing light.
It puts a smile upon your face, The love note in your tone

Makes you fit to live with others, and fit to live alone.

Pray? Why pray? What can praying do?
It brings God down from Heaven To live and work with you."

We all should follow the teaching of I Thessalonians 5:17 "to pray without ceasing." Indeed, if any of us desire to know the True Source of Power, it cannot be found in a building, in a person, or in a place; it must be found in the one who is the only true source of power. Prayer gives us an opportunity to express our heart to God, and it gives Him the opportunity to speak to a receptive heart.

May all of our hearts be receptive to this power. Pray for us here in Washington that we may rely upon the wisdom which only He can give.

(1) Please pray not only for wisdom for members of Congress but also for a spirit of harmony even during debate about important issues. (2) Pray for a greater spiritual awareness and depth to our relationships with each other personally here in Congress. (3) Pray that more hearts would be opened to salvation and stronger faith in the God who has given us this wonderful land and this opportunity to be a beacon of hope in a world of despair.

As Paul says in his letter to the Philippians: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and . . . minds in Christ Jesus."

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NARROWSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a very special volunteer organization on their 100th anniversary: the Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire Department in our 20th Congressional District of New York.

Over the last century, the Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire Department has been a cornerstone of our community, committed to ensuring the safety of Narrowsburg's citizens. The immeasurable and indispensable public service that these volunteers render is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of all those who place their lives of the line to protect the public.

Our nation has been built on an active and alert citizenry, working together for the public good. That was exactly the first step taken on March 4, 1902, when thirty nine concerned citizens of the hamlet of Narrowsburg signed a petition supporting a proposal to form and organize a Hook and Ladder Company to protect "Narrowsburg and vicinity". From the group's first firehouse, built in 1904, to now, the Fire Department has stood as a symbol of strength, unity, and determination. It has demonstrated how a community volunteer group can grow into an efficient and effective organization.

While their milestones have been numerous and great over the department's one hundred years, one longstanding, underlying and vital resource of the Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire

Department is the overwhelming support of the community. From fund-raisers to town BBQ's, parades, and other events, the department has been interwoven in the fabric of the community. When an organization becomes such an integral part of our town or village, it makes the loss of life, a cold reality in fire departments across the nation, an even more bitter pill to swallow. Such was the case in 1979, when the Narrowsburg lost its Assistant Chief Paul Brock and members Brett Hankins and Jay Laraia. It was a tragic loss to the department and the town. But the strength of volunteerism is the infusion of new and enthusiastic members who are willing to serve, and although they can never take the place of those who have been lost or have come before them, their resolve can help heal these wounds. Today, Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire Department is stronger than ever. There's no reason to believe that it will continue to grow and be vital for another century and beyond.

During the tragedy of September 11, the heroism of the fighters was on full display, as they risked their own lives with stunning bravery. Our fire departments are finally receiving the accolades they have long deserved. To those who have truly known the selflessness of volunteer fire departments and the fire personnel in their towns, such as the one we are blessed with in Narrowsburg, this bravery was not much of a surprise. Instead, it is a reflection of the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our communities nationwide, over the last century, and beyond.

As a Member of our Congressional Fire Caucus, I am committed to ensuring that our nation's firefighters have the support and resources needed to protect themselves and our communities. Accordingly, I am gratified that Congress has stood with our nation's fire personnel in approving the FIRE Grant program and providing it with an unprecedented amount of funding. On this anniversary, I know that our Narrowsburg firefighters are grateful for the support they have received and join with me in expressing their gratitude to our nation.

As the citizens of Narrowsburg join together to celebrate and honor their volunteer fire department, we take a moment to remember those who we've lost in the line of duty and express our thanks to all those who serve our nation today.

Congratulations to the Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire Department on its' 100th anniversary. A grateful nation thanks you.

MURDER OF UKRAINIAN HEORHIY GONGADZE STILL UNSOLVED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the murder of Ukrainian investigative journalist Heorhiy Gongadze remains unsolved. On September 16, 2000, Gongadze, editor of an Internet news publication critical of official, high-level corruption in Ukraine, disappeared. Seven weeks later, his remains were found in Tarashcha in the Kyiv region.

Repeated expressions of concern to the Government of Ukraine have been met with stonewalling. Over the last 18 months, the

Helsinki Commission, Members of the House and Senate, the Department of State, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and other international institutions repeatedly have raised this case and urged President Kuchma and the Ukrainian Government to undertake a speedy, serious, open and transparent investigation into the Gongadze murder case.

Back in December of 2000, I urged Ukrainian authorities to resolve this grave matter in a timely and just manner before the case further tarnished their credibility in dealing with fundamental human rights. Last July, a number of us were present at the Paris OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting, where Gongadze's widow Myroslava accepted the OSCE PA Prize for Journalism and Democracy on his behalf. A resolution adopted by the OSCE PA in Paris expressed dismay "that the criminal investigation into the murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze has been obstructed by authorities and has not been carried out in accordance with the rule of law."

Last month, Ukrainian authorities blocked FBI experts from examining evidence gathered during the initial investigation. The Bureau had been invited by Ukrainian authorities to advise and assist in the investigation of the case and earlier had participated in identifying Gongadze's remains. Over the last year, Ukrainian prosecutors routinely cited their request for assistance from the FBI as evidence that they were working diligently to solve the murder.

According to a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, the four FBI experts were told that Ukrainian law prohibits prosecutors from releasing any information to them. They were "unable to discuss any aspects of the case, share evidence or conduct a joint site inspection. Because of this, the FBI team could not provide suggestions that might help Ukrainian law enforcement authorities advance the investigation of the murder of Mr. Gongadze." This lack of cooperation after promises to accept the U. S. technical assistance—is an indication of bad faith on the part of the Ukrainian authorities.

This is only the latest example which seriously questions the Ukrainian authorities' commitment to resolving this case and has led many to conclude that the Procurator General's office is hampering the investigation into Gongadze's death. Particularly telling was the Procurator's initially casting doubt on the results of a DNA test reported in February 2001, which determined with a 99.6 percent probability that the body exhumed from a shallow grave in Tarashcha was, indeed, that of Gongadze. The Procurator General, Mykhaylo Potebenko, who recently announced he would resign to become a Member of Parliament from the Communist Party, has also been uncooperative with Gongadze's widow and mother, even after the court gave them status that legally permitted them access to details of the investigation. An assessment of the case last year by Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media, found that the investigation into Gongadze's disappearance has been "extremely unprofessional." It is high time for the Ukrainian authorities to mount a serious, transparent investigation into this case as well as the cases of other murdered journalists.

Since 1998, 11 journalists have been killed in Ukraine and 48 severely injured in unexplained attacks, according to Reporters With-

out Borders. Over the last year, several international bodies have called on Ukrainian authorities to launch a fresh investigation into the disappearance and death of Mr. Gongadze and other journalists and to allow for an independent investigation or to set up a new independent commission of inquiry comprised of international investigators. I also hope that the newly elected Ukrainian parliament will take aggressive action in encouraging governmental accountability for solving the murder and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Mr. Speaker, on March 31, Ukraine held parliamentary elections. Despite governmental interference in the campaign and abuse of state resources, the Ukrainian electorate showed a strong independent streak with a strong pro-democratic, pro-European orientation. A substantial portion of the Ukrainian people clearly want change—they want to live in a country where democracy and human rights are honored and where the rule of law prevails.

The United States remains committed to encouraging these yearnings. The U. S. Government is the largest bilateral donor in Ukraine, and American companies still are the largest investors in Ukraine. We are deeply engaged with Ukraine in military and security issues, educational exchanges, small business, agriculture, energy, and the development of civil society. American engagement with Ukraine is a testament to the importance that we attach to U.S.—Ukraine relations. However, the level of U.S. engagement is increasingly being questioned, in part because of the obstructionist actions of the authorities concerning the Gongadze case, the curtailing of media freedoms, the persistent debilitating problem of corruption and, most recently, troubling allegations that President Kuchma may have authorized the clandestine sale of the Kolchuga radar system to Iraq in violation of L.J.N. sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I once again urge in the strongest possible terms Ukrainian authorities to take seriously the concerns regarding the circumstances that led to the Gongadze murder and the subsequent investigation. His widow, young children, and mother deserve better. The Ukrainian people deserve better.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY STEPANIAN,
WALTER McNAMARA, LARRY
JAKUBOWICZ, AND MARTY GAN-
NON, FIREFIGHTERS FROM CLIN-
TON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harry Stepanian, Walter McNamara, Larry Jakubowicz, and Marty Gannon, firefighters from the town of Clinton, Massachusetts who have announced their retirement after many years of dedicated service.

These men put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of Clinton. Because of their efforts through the years, many lives and a great deal of property have been saved, whether it was from entering a burning building or performing as an Emergency Medical Technician.

The town of Clinton is very fortunate to have an outstanding fire department. As we all know—and as the tragedies of September 11th reminded us—the job of a firefighter is not an easy one. It takes a special person to perform the duties required of firefighters. That duty involves risking their lives every day. Through the years, these men and their colleagues have performed admirably. Their community is grateful for their work, and so am I.

It is a pleasure to recognize these outstanding men, and I know the entire House joins me in extending our best wishes to them and to their families for a happy and healthy retirement.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF LEVORIS
ROY, A GREAT EDUCATOR

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding career of Mr. Levoris Roy, who is retiring this year after 35 years of distinguished service as a teacher and principal. Stretching over 4 decades, Mr. Roy's entire career has provided insight, courage and direction to the young citizens of South East Texas.

Mr. Roy is currently serving as Principal of Vincent Middle School, Beaumont Texas. His leadership and ability to achieve has greatly benefitted his school, teachers, students and all of the Beaumont community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Levoris Roy's career is ripe with countless examples of selfless hard work and extraordinary accomplishment in service to our great Nation. His contributions to Southeast Texas are immeasurable. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Levoris Roy and his family a pleasurable and well-deserved retirement.

Congratulations, Mr. Roy, on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO WILKERSON CHAPEL
AND ITS ANNIVERSARY OF 140
YEARS OF SERVICE TO COLLINS-
VILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Wilkerson Chapel and the anniversary of its 140 years of service to the community Collinsville, Illinois.

The people of the Wilkerson Chapel are truly good Samaritans. They have spent 140 years preaching the word of Christ to Collinsville and surrounding areas and participating in other good works.

To such people as John A. Gregg and his congregation, the good deeds themselves are their own best rewards. Yet, on this special day, I think it is appropriate that they are recognized for their efforts. They are good Christians and good Americans, and remind us all of the compassion and energy that makes this country great.

To the people of the Wilkerson Chapel, thank you for all your good works over almost