

and 51 other students from around the state gathered in March 2000 to create three recommendations to present to the Vermont legislature.

The two I am promoting today are, require every state ID to have a bar code or strip that can be swiped at the checkout. The bar codes will code your birthday and, when swiped through the machine, will tell the cashier if the buyer was eligible to purchase the alcohol.

The second recommendation is to have more funding for the Stop Teen Alcohol Risk Team. This is a team of local law enforcement which is hired just for breaking up large teenage parties where drinking taking place. Now, our state does not give the START team a lot of money, and no extra incentives are offered for working into the long night hours. If the START program had more money, the goal of having a team in each county would be met, thus making parties not such a common place for teens to engage in illegal consumption of alcohol.

The last and personal recommendation to help Vermont is that, if someone underage is drinking with a blood alcohol content above the legal limit, their license will be revoked until they turn 21. The legal blood-alcohol content level for a minor is .02, about one beer for an average-weight teen. I feel that, if a minor knows he or she will not be allowed to drive for a long period of time, they will think before getting into a car while intoxicated.

Now the punishment is revocation of your license for 90 days, a fine, and alcohol-treatment classes. These are good consequences, but people that are behind the wheel, drunk, endanger everyone they pass on the highway. If a license was taken away for a long period of time, they would realize the importance of staying sober behind the wheel.

I know these solutions will not bring underage drinking to a cease, but I believe, if it saves one person, it makes a difference.

Thank you, again, Mr. Sanders, for your time and this opportunity.

PEN PALS WITH PAKISTAN

APRIL 8, 2002

BETHANY WALLACE: I'm Bethany Wallace, and what we're talking about today is the pen pal program with Pakistan that our school has, in conjunction with Sara Siad from Bennington College, has established, and I guess what our hopes are is that, eventually, a program like this will be established, perhaps, statewide, and eventually nationwide.

The pen-pal program, we have sent two letters already and gotten one in return. Sara Siad is a student at Bennington College, and she is from Pakistan. I think she lives in Karachi, which is the most modern city in Pakistan, and it's kind like the metropolitan New York of Pakistan. And she has worked in a lot of public schools there and seen an interest that Pakistani students and young people have in American culture, much like we have in Pakistani culture.

What she did was to establish the pen-pal program, and we all wrote letters, and then she translated them and brought them to Pakistan when she went back on Christmas vacation. The students over there then wrote their letters, and she brought them back to us, and that is how it has been kind of working.

What it has done is opened a lot of doors to better understand the Pakistani culture, especially when our image of that culture has been so skewed by the media in light of September 11th.

KERRY MCINTOSH: It is just interesting, in the letters, we see their perspective on things, but we also see how we are more similar to the people in Pakistan than we

would have assumed. Like lots of us, there are just lots of different assumptions we have about people in Pakistan and what their views would be or something, and then they write in the letters, and it seems like, wow, they're really a lot like us.

I have two letters here. One of them is in Urdu, which is the native language of Pakistan. But, as Sara has told us, they also speak English fluently. And another wrote me a letter in English. I will read an excerpt. Like, when she talks about September 11th, she says. Like, first, just says, hello and, like, greets me and tells me a little bit about herself.

And now let's talk a little about the 11th of September. First of all, I want to commend you. It was really a shocking news. I know how hurt it must be for the people to bear the loss of their dear and near ones. It was a real horrible act of terrorism. While talking about terrorism, I do agree with the U.S. approach. But had Afghanistan handed over the culprit, it would have been much better.

You know, our President, Musharraf, was really in a bad position. It was really tough for him, whether or not to help the U.S., because some of the people in Pakistan were against the U.S. But the majority of the Pakistani population supported Mr. Musharraf's decision. But, you know, war isn't an alternative for peace. I really wish the world was a better place to live in.

I think I mentioned something political in the letter that I had written to her first, assuming that—like, not in a bad way, but just assuming that she would be a little more critical of the U.S., but then I found out that she really, like, was supportive, and that it is just like, a minority in Pakistan that is eminently anti-American people like we see protesting on the streets, and that they share our concerns and hopes for world peace.

ERICA HOLLNER. Like Kerry was saying, the main thing I think we are getting out of this is a better understanding of Pakistan, because we have these views that are so stereotypical, and we see—on TV and magazines, we see these poor people and see the refugee camps, and we think that the whole country is like that. But, in reality, a lot of the families that we are exchanging letters with are similar to us, and they're not poor, they have enough money to live comfortably, and it's a lot like the U.S. in a lot of ways, but we always think that it's all the same.

And Just that, they like the same kinds of things as we do. And I remember reading one letter that a girl was very interested in Princess Di, and you don't think of the fact that they think of the same things as we do, and they know about a lot of the same things too.

KATIE KERVORKIAN. We think that the program would be a great way to teach tolerance, just so that other people can understand what goes on, because many people don't know what is going on in the subcontinental countries, the Middle East. And to learn from someone that is our own age is different than learning from magazine or TV.

BETHANY WALLACE. And what Sarah has pointed out is that nothing is really off limits in the letters. If we bring it up first, then our pen pals aren't, you know, squeamish about talking about it, about communicating their views, and it is a great tool to better understand what is going on over there.

HONORING MR. JOHN NORTH OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Gallaher North of Nashville, Tennessee, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. The North family has contributed tremendously to the Nashville area through acts of kindness and leadership for many years.

Mr. North was born June 2, 1912, on Grandfather Lucas North's farm, one mile south of Ethridge, Tennessee, the son of John Ira North and Lula Mae Flippo North. He has survived all of his six brothers and sisters—Vester Pearl, Estella North Hendrix, Edith North Brown, Howard North, Kathleen North Sutton, and Irene North Harris.

A man of great integrity, North worked on the family farm in Southern Tennessee until the age of 30. At that time, he left the farm to work for Greyhound, where he spent some 32 years, retiring in 1975.

Over the past 30 years he has regularly volunteered at Madison Church of Christ in various capacities, including driving the church bus for the elderly, and conducting church services for the shut-in, sick, and hospitals. He currently continues this volunteer work in the food room of Madison Church of Christ.

North was married for 66 years, 2 months, to Ruby Butler North, who passed away on July 15, 1999. The couple had two sons, William, who died in 1995 and Don, who died in 1991. His grandson Johnny North lives in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Mr. North is to be commended for his vibrant love of life and devotion to faith and family. May he enjoy a memorable and happy birthday on June 2, 2002.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, to honor our correctional officers for the work they do to keep our families safe. We do not thank these men and women enough for their service to our communities.

Day after day, week after week, our correctional officers work one of the most dangerous patrols in the country. They devote themselves to keeping violent felons behind bars, ensuring that our families can feel safe in our homes and on our streets. We know from the number of correctional officers who die in the line of duty each year that this is a dangerous profession that requires courage, hard work, and professionalism.

Our correctional officers are people like Bonnie Johnson, a mother of six, who works over 50 hours a week in a prison in Jackson, Michigan. For almost 20 years, Bonnie has put her heart and soul into her job. Or Rodney Olsson—a correctional officer with the Michigan prison system for roughly 14 years. Rodney drives over 60 miles to get to and from

work. These fine men and women work holidays, weekends, and double shifts. They deserve our support.

We need to do our part in the weeks and months ahead to pass legislation that will protect the safety and working conditions of correctional officers. We should act to prevent further privatization of our prisons, which puts both our officers and inmate populations at risk. We need to ensure that our correctional officers receive meaningful, reliable pensions, good benefits, and decent wages. And we should invest adequate resources in prison programs that provide constructive activities for inmates that reduce recidivism and prevent violence.

The work of our correctional officers gets more and more difficult with each passing day. In my home state of Michigan, the prison population has grown 38 times faster than our general population. And records show our inmate population is getting more violent. I commend Michigan's correctional officers for staying committed to the job despite these additional challenges.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution offered by Representatives STRICKLAND, SWEENEY, HORN, and HOLDEN that officially recognizes National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. This resolution also requests that our President issue a proclamation urging citizens to honor our correctional officers and the work they do to protect us. We should pass this resolution without delay and give our correctional officers the respect they deserve for their service.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "quiet is the absence of noise, but peace requires the presence of justice."

As Americans, that is our charge and our challenge in the Middle East. We seek not only to establish quiet from bombs and bullets, but also to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. Even at this dark hour of death and destruction, peace is still possible in the Middle East.

Although involving Arabs and Jews, the crisis in the region is not an ethnic problem. While it invokes Judaism and Islam, it is not a religious problem. Though engulfing an ancient land, it is not an archaic problem. At its root, the crisis between the Israelis and the Palestinians is a political problem requiring a political solution, not a military one. It is intractable, but not impossible. And, it demands American engagement and American leadership to solve.

Our proper and necessary role in the region must be that of an honest and balanced broker, a mediator between the two sides, and a facilitator of peace. A broker understands and honors the needs, fears and aspirations of each and must maintain the trust and confidence of both. A mediator talks and listens to both sides, steps in the gaps of distrust and

enmity, and reconciles differences and disputes. A facilitator recognizes and holds both sides accountable for the obligations and compromises each side must make for progress and peace.

Undoubtedly, just as it takes more than one party to make war, it takes more than one party to make peace. While we have no closer friend and ally than Israel, it is not our only friend and ally. Our interests are broad and should not be restricted to just one country in the entire region.

To do so, would compromise our own long-term national interests, diminish our standing and influence in the world, and abdicate our role and responsibility as the sole Superpower. Such a move would be tragic for us and for them, leaving both sides with no final arbiter, no place to turn other than violence.

It's time to break that vicious cycle. It's time to end the bloodshed and the heartbreak. It's time to do everything in our power to encourage both sides to make the hard choices and to take the daring steps toward peace.

Yet, instead of leadership and vision, this Congress has offered an unbalanced, untimely and counterproductive resolution. Because of what is in it and what is not, H. Res. 392 is not what is needed now. It is not constructive. It will not advance peace. I cannot support it.

This resolution rightly demonstrates support for the security of Israel. We recognize Israel's vulnerable position amidst a hostile neighborhood and unequivocally support and defend its right to exist within secure and internationally recognized boundaries.

However, this resolution wrongly omits statements of support for Palestinian self-determination and national rights. We should reaffirm our support for the right of the Palestinians to have their own state with secure and internationally recognized boundaries.

This resolution correctly condemns and opposes the use of terrorism and suicide bombings that intentionally targets and kills innocent Israeli civilians. We uphold Israel's right to combat legitimate targets and prevent such savage and brutal attacks.

Yet, this measure unfairly ignores the Israeli occupation and settlements on Palestinian territory. In a recent editorial, *The New York Times* stated, "Just as terror is the greatest Palestinian threat to Middle East peace, so are settlements on territory captured in the 1967 war the greatest Israeli obstacle to peace. They deprive the Palestinians of prime land and water, break up Palestinian geographic continuity, are hard to defend against Palestinian attack and complicate the establishment of a clear, secure Israeli border."

H. Res. 392 properly cites the mounting death toll and carnage caused by Palestinian attackers on Israelis. We mourn their deaths and share their grief. Yet, the measure makes only passing reference to Palestinian casualties and no mention at all of Israel's controversial incursion into Jenin, where the debris, devastation and death warrant an impartial investigation and an international humanitarian response.

Perhaps most unsettling is the imperfect analogy within which this resolution is framed. The measure equates America's war on terrorism with Israel's campaign in the West Bank. But, such a clear and convenient comparison is not so easy to make and, as *The Washington Post* observed, "overlooks this contest for territory and sovereignty underlying the Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed."

Surely, Israel is justified in protecting itself and uprooting terrorism. While war is disastrous and often messy, it does not justify deliberately raiding and wrecking banks, schools, streets, and municipal buildings. Yet, the Israeli offensive in the West Bank not only dismantled the terrorist infrastructure, but also systematically destroyed the civil infrastructure and institutions of Palestinian self-government. They are not one in the same. Yet, both lay in ruin. If only for their own sake and standing, Israel must adopt a policy that differentiates between the two. And, the world should know that we know the difference as well.

In this bloody stalemate, one side is not entirely at fault and the other completely free of it. Both sides know fear. Both know hardship. Both know suffering and tragedy. But, instead of comparing and measuring wounds, we should aid in healing them. Rather than concentrating on the failures of war, we should focus on the possibilities of peace.

Peace should be the crux and motive of this measure. But, it is not, and so the Administration asked the House not to consider it. Yet, despite the objections, Congress does so anyway.

In lieu of H. Res. 392, Congress should offer its imprimatur, its influence, and its ideas to animate and encourage efforts to pave a pathway to peace. We know that the framework already exists in U.N. Resolution 242, 338, 1397, 1402, Oslo, and most recently, the Saudi Peace Initiative. We know that the basic formula is land for peace. We know that an economic recovery plan is necessary to rebuild and revitalize the region. We know that an international presence is required to sustain a final negotiated settlement. Now, we, the United States, must help to figure out how to forge it and flesh it out.

Undoubtedly, it will be hard. At the very least, it will require the commitment of the Israelis and the Palestinians. Both sides must meet the challenge and give to the other what it wants for itself—dignity, security and peace.

Ultimately, there will and must be two nations—Israel and a Palestinian state—living as neighbors, both sovereign, secure, stable, free and democratic. Only then, after such a long and tumultuous nightmare, Israelis and Palestinians will wake up in the Holy Land to a new morning. And, to peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAY HALL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am particularly honored to rise today and congratulate and extend birthday wishes to an outstanding member of the Farmington Hills community, Kay Hall.

Over the past twenty-six years, Ms. Hall has served as a director for Mary Kay Cosmetics. On May 4, 2002, Kay makes her debut as a National Sales Director for Mary Kay, and this day also marks her 65th birthday. Kay's outstanding service has earned her a plethora of honors, including twenty-one years of free pink Cadillacs. Additionally, Kay has been honored for twenty years with membership in Unit Clubs, and fifteen years in the Half Million Dollar Unit Club. To top it off, Kay is Detroit's first Million Dollar Director.