

second child. One of Dwight's greatest joys was being a father to their son, Alex.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sergeant Dwight Morgan for sacrificing his life to protect the citizens of the United States. At a time when all citizens are being asked to be vigilant in a war that has struck our homeland, we should have a high regard for the courage and dedication of Dwight Morgan.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF  
SEPTEMBER 11TH

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the tragedy of September 11th touched all Americans in some way. Many of us in Congress lost people from the districts we represent.

Today, I would like to recognize one such man, John Hofer of Bellflower, California. Mr. Hofer was a passenger aboard American Airlines Flight 11, the hijacked flight that hit the north tower of the World Trade Center. He was on his way home to California from a golfing tournament on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. It was his first trip to the East Coast and he was excited about seeing a Boston Red Sox baseball game at Fenway Park.

John was known for his love of golf and was traveling with one of his golfing buddies, John Wenckus, 46, of Torrance, when their plane hit the World Trade tower. The two of them were regulars on the Skylinks Golf Course in Long Beach, California.

Mr. Hofer also was a businessman in his hometown of Bellflower. He owned John's Sharpening Center, a small business that sharpened pet-grooming tools. Mr. Hofer is survived by a daughter.

TRIBUTE TO MATT SMITH

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank publicly a member of my District Office staff for years of exceptional service to me and to the residents of the Second Congressional District of Oregon.

Matt Smith has been steadfastly true to a legacy of selfless public service that has long been a tradition in the Smith family. As the son of Kaye and Chairman Robert F. (Bob) Smith, who served Oregon so effectively as a leader for 36 years in the Oregon House and Senate and then in the U.S. Congress, Matt was raised with the knowledge that the most meaningful rewards in life come from helping others. Countless Oregonians have benefited from Matt's advocacy on their behalf and from his role as an integral participant in helping me address issues in the district that have directly impacted thousands of hard-working Second District residents.

Whether stepping in to save a rancher's grazing permit or helping to hone the finer details of my legislation to save the Steens Mountain area from unwarranted national monument status, I have counted on Matt to

get the job done. He has been a loyal and dedicated public servant on such issues as saving the Elk Creek Dam from wasteful demolition and protecting lives and resources by keeping the Medford Air Tanker Base open.

Matt has brought to his work a bright mind and a natural ability to work well with others. Not only have the people I represent placed great faith in his abilities, but so have his co-workers. Matt has been a team player in every respect and could always be counted on to solve tough problems and help others to reach their potential. Perhaps most importantly, Matt is a dependable friend with a great sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what Matt has accomplished and am proud to have had him on my staff. For someone who looks up to his father as much as I do, it has been a delight to watch Matt grow and mature into a man who must make his father very proud. Matt's stellar career has not gone unnoticed by others and many new opportunities have presented themselves. This month Matt is going to follow his expanded horizons by taking a position with Smith-West, a distinguished government relations firm. I have every confidence that in Matt's new job he will continue his own strong record of public service.

Matt Smith will continue to help others and make Oregon a better place. He will continue to be an impact player and make a difference. I am sorry to see Matt leave and lose his invaluable assistance, but I am so very proud of what he has accomplished and the good work I know he will continue to perform.

I join Matt's coworkers in saying thank you and congratulations for a job well done. We will miss you as a colleague, Matt, but we know in our hearts that you will always be our friend.

OUR FRIENDS IN CANADA

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we were all deeply moved when, during the days following September 11th our friends in Canada extended a helping hand to our shaken Nation. Our neighbors to the north deserve our thanks and praise for their enduring friendship.

The world watched as trans-Atlantic flights were diverted to Canadian airports in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Personal accounts from constituents of mine, stranded in Canada because of the events of September 11th, show how remarkable the response was from the Canadian citizens who helped to care for stranded passengers. There were hot meals, showers, cots, blankets, and TV sets to watch the first news of what was happening back home. There were also teddy bears and "field trips" to local sights.

It is during these troubled times that you find out who your real friends are. Thanks to the service men and women, and also to the citizens of the great Nation of Canada for their kindness. Your hospitality will not soon be forgotten.

WASHINGTON, DC,  
*February 4, 2002.*

Lt. Cmdr. M.A. MORRIS,  
Commanding Officer, HMCS Cabot,  
St. John's, Newfoundland.

DEAR COMMANDER MORRIS: No one expected on the morning of September 11th what that day would be like. I expect that is especially true of you.

Ash and Susan Collins, two constituents of mine from Placitas, New Mexico, told me of your professionalism and kindness following the diversion of so many guests to your station.

I wanted to thank you for all you did for them and others in the same situation.

It is in the tough times that you find out who your real friends are. Thank you and your service men and women for your hospitality and kindness. We won't soon forget it.

Warm Regards,

HEATHER WILSON,  
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 4, 2002.

Hon. MICHAEL F. KERGIN,  
Ambassador, Canadian Embassy,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: I had read a few stories in the paper about how well Americans were treated by our Canadian friends in the days following September 11th. Two of my constituents, Ash and Susan Collins of Placitas, New Mexico, took the time to tell me of their personal experience.

It is in the tough times that we find out who our real friends are. Please accept my thanks to you and your countrymen for your kindness and friendship. We won't soon forget it.

Warm Regards,

HEATHER WILSON.

ASHTON B. COLLINS, Jr.,  
Placitas, NM, October 29, 2001.

Hon. HEATHER WILSON,  
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR HEATHER: It was certainly good to be with you and Jay on Friday night. We appreciate your interest in our comments about the extraordinary response and support by Canadians on September 11.

On September 11, 2001, when U.S. and offshore airspace areas were closed, trans-Atlantic flights were diverted to Canadian airports in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. More than 17,000 persons from 136 planes landed in Newfoundland alone. We enclose a photo of the Halifax, Nova Scotia airport to illustrate the dimensions.

We were on one of the 27 wide-body airliners with a total of approximately 4,300 passengers and crews landing at St. John's, Newfoundland. The St. John's airport was under major construction and normally receives one jumbo jet daily. Passengers were held for several hours on their planes while Canadian authorities developed plans.

Ultimately, we were allowed to carry only wallets for men, purses for women and passports into the terminal. Upon deplaning in darkness, we were each greeted with a warm, "Welcome to Canada", a sandwich, liquids, and solid assurance that we would be cared for. And we were cared for with astonishing efficiency on the part of all Canadian authorities, agencies, public institutions, businesses, and individuals.

The Canadians' sense of solidarity with their American neighbors was and is an indelible memory. A lot of Americans learned a lot about their neighbors to the North in a hurry.

Here are a few highlights:

Individuals from all over Newfoundland pitched in, each in his own way. We "airplane people" slept in churches, convents,

schools, e.g., we stayed at the HMCS Cabot naval reserve station on cots in a classroom. (We enclose a letter just written to Lieutenant Commander Margaret Morris, Commander of the Cabot facility for further detail.)

Teddy bears were bought by private citizens and delivered to children at various sites.

A cab driver offered us his home and a home-cooked meal.

Prescriptions were refilled and supplied gratis by the Red Cross.

The Canadian flags were flown at half-staff. This gesture, alone, moved many Americans to tears.

Sympathy cards to the United States handmade by Nova Scotia school children were posted on walls at the Halifax airport.

Newspapers were dominated by stories of events at home and Canadian support. (We enclose examples.)

Words cannot adequately express our appreciation, respect and admiration for our Canadian friends.

We will be glad to give further details should that be helpful.

Special thanks to you for your consideration of a reference to Canadian support and HMCS Cabot in the Congressional Record . . . and a mention to the U.S. Ambassador.

Sincerely,

ASH AND SUSAN COLLINS.

ASHTON B. COLLINS, Jr.,

*Placitas, NM, October 29, 2001.*

LCDR M.A. MORRIS,

*Commanding Officer, HMCS Cabot, St. John's, Newfoundland.*

DEAR COMMANDER MORRIS: Some time has passed since we were with you and your HMCS Cabot personnel, as your guests in the days following the tragedies of September 11.

We will never be able adequately to express our gratitude for the extraordinary qualities of welcome, warmth, empathy, support, and solidarity that you gave us . . . all the "air-plane people" . . . so generously and spontaneously.

We also will never know how, when so many people descended on HMCS Cabot so unexpectedly, you were able to anticipate so efficiently . . . and gracefully their needs, ranging from the obvious, such as hot meals (and the quality of which was outstanding!), cots and blankets, hot showers, and a variety of amenities to the less obvious but vital such as TV sets strategically placed so we could get our first news of the unfolding events and analysis.

And you were superb in your information flow to us . . . letting us know when you knew of potential and actual plan for ultimate departure.

Your people also were great about keeping track of all of their new "guests" and were sources of all manner of helpful information about St. John's and Newfoundland.

It is clear to us that this quality of response to extraordinary events comes from the heart, and from outstanding leadership. You exhibited both, in high measure; we salute you.

We Americans learned a lot about our great neighbors to the North, in a short time. And it was all of the best.

Now, in a modest turnabout, we enclose a small token of our New Mexico, with the sincere invitation to you to visit us in our home (photo enclosed) to let us show you something of our American Southwest.

We also enclose a check for your discretionary use in behalf of all the great people of HMCS Cabot.

Sincerely,

ASH COLLINS.

## ALARMING DEVELOPMENTS FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, troubling amendments to the current Kazakh law on religion await President Nursultan Nazarbayev's signature to enter into force. Both the lower and upper houses of the Kazakh parliament passed the amendments without any substantive modifications. As a result, if President Nazarbayev signs the legislation into law during the ten-day window, Kazakhstan would seriously undermine its commitments as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practice their religion or belief.

Introduced without public consultation in late November 2001, the amendments passed the lower house on January 17 and the upper house on January 31 of this year. The sudden rush to passage was surprising. Kazakhstan had been working with the OSCE Advisory Panel of Experts for Freedom of Religion or Belief to craft a law in harmony with its OSCE commitments. In fact, an earlier draft heavily criticized by the Advisory Panel was withdrawn in August 2001. The Advisory Panel issued a report on the latest draft on January 16, 2002, highlighting serious deficiencies in the text. However, it appears little heed was given to their critique. Reportedly, the executive branch pushed vigorously for legislation providing stricter controls on minority religious groups, which would explain the rapid consideration.

In response to these unfolding events, myself, Chairman BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL and six other Commissioners of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission, wrote President Nazarbayev last week about these developments. The text of that letter which I am submitting for the RECORD, highlights several, but not all problematic elements of the recently passed legislation. Of particular note are the increased hurdles for registration and vaguely worded articles, which could allow for arbitrary denials of registration for religious groups, and consequently their legal existence. Accordingly, there is great concern for the future of religious freedom in Kazakhstan, whether for Muslims or Christians.

Mr. Speaker, in the letter we respectfully asked President Nazarbayev not to sign the amendments into law.

Our concerns are not based on mere supposition; related laws and regulations have been utilized to suppress faith communities in Kazakhstan. For example, this past summer Article 375 of the Administrative Code was introduced, requiring the registration of all religious groups and including language penalizing unregistered religious groups. Police have since justified several raids on religious meetings citing Article 375, resulting in harassment and imprisonment as well as reported beatings and torture. Actions late last year against unregistered Baptist pastors is an illustrative example.

On October 27, 2001, Pastor Asylbek Nurdanov, a Baptist leader in the Kyzyl-Orda

regional city of Kazalinsk, went to a police station after his church was raided for failing to register. Once there, he was reportedly severely beaten and stripped, with one officer attempting to strangle him with a belt. Another threatened to cut off his tongue with scissors if he did not renounce his faith. It was also reported that on November 10, Pastor Nurdanov was forcibly taken and detained in a psychiatric hospital in Kyzyl-Orda. While he was released on November 16, such abuse is unacceptable. Other reports of police harassment and detention of Baptist pastors who have not registered their faith communities also exist. For example, on September 25, 2001, the Aktobe public prosecutor initiated legal proceedings against Baptist Pastor Vasily Kliver on the charge of "evading the registration of a religious community." In October, Baptist pastor Valery Pak was jailed in Kyzyl-Orda for five days on the same charge.

These reports of harassment, torture and detention indicate a serious failure to uphold Kazakhstan's human rights commitments as an OSCE participating State. As is evident, our concerns about Kazakh authorities utilizing the proposed amendment's restrictive nature to harass, if not condemn, religious groups are borne out by past practice in Kazakhstan. Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that President Nazarbayev will honor the obligations his nation freely chose to uphold as a participating OSCE state and not sign the amendments into law.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the text of the letter sent to President Nazarbayev last week be included in the RECORD.

*January 30, 2002.*

His Excellency NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV,  
*President of the Republic of Kazakhstan,  
Astana, Kazakhstan.*

DEAR PRESIDENT NAZARBAYEV: We write today to express our concern over the proposed amendments to the Law on Freedom of Religion and Religious Associations. We view the amendments, scheduled for consideration by the Senate on January 31st, as problematic, since they would seriously undermine Kazakhstan's commitments to human rights as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Therefore, should the Kazakh Senate approve the amendments, we respectfully ask that you not sign them into law.

The OSCE Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion and Belief issued a review of the proposed amendments on January 16, 2002. The review found the proposed amendments, while an improvement from an earlier draft withdrawn in August 2001, seriously deficient in many respects. In addition, the OSCE Centre in Almaty has stated the current religion law meets international standards and found no justification for initiating the new provisions. Therefore, we believe the remarks contained in the OSCE Advisory Panel critique should be followed fully.

Problematic areas include, but are not limited to, permitting the registration of Muslim groups and the building of mosques only after a recommendation of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan. In addition, the number of individuals required to form a religious association would increase from 10 to 50, regardless of religion. Furthermore, the proposed amendments would permit dissolution of a religious group should individual members of the group commit repeated violations of the law. Each of these examples would allow the government to arbitrarily deny registration, and thereby