

her family and the many lives in her community that she has touched.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Janet Saringer, an extraordinary woman and devoted civil servant.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS B. ARCIERO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituent's great service to the United States of America. I ask for the text of this letter to be put in the RECORD. Thomas B. Arciero joined the Suffolk County Police Department on January 21, 1963. Upon his graduation from the Police Academy, he was assigned to the First Precinct as Patrolman #653. In January of 1967, Patrolman Arciero became Detective #322 and was assigned to the First Squad. In October of 1967, he returned to patrol, and shortly thereafter, was promoted to Sergeant #418 on January 5th, 1970 remaining in the First Precinct. He was a Sergeant in the First Precinct for seven years before being promoted to Lieutenant where he remained in the First Precinct.

In 1987, Lieutenant Arciero was transferred to the Marine Bureau. He was promoted to Captain on January 23d, 1989 and was transferred to Special Patrol Bureau as Executive Officer. After seven years, Thomas Arciero was promoted to Deputy Inspector becoming the Commanding Office of the Special Patrol Bureau. He remained there until his promotion to Inspector on February 23, of 2001 at which time he was transferred to the Chief of Patrol's Office in Headquarters, the position he currently holds. As can be seen, Lieutenant Arciero is a man worth many praises and we will be sad to see him retire on February 19th 2002. Thank you for all of your hard work, Thomas. I ask all of my colleagues to join in the acknowledgement of Thomas and his generous service to the state of New York and the United States of America.

MORE INDIAN REPRESSION OF TRIBAL AND CHRISTIAN MINORITIES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to learn of more Indian repression of its tribal Christian minorities. According to a statement issued by the All India Christian Council, the Sangh Parivari, a wing of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling BJP, has been distributing weapons to Hindu militants in the tribal areas of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

In recent months, according to the statement, it has distributed 350,000 trishuls to be used as weapons. It has set up new temples in Madhya Pradesh. In the Hindu schools, the curriculum already rewrites history. The All India Christian Council calls the curriculum "outside the pale of any academic and public scrutiny" and says it "poisons young minds."

The statement calls this RSS plan "an effort to polarize and communalize the tribal society" in these and several other states. This is a well-established part of India's ongoing campaign to establish itself as the hegemonic power in South Asia.

Given these activities, it is time to strike a blow for freedom by suspending all American aid to India until it respects all human rights for all people and by supporting an internationally-monitored vote on independence for Christian Nagaland, for Punjab, Khalistan, for Kashmir (which it promised in 1948), and for all the other nations seeking their freedom. These are very moderate measures, Mr. Speaker, but they are measures that can go a long way to help promote real freedom and democracy in South Asia.

I would like to place the recent statement from the All India Christian Council into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the All India Christian Council, Jan. 17, 2002]

SANGH PARIVAR ACTIONS COMMUNALISING ADIVASI AREA

(The following is the text of the statement issued by Dr. Joseph D. Souza, President, and Dr. John Dayal, Secretary General, of the All India Christian Council on recent moves by the Sangh Parivar to aggravate the communal situation in the Adivasi tribal belt of North India.)

The All India Christian Council thanks Madhya Pradesh Chief minister Digvijay Singh and his government for taking effective steps to reassure the small Christian community in the Adivasi-majority district of Jhabua, which had seen much tension on the eve of the meeting organized today by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh wing Seva Bharati.

The All India Christian Council deputed its Gujarat unit secretary and well-known Human rights activist Mr. Samson Christian to Jhabua yesterday in solidarity with the Christians of the district, which was scene of the infamous mass rape of Catholic nuns three years ago. A vicious Hindutva communal rhetoric preceded the holding of the Sangh meeting, targeting Christians in the region. Much of the social educational and Medicare work in the Madhya Pradesh Tribal belt has been by Christian missions.

The Council has repeatedly expressed its deep apprehension at the activities of the Sangh Parivar in the contiguous tribal areas of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In recent months, more than 3.5 lakh trishuls machined as weapons and not as innocuous religious symbols, have been distributed in the Rajasthan area. In Madhya Pradesh, the Sangh has announced the setting up of 3.5 lakh Devals, or family temples. These areas are already penetrated by Sangh's Shishu mandirs manned by RSS cadres. These schools follow a curricula and textual material, which is outside the pale of any academic and public scrutiny, blatantly rewrites history, and poisons young minds.

Taken together, these actions constitute a well thought out strategy to polarize and communalise the tribal society in the state of Madhya Pradesh and also in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jharkand and Chhatisgarh to serve the political agenda of the Sangh Parivar. The Adivasis have strongly objected to these efforts to obliterate their culture and their identity.

The Council has called upon the governments of the concerned states, as also on the Central government to ensure that this insidious conspiracy against the Adivasi identity is not allowed to succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to official business on Wednesday, January 23, 2002, and Thursday, January 24, 2002, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 1 on the Quorum Call of the House; rollcall vote 2 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 700, to Reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act; rollcall vote 3 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2234, the Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act; and rollcall vote 4 on Passage of S. 1762, the Higher Education Act Amendments.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "present" on rollcall vote 1, and "aye" on rollcall votes 2, 3, and 4.

COACH BILL BELISLE OF MOUNT SAINT CHARLES ACADEMY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD letters that attest to the true spirit of competition in addition to the sportsmanship of Mr. Bill Belisle of the Mount Saint Charles Academy of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. As these letters show, Mr. Belisle has had astonishing success as head coach of the Mount Saint Charles Mounties, the school's phenomenally successful hockey team. On January 5th, 2002, Coach Belisle earned his 696th career victory, and set a new national high school hockey record for all-time coaching victories. From his 24 consecutive state championships to the multitude of talented hockey players he has developed, Coach Belisle demonstrates the fact that hard work, dedication and commitment to a goal do pay off. I hope that, with this placement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, my colleagues here in the Congress can look to him as a model of the type of success that all Americans should aspire to.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE,

New York, NY, January 22, 2002.

Mr. BILL BELISLE, Hockey Coach,

Mount St. Charles Academy, Logee Street, Woonsocket, RI.

DEAR COACH BELISLE: I am writing to offer my most sincere congratulations on a remarkable achievement.

On January 5, 2002, you earned your 696th victory with the hockey team from Mount St. Charles Academy. The win over Toll Gate High School set a national high school hockey record for all-time career coaching victories. It is even more impressive that you reached this milestone in only your 27th season, while the previous record was set over a career which spanned 49 seasons.

The National Hockey League is pleased to recognize accomplishments, which recently have been highlighted by stories in Parade Magazine and USA Today. The fact that your team has won 24 straight Rhode Island

Interscholastic League championships is a credit to your coaching abilities and a testament to you as a motivator and role model. Your record of winning 88 percent of all your games is a mark that any coach at any level would love to emulate.

That six of your former players—Bryan Berard, Brian Boucher, Garth Snow, Mathieu Schneider, Keith Carney and Jeff Jillson—have skated this season in the NHL is a tribute to you and your program. All these players are outstanding individuals who obviously received great training.

On behalf of the NHL, please accept my best wishes on this most impressive accomplishment. I look forward to learning about what I am certain will be even more milestones ahead for you and the Mount St. Charles Academy program.

Sincerely,

GARY B. BETTMAN,
Commissioner.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 22, 2002.

Coach BILL BELISLE,
Mount St. Charles Academy, Logee Street,
Woonsocket, RI.

DEAR COACH BELISLE: Please accept my very best wishes on another amazing milestone in your hockey coaching career at Mount St. Charles Academy.

When Congress returns to session tomorrow after our annual winter recess, I will make certain that the rest of the nation is also aware of your latest accomplishment. The *Congressional Record* will reflect the fact that on January 5, 2002, you earned your 696th career victory. This win by a score of 6-2 over Toll Gate High School at Thayer Arena in Warwick set a new national high school hockey record for all-time career coaching victories.

It is even more incredible that you established this record in your 27th season at Mount. The old record, held by Ed Burns at Arlington High School in Massachusetts, was set over a 49-year career.

It is certainly impressive that you have led the Mounties to 24 consecutive state championships and that you have won 88 percent of all the games you have coached. But even more impressive to me is the caliber of first-class individuals that have graduated from the Mount St. Charles' program.

Dozens and dozens of your players have earned full-tuition college scholarships to major academic institutions. While many have gone on to play for the United States in the Olympic Games, or to play professionally in the National Hockey League and in Europe, even more have experienced successful careers off the ice. Their journey through adult life has been made smoother because of the great discipline and work ethic you have taught them at an early age. The "Mount Style" that you are so proud to instill in them has served these young men well in their careers well beyond their hockey-playing days.

Please accept my wishes for many more victories both on and off the ice. I also wish to extend congratulations to your wife Yvette, who has been your partner through this whole Mount Dynasty; your son David, who also doubles as your highly successful assistant coach; and the rest of the Belisle family. Congratulations again!

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. KENNEDY,
Member of Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEVIN
DOWDELL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute to New York City firefighter Kevin Dowdell who passed away on September 11, 2001. Kevin died tragically while carrying out the very acts of selflessness and bravery that were the hallmark of his life. As his family mourns this loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Kevin and pay tribute to him for his many contributions to his country.

As a distinguished firefighter in the New York City Fire Department, Kevin dedicated his life to serving and protecting others, and embodied the spirit of courage and bravery that has sustained this country during these times of tragedy and mourning. Not only was Kevin one of New York's bravest, but he was also one of this country's bravest. It is because of men like Kevin Dowdell that all of us, as Americans, can hold our heads high and take comfort in the fact that we live in the greatest country on Earth, and among the most courageous and extraordinary people on Earth.

Kevin's mother, Gloria—a long-time resident of Colorado—remembers that Kevin had dreams of becoming a firefighter from the time he was four years old. After realizing that life-long dream, Kevin excelled as a firefighter, becoming an expert in difficult rescues and garnering high praise from both his colleagues and superiors alike. Not only was Kevin an exceptional firefighter, but he was, perhaps more importantly, an exceptional father, husband, brother and son. The selflessness that propelled him to a career as a firefighter was even more evident in his family life. He tirelessly gave his time, love and energy to each and every member of his family, taking them on tours through New York, playing in his son's band and organizing family vacations. He is survived by his loving wife RoseEllen and his two sons Patrick and James.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Kevin Dowdell, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, selflessness and love that Kevin left with all of us. His life is the very embodiment of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring the attention of this body of Congress to his life. It is in times of great tragedy and hardship that true heroes emerge, and I am proud to say Kevin Dowdell is a hero not only to me, but to his family, his friends and to this country.

NATIVE SON OF SAN MATEO
SHINES IN SUPER BOWL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the victory of the New England Patriots in last night's Super Bowl was not just an incredibly good football game—one of the closest and most exciting

games in Super Bowl history—but it was also a cause for celebration that spanned our nation from coast to coast. Today the City of San Mateo and Peninsulans join fans in New England in celebrating the Patriots' victory. It is a shared celebration because New England Quarterback Tom Brady first showed signs of football greatness as the quarterback for Junipero Serra High School in his hometown of San Mateo in my congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Brady was the youngest quarterback ever to lead a team to a Super Bowl victory and was also selected Most Valuable Player in the game. This was a fitting end to a truly magnificent season for Tom Brady. As a sixth round draft choice in the 2000 NFL draft, Tom started his second season as the back-up quarterback, whose goal for the 2001-2002 season was simply to become a better football player. Fate, however, had different plans as he was thrust into the starting role during the third game of the season. The newfound responsibility never fazed this calm young man. He accepted his new role and led the Patriots from a 0-2 start to the season to end with eleven wins in the regular season and a trip to the playoffs.

During the playoffs, Tom faced and conquered a wide variety of adversities, from snowballs to ankle sprains, he never wavered and refused to back down as he lead his team to the Super Bowl. Entering the game as heavy underdogs, Tom Brady played the greatest game of his young career in the same way he played throughout the regular season—calm, cool, and under control. After three quarters the Patriots lead 17-3, but then the Rams made a comeback and Tom Brady found himself on his own 17 yard line, facing the daunting task of moving the ball sixty yards with 90 seconds left in the game, and his team with no time outs remaining.

Mr. Speaker, many thought he should run out the clock and move the game into overtime. Brady, a true competitor, walked onto the field to begin a drive to win in the remaining 90 seconds. As he said, "I was going out to win the game." And that is exactly what he did, as he threw pass after pass to march his team into field range and set up his kicker to win the game. Adam Vinatieri's kick sailed through the uprights just as time expired, and the Patriots were champions. A roar not only erupted from the stadium in New Orleans, but a similar outburst erupted from the house on Portola Drive in San Mateo, where friends and family of the Brady family had gathered to watch the game.

Mr. Speaker, from his days of flag football on Portola Drive in San Mateo, to the fields at Serra High, to the University of Michigan, to the National Football League and being named Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XXXVI, Tom Brady always played with confidence and charisma and found success at every level. It is obvious from watching Tom Brady play that he truly loves the game of football. He always smiles, and his enthusiasm and confidence is infectious to his team. As one of his wide receivers said, "You can't say enough about the kid. He has a tremendous amount of confidence, and it rubs off on everyone else."

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tom Brady on an incredible game and wishing him continued success. All of us from San Mateo and the Peninsula are proud of our native son.