

weekend in respectful recognition of all the brave men and women who have worn the uniform, fought and died for our country. God Bless them all.

IN MEMORY OF MR. GEORGE TAGG

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a very dear friend of mine, Mr. George Canale Tagg, who passed away May 14th of this year.

George's career is the perfect example of how hard work can pay off. Originally from Memphis, he started working at the Federal Express hub there, some 30 years ago. He stayed with FedEx over the years, eventually making his way here to Washington, where he became the company's managing director of Government Affairs. He retired and started his own firm, retaining FedEx as a client.

Although he called Memphis home, he most recently resided in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and was very active in the community here. He was a communicant of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Washington, a member of the Columbia Country Club and the University Club of Memphis.

George was one of my best friends. He was a kind, gentle man who genuinely cared deeply about all his fellow human beings. This unique devotion to goodwill shone through to all who knew and worked with him.

He made a huge and valuable contribution to our country in his all-too-short life. I know I will miss George Tagg tremendously, and I know his presence will be missed on Capitol Hill.

IN MEMORY OF REV. DR. M.
MORAN WESTON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. Dr. M. Moran Weston who passed away on May 18, 2002. Hardly a month went by when I did not hear his soothing baritone voice on the phone, teaching, encouraging, inspiring with his love and concern for our young people, for the elderly, for the poor and forgotten. I will miss him.

The glowing notices in the press will only add to the historical record of the great rector of St. Philips. His name is already enshrined at St. Augustine's College and Columbia University. But those of us who knew him, who live in the neighborhoods he enriched, will forever be reminded of his contributions by just walking the streets of Harlem and Morningside Heights.

He protested injustice, picketed and cajoled. But more than anything, he searched for solutions and achieved results. When the downtown banks refused our people credit, he founded and built Carver Federal Savings into a billion dollar banking institution. So no one would be left homeless, he built housing for seniors, for the mentally ill, and day care facili-

ties for children. He lobbied Congress to make decent, affordable housing a right under the Constitution of the United States.

A true man of God, the only credit he would humbly accept was having been blessed with a gift for encouraging others to action. But we know better, and we are indebted to Moran for his ideas, for his hard work and for his faith that with God nothing is impossible.

With his beloved wife Miriam, and children Gregory and Katherine, and his family I share the pain of loss. But I am deeply grateful that God saw fit to place Moran with us for his long and bountiful life. His memory will be with us always.

AUBURN HILLS AVONDALE
YELLOWJACKETS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Yellowjackets of Auburn Hills Avondale High School, on winning the 2001-2002 Michigan High School Athletic Association Class B State boys basketball championship. The Yellowjackets defeated the Grand Rapids South Christian Sailors 70-65 in the final game. It was certainly an exciting game that showcased some of the best talent the state of Michigan has to offer.

The Yellowjackets are a true testament of what hard work, determination, and a passionate desire to win can accomplish. Under the guidance of six-year Head Coach Tim Morton, the championship served as a wonderful finish to a remarkable year. This was the team's first visit to the state finals, and they finished their storybook season with a tremendous record of 25-3.

The Yellowjackets roster includes: seniors Jeremiah Handley, Brandon Larvadain, Mike Lewis, Kevin McConnell, Dionte Miller, Greg Riley, Wes Whiteside; juniors Brandon Borden, Steve Ellsworth, Kory Powell; sophomores Justin Bradford, Dave Holston; and freshmen Kerry Cole, Korey Cole. These young men, led by team captains Whiteside and Lewis, proved to be leaders in the classroom, the basketball court, and the community. They are all shining examples of the Avondale School District's strong commitment to success in all aspects of life.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the accomplishments of the Avondale Yellowjackets, and share the joy of their victory with Avondale students and alumni and especially the people of Auburn Hills. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to join me in congratulating these fine gentlemen.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
STRENGTHENING A FAST ENTRY
AT THE BORDER ACT OF 2002
(SAFE BORDER)

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Ms. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an opportunity to secure our borders and support commerce.

Securing our borders has long been a challenge. Doing so must balance appropriate enforcement without hindering legitimate crossborder travel or commerce, and still protect civil liberties. However, the events of September 11, coupled with daily traffic between the U.S.-Mexico border, have severely overextended our border inspection resources.

My district does not contain ports of entry, but its proximity to the border has affected it. I hear stories from my constituents about waiting in line for hours in the morning to commute to work. Long inspection lines are commonplace, with delays lasting several hours. This border congestion has negatively impacted San Diego area businesses.

In response, I have been working with various organizations in the district to develop a strategy to provide relief for San Diego. I have heard from many about SENTRI, a dedicated commuter lane demonstration project at the border that integrates technology with law enforcement.

SENTRI addresses the issues of congestion and long border delays by quickly moving low risk travelers through the inspection process. Frequent travelers participate in the SENTRI program by undergoing an extensive background check and interview to verify their low risk status. Once approved, the participants and their registered vehicles enter the country through a traffic lane exclusively reserved for them. Transponders in the car retrieve the vehicle and occupant information from the SENTRI database and display it on a screen within the inspection booth for fast identification. A border agent then compares the car's occupants to the pictures on the screen, allowing them to quickly continue on their way.

Demand for SENTRI passes has significantly increased since September 11. However, prospective participants encounter a tremendous application backlog. Applicants face up to a six-month waiting time to receive an appointment with the enrollment center and another three months for approval notification.

As a result, I am introducing the Strengthening a Fast Entry at the Border Act or the SAFE Border Act of 2002. The SAFE Border Act will increase security by pre-screening more people and by allowing agents to focus their enforcement efforts on those who have not passed extensive background checks.

Specifically, my legislation does three things: it gives the attorney general the authority to fully implement and make programs like SENTRI permanent. Dedicated commuter lanes and PortPASS programs have clearly shown their effectiveness in maintaining security and expediting travel. I believe the nation can only benefit from further expansion of these programs.

The second part allows INS and Customs personnel to devote more resources to prospective applicants by extending the permit renewal period to two years. By design, enrollees are a self-selected population. Focusing more attention to applicants will move more people out of the general commuter lanes and allow more background checks. Extending the renewal period will substantially reduce the waiting time for those seeking SENTRI approval and increase legitimate border traffic.

The last part of my legislation encourages increased staffing and resource allocation to SENTRI. Our borders are protected by a dedicated group of Customs and INS officers. Their constant vigilance constitutes our first

line of defense against threats and we owe them our gratitude. However, they need our federal assistance in carrying out their duties.

I urge all of my colleagues in Congress to work with me to pass the SAFE Border Act quickly into law.

**EROSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN
KAZAKHSTAN**

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my concern about continuing serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Kazakhstan, including substantial noncompliance with their Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democratization and the holding of free and fair elections.

Kazakhstan has been a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) since 1992 and has freely accepted all OSCE commitments, including those concerning human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Kazakhstan has affirmed that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, expression, association, peaceful assembly and movement, freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and if charged with an offense the right to a fair and public trial. And, Kazakhstan has committed itself to build, consolidate, and strengthen democracy as the only system of government, and is obligated to hold free elections at reasonable intervals, to respect the right of citizens to seek political or public office without discrimination, to respect the right of individuals and groups to establish in full freedom their own political parties, and to allow parties and individuals wishing to participate in the electoral process access to the media on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Nevertheless, President Nursultan Nazarbaev dissolved parliament in 1993 and again in 1995, when he also annulled scheduled Presidential elections. He has also refused to register opposition parties, and has exited opposition figures and forced members of the media out of the country. On January 10, 1999, President Nazarbaev was reelected in snap Presidential elections from which a leading challenger was excluded for having addressed an unregistered organization, "For Free Elections," and the OSCE assessed the election as falling far short of international standards. Finally, on June 22, 2000, the Kazakhstan parliament approved draft legislation designed to give President Nazarbaev various powers and privileges for the rest of his life.

In March of this year, President Nazarbayev imprisoned two of his leading political rivals, Msrs. Mukhtar Ablyazov and Mr. Alymzhan Zhakiyanov, and former Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin remains in exile. Additionally, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan recently admitted that more than one billion dollars of Kazakh public monies had been transferred to off-shore bank accounts in President Nazarbayev's name.

President Nazarbayev's family owns and controls all major media outlets in Kazakhstan including television, radio and newspapers. The independent media in Kazakhstan, which used to be fairly free, has been pressured, co-opted, or crushed, leaving few outlets for the expression of independent or opposition views, thus limiting the press's ability to criticize or comment on the President's campaign to remain in office indefinitely or on high-level corruption.

I urge this Administration to make a more concerted and stronger effort to raise with President Nazarbayev at every opportunity, the concern about serious violations of human rights, including noncompliance with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democracy and rule of law. Kazakhstan needs to come into compliance with OSCE commitments on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, specifically the holding of free and fair elections that do not exclude genuine challengers, to permit independent and opposition parties and candidates to participate on an equal basis with representation in election commissions at all levels, and to allow domestic nongovernmental and political party observers, as well as international observers.

I also encourage the Administration to raise with the governments of other OSCE participating states the possible implications for OSCE participation of any participating state in the region that engages in clear, gross, and uncorrected violations of its OSCE commitments on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. To that end, Voice of America and Radio Liberty should expand broadcasting to Central Asia especially into Kazakhstan, as needed, with a focus on assuring that the peoples of the region have access to unbiased news and programs that support respect for human rights and the establishment of democracy and the rule of law.

**ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JO
ANN SHAPIRO**

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, permit me to pay tribute to an individual who has dedicated her life to helping others. Jon Ann Shapiro has been a civic leader for most of her adult life and has lived her life by the axiom "Help people. Help those without a voice. Help those who no one else would have the compassion to assist." Honored Tuesday in New York Newsday's Queens Profile for her work with the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, the Kiwanis Club and other community and political organizations, she has helped improve the quality of life of my constituents in the Rockaways, Broad Channel, Howard Beach and Ozone Park. Last year, as chairwoman of the annual Relay for Life event, she helped raise \$70,000 for cancer research. In her capacity as chief of staff to Assemblywoman Pheffer, she has further dedicated herself to serving the community, and helping constituents in need of assistance. I rise today to thank Jo Ann and congratulate her for her many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to submit for the RECORD Tuesday's New York Newsday's

Queens Profile which further details Jo Ann's many contributions to our community.

[From New York Newsday, May 21, 2002]

NEWSDAY QUEENS PROFILE—JO ANN SHAPIRO
(Sheila McKenna)

Role—Chief of staff for Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer (D-Rockaway Beach); chairwoman for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, June 8-9 at Beach Channel High School; past president of Kiwanis Club of Rockaway; member of St. Rose of Lima R.C. Church in Rockaway Beach.

Biography—42; native of Plainview, L.I., graduate of SUNY-Old Westbury, changed careers from a paraprofessional for the Board of Education to work for Pheffer, a longtime friend, in 1987; single and has lived in a co-op in Rockaway Beach two years.

Impact—"Ultimately, the goal of the event is to raise money, but it is secondary to what we accomplish in terms of bringing a community together. Relay for Life is really a celebration of those who are currently battling cancer—those who have been successful in their fight against cancer—and in recognition and remembrance of those who have not been successful."

Current Focus—"Relay for Life is an overnight event, and we ask that participants give up one night of sleep. Cancer is a disease that never sleeps, and we ask that for one night, people join us, and if they can't do that, they join us for as much as they want. It's kind of an outdoor pajama party, people bring tents and camp. It's a big sleepover party with games, music, entertainment, scavenger hunt, we even have movies at midnight. This is our second annual event in Rockaway—last year, we raised \$70,000."

Why She's Involved—"American Cancer Society's goal is to eliminate cancer as a health care concern for the people of the United States. How could I not be a part of something like that? For information, call 1-800-ACS-2345."

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE RUPP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. George Rupp, who is retiring on May 31 after 9 years of service as the 18th president of Columbia University.

Under Dr. Rupp's leadership, Columbia's long history as one of the nation's leading institutions of higher learning has been successfully extended into the 21st century. Columbia has thrived over the past decade. The accomplishments of its scholars and researchers have soared, as has its endowment. So, too, have the numbers of applicants to its college and many graduate and professional programs. The Columbia community is one of the greatest concentrations of talent and energy in the country, and helps keep New York at the center of the world's intellectual life.

Dr. Rupp's legacy will be measured, above all, by the University's significant and lasting impact on the community around it. Not once has he thought that his responsibilities stopped at the gates to campus. During Dr. Rupp's leadership, Columbia's remarkable pool of talent and energy has been increasingly directed to the duties of good citizenship.

Dr. Rupp has been a particularly forceful and innovative supporter of the University's efforts to address the disparities in opportunity