

Speaker Pro-tempore of the Florida House of Representatives, Sandra Murman from Tampa, Florida, and it goes like this:

"When I hear the date September 11, images immediately flood my mind. I see the plane hit the second tower. I see the Pentagon on fire and I can hear the sickening crunch as the towers fall while throngs of people run to escape the thick gray cloud. I also remember the utter horror I felt when I realized this was not simply one plane off course but rather a planned attack. This was our generation's Pearl Harbor. But unlike Pearl Harbor, terrorists hijacked planes full of innocent civilians and crashed those planes into buildings filled with more innocent civilians. On that day we saw the face and felt the hand of evil, but we also saw extraordinary goodness through the lives of heroic Americans in Washington, New York, and a Pennsylvania field.

"As we gather here to mark the one-year anniversary of the attack, I would like to share my thoughts on what I have learned since last September," she writes.

"Lesson one: I have been reminded that life is short and precious. That argument with a spouse, the concern over which car to purchase on September 10, suddenly seemed so petty after the attacks. As I evaluated my own life, I realized what mattered most was my relationship with God, my family, loved ones and community. Everything I do now needs to have meaning, purpose, and positively impact those around me.

"Lesson two: Before September 11 we knew we had enemies and lived in a dangerous world, but September 11 we discovered that organized groups of terrorists had both the desire and the ability to create devastation within our country. We can no longer take this security for granted. There is our new reality.

"Lesson three: On September 11 America showed that we are still a nation of heroes. Incredible courage was shown by the New York City firefighters who slapped on their gear and charged into the burning buildings to help victims escape. New York lost 343 of its finest that day. Hundreds of workers in the World Trade Center helped one another escape. I remembered hearing the story of one man who, instead of escaping Tower Two, chose to remain behind with a disabled colleague who could not make it down the stairs. They both perished that day. And, of course, we all heard the story of Flight 93, those extraordinary men and women who said their good-byes to their loved ones, prayed the Lord's Prayer, and with the words of 'Let's roll,' charged the cockpit to save countless lives in Washington, D.C.

"In an instant these ordinary Americans became legends. All the sacrifices on September 11 have left us speechless with gratitude.

"Lesson four: We have the responsibility to ensure that the lives lost on

September 11 were not in vain. We were attacked because of who we are. The principles on which our country was founded, freedom, equality and the dignity of the individual, are a threat to Islamic extremists. They view open, democratic societies as the enemy and want to create a society where there is no religious freedom and no civil liberty. As defenders of liberty we stand in their way.

"At this very moment our servicemen and women are defending the cause of freedom throughout the world. Here on the home front we, too, have a responsibility. Our defense involves upholding the values of America. We have a civic duty to participate in our democratic institutions. We have a responsibility to instill in our children a love of liberty, a love of country, the difference between right and wrong and the willingness to make sacrifices in this ongoing struggle between freedom and tyranny.

"Let me close by reading President Bush's September 20th speech to the Nation:

"Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger we have found our mission and our moment. Freedom and fear are at war. The advance of human freedom, the great achievement of our time, and the great hope of every time, now depends on us. Our Nation, this generation, will lift the dark threat of violence from our people and our future. We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will not tire. We will not falter. We will not fail.

"Thank you. May God bless you all."

Sandra Murman, majority leader of the Florida House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGovern) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCGovern addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

POLITICAL SPEECHES IN CHURCHES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2001, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, it is kind of ironic that I would be following the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) as he was paying tribute to those who have lost their lives and their families, and then he talked about our military who today are in Afghanistan defending the freedoms that we all enjoy, and our way of life.

□ 1300

My purpose today in asking for this time is that I have put in legislation, House bill 2357. It is called the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act. I believe that the strength of this country depends on our spiritual leaders having the freedom to talk about issues of the day, whether they be the moral issues of the day or the biblical issues of the day or the political issues of the day, quite frankly.

When I started looking into this legislation and doing the research and the history on why there was a law in the Tax Code that would somehow prevent certain political speech, and the more I looked into it, the more concerned I became because I believe sincerely that the first amendment right of all the American people and all the groups in this country, I mean, must be protected and has been for years and years by men and women who have served this Nation and many who gave their lives for America.

As I looked into why there was some type of political speech restriction on our churches and synagogues and mosques, I found out that in 1954, Lyndon Baines Johnson, United States Senator from Texas, and actually the majority leader of the Senate, had the H.L. Hunt family opposed to his reelection. At the time, the H.L. Hunt family had two think tanks that were conservative in nature and they were not churches, but they were 501(c)(3)-type status.

What Mr. Johnson did on the Senate side, he introduced an amendment to a revenue bill that was never debated. The amendment was never debated, and the Republican minority at that time accepted the Johnson amendment on what they call "unanimous consent," or UC. Basically, what the Johnson amendment did was to put a gag order on any type of political speech by a preacher or priest or rabbi; and I would like to explain that just a little bit for practical reasons.

It happened in the 3rd District of North Carolina, which I have the privilege to represent, that a priest in a Catholic church was asked by a parishioner, a friend of mine named Jerry Schill, if the priest would just say at the end of the homily, or the sermon, on Sunday that George Bush is pro-life, not really anything more than that, but just that one statement. The priest

said to Jerry Schill, "Jerry, I cannot do that. If I do, I might be violating the 501(c)(3) status of this church and we would lose that status."

Mr. Speaker, I decided that, working with other Members, including the Chair, that I would introduce the legislation to return the first amendment right to our churches and synagogues and mosques in this country. That was taken away primarily by one man who, in his arrogance being Senator Johnson, wanted to stifle the speech of opposition.

I must tell my colleagues, with a great deal of humility, that we have 130 cosponsors of this legislation. We have recently picked up three or four from the Democratic side, which I am very grateful for. In addition, we recently have received a letter of support from a former Member of the House who is a Democrat, and the former Member's name is Reverend Floyd Flake.

I served my first term with Dr. Flake, and he was a man that we all respected for his integrity and his honesty, and Dr. Flake decided to leave the House and go back to his church. It is the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York; and quite frankly, I found out after we put this legislation in that Reverend Flake had received a letter of reprimand from the IRS, Internal Revenue Service. They have the authority because the Johnson amendment went on the revenue bill, and Reverend Flake had at that time candidate Al Gore in his church and after Presidential candidate Gore was speaking, Reverend Flake got up behind him and said to his congregation that, "I think this is the right man to lead this Nation." That was a violation. So, therefore, instead of losing the status, he was given a warning.

I contacted Reverend Flake, and he wrote me a letter that I want to submit for the RECORD, but I want to read just one paragraph. It says: "I praise God for the stand you have taken to defend the first amendment right of houses of worship. It is unjust that churches and clergymen and women are unfairly targeted when they exercise their rights as American citizens."

Mr. Speaker, I want to read a couple more letters that we have received in support of this legislation. One is from Rabbi Daniel Lapin. He heads a group called Toward Tradition. He is a wonderful man of God. I have heard him on the radio several times, and I am going to submit his letter for the RECORD with the Chair's permission. I will read just two paragraphs: "I hope that Congress and the President would join your campaign to revive one of the most basic principles of the American founding, the freedom of unhindered political speech." That is Rabbi Lapin.

In addition, a letter from D. James Kennedy. Dr. Kennedy says, and this is the Coral Ridge Ministries, "In a culture like ours, which sometimes seems on moral life support, the voice of the church in her message of reconciliation, virgin hope is more important

now than ever before. Yet the current law enacted by Lyndon Johnson has effectively silenced the church. We are a poorer Nation for it." D. James Kennedy in support of H.R. 2357.

Then James Dobson sent us his letter. I will submit the letters again with the Chair's permission: "I was encouraged by your work on H.R. 2357, for I have been troubled by the increasing pressure on churches and other religious organizations to desist from speaking out on the moral issues of our day."

A letter of support from the former ambassador to the Vatican, Ray Flynn, also former mayor of Boston, Massachusetts.

The last letter I want to read is from the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Richard Land; and Mr. Speaker, I would also with the Chair's permission like to submit the entirety of this letter for the record, also. The paragraph I would like to read, Mr. Speaker, is this: "We endorse your bill because we believe it provides an appropriate barrier to hinder the government from seeking to define the mission of the church. If it should become law, we will encourage Baptist churches to speak freely on the issues of the day as we believe they should already but to refrain from formally endorsing candidates."

The reason I wanted to close with that letter is because this legislation that we have 130 cosponsors on is not anything more or less but to return the freedom of speech to the churches should the churches and synagogues decide that that they would like to talk about such issues of the day.

I include those letters for the RECORD at this point.

THE GREATER ALLEN CATHEDRAL
OF NEW YORK,
Jamaica, NY, June 24, 2002.

Hon. WALTER JONES,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JONES: I am grateful that we were finally able to connect by telephone regarding H.R. 2357, the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act.

I praise God for the stand that you have taken to defend the First Amendment Right of Houses of Worship. It is unjust that churches and clergymen/women are unfairly targeted when they exercise their rights as American citizens.

I am pleased to offer my wholehearted support with sincere prayer for passage of this important and liberating legislation.

Sincerely,
Hon. Rev. FLOYD H. FLAKE, D.Min.,
Pastor, U.S. Congressman, Retired.

TOWARD TRADITION,
Mercer Island, WA, October 12, 2001.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JONES: Thank you for the courageous leadership you so consistently demonstrate along with your steadfast commitment to the founding principles of our blessed country.

I feel honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with you and to offer my full support for H.R. 2357, "The Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act," which will revive every American's Constitutional right to free speech in all houses of religious assembly.

Along with most Americans of faith, both Christian and Jewish, I heartily applaud

your efforts and determination in promoting this crucial legislation. You perceptively recognize that this long overdue legislation is important to all religious faiths and all political parties.

Use of taxation to influence religious activity is unarguably a violation of every American's First Amendment rights, and H.R. 2357 is a step in the right direction. I hope that Congress and the President will join your campaign to revive one of the most basic principles of the American Founding, the freedom of unhindered political expression.

May our friendship continue to flower in an America moving ever closer back to our founding principles, or as I like saying, Toward Tradition.

I should mention that I am honored to be speaking this coming Tuesday night at the Adam's Mark in Charlotte for the NC Family Policy Council. I am sure you know those good people.

God bless you, your family and your efforts.

Best wishes to Joanne.

Sincerely,
Your friend,

RABBI DANIEL LAPIN,
President.

—
CORAL RIDGE MINISTRIES,
Fort Lauderdale, FL, September 20, 2001.

Congressman WALTER JONES,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR WALTER: Congratulations on your efforts thus far in advancing HR 2357 (The Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act). I am very encouraged to hear about the number of cosponsors you have received and hope a great many more will join you in the days ahead.

As you know, I feel this legislation is a vitally important step in reversing a long-standing injustice, whereby free speech seems to be protected everywhere, except in the pulpits of our churches and other houses of worship. In culture like ours, which sometimes seems on moral-life support, the voice of the church and her message of reconciliation, virtue, and hope is more important now than ever before. Yet the current law (enacted by Lyndon Johnson) has effectively silenced the church. We are a poorer nation for it.

I strongly encourage our friends in the House leadership and Chairman Thomas to schedule early hearings on this important piece of legislation. I hope you will communicate these sentiments to them on my behalf.

Walter, I commend you for your forthright and courageous stance in taking on this issue. When this bill becomes law, future generations of Americans may view it—and rightly so—as an important milestone in the reformation of our culture.

Sincerely in Christ,
D. JAMES KENNEDY, Ph.D.

—
FOCUS ON THE FAMILY,
Colorado Springs, CO, August 21, 2001.

Hon. WALTER B. JONES,
U.S. House of Representatives, Cannon House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JONES: It was a pleasure to talk with you over the phone recently. I was encouraged by your work on HR 2357, for I've been troubled by the increasing pressure on churches and other religious organizations to desist from speaking out on the moral issues of our day. It's heartening to know that the Lord has raised up those who, like yourself, are willing to take a stand and defend First Amendment rights. Our prayers will be with you and your staff as you attempt to move this important

bill through the House of Representatives. I was pleased to hear that you've already received a promising response from many of your fellow congressmen.

Thanks again for taking the time to discuss this issue with me. It was an honor to become acquainted with you—I commend you for your commitment to the Lord and dedication to your family. All the best as you persevere in the vital role in which God has placed you. Blessings!

Sincerely,

JAMES C. DOBSON, Ph.D.,
President.

RAYMOND L. FLYNN,
South Boston, MA, October 12, 2001.

Congressman WALTER B. JONES,
Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES: Thank you for introducing H.R. 2357, legislation guaranteeing the right of free speech to everyone. This proposed legislation is timely and appropriate. Since the events of September 11th, our country has been brought together by President Bush and many religious leaders in a public manifestation of patriotism and civic unity never experienced before in my many years in public service.

I join with other concerned Americans in supporting this legislation and would urge members of Congress to do likewise.

God bless your efforts and thank you for your courageous political and moral leadership.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND L. FLYNN,
National President of
Catholic Alliance,
Former United
States Ambassador
to the Vatican, and
Mayor of Boston.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION,
ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
COMMISSION,
Washington, DC, October 16, 2001.

Hon. WALTER JONES,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JONES: Thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 2357, the "Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act." This bill is critical to the free exercise of religion in the United States.

H.R. 2357 is consistent with the Constitutional principle that the church should be separate from the state. The government should not have the power to define what the church believes or practices in principle or in effect. With the unbridled discretion given to the Internal Revenue Service to selectively target those it wishes to silence or threaten, this principle is not currently being protected.

Your bill will restore the proper balance by providing a "substantiality" test similar to that already applied in the area of legislation or lobbying.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission believes that while the government should not restrict the activities of the church to define its mission, the church should restrict its own activities consistent with its mission. We believe that the church should speak to the current issues of the day consistent with its own doctrine and teachings. Nothing in the law or practice of government should hinder this freedom. However, we do not believe it is wise, prudent or appropriate for Baptist churches to endorse candidates.

We endorse your bill because we believe it provides an appropriate barrier to hinder the government from seeking to define the mission of the church. If it should become law, we will encourage Baptist churches to speak freely on the issues of the day (as we believe

they should already) but to refrain from formally endorsing candidates.

Because not all churches hold the particular constraints of Baptist doctrine and history, we do not expect others to apply this particular bill in the same way. However, consistent with Baptist and Constitutional principles, we believe every church should be free to be the church in the way their own doctrine dictates.

Once again, thank you for your leadership. Sincerely,

RICHARD D. LAND, D.Phil.,
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission,
Southern Baptist Convention.

Let me go back to the Catholic priest in the 3rd District of North Carolina.

Why should a preacher or priest or rabbi not, if they choose to believe that the Lord has talked to them in their heart and say that I want your sermon today to be about protecting life or it could be the other side of the issue, where the preacher maybe feels that it is a pro-choice candidate that he or she feels is the right person? Whether they are pro or con on the issue, they should have the right to talk about the issue; but because this law is so vague, and I want to touch on that in just a moment, Mr. Speaker, this law is so vague that half the churches do not know what they can and cannot do when it comes to giving sermons on the biblical issues that are today the political and moral issues of the year 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I believe again that the strength of this country is that its foundation was built on Judeo-Christian principles; and if the spiritual leaders of America do not have the freedom to choose to talk about certain issues, then I think America's future is in trouble.

On the 14th of May of this year, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and the Subcommittee on Oversight. They held a hearing on this issue, as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) has always been very interested in this issue, also. He has just taken a different approach from this bill, but what I wanted to say was that the testimony for the side in support of this law or this bill to change the law, we had Dr. D. James Kennedy fly up from Florida to speak in behalf of this bill. Then a former Member of the House, and a Democrat, who also at one time was the vice mayor of Washington, D.C., Pastor Walter Fauntroy, spoke in behalf of this legislation; and then the attorney for the American Center for Law and Justice who helped me draft this legislation, Colby May, was also one of the witnesses in behalf of this legislation.

At a later time I am going to bring to the floor testimony of two of the IRS representatives, a Mr. Miller and a Mr. Hopkins, who appeared before the Subcommittee on Oversight on that day, and I am going to just paraphrase a couple of comments they made, but I am going to come back next week and submit for the RECORD a couple of statements that they made.

First of all, they acknowledged that this was a very difficult law to enforce, when they were asked by the chairman, "How do you enforce this law?" They said that it was very difficult to do.

Secondly, what really, really got my attention is that they acknowledged that they were dependent on a third party to report the church or synagogue. Mr. Speaker, that reminds me of my days of studying the history of the forties, when the government is looking for a third party to report a violation of a law, that really, being a man of faith that I am, and a man that believes strongly in the Constitution, that really gives me trouble, to be very honest about it.

In addition, what the IRS agent said was that possibly the legislation that we have introduced would help them better understand the vagueness of the Johnson amendment. So I am very hopeful that sometime this year that we as a House will take this bill up for a debate and a discussion and a vote.

I want to, as I begin to start towards my closing, I am going to take maybe 5 or 6 more minutes, I would like to read a quote by a former Congressman, George Hansen. I believe and I stand to be corrected, he is from the State of Idaho, but he served years ago, but this is what I want to say today and to get in the RECORD. This is what Congressman Hansen said: "It is impossible to have religious freedom in any Nation where churches are licensed to the government." I am going to repeat that, Mr. Speaker, because I think what Mr. HANSEN said is absolutely correct: "It is impossible to have religious freedom in any Nation where churches are licensed to the government."

For those again, let me remind the House that if this was 1953, I would not be on this floor because, Mr. Speaker, there would not be any restrictions of speech on the churches. I have done the research, and I have found that when the churches and synagogues in this country qualified for the 501(c)(3) status, there was no restrictions at all on the speech of those churches or synagogues or mosques in this country. It is the Johnson amendment that was never debated that put the government into the churches and synagogues of this Nation, and I again believe so much in the first amendment right of each and every American citizen that certainly our spiritual leaders, should they choose to talk about the issues of the day, whether they be political issues of the day or moral issues of the day, they should have the right to do so.

Let me also use another quote, if I may, from Martin Luther. Martin Luther said: "The church must be reminded that it is neither the master nor the servant of the State but, rather, the conscience of the State." Mr. Speaker, what he is saying is that the church should not be the servant of the State. It should be the conscience of the State. How can it be the conscience of the State if the Federal Government, through the IRS, is trying to intimidate what they say?

Mr. Speaker, I am going to close in just about 2 or 3 minutes and yield back my time to the Chair, but I want to close this way by saying that I am a person who believes that this country's strength is the fact that we are a Nation under God, and those people that are opposed to this legislation, in my opinion, do not either understand the history of America and the history of the Johnson amendment, or they are for whatever reason concerned about the churches and the synagogues having the freedom, the total freedom of speech that they enjoyed in 1953, that was taken away from them in 1954.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, with the help of my colleagues, and I thank the Democrats who have joined me in this effort, we will continue to fight this battle for returning the First Amendment to our churches and synagogues.

I want to close by a certain way I close in my district every time I speak, and that is to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the Members of Congress, both House and Senate, and their families. I ask God to please bless the President of the United States as he has some very difficult decisions in the days ahead of him, as we do. And I always close by saying three times, I ask God to, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

HONORING GENERAL BERNARD A. SCHRIEVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for the remainder of the majority leader's hour, 44 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for his courageous stand, and his desire to ask for the Almighty's blessings on this country again and again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernard A. Schriever, United States Air Force (retired), for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States of America.

He was born in Bremen, Germany in 1910. Bernard Schriever came to America in 1917 and became a naturalized citizen in 1923. After graduating from Texas A&M, he began his military career in 1931 as an Army artillery officer, later transferring to the Army Air Corps for flight school and flying 36 combat missions during World War II. In 1943, General Schriever became chief of staff for the Maintenance and Engineering Division of the Fifth Air Force Service Command, and then commander of the advance headquarters,

Far East Service Command, which supported theater operations from bases in Hollandia, New Guinea, Leyte, Manila, and Okinawa.

He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in August 1943 and then to full colonel in December at the young age of 33.

Following World War II, General Schriever was assigned to the position of Chief of the Scientific Liaison Section under the Deputy Chief of Staff for Materiel, Army Air Force headquarters, and while in that post, he developed planning documents that linked ongoing research and development efforts with long-range military planning.

In 1954, the Air Force's highest priority was the development of the first intercontinental ballistic missile, the Atlas, and soon thereafter development of that missile became a top national priority under the Eisenhower administration to counter the Soviet nuclear threat. At that time the Soviet Union had produced nuclear and thermonuclear bombs and was pursuing an aggressive rocket technology program culminating in the October 1957 launch and orbit of the Sputnik satellite.

General Schriever led the development of the new United States ballistic missile program and headed the Western Development Division, later called the Ballistic Missile Division, which was solely responsible for planning, programming and developing the intercontinental ballistic missile. In fact, the size and funding of the Western Development Division was actually larger than the Manhattan Project.

On December 17, 1957, the Air Force conducted the first successful test launch of an Atlas missile, and by 1963 the Strategic Air Command had deployed 13 Atlas missile squadrons with nearly 120 missiles on alert to meet the contemporary Soviet Union threat. General Schriever oversaw the simultaneous development of the Atlas missile and the intermediate-range ballistic missile, Thor, which achieved an initial operating capability in 1959. Furthermore, the more advanced Titan intercontinental ballistic missile reached initial operating capacity by April 1962. And by October of 1962, 10 Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles were placed in service in response to the Cuban missile crisis.

Mr. Speaker, it is nothing short of amazing that General Schriever's efforts produced, within only 8 years, four complete missile systems for the United States, each system being more advanced and more complicated than its predecessor. Both the Atlas and the Titan systems were modified and became the workhorses for America's space program, and the Atlas missile is still used as a satellite launch vehicle today.

General Schriever retired in 1966 as a four star general, and continued his service to the United States as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the Defense Science Board, and the Ballistic Mis-

sile Defense Organization Advisory Committee. His expertise is still sought in the continuous development of America's space systems.

Walter J. Boyne, former director of the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, wrote, "Today's navigational, meteorological, intelligence, and communication satellites owe their existence to the work of Schriever and his team." Furthermore, the Air Force in its official biography of General Schriever recognizes him as "the architect of the Air Force's ballistic missile and military space program."

Furthermore, the Falcon Air Force base outside of Colorado Springs was renamed the Schriever Air Force Base.

Mr. Speaker, during my service in the United States Air Force, I had the opportunity to work on many of the systems that General Schriever and his team pioneered. His name was spoken with an air of reverence, and the enormity of his accomplishments in developing a viable deterrent to the Soviet threat and ensuring American predominance in space was not lost on all of the Air Force personnel. I remember an article in Air Force News back in 1999 where General Schriever stated, "We envisioned that space would become critical to our warfighters. Even back in the 1950s when we were talking about deterrent capabilities, we believed space would become an important factor. Nowadays, thanks to space, in the first few days of a conflict, we can shut their eyes, ears and their ability to talk. Then you can apply your forces with much less risk. Just look at what happened in the Persian Gulf and the Balkans, entirely different from Korea and Vietnam. Space had everything to do with that."

General Schriever continues to uphold that premise, as he recently stated at a ceremony last month honoring space and missile pioneers when he said, "We have to be number one in space. We need to keep that position to deter that kind of capabilities to make war."

Mr. Speaker, America's dominance in space today is due in large part to the leadership, talent, and selfless service of General Bernard A. Schriever. I stand here today to state that Congress recognizes and honors him for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States.

Thank you, General Schriever. God bless you, and God bless America.

HONORING JOHNNY UNITAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the untimely death