

We see this hope for peace in Sri Lanka is already coming to fruition. Since December, medicine, supplies and other goods are being shipped to Tamil Tiger-controlled areas. Shipment of goods to these areas has been under the control of the Sri Lankan Government, but the controls have been relaxed for the past several months.

Mr. Speaker, I should note that President Kumaratunga has been outspoken in her criticism of the terms of the cease fire. As President she has the power to suspend parliament and dismiss the government. If she is not satisfied with certain provisions within the peace agreement, the deal may be canceled.

The differences between the President and Prime Minister must be worked out so Sri Lanka can proceed with dealing with this deadly conflict between Sri Lanka and the LTTE. In any case, the Prime Minister has announced that any peace agreement would have to be supported by a referendum, which ensures that the people of Sri Lanka would be participating in the peace process.

In the upcoming months, it is important to watch closely how this peace process unfolds in Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister is willing to negotiate all forms of settlement with the LTTE, except for establishment of an independent homeland for the Tamil community.

I encourage the LTTE to shed its terrorist negotiating tactics and come to the table with the Sri Lankan Government and engage in a substantive debate that I hope will lead to a permanent cease fire, peace in Sri Lanka, and greater stability throughout the South Asian region.

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

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

#### FIGHTING HATE CRIMES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise on the floor of the House this afternoon.

Two weeks ago in my California district, which includes Santa Barbara, a 37-year-old man named Clinton Scott Risetter was brutally murdered, burned to death in his bed. Such a killing would be tragic under any circumstances. Yet this is particularly painful because Mr. Risetter was murdered because he was a homosexual. Let me say that even in a community as tolerant as Santa Barbara, intolerance still has an ugly and evil face.

I am heartened by much of what has transpired since the tragic incident. I am proud that local law enforcement agencies have responded swiftly and thoroughly. The police department and district attorney are working closely with the community, including gay rights organizations, for which I am pleased and very grateful. But I also believe that we must confront the ugly specter of hate crimes on a national, as well as a local, level.

Last year at this time, an important bill was introduced in the House, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This bill, sponsored by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), would strengthen the Federal response to hate crime violence which is motivated by race, color, religion, or national origin. It would also expand the law to cover hate crimes committed against people because of their gender, sexual orientation, or disability, as well as to expand Federal jurisdiction to cover the most violent of these hate crimes.

As it stands now, Federal authorities cannot act on cases involving death or serious bodily injury based on gender, sexual orientation, or disability when local law enforcement is not available. Now fortunately this does not impact the case in Santa Barbara; but even so, many people throughout the country are left without any chance for justice when their own States fail to act.

So I am pleased that Santa Barbara has, as a community, responded with outrage and compassion to this recent event, the vicious hate crime which has occurred there. But as a society we must continue to confront what lies at the root of these horrendous hate crimes, and that is where our Federal legislation comes in and why it is so very important.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would provide communities with important prevention tools, including grants to State and local programs designed to combat hate crimes committed by juveniles and training for local law enforcement officers in investigating, prosecuting, and preventing hate crimes altogether.

We cannot ignore the facts. Since 1996, hate crimes committed against individuals based on sexual orientation have increased nearly 28 percent. I will not remain silent on this issue. I am compelled to do whatever I can to prevent another hostile and tragic act on anyone because of his or her sexual orientation.

In a post-September 11 society, where tolerance and acceptance are strongly encouraged and promoted by our government and local communities, these types of crimes must not go unpunished or unexplored. Let us make the Hate Crimes Prevention Act a reality. Let us make a true commitment to every American citizen, be they gay or straight, Muslim, Christian, white, black, Hispanic or Asian. It should not take a brutal murder to jar the Congress out of acting out of common sense and basic human decency. It is

too late to save the life of Mr. Risetter, but it is not too late to take the kind of action which will honor his memory.

#### HONORING DEREK PARRA

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for cooperating with me in pressing calendar circumstances.

I have come to the floor because I will be inserting in the RECORD some detailed information about a young man from my hometown, San Bernardino, California, by the name of Derek Parra who won, among other things, a gold and a silver medal at the Winter Olympic Games, a fabulous young person who is an inspiration to our entire community. Not only has he made a difference to our community, he is impacting young people across the country.

It is my pleasure to mention, among other things, as I have done some homework on him, he is an employee of Home Depot. I have learned that Home Depot is doing a fantastic job of helping the Olympics by having employees who work for them have a good deal of flexibility in terms of their schedule and the way their jobs are funded, et cetera.

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They have, in a very substantial way, demonstrated what the private sector can do to improve our ability to effectively impact a wonderful event such as the Winter Olympic games.

So my hat is off to Home Depot, and I hope all my colleagues will recognize these good works and encourage them across the country.

Mr. Speaker, the people of my hometown, San Bernardino, were specially thrilled by the Olympic heroism of Derek Parra, who became the first Mexican-American to win a medal at the Winter games when he took both a gold and silver medal in speed-skating. His story is one of making sacrifice and working tirelessly to achieve his life's dream of winning at the Olympics.

Derek Parra twice left family and home behind to pursue his dream—once moving to Florida to become an international star at inline skating races, and then again heading to Utah to train for speed-skating, a sport he had never tried as a child in sunny Southern California. Those who know San Bernardino recognize that hard-working spirit, and our hometown celebrated with daylong events that included a spirited parade and packed awards dinner.

While it is clear that Derek Parra meant to reach for his Olympic dream in any way he could, his time in Utah was made easier by The Home Depot, the national hardware chain that is known for its orange aprons. When he arrived in Salt Lake City, Parra landed a job in floors and walls at the West Valley Home Depot, which helped him provide for himself and his family during the year leading up to the Olympics.

The Home Depot company is justly proud that it has contributed to Parra's success, as well as that of fellow employee Tristan Gale, who won a gold medal in the women's skeleton event. In fact, the company has hired and given job flexibility to 140 Olympics and Paralympics hopefuls throughout the country in a display of corporate patriotism and civic involvement. Twenty of those hopefuls were in Salt Lake City.

The company's Olympic Job Opportunity Program offers full-time pay and benefits to athletes for a 20-hour week during competition and training seasons. Not surprisingly, Home Depot managers have found these dedicated athletes are also among their most hard-working employees and in most cases would be delighted to have them back after the competition has ended.

Home Depot has joined many other U.S. companies in sponsorships that have helped show the world that it is possible to stage a successful Olympics without losses to public coffers or excessive commercialization. But The Home Depot has taken this civic spirit to the next level, supporting those dedicated athletes who are the centerpiece of the Olympic Games.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you and my colleagues to please join me in praising the American spirit of determination that led Derek Parra to shock the world and win gold and silver medals in record-breaking times at speedskating. And also in praising The Home Depot for showing the world that American business can join with athletes like Derek to bring success and pride to them both.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRENSHAW). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HEROES IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is written that, "If you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect."

I can think of no more fitting time to apply this verse than today, 1 day after we as Americans watched the flag-draped caskets of seven U.S. servicemen being off-loaded from a C-130 transport plane at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. We owe these men of the United States Special Forces and the 101st Airborne a great debt of honor, a debt that words on this floor cannot even begin to repay.

A century and a half ago, Abraham Lincoln spoke on another battlefield where American soldiers had spilled their blood to preserve our liberty. In his address, Lincoln charges the survivors of the conflict as follows:

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work

which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

Mr. Speaker, the soldiers who died in the mountains of Afghanistan laid down their lives for the same great task as the soldiers at Gettysburg, the preservation of our liberty and our very way of life.

Throughout our history, Mr. Speaker, America has faced enemies of her peace and her freedom. Two decades ago, President Ronald Reagan encouraged a country beset by terrorism. The words of his first inaugural address should steel the resolve of Americans today who face a similar intractable enemy.

President Reagan said, "As for the enemies of our freedom, those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it, but we will not surrender for it now or ever. And, above all else, we must realize no arsenal, no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have."

Mr. Speaker, it is especially poignant to me, as I see the sacrifices in the 101st Airborne, to reflect that twice in the last 6 months I traveled, at the invitation of Major General Richard Cody, to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the home of the Screaming Eagles. There I met with officers and enlisted men of that fabled division, perhaps maybe even some of the very same soldiers that are coming home in the silence of death to their families, men who we can say without a doubt did not lack the will or moral courage to preserve our way of life.

I opened with a scripture verse. Allow me to close with one, Mr. Speaker. As we consider the lives of those who have had paid the ultimate price to secure our freedom, I am reminded of the verse that, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends."

And allow me to add these modest words on behalf of the people of eastern Indiana and a grateful Nation. To the grieving spouses, parents, children, and friends that these heroes have left behind, we commend them humbly for their sacrifice as families and for having in their midst those who have shown no greater love to that dream which is the United States of America.

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.)

#### LIBERAL BIAS IN AMERICA'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, it was reported last week that an invitation to author Doris Kearns Goodwin to speak at the University of Delaware's commencement exercises had been withdrawn. This invitation was pulled because Ms. Goodwin has admitted that her books contain many sentences, facts, even whole paragraphs plagiarized from other writers.

But today, Mr. Speaker, I am not concerned as much about Ms. Goodwin's plagiarism or shoddy research as about what the invitation to her says about almost all of our colleges and universities.

It is well-known that Ms. Goodwin colors her history with a very strong liberal bias. We will soon be in the season of college and university graduation ceremonies. If my colleagues have ever looked at a list of commencement speakers, they have seen almost immediately that almost all come from a very liberal or left-wing background. Two or three years ago, Evergreen State college in Washington State even invited as its speaker a man who had been convicted of killing a policeman.

Conservative speakers are almost never invited to speak at commencement or graduation exercises. People who started businesses with nothing or very little, and thus tend to be very conservative, are almost never invited to speak. The only business leaders who are ever invited are those from extremely big business and who can safely be identified as liberal or at least very politically correct. I know there are always a few exceptions, but I would guess that liberals outnumber conservatives 50 or 100 to 1 as speakers at graduation ceremonies.

This reflects the fact that there is less true academic freedom, at least for conservatives, on U.S. college campuses than anyplace else in U.S. society today. College faculties, at best, have only a few token conservatives in fields that deal with political questions. Even professors in nonpolitical fields, such as English, often work in comments or assign books that show their liberal bias.

The very liberal bias of our national news media has been well documented and is not even questioned today. However, there is a much greater or stronger liberal or left-wing bias on most college and university faculties than even in the national news media. Conservative students, unless they are unusually courageous, learn very quickly to, many times, remain silent or not express their true opinions in statements they make or papers that they write.

Most colleges and universities have gone to great lengths to make sure minorities are well represented in their faculties and that they have diversity, and that is fine. But the most discrimination today is against conservative