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AMERICA SHOULD SUPPORT ITS ALLY, ISRAEL

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it was a sunny day on Monday on the south lawn of the White House where I had the privilege of gathering with several thousand Americans to hear the President speak words to a troubled world.

He said, "There can be no peace in a world where differences and grievances become an excuse to target the innocent for murder." These words, Mr. Speaker, were no doubt a balm for our friends and allies in Israel, who have been suffering under the weight of an all-new escalation of mindless violence, suicide bombers killing even women and infant children returning from worship services.

So why, Mr. Speaker, did the State Department, through its spokesman, Richard Boucher, call for Israel to "exercise utmost restraint to avoid further harm to civilians"? Why did even the President yesterday say that Israel's recent military actions in self-defense were "not helpful"?

I am confused, Mr. Speaker. We should pray for the peace of Jerusalem, for those who love her of every race, but we must stand with Israel.

CALLING FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO WORK TO BRING ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN HOME

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we left off with the abduction of Ludwig Koons. On June 9, 1994, against a New York court order, Ilona Staller abducted Ludwig to Italy. A bench warrant was issued in New York. Ms. Staller kept Ludwig in hiding for over a month, and Jeff Koons had no contact with his son. He did not know where he was, if he was safe, nothing.

Due to the abduction and other circumstances, Mr. Koons was awarded temporary custody of Ludwig pending a final decision by the New York Supreme Court. In the fall of 1994, the Italian authorities charged Ms. Staller with parental kidnapping pending before the Pretura Penale di Roma. However, the Italian Government stalled and stalled. Proceedings on the charge were delayed for 2 years.

In December of 1994, custody was awarded to Jeff Koons by the Supreme Court of New York. The court entered a final judgment dissolving the marriage and blaming Ms. Staller for the breakdown of the marriage, and deeming Jeff the most fit parent.

Mr. Speaker, Jeff Koons was awarded custody of Ludwig by the Supreme Court of New York, yet Italy refuses to

acknowledge this. Where is our State Department? Does anyone care? Bring Ludwig Koons and all American children home.

INS SNAFU PROVES AGAIN THAT BIG GOVERNMENT CANNOT WORK ECONOMICALLY OR EFFICIENTLY

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has had a 250 percent increase in funding over the last 8 years, about 10 times the rate of inflation over that period. Now they are trying to blame the snafu over granting student visas to two dead hijackers over 6 months after the September 11 attacks to an antiquated paper system. What a flimsy excuse.

In other words, even with a 250 percent increase in funding, they are basically saying, "If we had had even more money, we would have done better." The problem is not money, Mr. Speaker, it is a civil service system that does nothing for good, dedicated employees, but protects lazy or incompetent ones.

Also, in the private sector, the pressure is always on to do more and to do better and to do more with less. These pressures are just not there in the Federal bureaucracy, and it becomes more apparent with each passing year that big government cannot do anything in an economical or efficient way.

IN MEMORY OF LT. COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER M. BLASCHUM

(Mr. BOYD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic life of Lt. Commander Christopher Michael Blaschum, also known as Basher, who was a 1984 graduate of Port St. Joe High School in Florida.

Commander Blaschum, who will be buried tomorrow with full military honors, died March 2 when his F-14 Tomcat crashed shortly after takeoff from the USS *John F. Kennedy* in the Mediterranean Sea.

It is the ultimate sacrifice when a soldier or pilot dies for his country. We are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of men like Commander Blaschum and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have given their lives in the fight for American principles over the last 225 years.

Time and time again, Commander Blaschum answered the call of his country, left his family and home, and served with distinction wherever he was sent. I extend my deepest condolences and the thanks of a grateful Nation to the family he left behind: his beloved wife, Jodi; their two young sons, Jackson and Max; his mother,

Pat Johnson; and his father, Michael Blaschum.

His efforts should remind us that all the liberties we enjoy come with a price. Let us always remember those who paid that price, and always remember Commander Blaschum.

HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE GIRL SCOUTS

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say happy anniversary to the Girl Scouts. Ninety years ago this week, Juliette Gordon Low convened the first Girl Scout meeting of 18 members. Ms. Low's simple but focused principle that all girls should be encouraged to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually has strengthened 50 million alumni. Right now, 2.7 million of our Nation's girls are guided by Ms. Low's principles.

In the First District of Minnesota, the Girl Scout troops are strong in number and strong in spirit. Sandy Maulkenbur of Northfield, Minnesota, has recently attended NASA training. She shared in courses on how better to teach girls science and math.

Imagine, an entire generation of American girls who are excited and prepared for education and professional service in the sciences. Sandy and 200 other adults with training from NASA will mentor Girl Scouts in science to make this possible.

The Girl Scouts have a simple promise. It is a promise all Americans can be proud to recite, and I am proud to recite it now:

"On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout law."

Happy anniversary to the Girl Scouts.

URGING PRESERVATION OF COLLECTION OF MALCOLM X DOCUMENTS

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, recently the most extensive collection of the late Malcolm X's writings ever collaborated was found in the hands of an anonymous private owner. The undisclosed person attempted to sell the collection to the highest E-Bay bidders. Fortunately, an investigation looking into the legitimacy of how the current anonymous owner acquired the documents is pending, and the notion of selling the collection has ceased for the time being.

Prior to this pending investigation, the lot was to be auctioned off into two dozen private hands, completely dispersing the writings to unknown whereabouts, making it difficult, if not impossible, for the public to access.

Many of these documents were written during the leader's last year, the last year of his life. The reflections of Malcolm X's innermost thoughts in these documents are of significance not only to his devout followers, but for all who thirst for wisdom. Knowledge is priceless, and those who place a price on knowledge may never come to realize its true value.

Good luck to the family of the Honorable El Hajj Malik El Shabazz.

SCANDALOUS INS ERROR SHOULD LEAD TO REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, scandalous. Mr. Speaker, absolutely scandalous, when the INS issues a visa to two deceased terrorists who in fact were part of the September 11 tragedy.

What needs to be done is that the INS has to be demanded right now to implement their visa tracking system. The President has to order them to implement the program that already exists.

What else has to happen? The INS has to be restructured, not abolished. We must recognize that there are two distinct responsibilities, but they must be coordinated by a Deputy Attorney General for Immigration Affairs.

What must they do? Deal with the services aspect, for those who want to access legalization, those who are honest immigrants, and then coordinate with the enforcement so that we can stop at the borders the terrorists who want to come into our Nation.

Visas to deceased terrorists? Outrageous and scandalous. The President needs to order the INS now: Put that tracking system in place today and make it work.

BULGARIA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, I welcomed to Capitol Hill Ambassador Elena Poptodorova and Foreign Minister Solomon Passy of the Republic of Bulgaria. Ms. Poptodorova and Mr. Passy have been dynamic leaders to promote the establishment of democracy in Bulgaria.

My appreciation of the people of Bulgaria began in June, 1990, when I served as an election observer for the International Republican Institute. I saw firsthand the end of Communist totalitarianism and the birth of democracy.

Over the last decade, democracy has flourished in Bulgaria, and its economy grew 5 percent last year. In the war on terrorism, Bulgaria has been an enthusiastic ally of NATO and the United States. The people of Bulgaria have

warmly reestablished friendships with the people of America.

With its strategic location in southeastern Europe, with its talented people, and with its enthusiasm for democracy, I support Bulgaria's admission into NATO as soon as possible. I congratulate Ambassador Elena Poptodorova and Foreign Minister Solomon Passy for their efforts for coordinated defense in Europe.

TWO STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT CHILD PROTECTION ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 366 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 366

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2146) to amend title 18 of the United States Code to provide life imprisonment for repeat offenders who commit sex offenses against children. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 366 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 2146, the Two Strikes and You're Out Child Protection Act.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule further provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

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This is a fair rule that will allow Members ample opportunity to offer amendments and debate this important issue.

I can think of few crimes, Mr. Speaker, as serious as the sexual abuse of children. I personally favor the death penalty for the criminals that we are dealing with in this legislation. Though this legislation does not go that far, it does treat repeat child molesters in a severe fashion.

H.R. 2146 would establish mandatory sentences of life imprisonment for twice convicted child sex offenders. This bill would apply to individuals committing sexual offenses against persons under the age of 17. Child sex offenders pose a very serious threat to society. Studies have shown that a single child molester can abuse hundreds of children. This number is particularly troubling when one considers that the abuse of one child is far too many.

Perpetrators of these unthinkable crimes steal the innocence of our Nation's children and corrupt society. According to the committee report, Mr. Speaker, victims experience severe mental and physical health problems as a result of these crimes. These problems include increased rates of depression and suicide as well as all sorts of other serious problems.

We must do everything in our power to ensure that repeat sex offenders are kept off of our streets. Mr. Speaker, we sadly live in a world where children are all too often forced to grow up much too quickly. I ask that my colleagues help us in protecting our children from sexual offenders by passing this critical piece of legislation.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN); the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary; and all those who have worked so diligently to bring this legislation forward.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for yielding