

Mr. Speaker, the United States stands for freedom and we have always shared the goals of others around the world who strive for democracy. These cowardly attacks are an assault on free people everywhere, and we must act now to condemn them and immediately increase pressure on this evil regime. I urge my colleagues to join with me in condemning these despicable attacks.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi once said, "Please use your liberty to promote our's (Burma's)." I believe I just did. I encourage others to heed this plea as well.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WAYNE BUTLER
AND MR. JOHN SPARKMAN

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memories of two individuals who made important contributions to Missouri agriculture, Wayne Butler and John Sparkman. As friends and neighbors, these men will be remembered for the indelible impression they left on Missouri's farmsteads and ranches.

These men exemplified the strength of our Nation through their passion for community involvement. Wayne was a cattleman and forage producer who understood the importance of community service. John was a dairyman and outspoken advocate for issues impacting Missouri agriculture.

Over the years, southwest Missouri and I benefited greatly from the leadership, wise counsel and combined experience of Wayne and John. Both men served as the president of the Greene County Missouri Farm Bureau Chapter and as members of my Southwest Missouri Agriculture/Agri-Business Advisory Committee.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The spirit of our citizens will make this government in practice what it is in principle, a model for the protection of man in a state of freedom and order." Wayne and John were men of faith, family and community. They will be missed; however, their love and dedication to Missouri agriculture will endure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR FREEDOM ACT
OF 2003

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Higher Education For Freedom Act. This legislation establishes a competitive grant program making available funds to institutions of higher education, centers within such institutions, and associated nonprofit foundations to promote programs focused on the teaching and study of traditional American history, free institutions, and the history and achievements of Western Civilization at both the graduate and undergraduate level, including those that serve students enrolled in K-12 teacher education programs.

Several years ago I was involved in a congressional effort to highlight the decline in his-

torical and civic literacy among American college students. This effort led to the unanimous, bicameral passage of a concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 129, which stated, in part, that "the historical illiteracy of America's college and university graduates is a serious problem that should be addressed by the Nation's higher education community."

Given the increased threat to American ideals in the trying times in which we live, it is easy to see how the lack of historical and civic literacy among today's college students has become a more pressing issue. Nevertheless, most of the Nation's colleges and universities no longer require U.S. history or systematic study of Western civilization and free institutions as a general prerequisite to graduation, or for completing a teacher education program.

I believe it is time for Congress to take a more active role in addressing this matter. Our country's higher education system must do a better job of providing the basic knowledge that is essential to full and informed participation in civic life and to the larger vibrancy of the American experiment in self-government, binding together a diverse people into a single Nation with common purposes.

HONORING COURTNEY NORTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Courtney Norton, who recently completed the seventh grade at Main Street Junior High School in Madera, California. Courtney was awarded first place prize for the Western Region in the Annual Elks Writing Contest for an entry she submitted while in the sixth grade at Lincoln Elementary School in Madera. The writing prompt was "What does the flag of the United States of America stand for?" Courtney responded to the prompt with this poem:

I am the Star Spangled Banner,
The flag of the United States of America,
I stand for freedom, peace, justice, liberty,
and dreams,

I have seen every battle fought by our country
over the last two hundred years,

I have been flown in France, Korea, Vietnam
and Rome.

I have been ripped, torn, spit on, burnt and
trampled, but I still stand proud.

I stand for immigrants who gave their lives
to make this country a better place to live.

I stand for every soldier in every war who
fought for this country.

I stand for a nation of love, hope, and oppor-
tunities.

These colors don't run!

I am worshipped, loved, saluted and re-
spected.

I stand for the United States of America, the
land of the free and the home of the
brave.

FOREVER MAY I WAVE!

As a result of her first place prize, Norton was invited to the Elks annual convention in San Diego to read her poem for the conventioners. Her poem also caught the attention

of Operation Mom, an organization of mothers of the military, who asked Courtney for her permission to include a copy of her poem in each of the thousands of care packages that they send to the service men and women posted overseas. In addition, the organization invited Norton to present her poem at their Operation Welcome Home Rally, scheduled for August 19, 2003, in Livermore, California.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Courtney Norton for her outstanding accomplishments, patriotic spirit, and support for our men and women in uniform. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Courtney many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member was in his congressional district on official business on Monday, June 2, 2003, and therefore missed three rollcall votes. If this Member had been present, he would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 227 (H. Res. 159, expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of Texas State Representative Irma Rangel)—"aye";

Rollcall No. 228 (H. Res. 195, congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for hitting 500 major league home runs)—"aye"; and

Rollcall No. 229 (H.R. 1465, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4832 East Highway 27 in Iron Station, North Carolina, as the "General Charles Gabriel Post Office")—"aye".

UPPER DUBLIN LUTHERAN
CHURCH CELEBRATES 250TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on its 250th anniversary of community involvement and dedication.

Since its beginning in 1753, the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church has represented the efforts of an entire community. The building itself has changed several times, but the underlying spirit never wavered.

The Upper Dublin Lutheran Church represents a long history of helping the community. The church's involvement includes helping soldiers as far back as the Revolutionary War. The dedication of its members continued, even when the church itself was destroyed and rebuilt. A tradition was started with Harvest Homes when members of the community would bring fruits and vegetables they could spare from their harvest to give to the less fortunate. The church also started "Puff's Broadcaster," a 12-page monthly newsletter providing poetry, business tips, stories of moral integrity, and important announcements for the community.

Today the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church still stands as a symbol of service and tradition to the Upper Dublin community. The "Build to Witness" campaign has provided a magnificent new facility for Sunday school and continues to provide spiritual leadership accompanied by devoted community outreach programs. I am confident that the impact the church has had since its establishment will continue in the future. I wish the members of the church continued success and commend them for 250 years of service.

A NEW MEXICO DESERT FLOWER
FLOR DE LAS FLORES

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to your attention Al Hurricane, a musical legend and the Godfather of New Mexico music. Al Hurricane has brought Norteño music to audiences throughout the Southwest and Mexico for 50 years.

Al Hurricane was born on July 10, 1936 in Dixon, New Mexico. His birth name is Alberto Nelson Sanchez, but his mother gave him his famous nickname because he was like a little "Hurricane," always knocking things over at the dinner table and running through objects in his path.

He began singing when he was 3 and started playing the guitar when he was 5 years old. He was only 12 when he started to sing and play guitar at local restaurants. Throughout his 50 years of music, he formed several bands and played with legendary artists like Fats Domino, Marvin Gaye, Chuck Berry, Jimmy Clanton and Chubby Checker. He has recorded over 40 albums, tapes and CDs. His trademark "black eye patch" is a result of an injury he received in a serious automobile accident. Of course, he was on his way to play at a sold-out performance. The accident and the new eye patch could not stop his music.

While Al Hurricane is known for playing and performing music, like Flor de las Flores, or Sentimiento, we cannot forget his strong commitment to his family and his community. He has eight children, several of whom have followed their father's footsteps into the music business. He has won numerous public service awards such as The Lifetime Achievement Award given to him by the New Mexico Hispanic Awards Association and the Governor's Award for Music. He is currently the State Chairperson for the National Education Association-New Mexico's Read Across America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and all the residents of New Mexico in honoring and thanking Al Hurricane for 50 years of bringing joy into our lives through his music and his commitment to our community. Here's to another 50 years of Rancheras, Norteñas, and Corridos from the Godfather of New Mexico music, Al Hurricane.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN ON THIRD ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, in the first peaceful and successful transition of power in Taiwan's history, voters elected Mr. Chen Shui-bian President of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Leading his country's transition from an authoritarian state to a democracy, President Chen has shown to the international community that democracy is indeed alive and able to thrive in a Chinese society like Taiwan. Now in 2003, President Chen has continued to make strides toward full democracy by guaranteeing Taiwan's citizens full constitutional and human rights, which include free elections and a totally free press.

Since his election, President Chen Shui-bian has ardently sought a meaningful dialogue with his counterparts in the People's Republic of China (PRC). He has repeatedly urged them to discuss issues of mutual interest and has talked of sending a delegation to Beijing, further emphasizing his struggle for peace. Unfortunately, China has ignored President Chen's many gestures of friendship and cross-strait dialogue. Positioning hundreds of short-range missiles aimed at Taiwan, China has made it obvious that it does not believe that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is a priority. We hope Beijing will soon realize that peace and stability in the Strait is indeed in everyone's best interest and will pursue a peaceful resolution of tensions with Taiwan.

We in the United States Congress greatly appreciate Taiwan's overwhelming support for our initiatives both home and abroad throughout the years. Since the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Taiwan has graciously offered assistance to the United States in helping the country fight global terrorism. Assuring Washington of its support in the anti-terrorism effort in Iraq, the Taiwan government issued a statement during Operation Iraqi Freedom supporting the Coalition of the Willing's cause and pledging to offer humanitarian assistance to postwar-Iraq.

Taiwan is currently enduring an outbreak of the alarming disease Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). We wish Taiwan's government every success in their endeavor to fight against this disease and acknowledge the need for Taiwan's representation in the World Health Organization. As Secretary of State Colin Powell stated recently, SARS recognizes no international borders, and Taiwan should be able to utilize every opportunity to contribute to the battle to conquer this disease.

On the third anniversary of President Chen's election, I wish President Chen well and wish Taiwan continued success in gaining a greater international role. The world has much to gain from what Taiwan has to offer, and the United States affirms its support for President Chen and his country.

AMERICA: A POEM BY MARK E.
CRISPELL

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit the poem of my constituent, Mark E. Crispell of Brooktondale, NY, for submission into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Crispell has dedicated this inspirational work to the House and the Senate.

In addition to his gift to Congress, Mr. Crispell has also been able to donate this poem to various VFW and American Legion chapters across the New York State. It has touched the hearts of all who read it, as it honors the men and women who have risked their lives to protect America.

I commend Mr. Crispell for his creativity as well as his thoughtful gift.

AMERICA

In the valleys and on the hilltops
you could hear that horrible roar
thousands of men on horseback
riding off to war

red coats on the offensive
us turncoats out of sight
with our blood and a strong belief
we fought with all our might

When the war was over
as the white smoke rolled away
I cried with pain through tears of loss
it's Independence Day
but I'm so young, I'm just a child,
I don't think I can lead
I hope my fathers get together
and write the laws I need

1861, again I heard my fathers say
mount your horses head for the South
the South will head this way
my knees grow weak I could not stand
and to the floor I knelt
oh God if you can hear my cry
remember the pain I felt

The cost of war is so much more
I said to God that day
if Your will be satisfied make it go away
but shots were heard as muskets fired
and white smoke filled the day
young boy hollers, I've been hit
as his brother rides away

When the war was over
I hung my head and cried
and asked myself through my tears
why so many died
it was then God raised my head
to see a black man say
through the pain and tears of loss
it's Independence Day!

So I pledge allegiance to our flag
for the wars that I've been through
I fought more wars as before
for freedom and for you
so when from afar you can hear me sing
"God shed His grace on thee"
know I'm united under God
for justice and liberty

I was older now and wiser
historically in my teens
but in those days of my youth
food became so lean
but even in my darkest hour
I didn't give up the fight
I plowed the fields for our next meal
thanking God for every bite

And in the 20th century
when at times things seemed their worst
we embraced the changes
God bestowed upon us first