

John Maher, CEO of St. Vincent's.
Dr. Vic Morgan, President of Sul Ross
State University.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 524, 525, and 526. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 524 and 525. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 526.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND JOSEPH
P. SHEA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. Schiff. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Father Joseph Shea, Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church, for receiving the Spirit of Giving Award in recognition of his selfless dedication to the Glendale Community.

Father Joseph Shea is a graduate of St. John's College Seminary where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. He is also a graduate of the Continuing Formation in Ministry Program at the University of Notre Dame. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1978. Prior to joining the Holy Family Parish, Father Shea served as associate pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola Church in Highland Park until 1982. He was subsequently transferred to St. John Vianney Church in Hacienda Heights where he was also associate pastor. In 1989, Cardinal Roger Mahoney appointed Father Shea as the Director of the Office of Vocations. He worked in this office until 1995, promoting and encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Father Shea has been the Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Community since July of 1996. Under Father Shea's leadership, the parish engineered a Strategic Plan 2000 to build a strong vision for the new millennium. The plan's mission is for all registered parishioners to dedicate themselves to the support of the spiritual, educational, cultural, youth, and community outreach programs through active participation.

Father Shea is highly dedicated to civic affairs. He serves on the Verdugo Mental Health Board of Glendale, the Board of Directors for Glendale's Community Center, Catholic Charities Loaves and Fishes, and the Institute for Urban Research and Development. He is an active member of the Glendale Human Relations Coalition, Kiwanis Club of Glendale, and the Recreation Facilities and Open Space Committee for the city. He is a newly appointed member to the Advisory Board of Glendale's Adventist Medical Center. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for the Cardinal McIntyre Fund for Charity, serves on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Department of School Board, and Dean of Deanery 6 of the L.A. Archdiocese. Father Shea is

a remarkable man with an unwavering passion for community service and limitless energy.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in commending Father Joseph P. Shea for his commitment to service throughout the community and for his incomparable Spirit of Giving.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH
STUDIES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. Norton. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize one of the nation's premier schools of nursing and health studies, here in the District of Columbia, the Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies, as it celebrates its centennial anniversary.

In December 1903, a committee at Georgetown Hospital formally created the Georgetown University Training School for Nurses. One hundred years later, now called the School of Nursing & Health Studies, the school is celebrating its long-standing traditions as well as its continued status as a leader in health care education.

The School of Nursing & Health Studies, located in the newly renovated St. Mary's Hall, has been at the forefront of the health care field, preparing future leaders to respond to the growing complexity of health care delivery at all levels. Graduates pursue various health professions within nursing, medicine, law, health policy, health management, and public health, among many other careers. Students have an opportunity to study and intern at health care facilities and agencies throughout Washington, D.C., including Georgetown University Hospital, the National Institutes of Health, and the World Health Organization.

Both the Nursing and Health Studies majors focus on *cura personalis*—the care and development of the whole person—by educating students for a meaningful life, challenging them intensively, but also supporting them in their learning. The School embraces the Jesuit inspired principles shared by the entire University community, which emphasize the pursuit of knowledge with a responsibility to contribute to the common good.

Mr. Speaker, one hundred years have seen remarkable changes and advances in health care, yet the School of Nursing & Health Studies continues its core mission of developing exceptionally qualified health professionals who can recognize and respond to the full human experience encountered in the health field. I hope you will join me in congratulating the School of Nursing & Health Studies and Dean Bette Keltner on this auspicious occasion.

TRIBUTE TO ALTHEA GIBSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I pay tribute

to the memory of a remarkable woman who was the first black player to win Wimbledon and a pre-eminent figure in women's tennis, Althea Gibson. I would like to extend my greatest sympathy to the Gibson family by taking a moment to reflect on the rich life of this fine person.

The eldest of five children, Gibson was born in South Carolina but raised in the Harlem section of New York City. While her future opponents were developing their tennis on the courts of country clubs she was getting into trouble on West 143rd which was a play area blocked off to traffic. She learned paddle ball, a sort of poor-girl tennis with solid wooden rackets.

She was a self-described "born athlete" who broke racial barriers not only in tennis but in the Ladies Professional Golf Association. She even toured with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team after retiring from tennis in the late 1950s.

On Aug. 28, 1950, three years after Jackie Robinson had broken the color barrier in major league baseball, Ms. Gibson became the first black player to compete in the precursor to the U.S. Open.

Ms. Gibson dominated women's tennis from 1956–58, winning 11 Grand Slam titles: five in singles, five in doubles and one in mixed doubles.

She captured the Wimbledon and U.S. championships in 1957 and 1958, and also won the French Open, and three Wimbledon doubles titles (1956–58).

After the circuit, she launched herself into the business of supporting herself. She toured with the Harlem Globetrotters. She was a proud member of a community service organization, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gibson was known as a proud woman who for years declined to take money from friends who tried to help when she was living on Medicare and Social Security payments. Her front door bore a simple plaque: "Bless this home and all who enter."

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the honorable and gracious memory of Althea Gibson. I am certain that her legacy will endure for years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH M.
FERRAINA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. Pallone. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mr. Joseph M. Ferraina, a man of true character and compassion. Mr. Ferraina is being honored as "Man of the Year" by the Long Branch Elks in New Jersey for the many contributions he has made to his community. I can think of no one more deserving to receive this award.

Mr. Ferraina's accomplishments are extensive. Through his "can do" attitude and determination he has overcome many obstacles in life. At age thirteen, Mr. Ferraina emigrated from Argentina to America. At the time, he did not know any English and found himself in third grade classes when he was the age of a ninth grader. Despite a lack of faith and encouragement from school counselors, Mr. Ferraina persevered, ultimately earning his

Bachelors of Arts Degree from Jersey City State College and a Masters Degree from Monmouth University. He has also continued to do graduate work at both Seton Hall University and Rider College.

Mr. Ferraina has had a long and brilliant career in education where it began as a Spanish teacher in the Long Branch Junior High School in 1973. By 1978, he became Assistant Principle only to be become Principle of the Middle School four years later. In 1992 Mr. Ferraina was chosen as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Schools in 1994. In 2000, he was given the honor of New Jersey Superintendent of the Year for his numerous innovative programs and practices.

Mr. Ferraina is an active member in the Long Branch Rotary Club where he has served as president. He is on the Monmouth Medical Center Board of Trustees and the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors. In addition, Mr. Ferraina is member of The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, the first aid squad, the Board of Directors of the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce, and the Long Branch Free Public Library Board of Trustees. This is just a sampling of Mr. Ferraina's community based affiliations, and indicative of his commitment to serving the community.

Mr. Ferraina has been recognized on many occasions for his noble endeavors. In 1998 and 1999, he received a proclamation from New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman for offering BEST PRACTICES, which are outstanding and innovative school programs. Active in a variety of civic and educational organizations, he was named Principal of the Year by the Monmouth County Elementary and Middle School Administrators Association in 1991. Among many other awards and honors, Mr. Ferraina has received a Resolution of Appreciation from the City of Long Branch, the Community Involvement Award from the Knights of Pythias, the Community Service Commendation from the Superior Court of New Jersey, and the Humanitarian Award from the NAACP of Long Branch.

Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that Mr. Ferraina has and continues to be an asset to his community for his tireless devotion to educating our youth. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise up and join me in honoring this most respectable man, Mr. Joseph M. Ferraina.

TAX ON DISABLED VETERANS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in condemning the gross injustice being perpetrated upon the greatest of American heroes, our disabled veterans.

Due to an antiquated law, more than 700,000 disabled veterans had been unable to receive both their compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and their military retirement pay. We ended this disgraceful treatment for some of our disabled veterans with the passage of last year's De-

fense Authorization Act. Now, veterans with disability ratings of 60 percent and higher are eligible to receive a special compensation that offsets the egregious tax on disabled veterans. But thousands more are still waiting for relief.

Veterans are the only group of federal retirees who face such a punishing offset, levied against them simply for being disabled. This penalty is simply wrong. The retirees that it affects have already sacrificed too much in service to our country to have to forfeit their VA compensation.

H.R. 303, of which I am a proud cosponsor, is just the first step. This bipartisan legislation would allow retired members of the Armed Services with service-connected disabilities to collect the full veterans' disability compensation to which they are entitled. It guarantees that disabled retirees receive a fair benefit package, and its overwhelming support, has helped bring the issue of concurrent receipt to the forefront of our legislative agenda. Yet even with 370 cosponsors, the Republican leadership refuses to bring the bill to the Floor. We have launched a discharge petition to force H.R. 303 to be considered, and still they block us. There are 203 signatures on the petition, but the Republican leadership has warned its members not to sign on, so it is going to be a fight for the last 15 signatures. I say to you that this is a fight we must win.

Now, there is even talk of redefining what "disabled veteran" means. How dare anyone attempt to cheat veterans out of the benefits we promised and they rightly earned? It is unconscionable that Members of our own body are sabotaging attempts to correct an inequity. We must resist any move to restrict veterans' access to healthcare and compensation.

It is reprehensible that a Civil War era law is still robbing our veterans of fair compensation that is rightly theirs, and I call upon my colleagues to fight this embarrassing mistake and restore to our heroes just a small amount of what we owe them.

PERSECUTION, FORCED LABOR, ORGAN HARVESTING AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I continue today to bring to our colleagues attention human rights abuses in China provided here by the Laogai Research Foundation. They tell a desperately tragic story of a peoples thrown into harsh and brutal labor camps—without trial—who are then forced to do dangerous work, are regularly beaten, tortured, deprived of food and sleep, or summarily executed with their organs removed without the consent of the victims or their family. Many of the Chinese government's victims are religious men and women who, simply by wishing to follow their conscience, are considered a danger to the state.

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS" STATEMENTS ON FORCED LABOR, ORGAN HARVESTING AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CHINA PROVIDED BY LAOGAI RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Laogai is an integral part of China's economy, serving as a principal source of

cheap labor and organs. Its victims suffer from torture, arbitrary detainment, forced labor, organ harvesting, and execution.

Human rights groups have documented over 1,000 Laogai camps in China and estimate that the Laogai has a population of 4 to 6 million prisoners.

The Chinese Communist Party seeks to single out and eliminate all who "endanger state security." Thousands of political/religious prisoners are currently being imprisoned or otherwise detained, including China Democracy Party founders Wang Youcai and Qin Yongmin, Internet activists Yang Zili and Huang Qi, Tiananmen Square demonstrators, protestants, Catholics, Tibetan nuns and monks, journalists, academics, and Falun Gong practitioners.

There is little to deter those who inflict torture upon inmates of the Laogai. Confessions extracted through torture are routinely used to convict individuals in court. Forms of torture that are commonly documented in Chinese prisons include: use of electric batons, beating with fists and clubs, the use of handcuffs and leg irons in ways that cause intense pain, suspension by the arms, deprivation of food or sleep and solitary confinement.

According to conservative estimates, over 200,000 people are serving sentences in reeducation through labor (Laojiao) camps with no trial or sentencing procedure of any kind—all that is necessary is the directive of any official in China's Public Security Bureau.

All prisoners are forced to meet production quotas that are enforced through withholding of food rations. Many camps force prisoners to work 16 to 18 hours a day. Prisoners often labor in highly unsafe conditions, including work in mines and with toxic chemicals. Prisoners do not receive payment for their labor or any profit generated from the products they produce.

Forced labor is an integral part of China's economy, producing approximately \$800 million dollars in sales. Despite specific agreements that ban forced labor goods these goods continue to flow out of China. Cooperation by Chinese authorities has been characterized by the State Department as "sporadic, at best." Most requests to hold an investigation are either ignored or denied.

The Laogai's victims also suffer organ harvesting, and execution.

Despite the claims that prisoners give consent for the use of their organs for transplant, evidence suggests that an overwhelming majority of prisoners, or their families, never gave consent before execution.

Prisoners are shot in the back to preserve their corneas and shot in the head in order to preserve the heart.

Recently, China began implementing the use of mobile execution vans, similar to vans used in Nazi Germany prior to its use of concentration camps. The use of mobile execution vans will allow doctors to remove organs in a timely manner and a clean environment.

According to Amnesty International, China executes more prisoners every year than the rest of the world combined. In 2002, the State Department recorded over 4,000 executions after summary trials. Some scholars estimate that as many as 10,000–20,000 are executed yearly. According to the Chinese criminal law code there are over 60 capital offenses. Prisoners are executed for crimes ranging from murder to theft to arson to drug trafficking.