

physics and mathematics professor at Iowa State University. Known as the Atanasoff-Berry Computer, the invention was Atanasoff's solution to finding a better, more efficient way for his students to learn. It was the principles of his invention that changed the face of technology forever.

The university is organizing the International Symposium on Modern Computing, October 30–November 1 in celebration of his life's accomplishments. Leaders in the computing field, internationally renowned academic researchers, and college and university students from across the Nation will come together to discuss the newest technologies and research that have the potential to change the world as dramatically as did the principles that Dr. Atanasoff's invention established. Dr. Atanasoff is a recipient of the Nation's highest award for innovation, the National Medal of Technology, which was presented to him by President George Bush in 1990. Dr. Atanasoff died in 1995.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX BURNS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an explanation for my absence during votes yesterday evening.

During yesterday's votes, I was traveling back to Washington from a Congressional Delegation trip to Iraq. I appreciate the opportunity to visit our troops serving overseas and to witness firsthand the situation in Iraq. Our delegation arrived into the Washington area after votes had concluded.

FREEDOM FOR DR. MARCELO CANO RODRÍGUEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Dr. Marcelo Cano Rodríguez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Cano Rodríguez is a Medical Doctor. As a physician, he has chosen to devote his life and his abilities to healing the sick, mending the lame, and easing the suffering of his patients. However, as Dr. Cano Rodríguez quickly learned, easing the suffering of the Cuban people is not a goal of Castro's dictatorship.

The longer Dr. Cano Rodríguez worked within the totalitarian healthcare system, the more he noticed medical resources being taken from the Cuban people and redirected towards tourists who could pay with hard foreign currency. Dr. Cano Rodríguez, no longer able to work within a system that abandons citizens in favor of tourists, became the National Coordinator for the Cuban Independent Medical Association.

The Cuban Independent Medical Association is comprised of physicians who joined forces to set up independent clinics where equipment and drugs prescribed by doctors are distributed without charge. As Dr. Cano

Rodríguez searched for ways to make his group more effective, he approached the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation for guidance. After learning of the Commission's professed goal of basic human rights, he became an important member of that group.

Unfortunately for Dr. Cano Rodríguez, his being associated with two groups who profess to work to provide the Cuban people with their basic rights and their basic medicine proved to be too much for Castro and his machinery of repression. On March 25, 2003, Dr. Cano Rodríguez was arrested in Las Tunas. The "illegal" activities cited by Castro's puppet prosecutor in the sham trial were that he visited prisoners as part of his work with the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation and that he maintained ties to Doctors Without Borders. Dr. Cano Rodríguez was sentenced to 18 years in Castro's dungeons.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that, Dr. Cano Rodríguez was sentenced to 18 years in Castro's gulag for visiting prisoners and maintaining ties to Doctors Without Borders.

My colleagues, every one of us should be totally appalled that a physician who attempts to aid the oppressed and heal the sick is languishing in a dungeon for his merciful actions. My colleagues, we must demand immediate freedom for Dr. Marcelo Cano Rodríguez.

HONORING ALEX SPANOS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate my friend, Alex Spanos, as he will soon receive the STARBRIGHT Foundation's Heart of Gold Award for his selfless efforts on behalf of children with serious illnesses and their families, and for his extensive contributions to all children and youth.

Alexander Gus Spanos was born to loving parents in 1923 in Stockton, California. In 1942, he rendered service to his country by joining the Air Army. Six years later, he wed his life-long sweetheart, Faye Papfakis.

In 1951, Alex quit his job at the family bakery, secured an \$800 loan and bought a panel truck to start his own company, the A.G. Spanos Agricultural Catering. Soon, this new venture became the largest catering business of farm laborers in the United States. Alex began investing in real estate and, by 1956, he had become a millionaire. This allowed him to semi-retire and take on golf, in which he became a pro amateur within six years.

When changing farm labor regulations signaled the end of his catering business, Alex launched A.G. Spanos Construction. After building his first apartment complex in Stockton, California, in 1960, Alex expanded the company into neighboring states and across the southwestern and southern states. By 1977, his firm was the number one builder of apartments in the nation.

His family of businesses now includes: A.G. Spanos Construction, A.G. Spanos Development, Inc., A.G. Spanos Management, Inc., A.G. Spanos Enterprises, Inc., The Spanos Corporation, AGS Financial Corporation, A.G. Spanos Realty, Inc., A.G. Spanos Securities,

and A. G. Spanos Ventures. He also owns the Spanos Jet Center and the National Football League's San Diego Chargers.

Mr. Speaker, not only is Alex Spanos a successful businessman, but he is also a successful human being. His family has always taken center stage in his life. He and Faye enjoy the time they share with their four children and 15 grandchildren. It is telling that his companies continue to be family owned and operated, as he has shared management responsibilities with his sons, Dean and Michael.

A noted philanthropist, he has reached out to those in need and given of his resources to help whenever and wherever he could. Over the years, he has contributed to his own community and to causes around the world by donating millions of dollars to charities, churches, hospitals, educational institutions, and civic and athletic organizations.

It is fair to say that Alex G. Spanos' outlook on life is best reflected in the title of his new book, *Sharing the Wealth*. The communities and individuals he has touched throughout his life would attest to that.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commend this distinguished citizen for his countless acts of service to his community, California, and the country.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO MEMBERS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE IN SOMALIA IN 1993

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 291 to offer my gratitude, for myself and on behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District, to the soldiers who fell and who served our country in "Operation Restore Hope."

"Operation Restore Hope" was a 1993 United Nations peacekeeping venture to restore order in the East African country of Somalia, characterized by its nomadic society. The Operation was launched with guarded optimism but went tragically awry on Oct. 3, 1993 when 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in a firefight with Somali gunmen. A decade later, the Bush Administration now contemplates taking military action against alleged terrorist groups in Somalia who might have been responsible for the tragedy.

Man-made famine prompted the massive foreign intervention in Somalia. This famine was caused by a drought made murderous by a civil war that sent gunmen across the country's most fertile agricultural areas. At the famine's peak, more than 300 people starved to death each day in hard-hit towns like Baidoa and Baardheere because militia fighters first disrupted the lives of herdsman and farmers, then stole the food aid sent to relieve their suffering. Throughout the worst of the crisis, gun-toting young militiamen looted most of the relief food as spoils of war or blocked its entry into the country through port cities by demanding extortionate amounts from aid ships waiting to dock. In order to break the famine in Somalia, we had to break the stranglehold of the gunmen and allow aid to flow unimpeded.

The 100 elite U.S. infantrymen, who tried to capture and defeat a Somali warlord in his home, suffered 70 percent casualties—a figure sadly compared to a 1965 massacre in Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley. So badly pinned down were the Americans in Mogadishu that they could not evacuate their wounded, including Ranger commander Lt. Col. Danny McKnight, for nine hours. The biggest problem in that situation was the thousands of young men floating around the country laying in wait for our American troops.

Since then President George Bush ordered more than 25,000 U.S. troops to intervene in Somalia in December 1992 to help stop deaths from starvation, exacerbated by clan warfare, 30 Americans died in combat and 175 were wounded. There also were six non-combat deaths, and seven soldiers were killed and one missing off the Kenyan coast in a crash this month of an AC-130 Specter gunship. In addition, about 68 U.N. soldiers were killed and 262 wounded, according to U.N. figures, making this the bloodiest peace-keeping operation since the Congo crisis three decades ago.

This situation is similar to that experienced by our troops today in Iraq. I visited the As-Sayliyah Central Command Base in Doha, Qatar on October 13, 2003 and heard the concerns of the troops from their own mouths. Leaders of the units keep a warm smile and upbeat attitude to keep their troops feeling positive despite the compound feeling of homesickness due to the failure of our government to timely relieve them and the feeling of vulnerability due to the lack of a sufficient number of trained MP's. I heard testimony about how a ground soldier watched his partner and the operator of a military vehicle get tossed out as the vehicle was thrown airborne by a land mine. "Why did you hit this mine," I asked. "It was just one of those mines that was missed in the sweep . . .," said the soldier. Because there isn't enough personnel or specialists to assign to technical tasks, unskilled or untrained technicians frequently get asked to do jobs that they have not mastered enough to guarantee the lives of those who must traverse the sands of Baghdad. He misses his wife and newborn baby dearly. Because there hasn't been a change in the personnel on the front lines in several months, many reservists and active duty servicemen and women have spent a longer time in Iraq than was promised by the Administration. May 1, 2003 was supposed to have been a day of hope and homecoming; instead, it was a sham. Some of these troops feel like "sitting ducks" out in the foreign terrain. They don't speak Arabic. They don't know Tikrit like they know their hometowns. When I asked them if they have seen any troops of other coalition nations, they responded, "what coalition troops?" They need support and they need continuous relief.

Many of the vulnerabilities that led to the death of the 18 soldiers in "Operation Restore Hope" affect our troops in "Operation Iraqi Freedom." I value the service that our troops of "Operation Restore Hope" provided, and I am honored to support this important legislation to commemorate them.

REPUDIATING ANTI-SEMITIC SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor and in strong support of H. Res. 409, a resolution to repudiate the Malaysian Prime Minister for racist comments harmful not only to the global Jewish community but to the advancement of peace in the Middle East and global tolerance of racial and ethnic diversity.

The speech by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to a gathering of Muslim leaders earlier this month has been described by other world leaders of democratic and free nations—including President Bush during his recent trip to Asia—as offensive and anti-Semitic. Rhetoric of this nature, which embodies age-old stereotypes, can be neither excused nor rationalized. It only serves to incite further sectarian violence and should be condemned universally.

Even more disturbing is that none of 57 national representatives attending the Organization of the Islamic Conference, including some U.S. allies, have raised their voices in protest. In fact, many demonstrated complicity in spreading this message of hate and incitement against Jews by applauding the Prime Minister's remarks. The standing ovation he received and the subsequent defense of his remarks by almost all the participants at this meeting of Muslim leaders reminds us that anti-Semitic beliefs remain prevalent throughout the world, even in moderate states like Malaysia.

I was proud to be one of 80 Members of the House who signed a letter to the Prime Minister of Malaysia condemning his remarks and calling upon him to clarify or retract his statements. I also commend the Senate for passing a resolution condemning the statement and requesting that President Bush condemn the remarks during his meeting with the Malaysian Prime Minister in Bangkok during Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Mr. Speaker, we must always take a stand against hatred and bigotry by world leaders whose rhetoric threatens to make peace in the Middle East and around the world more elusive. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this important resolution and urge my colleagues to support it today.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROTHER BENNO FOUNDATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 29, the Oceanside community will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Brother Benno foundation.

The foundation was established by Harold and Kay Kutler in 1983 based on the work of a Benedictine monk, Brother Benno Garrity, from the Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside,

CA. Brother Benno died in 1992 after dedicating his life to feeding the poor and homeless.

The foundation began with a small soup kitchen at 307 Minnesota Street in Oceanside. It has since grown into a ministry addressing many types of social problems in San Diego County including hunger, homelessness, and alcohol and drug addiction.

Anyone needing help can come to Brother Benno's and register for services provided by the foundation. In their 20 years of service the foundation has provided 132,000 nights of lodging, more than 434,000 articles of clothing, 18,900 blankets and medical and dental care.

On behalf of all the people whose lives have been touched by the Brother Benno Foundation I want to recognize the volunteers and support staff at the Brother Benno Foundation. Thank you for 20 years of service.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW CHAPTER OF THE COLLEGE REPUBLICANS AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a new organization on the Southern University campus. A new chapter of the College Republicans has been created at this Historically Black University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This is a welcome event for all Louisiana Republicans.

My heartfelt congratulations are extended to all of the members of the Southern University College Republicans, and especially club president Gene Tinner, for their hard work in founding this new organization. I am confident that this chapter will earn respect on the Southern Campus and throughout Louisiana, and become a valuable addition to the state Republican Party. I am honored to share this affiliation with such a bright group of young Louisianians from one of our great educational institutions.

My best wishes go forth to this new group for their vision and leadership, and to the Southern University campus for their support.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAVELERS PROPERTY CASUALTY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to have the opportunity to pay tribute to a leading Insurance Provider that serves Western Pennsylvania. October 24, 2003 marks the 100th anniversary of Travelers Property Casualty, a leading provider of a broad range of insurance products.

Travelers Property Casualty, located in Pittsburgh since 1903, currently employs more than 225 individuals. Travelers provides a wide range of insurance products including workers compensation, integrated disability, property, liability specialty lines and broiler and