

From what I have learned, even if they had pursued the case and had found them guilty, the punishment is so minimal that it is not financially sensible to spend the money and resources to enforce these laws.

Most of the child labor laws have not been updated since the 1930's. As we all know the world we live in is very different 70+ years later. What few changes that have been made have been to weaken the laws. We as a society have had much to say about child labor in other countries, yet we do nothing about our own. SHAME ON US!!! We spend a lot of time looking at issues, making laws, but that is wasted time and energy if we aren't out there enforcing them. It is vital for our children's future to have adequate ways and means to penalize the offenders.

And then there are workman's compensation laws, which you would think would encourage employers to put child safety first. Again this is not true. For teens, the employers financial liability is minimal because the majority of them do not have dependents and their jobs are temporary and part time. This again is not an incentive for employers to obey the laws. I am not saying all employers are not concerned about teens safety. Some are very responsible. Others aren't even aware of most of these laws, although it is their responsibility.

Our family has endured many trials and tribulations through the years. We have always been able to pick up the pieces and continue on with the help of loving, supportive family and friends. The death of our beloved son Adam has been almost too much to bear. How do we fill the huge gap in our hearts that used to be Adam? He was so full of life and had so much love to give. His friends describe him as always happy with a smile on his face. He would do anything to make people laugh. We miss that smile! We miss his energy! We miss his whole being!

What do we tell his special needs sister Robin when she asks almost every day, why can't we bring him back? There are really no words that can express fully to anyone what losing a child does to your soul. I hope that none of you will ever know how this feels. We go on each day. We go to work. We maintain our home, because we must, for the rest of our family. But nothing will ever be the same.

What I am here today to say is that this should never have happened and that there are many ways that we can address these issues. The availability and easy access to educational materials for parents, young workers and especially employers must be improved.

The proposed legislation that Congressman Lantos is submitting today will address some of these issues. One of these being civil penalties in an amount that would have a significant impact on employers. If there is anything that we can do in memory of our son it would be to somehow prevent this from happening to another child, another family.

Thank you and God bless and guide you in all the decisions you make.

#### TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Virginia law enforcement officers, and those throughout the nation, who have lost their lives this year in service to

their communities. Every day, these men and women display their courage, commitment and service to their fellow man. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial recently held a wreath laying ceremony here in Washington, DC to honor these eight brave officers who gave their lives to protect us, the citizens of Virginia, and I would like to take a moment to recognize, remember and honor these individuals.

On January 12, Henrico County Police Officer Andre Booker was attempting to use his patrol vehicle to stop a person suspected of firing gunshots in a shopping center when his car crashed through a fence and landed in an icy pond. Six other officers at the scene were unsuccessful in freeing Officer Booker from his vehicle. He was 26 years old.

On January 16, 39-year-old Norfolk Police Officer Sheila Herring was killed after responding to reports of gunfire inside a bar. The suspects opened fire on the responding officers, fatally wounding Officer Herring. She worked with Norfolk Police Department for 11 months and had recently moved from Detroit, Michigan, where she spent 10 years as a law enforcement officer.

On January 29, Virginia State Trooper Michael Todd Blanton was killed by a drunk driver he had pulled over on Interstate 64. As Trooper Blanton attempted to reach into the car, the driver sped off, dragging Trooper Blanton until the car crashed, pinning him under the vehicle. Trooper Blanton is survived by his wife and 6-year-old son.

On May 9, 20-year law enforcement veteran Scott Allen Hylton of the Christiansburg Police Department was shot and killed after responding to a report of a hold up at a convenience store. Officer Hylton was shot and killed as he exited his cruiser at the scene. Also a member of the Army National Guard, Officer Hylton was the father of four.

On May 28, Officer Ryan Cappellety of the Chesterfield County Police Department, a recent graduate from the police academy, was shot and killed when he and other officers responded to reports of gunshots. Upon arrival, a suspect standing on his front lawn with a gun opened fire on the officers, fatally wounding Officer Cappellety. He was 23 years old.

On June 23, Officer Rodney Pocceschi of the Virginia Beach Police Department was shot and killed during a traffic stop on Dam Neck Road in Virginia Beach. Officer Pocceschi served the Virginia Beach Police Department for 4 years and is survived by his wife and young son.

On July 30, Richmond Police Officer Douglas E. Wendel was shot and killed by a suspected drug dealer. Officer Wendel had been with the Richmond Police Department for 5 years. He was a 41-year-old father of three.

On August 26, Sergeant Rodney Davis of the Greene County Sheriff's Department was shot and killed while serving an arrest warrant on a narcotics suspect near Standardsville, VA. As Sergeant Davis and other officers searched the house, the suspect opened fire and fatally wounded Sergeant Davis. Davis worked with the Greene County Sheriff's Office for 21½ years but had been in law enforcement since he was 19 years old. The 30-year-old left behind an expectant wife and two young children.

Mr. Speaker, the eight officers killed in the line of duty this year matches the highest total of law enforcement officer fatalities in the

Commonwealth's history. Nationwide, there have been 114 law enforcement officers killed this year, a grim reminder of the vital and dangerous role these officers play in our national well-being. We are all eternally grateful for the service and sacrifice of these true American heroes.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ALAMOSA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the Alamosa County, Colorado, Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber recently celebrated eighty years of service to Alamosa, and it is my honor to call the attention of my colleagues and this nation to all that the Chamber does for the citizens of Alamosa.

The Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in 1923. The original building was lost to fire in 1907. Recognizing the importance of the Chamber, the city rallied together and built a new building the following year.

The Chamber has a strong tradition of excellent leadership and a dedicated staff. Since its inception, the Chamber has focused on the organization and health of the County's economy. Able and dedicated staff members always greet each citizen with a smile.

In addition to traditional activities, the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce has always gone beyond the call of duty to be involved in the community. The citizens of Alamosa have traditionally used the Chamber as a meeting place for community events. There are often cribbage tournaments, banquets and charity events throughout the year. In addition, the Chamber funds scholarships for young people, has worked to improve the County's emergency response system, and is also involved in various projects such as the promotion of recycling.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber works tirelessly for the betterment of Alamosa County and I am honored to pay tribute to its contributions. I am pleased to join the people of Alamosa County in thanking the Chamber of Commerce for its hard work and many contributions.

#### HONORING LARRY CARTER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Larry Carter for his induction into the 2003 Stanislaus County Ag Center Foundation Ag Hall of Fame. On December 4th, he will be honored at the 2003 Ag Hall of Fame Dinner at the Stanislaus County Ag Center in California.

The Stanislaus Ag Center Foundation honors individuals who work to make agriculture Stanislaus County's number-one industry. Mr.

Carter's contributions to agriculture and his community have helped agriculture in the county achieve this status. After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry from California Polytechnic University in 1952, Larry served in the United States Navy for 4 years. Between 1963 and 1972, he ran his own laying hen ranch. For the following 15 years, he served as Executive Manager of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau while farming 25 acres of almonds. Since 1987, Mr. Carter has worked for Stanislaus Farm Supply.

Larry's dedication to the community and agriculture organizations has been evident through his work as a volunteer. He has worked with the Denair Lions Club, Hughson 4-H, Modesto Chamber of Commerce, Stanislaus County Jail Site Committee, Stanislaus Ag Foundation, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Larry Carter for his induction into the 2003 Stanislaus County Ag Center Foundation Ag Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Larry for his dedication and hard work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARATHON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER AND ITS RABBI GARY GREENE

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Marathon Jewish Community Center in Douglaston, New York and its new Rabbi Gary Greene who officially took the reins on December 7, 2003.

The Marathon Jewish Community Center is a conservative synagogue which has served the communities of Douglaston, Little Neck, Bayside and Great Neck for more than 50 years. The facility includes a religious school, a junior congregation and adult education programs.

Earlier this year, the synagogue recruited Rabbi Gary Greene from Temple Shalom in Framingham, Massachusetts. Prior to his service there, Rabbi Greene served the members of Congregation B'Nai Jacob in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. While at Temple Shalom, Rabbi Greene helped to revitalize Adult Education, and for his efforts was the recipient of the Solomon Schechter Award for Adult Education. Among other accomplishments, Rabbi Greene has expanded the social and cultural programs of the Temple and introduced services and rituals, including Selichot, Tashlich, Healing Services and Meditation Services.

Rabbi Greene has also dedicated himself to teaching. Over the years, he has educated and enlightened thousands of children and adults. He taught most grades at the former United Hebrew School and served on its Board of Directors, Education Committee and Rabbis' Committee. He was instrumental in the creation of B'Nai Jacob's Hebrew School and the B'yachad Hebrew High School. Rabbi Green has served on its Board of Directors, Education Committee and as the Co-Chair of the Education Committee in charge of Judaic programming. Rabbi Greene also served as a teacher and adviser to Camp Ramah in Palmers, Massachusetts.

Rabbi Green also served as the Jewish chaplain for students at Westfield State College in Westfield and Bay Path College in Longmeadow. He was also an active member of the Longmeadow Clergy Association as well as the Interfaith Council of Western Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in congratulating Rabbi Gary Greene and the Marathon Jewish Center for their service to the community. I am confident that the Marathon Jewish Center will continue to enrich the lives of its congregants for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MS. MARGARET ANN ABDALLA

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of California's 29th Congressional District, Margaret Ann Abdalla. Ms. Abdalla has served on the South Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education for 16 years and has been a positive force in the greater South Pasadena area for much longer.

A Southern California native and University of Southern California graduate, Margaret Ann moved to South Pasadena in 1969. She began her community service by volunteering with the South Pasadena Parent Teacher Association, Little League, and South Pasadena Educational Foundation. Ms. Abdalla also raised three children, Lisa, Tony and Alex, all who attended South Pasadena's public schools.

In 1987, Margaret Ann was elected to the South Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education. Ms. Abdalla has worked with several board members and four superintendents during her tenure, serving as Board President three times. Under her leadership, some of the Board's accomplishments include the passage of two school bond measures in 1995 and 2002, the formation and bonding of today's administrative team, and the transition of the junior high to a middle school program 12 years ago. In 1996, Margaret Ann was the recipient of the South Pasadena Parent Teacher Association's Honorary Service Award for meritorious service.

As a member of the South Pasadena School Board, Margaret Ann participated in organizations such as the California School Boards Association, the Downtown Revitalization Task Force and the Los Angeles Annenberg Metropolitan Project. In addition, Ms. Abdalla was a founding member of the Five-Star Coalition, a coalition of the Burbank, Glendale, La Canada Flintridge, Pasadena and South Pasadena School Districts, established for the purpose of collaborating with local legislators on issues of mutual interest to the school districts.

The time, energy and love Margaret Ann has given to the community are extraordinary, and the residents of South Pasadena have benefited greatly. At this time, I ask all Members to join with me in commending Margaret Ann Abdalla for her many years of dedicated service to the South Pasadena community.

ON THE PASSING OF WAYNE T. PALMER

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the 4th Congressional District's finest citizens. On Saturday, November 29, 2003, Wayne T. Palmer, of Sparta, Tennessee, passed away at his home.

Wayne Palmer was not a master of business or of politics. Mr. Palmer was a man of meager means but overwhelmingly generous spirit. He was a man who cut a giant figure in his community through the devotion of his time and energy to the causes he loved.

Wayne Palmer served as a volunteer leader in the Boy Scouts of America for more than 35 years. During that long tenure, he served variously as Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster of Troop 175 in Sparta, as the camping chairman of both the Upper Cumberland and Black Fox Districts, and as a leader of the camping committee of the Middle Tennessee Council. Significantly, these are just a few of the roles he fulfilled during his many years of service to Scouting.

Mr. Palmer was honored for his guidance to young men and leadership in scouting repeatedly. He was awarded the Long Rifle Award for his leadership in both the districts he served. Mr. Palmer was honored with the Silver Beaver Award—the highest honor accorded adult leaders by the Middle Tennessee Council—for his service to the council. In addition, he was a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow—Scouting's Honor Society—and was repeatedly honored for his service to the Wa-HiNasa Lodge, including receipt of the Founders' Award and Josh Sain Memorial Award.

Mr. Speaker, if we're lucky, we encounter few people in life who have the kind of positive influence over the lives and maturation of young men that Wayne Palmer had. He was a man utterly devoid of self-interest and focused almost entirely on the education and improvement of the lives of those boys and young men who had the tremendous good fortune to be guided by his wisdom—be they Boy Scouts (his first and lifelong love), Little League baseball players or otherwise. It is rare—very rare indeed—to find a person who acts altruistically, who places the interests of others consistently ahead of his own, and who is truly selfless. Wayne Palmer was just such a person, and the lives of many Tennesseans are far richer for having known him.

Wayne Palmer was a great teacher and a great man. The lessons he taught were lessons for life. Of that, I have no doubt. Wayne Palmer taught as much or more by example, as he did through more common instruction. Mr. Palmer walked the talk. He never asked anyone to do anything he was not himself willing to do. He was, in the eyes of so many, the very embodiment of that pole star of principles, the Scout Oath and Law. Mr. Speaker, Wayne Palmer was for many Tennesseans the Great Scoutmaster of legend and myth.

White County and the Fourth Congressional District of Tennessee lost one of those rare bright lights on November 29 when Wayne T. Palmer passed from this mortal coil. Accordingly, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to his wife, Jan, and his son, Garrett, on