

"Christian Service Award." To those of us who attended this moving event, it was obvious that every person there was richer for having known this tremendous couple.

I am proud to call Paul my friend, and I share with him in the grief he feels with the passing of Nadine. I also deeply appreciate the unwavering life of service they led together. I know that Knoxville is a better community because of the love they shared and the example they set.

As I said at the beginning of these remarks, each of us in Congress has the chance to meet and know many remarkable people. I thank you for the opportunity to introduce you to just such a couple.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB
BIGELOW

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Bob Bigelow of Pagosa Springs, Colorado for his outstanding service to the education of Colorado's youth. Bob has been involved as a volunteer in Pagosa Springs schools for eight years.

Bob is a retired rancher and corporate CEO who volunteers five days a week at area schools. At the local elementary school, he offers small group attention to students who need it, and also works with sixth graders to improve math and reading skills. Outside the classroom, Bob serves as the Accountability Chair for his school district and volunteers as a "big brother" to several local youth. In honor of his service, the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce has named Bob Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Bob Bigelow for his dedication and commitment to the children of Pagosa Springs. His energetic service has enriched their young lives beyond measurement, and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

HONORING BOULDER CITY HIGH
SCHOOL ATHLETES OF THE
MONTH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sam McGrandy and Chris Stemmer, Boulder City High School's Athletes of the Month. Sam and Chris won this award based on their outstanding academic, leadership, and athletic skills.

Sam McGrandy has played every position on the girls basketball team and served as team captain last year. She has also played for the Boulder City High volleyball team, and maintains a 3.7 average in school.

Chris Stemmer has played boys basketball for Boulder City for the last three years, and

was selected to the All-Division Team last year. Chris has also competed in football and track for Boulder City High.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent each of these young athletes, and look forward to having the opportunity to honor these students on their future achievements.

FREEDOM TO READ PROTECTION
ACT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you some remarks that I made on March 3 when I introduced the Freedom to Read Protection Act. This legislation now has 28 co-sponsors and has been endorsed by the American Library Association, the American Booksellers Association and newspapers throughout the country. Yes, we must do all that we can to U-1 protect the American people from terrorism, but we can do it in a way that protects the basic constitutional rights of our citizens.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE BERNIE SANDERS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FREEDOM TO READ PROTECTION ACT

Good afternoon, and thank you for joining us here today to announce the introduction of the Freedom to Read Protection Act—legislation which will protect libraries, bookstores and their patrons from unjustified government surveillance into what books Americans are reading and buying, and what websites they may be visiting when using a library computer.

Let me begin by thanking the Members of Congress who have joined me here today. I also want to thank Chris Finan of the American Booksellers Association and Emily Sheketoff—Executive Director of the American Library Association's Washington Office—for joining us. I am also delighted that Trina Magi—a librarian from the University of Vermont—and Linda Ramsdell, a bookstore owner from Hardwick, Vermont, who is the President of the New England Booksellers Association, are here with us today.

Let me also congratulate the 62 cities and towns all across this country who have passed resolutions on this issue—and that number is growing rapidly. That effort is being coordinated by the Bill of Rights Defense Committee which understands that civil liberties and constitutional rights are not only a national issue, but a local issue. I also want to thank the editorial boards of the many newspapers all over this country who have spoken out on this freedom to read issue—including the Los Angeles Times, the Detroit Free Press, the Honolulu Observer, the Providence Journal-Bulletin, the Cal-Edonia Record, and the Valley News.

The tri-partisan legislation we are introducing today—called the Freedom to Read Protection Act—would protect the privacy and First Amendment rights of American citizens against unnecessary government intrusion. Specifically, this legislation will exempt libraries and bookstores from Section 215 of the so-called "Patriot Act." The Freedom to Read Protection Act is being introduced by 24 members of Congress including Republican Ron Paul of Texas, and Congressman John Conyers, the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee. They are

both unable to join us today but I do want to recognize their support and leadership in protecting civil liberties. I am confident that in the days and weeks to come we will add many more cosponsors.

One of the cornerstones of our democracy is our right of Americans to criticize their government, and to read printed materials without fear of government monitoring and intrusion.

Yes, all of us concerned about terrorism and all of us are determined to do all that we can to protect the American people from another terrorist attack. But, the threat of terrorism must not be used as an excuse by the government to intrude on our basic constitutional rights. We can fight terrorism, but we can do it at the same time as we protect the civil liberties that have made our country great.

Unfortunately, the Patriot Act has changed all that. Section 215 of the Patriot Act greatly expanded the FBI's ability to get records from all businesses, including libraries and booksellers, without meeting the traditional standard needed to get a search warrant in the United States.

This is a very dangerous situation. Today, all the FBI has to claim is that the information they want is somehow relevant to an investigation to protect against international terrorism. This is an extremely low threshold for government intrusion and average Americans should be extremely concerned.

The reason they should care is that Section 215 does not just apply to terrorists or even foreigners or agents of foreign powers. Under Section 215 of the Patriot Act, the person whose records are being searched by the FBI can be anyone. The FBI doesn't even have to say that it believes the person is involved in criminal activity or that the person is connected to a foreign power.

Even more frightening, the FBI can investigate American citizens based in part on an American's exercise of his or her First Amendment Rights, such as writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper or reading books the government may not approve of.

And the traditional legal protections, that have been embodied in our Constitution for hundreds of years, no longer apply. The government can gain access to our reading records through the secret FISA court which was created by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in 1978 and which is off limits to the public. There's no way to know how many times the FBI has spied on library or bookseller records or whose records they have reviewed.

In fact, Section 215 prevents librarians and booksellers from telling their customers that their privacy has been violated. Who would have thought that in 21st Century America, the government could gain access to library circulation records and bookseller customer records with no evidence that the person whose records they are getting is involved in any wrongdoing, that all of this would be handled through a secret government court, and that the librarians and booksellers would be compelled by the law not to let anyone know that the government had swooped in to get their records?

Now some may ask how the federal government is using this new power. Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle are also interested in that question and have pressured the Justice Department to show how

they are using these new powers. The information they have received after months of badgering the Department is inadequate. The Justice Department claimed most of the information regarding libraries and bookstores was "confidential," and could not be provided. This past October, several national organizations, including the American Booksellers Association, filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get statistical information, such as how many times the government has used its expanded surveillance authority under the Patriot Act. In January, a very limited amount of information was released to these groups and they are continuing to push for a more complete disclosure.

Importantly, an anonymous survey done by the University of Illinois found that over 175 libraries across the country have been visited by federal authorities since the September 11th attacks. How is the Congress and the public supposed to make sure that these new powers are not being abused when we do not even know how often they are being invoked and the types of institutions that are being investigated?

For many people who can not afford to buy books or have the Internet at home the library is critical to their ability to access to information. Many librarians and booksellers now fear that patrons have begun to self-censor their library use and book purchases due to fears of government surveillance. We need to remove libraries and booksellers from Section 215 so that Americans know their freedom to access information won't be improperly scrutinized by federal agents.

Let us be clear. The FBI would still be able to gain access to library or bookseller records as part of an investigation into illegal activity. All our bill does is restore the traditional protections that Americans expect and deserve. If the FBI has probable cause to believe that information in a library or bookseller's records or computers is connected to an ongoing criminal investigation or terrorism investigation, they can go to court and get a search warrant.

In addition, the bill requires that the Justice Department provide more detailed information about its activities under Section 215 so we can determine how the FBI is using its new powers under Section 215.

Let me conclude by saying that all of us support protecting Americans from terrorism. But we do not win against terrorists by abandoning our most basic civil liberties. We cannot be an example of freedom for the world when our own government is spying on what Americans are reading.

HONORING THE UNITED COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 40th ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, for the last four decades, the United Community Nursery School has been an invaluable resource to many children and families of New Haven. I am pleased to rise today to join with friends, families, and community leaders in paying tribute to their outstanding contributions as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary.

I have long held a firm belief in the importance of education and have often spoke of our nation's need to ensure that, even at the

earliest stages, our children have access to programs and services that will enrich their education. The United Community Nursery School has been doing just this for the last forty years. Before initiatives like Headstart and before educational programming like Sesame Street and Mr. Rogers, the founders of the United Community Nursery School recognized this need and worked hard to find a solution.

At the time of its inception, quality nursery school programs were not available to every family. Members of the United Church on the Green, realizing this gap in the community, began to look for a way to offer these programs to all of New Haven's children. They envisioned a setting where small children, regardless of background, culture, or religion, would be able to play and learn together. They envisioned a preschool where talented and caring teachers could work with families to ensure that their young children were developing the skills and tools they need for a strong educational foundation. What began as a single classroom with a part-time staff grew quickly to become a remarkable education program for toddlers throughout New Haven.

The United Community Nursery School became one of the first in Connecticut to be accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. A respected community resource, they were also one of the first to be designated as a New Haven School Readiness site. For four decades, the dedication and commitment of the staff and the members of the United Church have ensured that this treasure continues to provide much-needed early learning programs. Over the last several years, research has shown and experts have said that early learning is a fundamental piece of a child's education. The New Haven community—and more importantly our young children—have indeed been fortunate to have benefitted from the many contributions of the United Community Nursery School.

It is with great pleasure that I rise today to join all of those gathered in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to the United Community Nursery School for all of their good work as well as my sincere congratulations on their 40th Anniversary. The legacy they have built will continue to educate and inspire generations to come.

IN MEMORY OF ZORAN DJINDJIC

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, we learned today of the assassination in Belgrade of the Prime Minister of Serbia, Zoran Djindjic.

This is a true tragedy, not only for family and friends of Mr. Djindjic but for all the people of Serbia and, indeed, for all who struggle for human rights and democratic development.

Zoran Djindjic became a leader during difficult times in his country. He chose to stand in opposition to Slobodan Milosevic and his regime. That certainly was not the easiest course, and it took courage. Zoran Djindjic also had determination and, after repeated setbacks and obstacles, he played a key role in ousting Milosevic from power in 2000. He subsequently became, as Prime Minister of

Serbia, a force for reform, recognizing that Serbia needed to cast off not only the yoke of Milosevic's rule but also Milosevic's legacy of nationalist hatred, organized crime, corruption and greed. Transferring Milosevic to The Hague in 2001 to face charges for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide perhaps best symbolized Djindjic's continued courage and determination to conquer the sinister forces which seized his country.

Zoran Djindjic was still battling resistance to reform in Serbia when his life was taken by the vicious act of cold-blooded assassins.

These will undoubtedly be turbulent times for Belgrade, for Serbia, and for Montenegro which is just embarking on a new relationship with Serbia. This tragedy may have reverberations throughout the region, particularly in Bosnia and in Kosovo.

It is my hope and prayer, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Serbia will respond to this crime with a loud and united cry: "Enough is enough." In the past, they have seen the lives of journalist Slavko Curuvija and politician Ivan Stambolic snuffed out for their advocacy of a civilized Serbia, in which human rights and the rule of law are respected.

Similarly Djindjic, too, was advocating such noble objectives. The very decent people of Serbia deserve a society which respects human rights and upholds the rule of law. That is what the leaders of Serbia must now provide without further hesitation or delay. I take heart in knowing that Djindjic had many colleagues who shared his vision of a reformed Serbia.

My deepest condolences go to the family of Zoran Djindjic. I hope that the incredible grief they must now feel will be tempered by the pride they should feel in his accomplishments and service to his country.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE
DEVOLUTION ACT OF 2003

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced the "Commercial Driver's License Devolution Act of 2003." This legislation will give states the option to establish their own commercial driver's license (CDL) requirements for intrastate drivers.

As many in this House already know, I have always been a strong advocate for taking power out of Washington and returning it to the states. I do not believe that our traditional, one-size-fits-all approach to governing is effective, efficient or economical for the American taxpayer.

The legislation which I propose today would return power to the states by giving states the option, and I emphasize option, to license intrastate drivers of commercial motor vehicles based upon testing standards determined by the individual states. As you know, the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 (CMVSA) required states to establish a new and uniform program of testing and licensure for all operators of commercial vehicles both intra- and interstate. The principal objectives of this Act have been met and would not be harmed by this legislation.

The CMVSA is good law, and its provisions were necessary and timely for improving