

over the past 41 years. While in Alaska, he taught broadcasting classes at the University of Alaska. Dick spent several years announcing at the Redwood Acres Speedway and Eureka Speedway in California, as well as the Southern Oregon Speedway. He also announced the Hanford 150 in Hanford, California, and a Canadian-American Race in Vermont. Dick's wandering came to an end when he settled in Shady Cove in Oregon's Jackson Valley, and it is there that he will retire.

During his career, Dick has covered Presidents Ronald Reagan, George Bush the Elder, Bill Clinton and our current President Bush. During President Bush's trip to southern Oregon last year, he provided steady and reliable coverage of the President's visit, which his listeners have come to expect from Dick. For years he has communicated the latest news and happenings around the greater Medford area with clarity and precision. Dick has both a voice made for radio, and no one who has heard him on the airwaves doubts that he found his true calling. Fortunately, he also has a tremendous sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Bailey's service to his community did not just come in the form of his news broadcasts. He has also lent his voice to the Jacksonville Christmas Parade and other local activities. Anyone who knows Dick knows of his love of the outdoors, and his service as a member of the Jackson County Parks Commission reflects his desire to preserve the natural beauty of his adopted home. He is an active outdoorsman and has made clear how much he looks forward to the extra time he will have for fishing following his retirement. In the years ahead, the local fish population will have much to fear from Dick as he spends his days casting his line and enjoying the beauty of southern Oregon's waterways.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Bailey will be fondly remembered by his listeners in southern Oregon, just as he'll be missed by his colleagues. Like everyone who has dealt with Dick in a professional capacity, I'm sorry to see him retire, but happy to see him begin the relaxing years of his retirement. Thank you for everything you've given to us, Dick, and best wishes in the years ahead.

THE EAST KERN AIRPORT
DISTRICT IN MOJAVE, CALIFORNIA

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is necessary to enhance our national security. The East Kern Airport District in Mojave, California, faces unique security threats.

Although it is a General Aviation airport and does not have commercial passengers, the East Kern Airport District is home to high-tech aerospace firms and provides storage to over 300 commercial transport aircraft. These aircraft, which are stored with fifty percent of their fuel tanks full, rest just minutes through the air from several major military installations and downtown Los Angeles.

Since September 11, 2001, the Airport has been seeking funding to address these threats, as it fears a serious act of terrorism.

However, the Airport has been repeatedly informed that no security funds are available for its needs because it is classified as a General Aviation airport.

To correct this situation, I am introducing legislation today to ensure that the Undersecretary of Transportation has the authority needed to enhance security at the East Kern Airport District. Very simply, this legislation will allow the Undersecretary to provide up to \$300,000 annually to meet the Airport's security costs and up to \$1.25 million to reimburse the East Kern Airport District for security costs incurred since September 11, 2001.

I trust that my colleagues and the appropriate Department of Homeland Security officials will recognize the East Kern Airport District's unique situation and work with me to ensure that the Airport is adequately protected.

RICHARD K. ARMEY ROOM

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and former colleague, Former Majority Leader Richard K. Arme. Representative Arme recently retired following 18 years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, including eight years as the Majority Leader.

From his humble roots in Cando, North Dakota, to his rise in Washington, Dick Arme never drifted from his principles of honesty and integrity. He made life better not only for his constituents in Texas, but for Americans all across this great land. His work in Congress saved taxpayers millions of dollars annually. His sound conservative values renewed America's commitment to the principles of personal freedom and limited government.

As a loyal and dedicated conservative, Dick Arme advocated welfare reform, personal retirement accounts for Social Security, and fundamental reform of the tax code. He specifically supported implementing a flat tax. His persistence to this cause gave it a national platform. This cause continues in his new career at Citizens for a Sound Economy as its Co-Chairman.

It has been a great honor to spend most of my tenure in Congress working with Representative Arme, a fine Southern gentleman and true fiscal conservative. The naming of Room 236 in the U.S. Capitol as the Richard K. Arme room is a deserving tribute for a committed public servant. I will miss my good friend Grumpy, and I wish him and his wife Susan all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONNIE
BUCHNER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today to recognize Connie Buchner of Rocky Ford, Colorado for her decades of service to the United States

Postal Service. Connie retired in January after a thirty-four year career and, as she enjoys her retirement, I would like to highlight her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

In her thirty-four years with the postal service, Connie has overseen remarkable changes in technology, moving from labor-intensive mail processing to a largely automated workload. Connie also supervised increased security demands following the September 11, 2002 terrorist attacks.

Connie began working for the postal service in 1970 as a letter carrier. She rose through the ranks to become Rocky Ford's postmaster, and also served as the Fowler postmaster for sixteen years. Connie has touched many lives in her long career, and the Rocky Ford community insisted on holding an open house reception to officially send her off into retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Connie Buchner for her thirty-four years of outstanding service to her community. Post Offices are often the lynchpin of small communities, and Connie filled her position with the Postal Service with compassion and efficiency. I am thankful for her service.

HONORING THOMPSON
ENGINEERING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thompson Engineering, an extraordinary engineering design, environmental, construction inspection and materials testing firm located in Mobile, Alabama. Each year, the Alabama Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies honors outstanding engineering achievements with its Engineering Excellence Awards. This year, Thompson Engineering was recognized with the 2003 Engineering Excellence Honor Award by the Alabama Chapter and received national recognition by the American Council of Engineering Companies for its outstanding work as prime design consultant for the Mobile Landing project.

Mobile Landing is a twelve-acre municipal wharf complex on the Mobile River adjacent to the waterfront business and entertainment districts in downtown Mobile, Alabama. The landing provides the citizens of Mobile with a publicly accessible waterfront development including a new ceremonial docking space for large oceangoing vessels; a riverfront pedestrian promenade; an outdoor plaza with amphitheater, bandstand and fountain; parking for vehicles; utilities; security and lighting and landscaped open space.

Thompson Engineering, as the lead design firm, developed the master plan for the project site and provided architectural and engineering design and construction management services for the project. Thompson also provided grant budgeting and management, regulatory permitting and environmental assessment, subsurface exploration, land and hydrographic surveying, and a cultural resources reconnaissance report for the project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me and the American Council

of Engineering Companies in honoring Thompson Engineering for its outstanding work with the Mobile Landing project. The landing and its facilities will prove to be another valuable asset to the City of Mobile, its citizens and visitors provided by Thompson and its talented and distinguished team of designers and contractors. I personally thank and recognize Thompson for its continued dedication to the City of Mobile and the State of Alabama.

INDIAN POLICE COLLECTING DATA ON CHRISTIANS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to read an article in the Hindustan Times saying that Indian police are collecting data on Christians in Gujarat. Gujarat is the site of the massacres of Muslims last March in which 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were killed. Hasn't Gujarat seen enough trouble?

According to the report, the All-India Christian Council submitted a memorandum to the state police chief detailing the survey. The police are seeking information on family sizes, job profiles, sources of funds, and even whether the person is a first-generation Christian and/or has converted. At least 25 Christian institutions have been questioned in just a few days. The article quotes Bishop Gregory of Rajkot as saying that he was asked "about the number of Christians and institutions here." Father Cedric Prakash of the United Christian Forum for Human Rights predicts that "this survey may be a buildup to the anticonversion bill."

India has already outlawed conversions to any religion but Hinduism in two states. Recently the ruling BJP has begun an effort to make that national.

This is outrageous, Mr. Speaker. It is a major violation of religious freedom, which is one of the main pillars of a democracy. Instead, India is again acting like a Hindu fundamentalist theocracy.

In 1997, a Christian festival on the theme "Jesus is the answer" ended when the police fired their guns at it to close it down after they received complaints that the festival was converting people. Missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, were murdered while they slept in their jeep. The murderers surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," according to contemporaneous news reports. None of these people has been held accountable. Now an American missionary, Joseph Cooper, has been expelled from India after being severely beaten by Hindu nationalists.

Since 1998, Christian priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned as they were in the Old South during segregation, Christian schools and prayer halls have been violently attacked. Since India's independence in 1947, its forces have murdered over 200,000 Christians. They have also murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Dalits, Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Many lowercaste Hindus are converting to Christianity and other religions and now the BJP is passing laws to prohibit this.

Mr. Speaker, these are the acts of a theocratic tyranny, not a real democracy. We must impose the sanctions appropriate for a violator of religious freedom. We must also stop our aid and trade with India until it begins to allow the exercise of basic human and religious rights. And we must support self-determination for all the people of South Asia as the best way to bring real freedom, peace, stability, and prosperity to that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Hindustan Times article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Hindustan Times, Mar. 9, 2003]

GUJARAT CHRISTIANS ALLEGE SURVEY OF FAMILIES

(By Rathin Das)

AHMEDABAD, March 8.—The Gujarat Police have reportedly started a discreet survey of Christians in some parts of the state, seeking information on family sizes, job profiles and sources of foreign funds. The All-India Christian Council, which submitted a memorandum to the state police chief on Friday, is planning to move the High Court over the issue next week.

State Director General of Police K. Chakravarthy told the Hindustan Times that no statewide survey had been ordered. He added, however, that some information might have been sought from some people on the orders of district police chiefs.

A senior home department official echoed the state police chief. He told the Hindustan Times that no survey of Christians had been ordered. "It may be a survey about foreign funds and its use, but that is applicable for institutions of all communities," he said.

But despite official denials, community leaders alleged that policemen came calling at some houses in Ahmedabad, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Kutch districts over the past few days and asked about the antecedents and assets of Christian families.

Community leaders also said at least 25 Christian institutions and families had been questioned over the past few days. Police personnel who visited Christian institutions, they said, wanted information on the number of Christians in the area and other details, like the sources of their funds. Bishop Gregory of Rajkot, who was questioned by the police on Friday, said: "I was asked about the number of Christians and institutions here." The police also asked him to contact the nearest police station if he needed help. Bishop Gregory told this correspondent.

The police have also asked some Christians whether they converted voluntarily or under pressure, and whether they were first-generation Christians.

"This survey may be a build-up to the anti-conversion bill the government wants to introduce in the state assembly during this session," said Father Cedric Prakash of the United Christian Forum for Human Rights.

One church leader in Saurashtra was asked whether Christians would hold demonstrations if the anti-conversion bill is introduced in the assembly, sources said.

Individual Christians are scared to speak to the press as many of them are in government employment. In the wake of the attack on Christians and the burning of churches in the Dangs district around Christmas 1998, the state intelligence department had ordered a similar survey, but abandoned it after a petition was filed in the Gujarat High Court.

Minority report:

July 1998—Copies of the New Testament burnt in a Rajkot school;

Oct 1998—Christian congregation attacked in Vadodara;

Dec 1998—Government threatens to stop grants to Christian schools;

Dec 1998—Churches razed in Dangs district;

Jan 1999—PM visits Dangs, calls for national debate on conversions;

Feb 1999—Secret survey ordered, first of Christians, later of Muslims;

Jan 2000—Government lifts ban on employees joining RSS.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE JONES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Sue Jones of Pagosa Springs, Colorado for her outstanding service to the citizens of Pagosa Springs and the many student athletes of the Archuleta School District. For the last nineteen years, Sue has helped organize Pagosa Springs' Annual Blow-out charity softball tournament, and I would like to acknowledge her efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

For eleven years, Sue has been the tournament's director. Each year over thirty teams come from all over the four-corners region to participate in the tournament, generating thousands of dollars for the local economy, in addition to charity contributions. For the first ten years of the tournament, proceeds went to support the Spanish Fiesta Scholarship Fund, then for two years to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. For the last seven years proceeds have gone to local school athletic programs.

Just over the past three years, Sue has raised enough money to allow the Pagosa Springs school athletic department to purchase baseballs, a radar gun, volleyballs, score clocks, weight room equipment, and wrestling shoes. She also contributed to a band competition trip to the Air Force Academy. During the school year, Sue donates countless hours to school athletic programs as a scorekeeper.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Sue Jones for her enduring commitment to the boys and girls of Pagosa Springs before this body of Congress and this nation. Sue recognizes the importance of athletic programs and competition in the development of well-rounded and conscientious young citizens. Her energy and service have provided students of the Archuleta School District invaluable support for their athletic dreams.

THE ASSASSINATION OF SERBIAN PRIME MINISTER ZORAN DJINDJIC ON MARCH 12, 2003

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express outrage at the assassination of the Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic. This assassination represents a hideous and appalling crime that was intended to block reform and democratization endeavors. The United States has strongly endorsed Djindjic's reform-minded approach, his advocacy of democratic values and his struggle to propel Serbia into