

I'm sure God may have something to say about the President's failure to preserve peace in the effort to disarm Iraq. But, we do know what the Bible says, Mr. Speaker: "blessed are the peacemakers."

Most major religious organizations in the world—the Vatican, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and Protestant religious groups—oppose war in Iraq on moral grounds. Yet, this resolution seeks to deflect moral criticism from the President's immoral act of war, and despite his refusal to listen to the leaders of his own faith. Regardless, religion is not an area for Congressional debate.

I respect the right of everyone to reflect on these difficult events as they see fit. I understand the value of people of various religions or moral convictions finding resolve in their beliefs or faiths during this trying time. That is everyone's right. However, this resolution today has Congress encouraging all Americans, regardless of their beliefs, to engage in specific religious acts that are Christian in nature.

Our country was founded on the principles of free expression and religious liberty. The Constitution requires that Congress must not legislate religion, but instead honor the diversity of convictions and beliefs in our nation. This resolution fails to respect the separation of church and state and to uphold our commitment to honor religious diversity. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL
JOSE GUTIERREZ

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez, who was one of the first Americans to give his life in battle during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the heroism of this young man.

Corporal Gutierrez was a symbol of America's promise. Born in Guatemala, Jose lost his parents at a young age and spent years on the streets in his home country. He came to the United States seeking a better life, and after moving around a bit, found a home with foster parents in Lomita, California, a small town in my congressional district.

Jose attended local schools—North High School in Torrance and Harbor College in Wilmington—playing soccer and hoping one day to study architecture. His foster brother told local newspapers that "he joined the Marines to pay back a little of what he'd gotten from the U.S."

Mr. Speaker, it makes me proud to learn about the passionate feelings this young man had for his adopted country. Undoubtedly, they are feelings shared by hundreds or perhaps thousands of the other young men and women who volunteered for military service and are now participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I am proud too of the citizens of Lomita, who immediately began to organize tributes to Corporal Gutierrez, including plans to add his name to the memorial to fallen soldiers adjacent to the local post office, requesting that

post office to fly its flag at half-mast, and launching a drive to fly 82 U.S. flags in honor of all of Lomita's fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Corporal Gutierrez's ultimate sacrifice underscores for us how fragile and how precious are the freedoms we enjoy. He died to keep us free.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
STAN SHURMANTINE, RET.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Stan Shurmantine, of Lexington, MO, who recently retired from the United States Army Reserves after 28 years.

On February 28, 2003, Stan ended an outstanding career in the Army Reserves. Through the years, he has dedicated himself to serving the American people.

Currently, Stan serves as the manager of IBS Industries, Inc., in Independence, MO. IBS honored Stan's military service with a reception, which was attended by 250 guests.

Stan in addition to his military service, has served his home community of Lexington, where he lives with his wife Marcie. He is a councilman and also serves as mayor pro-tem.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Stan Shurmantine has honored the United States Army Reserves with service for 28 years. As he continues his work at IBS Industries, Inc. and the city of Lexington, I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL VEACH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Darrell Veach of Cortez, Colorado. Darrell is a dedicated citizen and leader of the Cortez community and it is my honor to pay tribute to his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Darrell is a third-generation stockman and a Korean War veteran who began his career raising sheep before becoming a cowboy. He is well known throughout the community as a good steward of his land and the environment. In addition to Darrell's ranching activities, his service to the local community goes back over thirty years with the Boy Scouts, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Montezuma County Planning Commission, and the Colorado Cattleman's Association. The Southwestern Colorado Livestock Association, of which Darrell is a board member and past president, honored him as its 2003 Stockman of the Year. A proud family man, Darrell shares his love for the outdoors with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I commend Darrell Veach before this body of Congress

and this great nation for his dedication and leadership within his community. His contributions have greatly benefited the people of Cortez and I am honored to have this opportunity to represent such a fine Coloradan. I wish Darrell the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DIGILIO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Digilio as Chef de Chemin de Fer of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. The "Forty and Eight," as it is popularly known, is an independent fraternal organization of veterans comprised of approximately 50,000 veterans from World War II and the Korean, Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts. The members of the "Forty and Eight" dedicate much of their time to their Child Welfare Program, Nurses Scholarship Trust Fund, as well as many activities dedicated to Americanism, respect for the flag, the Constitution and Law and Order.

Chef Digilio grew up in Bay Shore, New York and entered active duty in the United States Army in 1969. From 1970–1971 he served in the 95th Evacuation Hospital, DaNang, Republic of Vietnam. After his return to the United States, he entered the New York Army National Guard and worked his way up the ranks to senior commander of all medical units by 1986. On December 1, 1996, John was brevetted and placed on the New York State Retired List as brigadier general by the Governor of New York upon his retirement from military service.

I am most grateful for Chef Digilio's dedicated service to our county over the last 34 years. In this time of war, especially, it is critical that we take the time to show our support for America's men and women who have served in uniform. I wish the "Forty and Eight" a festive and enjoyable Homecoming this upcoming weekend.

REVOCATION OF EXECUTIVE
ORDER LIMITING ACCESS TO
PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a simple bill to revoke Executive Order 13233, "Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act," which President Bush issued on November 1, 2001. My bill would replace this Order with President Reagan's 1989 implementing Executive Order 12267. During the 107th Congress, on April 11, 2002, Representative STEVE HORN introduced the "Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2002" (H.R. 4187). I co-sponsored this bi-partisan bill. The Government Reform Committee held hearings on the Bush Order and then, after introduction, on Mr. HORN's bill. On October 9th, the House Government Reform Committee reported out an amended version of this bill. On

November 22nd, an accompanying House Report (Report 107-790) was published. Unfortunately, the full House never considered this bill.

In the 1978 Presidential Records Act, Congress clearly intended to make Presidential records available for Congressional investigations and then for the public after a 12-year period. The Act authorized the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to issue implementing regulations. President Reagan's Order expanded on NARA's implementing regulations. The Reagan Order clarified some areas not specifically addressed in the regulations. Most importantly, the Order identified only three areas where access to Presidential records could be limited—if disclosure might impair national security, law enforcement, or the deliberative processes of the executive branch.

President Bush's Order changed these access limitations. In a nutshell, law enforcement was dropped and two areas were added: "communications of the President or his advisors (the presidential communications privilege); [and] legal advice or legal work (the attorney-client or attorney work product privileges)." This broadening could severely limit Congressional access to key documents in its investigations of a former Administration.

Besides broadening the grounds for executive privilege claims, the Order is inconsistent both with the Presidential Records Act itself and with NARA's codified implementing regulations. NARA's rules were promulgated after the public had notice and an opportunity to comment, as required by the Administrative Procedure Act.

In November 2001, a week after issuance of the Order, I raised concerns in a Subcommittee hearing on the Order. I questioned the Administration witness about the legal and substantive justification for the policy changes. After the hearing and further discussions with White House officials, I had hoped that the Administration would amend or revoke its Order. Unfortunately, it has not done so. As a consequence, I believe that legislation is needed to void the Order. My bill would do just that.

The Order violates not only the spirit but also the letter of the Presidential Records Act. It undercuts the public's rights to be fully informed about how its government operated in the past. My bill would restore the public's right to know and its confidence in our government.

SALUTE TO MR. PETER MICHAEL STEFFES

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Peter M. Steffes, who recently retired from the House Committee on Armed Services after 41 years of distinguished public service. Pete's entire career was dedicated to national security and the defense of our country.

Pete's career began in 1961 in the Air Force as an Airman Basic, E-1; and after 21 years of rapid advancement through the ranks, he retired as an E-9, a Chief Master Sergeant.

On October 1, 1983, Pete joined the staff of the Armed Services Committee as a professional staff member where his dedication and exhaustive commitment to national security continued.

While initially assigned to the military installations and facilities subcommittee and the environment restoration panel, Pete assisted in the drafting of the Superfund Reauthorization Act of 1985, a consequential piece of environmental legislation of national significance. Pete was assigned to the Military Readiness Subcommittee in 1990; and in 1996, he was chosen to serve as lead professional staff. While on the Military Readiness Subcommittee Pete was responsible for one-third of the Department of Defense Budget. Pete's previous military experience and unique insights helped clarify the true state of military readiness for the Armed Services Committee, the Congress, and the American people. Through Pete's efforts, the committee has been able to compel the Department of Defense to examine and portray its level of readiness more honestly, and contribute the commitment of resources necessary to raise military readiness to a higher level of preparedness.

Also during this time, Pete lead the drafting efforts for the public sale of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve that brought over \$3.8 billion to the U.S. Treasury. Pete was also responsible for a multi-year effort to reform the operational structure of the Armed Forces Retirement Home to properly care for veteran military service men and women.

In addition to his subcommittee responsibilities, Pete also arranged and accompanied Members of Congress on 128 congressional delegations (CODELS). He has jokingly remarked that four and one-half years of his government service were spent traveling.

Pete's committee service spanned four presidents, eight secretaries of defense, five committee chairmen, and six staff directors. I speak for myself, past chairmen and ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Pete, in thanking him for his tireless work for our military men and women, and his dedication to the Armed Services Committee.

Pete is married to the former Barbara Eileen Jones. They have two children, Nicholette and Timothy, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Pete Steffes all the best in his new position as vice president of Government Policy, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). Members and committee staff will surely miss him, and we will always remember and be thankful for his distinguished service to the House of Representatives and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE 509TH BOMB WING AT WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding men and women of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, who are responsible for the most advanced flying machine in the hands of our armed forces, the B-2 Spirit Bomber.

Nearly 3,500 members of the 509th Bomb Wing, operating from both their home base in Missouri and from a forward-deployed location, have kept B-2s in the air around the clock, day and night, since the beginning of our campaign to liberate the people of Iraq.

The 509th Bomb Wing started Night One of Operation Iraqi Freedom by launching six B-2s and hitting 92 separate regime, command-and-control, and other high-value targets in downtown Baghdad. This unprecedented feat in aerial history was successfully completed by crews flying 38-hour round-trip sorties.

A tremendous effort has gone into training and equipping our great American airmen. They have proven, once again, that the B-2 is the first to fight. In this case, they have been the only bomber thus far that has been put directly in harm's way over Baghdad. The B-2 has demonstrated that it is an invaluable asset to coalition operations.

We recognize and thank the members of the 509th Bomb Wing for their sacrifices, both at home and overseas. I know that the members of the famed 509th are also proud and greatly appreciative of the outstanding support they continue to receive from their friends and neighbors in Missouri. On this day and every day, our thoughts and prayers are with all our military members and their families.

TRIBUTE TO NED AMSTUTZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Pastor Ned Amstutz of the First Baptist Church in Durango, Colorado for his extraordinary dedication to the community. After 8 years of service, Ned is retiring from the church, and today I would like to honor his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

After first working as a lawyer and a school-teacher, Ned found his calling in the ministry and attended seminary in Dallas, Texas. After years of dedicated service, Ned is known as a pastor with boundless energy whose outreach efforts extend to all sectors of the community and support programs such as the Durango Manna Soup Kitchen and a monthly lunch for local business people. Ned's outreach also covers the globe, supporting worldwide missionary programs including one in Belarus, where he once spent time as a guest teacher at a Bible college. Further demonstrating his dedication to Durango, Ned serves as the chaplain for the Durango Police Department, working with both victims and police officers in crisis situations.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Ned Amstutz has clearly had a profound effect not only in Durango but throughout the world. Ned's tireless determination is an inspiration to his congregation and to his community as a whole. His energy will be greatly missed at First Baptist and I wish him the best in his future endeavors. Thank you Ned for your service.