

problems we are facing. Most importantly, we see our parents. The producers. The creators. The people that selected St. Damian School, knowing the kind of education and religious teachings that would come our way here. They chose wisely, and for that we will be in eternal debt, but the first step we make in repayment is a heartfelt "Thank you." Sometimes it may seem like a clear-cut, simple thanks is not enough, but I think even a small compensation represents all of the aspects we do not know how to express, all of the thoughts we are afraid to admit.

In just a short while, we will be holding, in our own hands, the evidence of our completed years here at St. Damian. This evidence will be the trial winner to bring us to our next quest: high school. A valley of chances to recommit to previous promises and resolutions, high school will challenge us in ways we have never even faced before. We will be presented with opportunities we never realized we could have. Each of us will take up our own pick, and slowly begin to etch the rest of our lives into the caves of the Earth's past, present and future. Years from now, who knows how many humans will look back at those caves and be inspired to carry on their own lives in such a respectable manner? To the Class of 2004: As a small portion of every one of your support systems, I encourage you to accept the pandemonium of the present, and to thrust your pick into stone before more disarray throws itself upon us. I am incredibly proud of all of us for absolutely everything we have achieved together, and I am sure you are as well. I know the essential beliefs we all hold will guarantee us a prosperous future, both physically and spiritually. Finally, congratulations to one and all, the distinguished St. Damian Class of 2004!!

THE RONALD REAGAN ALZHEIMER'S BREAKTHROUGH ACT OF 2004

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be joining Senators BOND and MIKULSKI, and my House colleagues, Representatives CHRIS SMITH and ED MARKEY, in introducing the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004. This legislation will significantly increase our government's investment in Alzheimer's disease research and patient and caregiver support initiatives.

As a son whose mother suffers from Alzheimer's, I know personally the sacrifice—both financially and emotionally—of families caring for a parent with this horrific disease. It is the story of so many Hispanics in this nation—a story of so many Americans. My family fled Cuba to come to find freedom in the United States. My mother worked her entire life as a seamstress in the factories of New Jersey. She spends half of her Social Security check on prescription drugs. If it was not for my sister and me, she would not live with the dignity she deserves.

Because of my personal experience with Alzheimer's, I have always admired Nancy and Ronald Reagan's strength and perseverance throughout the President's battle with this heart-wrenching and devastating illness. By having gone public, Ronald Reagan increased awareness of this debilitating disease, providing hope, comfort, and companionship

to 4.5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's today. We feel there is no more fitting tribute to honor President Reagan's memory than to join together in a bipartisan manner and support the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act.

Today, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in older people. One in ten people over 65 and nearly half those over 85, suffer from Alzheimer's disease. And with the aging of our population, we can expect those numbers to increase. In fact, unless scientific research finds a way to prevent or cure the disease, it is estimated that between 11.3 and 16 million people in the U.S. will have Alzheimer's disease by the middle of the 21st century.

Just a few weeks ago, I, along with the Alzheimer's Association, released a report that focuses on the impact of Alzheimer's on Hispanics. The report predicts that, because Hispanics are the fastest growing population in the country and have the greatest life expectancy of any ethnic group, the community will experience a six-fold increase in the disease by 2050. In numbers, this means that 1.3 million Hispanics will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050, compared to fewer than 200,000 currently living with the disease.

The legislation introduced today will increase National Institute of Health funding to \$1.4 billion a year so we can continue to advance our ability to one day prevent, treat, and ultimately cure this disease. This increase is necessary if we are going to be serious about reducing both the physical and economic costs of Alzheimer's. According to experts, delaying the onset and progression of Alzheimer's for even 5 years could save as much as \$50 billion in annual health care costs. Alzheimer's costs American businesses more than \$36.5 billion annually due to lost productivity of employees who are caregivers and the health care costs associated with the disease.

Alzheimer's is a far-reaching disease and a serious strain on families because it not only affects families' lives, jobs, and finances, but also their mental and physical well-being. In response, this legislation provides a tax credit of up to \$3,000 to help pay the expenses of families who care for loved ones with long-term care needs.

In addition, this bill increases authorization levels for a series of programs to help families care for their loved ones; increases funding levels for research initiatives focused on prevention and care; and authorizes funding for a public education campaign to inform the public about prevention techniques.

Congress needs to make wise investments on behalf of the American people. Alzheimer's research is one of those important and critical investments we must make now, so that future generations of Americans will have the medical resources and knowledge to cope with the challenge of caring for a parent, family member, or friend living with this disease. By making this investment today, it is my hope that one day soon a cure will be found so Alzheimer's will be a part of medical history instead of a family's reality.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is startling when one in three children are raised "fatherless", but it is part of our reality. Numerous studies have shown the devastating effects on children when fathers did not play an active role in their child's life. For these reasons, although, it is important to discuss the interactions of mother and child, we cannot forget the interactions of the whole family and the inclusion of fathers.

As the Committee on Education and the Workforce discussed the reauthorization of Head Start, I was able to have A Fatherhood Initiative amendment incorporated into the bill. The initiative is intended to strengthen the role of fathers in families, in their child's life, and allow them to play an interactive role in their child's development and education. By getting fathers involved during their child's early years, we hope it will set the precedent for a lifetime of bonding and positive interaction between the two. Within this initiative and after the general outreach to father, the fathers will be included in home visits and targeted for more participation.

Although we would hope that all fathers would take part in their child's life, it is not always the case. This is why my amendment extends the father initiative to father figures as well to make sure that the male role model is firm in a child's life, whether it is an older brother, uncle, grandfather or step-parent.

Madam Speaker, as we get ready to celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, we hope that more fathers will step up to their important role as a parent. Yet, it is also a day to give great praise, support and to celebrate the fathers in our Nation that never gave up, never backed down and have always been fathers and daddies to their children. Overall, our focus should be on the child—and to fully bring awareness of the best well-being of a child, we must put our efforts on strengthening the whole family.

FAIR OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LITTLE GUY UNDER EMINENT DOMAIN

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of H.R. 4603, the Eminent Domain Relief for the Little Guy Act. I have introduced this bill to address a current law that makes the hardship of being forced to sell property to the government under eminent domain even more difficult.

The use of eminent domain is authorized in the Constitution and has been used throughout our Nation's history to acquire the property necessary to build roads, schools, military bases, and government buildings. However,

that these projects serve the greater good must seem little consolation to an owner whose property comes under threat of eminent domain. Eminent domain can derail a property owner's life plan, erasing years of hard work spent getting a business off of the ground or building a home.

The Constitution makes it clear that a property owner forced to sell under eminent domain is entitled to "just compensation." While it is debatable whether any compensation can be truly just, it seems that, at the very least, the government owes a seller a fair price for their property and the opportunity to rethink their plan and to move on with their life.

Current tax law related to gain on sale of property under eminent domain denies sellers the opportunity to decide how they would like to move on with their life. It mandates that sellers must pay taxes on income from sale under eminent domain unless they reinvest their money in real estate within 3 years. So not only is the government forcing property owners to sell their property, it is also telling them what to do with the money from that sale.

The Eminent Domain Relief for the Little Guy Act will remedy this by removing the current requirement that a seller must reinvest in real estate. This will make sale of all real property by an individual or a small business under eminent domain tax exempt, meaning that the seller can use their income to start a business, invest in the stock market, save for retirement, or, if they choose, reinvest in real estate. Many will indeed choose to buy a new home or to move their business to a new location. But fairness dictates that this should be their decision.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4603 and make sure the little guys and gals who are forced to sell under eminent domain are allowed the flexibility in spending their income that they need and deserve.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DOUG HUGHES, USN.

#### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Naval Officer, Captain Doug Hughes, and to recognize his dedicated service to our Nation as he prepares to complete his service in the United States Navy. It is a great honor for me to take this opportunity to thank Captain Hughes and his family for his 24 years of distinguished service to our Nation for which he has proudly and selflessly served in the defense of freedom.

It was during his last assignment as director of the Secretary of the Navy's Appropriation's Liaison office, that I first came to know Captain Hughes. In this capacity, he has proved to be an invaluable link between the Secretary and the Chief of Naval Operations to me, my staff, and to the professional staff of the Appropriations Committee. Captain Hughes has escorted me and other Members of Congress on several occasions as we traveled both home and abroad to review military operations and confirm the health and welfare of our troops.

On every occasion, Captain Hughes performed his duties in an exacting and precise manner. But far more important to me and the members of the Appropriations Committee was the insight he shared with us concerning matters of national security and the Department of the Navy. He clearly understands the role of the Navy in providing for our Nation's security and stability, as well as serving as an ambassador for American values throughout the world.

We have always been able to count on Captain Hughes' candor, intelligence, and steadfast devotion to duty mixed in with a flair of humor. He was an invaluable asset to me in Congressional deliberations on all matters regarding our Armed Forces and his perspective on the needs of the Nation with respect to our sea services will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that behind every service member there stands a strong and supportive family so I also want to recognize the Hughes family: his lovely wife Nancy, and his children, Reggie and Lee. They have been stalwart partners in his service to the United States. We can ill afford to forget that it is the strength of family, and indeed their love and support, that make it possible to honorably serve in uniform. My wife Beverly and I have the highest respect for those families who support and enable their sons, daughters, husbands, and wives to serve in uniform. We appreciate and honor all the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in defense of freedom.

In closing, my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the special contribution Captain Doug Hughes has made to the United States Navy. We wish Captain Hughes and his family continued success and the traditional naval wish of "fair winds and following seas" as he closes out his distinguished military career.

#### TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of one of the most brutal attacks in history, the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple, which is the center and seat of the Sikh religion. Attacking the Golden Temple is the equivalent of attacking the Vatican or Mecca.

The Golden Temple was under siege from June 3 to June 6, 1984, under a Congress Party government led by Indira Gandhi, whose daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi is now the President of the Congress Party and its floor leader in Parliament.

As you know, the supposedly secular Congress Party was recently swept back into power in India's elections. But for minorities, it doesn't really matter whether the Congress Party or the just-ousted Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is in power. Either way, the repression continues. Although there is a Sikh Prime Minister in India, he has no real power. He is at the mercy of Mrs. Gandhi. India continues to hold 52,268 Sikh

political prisoners without charge, trial, or access to legal counsel, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since June 1984. Another 50,000 have "disappeared." These are not the tactics of a democracy, Mr. Speaker. They are the tactics of a police state. What is India afraid of? Are they scared of a little free speech?

125 other Sikh Gurdwaras were also attacked at the same time. In all, over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in this brutal attack, known as Operation Blue Star. These included major spokesmen for Sikh freedom such as Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and others. The Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib, written in the time that the ten Sikh Gurus lived, was shot full of bullet holes by the Indian forces. Young Sikh boys, ages 8 to 13, were taken out in the courtyard and asked whether they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh state. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal," they were shot to death.

The Golden Temple attack made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular and democratic India. As Bhindranwale himself said, "If India attacks the Golden Temple, it will lay the foundation stone for Khalistan." On October 7, 1987, Khalistan formally declared itself independent from India. India claims that there is no support for Khalistan. Then let them test the issue democratically at the ballot box by holding a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the subject of independence.

The Sikh Nation had sovereignty before, from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. No Sikh representative has ever signed India's constitution. The Sikhs have a heritage of freedom from their Gurus and they will be free again. Iraq is becoming a free country and will soon have a representative government. In the 21st century, you cannot suppress people for long. The people must determine their own fate. Only a free Khalistan will enable the Sikhs to live in peace, freedom, dignity, and prosperity. This cannot happen as long as their homeland is under Indian control.

If the Sikhs were the only victims of Indian repression, that would be bad enough. They are not. India has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947. It has killed priests, raped nuns, attacked Christian schools, prayer halls, and festivals, expelled and killed missionaries, and carried out other atrocities against the Christian community. In short, it is not safe to be a Christian in India today. India has killed over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988. Between 2,000 and 5,000 Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while the police were ordered to stand aside. Even India's own Human Rights Commission found evidence that the government pre-planned the Gujarat massacre. Amnesty International says that tens of thousands of minorities are being held as political prisoners.

This is unacceptable in any country, Mr. Speaker, especially a country that proclaims itself democratic. The Sikhs cannot forget or forgive the brutal Golden Temple attack. Neither can the other minorities forget the brutality that has been done to them. That is why America must act. Not one dollar of U.S. aid should be provided to India until basic human rights are respected. India can start by releasing all its political prisoners. We should also