

like again to quote the report of the Catholic bishops: "We have had an experience of the frustration and humiliation undergone everyday by Palestinians at checkpoints, which impede them from providing for their families, reaching hospital, getting to work, attending their studies and visiting their relatives."

I am here carrying in my body the pains and suffering of my Palestinian people. But I am here with an olive branch in my hand, saying, "Enough for hatred, enough for occupation, enough for spiral violence, enough for revenge and counter-revenge; enough for stigmatization, demonization and dehumanization of the other. I say, enough for war! It is time for truth, justice and peace for all the people of our land."

Our prophetic task is to address the root cause of the Middle East problem: The occupation has to end. It is a sin against God and against humanity because it is depriving people of their rights and their dignity. Occupation is as destructive to the occupier, as it is to the occupied. As the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem stated in March 2002: "We believe that the Israeli security is dependent on the Palestinian freedom and justice. For this reason, we join our voices with every Israeli and Palestinian seeking for a just peace. We ask everyone to take the appropriate measures to stop further massacres or tragedies for our two peoples."

We want security for the Israelis, and freedom and justice for the Palestinians. But the security of Israel is dependent on the freedom of the Palestinians, and the justice of the Palestinians is dependent on the security of Israel. Once we recognize the symbiotic relationship between the two peoples, a just peace and reconciliation will become reality.

The prophetic voice of the Palestinian Church that seeks a just peace is a voice that believes in the future. We support a two state solution which means having the state of Israel and the Palestinian state within the 67 borders living side by side in peace, justice, equality and reconciliation with a shared Jerusalem. Here I would like to affirm the statement made by President George W. Bush on June 24, 2002, calling for a two-state solution with people living side by side. I also admire the president's call for a viable, contiguous Palestinian state. It is also our call that a just solution will be found to the problems of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees in accordance with the rule of law and international legitimacy.

No forms of peaceful settlement of the conflict will ever be realized unless the grass-roots will be reconciled with one another. In this task the three monotheistic religions are called to be the forerunners—preparing the way for reconciliation. At the moment both nations are polarized with both political and religious extremists from the three religions forcing the two peoples apart from each other. But those extremists must never kidnap the Middle East nor kidnap justice, peace and reconciliation. I believe that religion should be an instrument of peace and broker for justice. Religion is to call Palestinians and Israelis—Jews, Christians and Muslims—not to see God only in ourselves and our own religion, but also in the other's, in the people who are different from us. When we learn to see God in the other, then we can accept the humanity of the other. Once we accept the humanity of the other, then we accept the otherness of the other, and then mutually recognize each other's human, civil, religious, national and political rights. Only then the Holy Land will become the promised land of milk and honey for both Palestinians and Israelis.

The Palestinian Church also has a vision for the Palestinian society. The church lead-

ers are also calling for justice within our society based on respect of human and religious rights. We envision a modern democratic just civil society. This is the reason that we have been vocal in our joint ecumenical work to call for equality, freedom of religion, opinion and expression for every human being. But the Palestinian Church does not only talk, but walks the talk and reflects that either in the immersing basic constitution, or practices it in our educational, health and social institutions. If we take the Evangelical Lutheran Church as an example, we serve the needy regardless of gender, religion, confessional or political affiliation. Our schools raise up a new generation that is capable of building a Palestinian democratic modern civil society. We are teaching 3000 children in 5 schools. 37 percent of our students are Muslims. It is our aim to teach coexistence among Jews, Christians and Muslims, and we offer peace education and non-violent ways of dealing with the conflict. As it is written in our school in Bethlehem, "Violence is the tool of the incompetent." We also serve in hospitals. Our Augusta Victoria Hospital has been serving the Palestinian refugees for the last 55 years. Statistics show that 22,000 patients were treated in the last year. However, we are facing a problem of the employer's tax with the ministry of finance of the state of Israel. The Lutheran World Federation hopes that a solution will be found and that the agreement of tax exemption will continue for the sake of the services we render. Although we Christians are less than 2 percent of the total population, we serve 20 to 25 percent of the Palestinian people. And we urge you to see the significant role that the Christian Church is playing to create hope in a situation that often seems hopeless and to build a future with justice, peace and reconciliation in our country.

When God gave freedom and power to the United States of America through the struggles of many women and men such as Washington, Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr. and others, He did not give you liberation to keep it in the United States, but to help smaller nations, who are living in fear and injustice, to enjoy what God allowed you to enjoy. Our concern is the future of the Palestinian and Israeli children; they are entitled to live their lives in security, justice, freedom, respect for human rights and in peace as American children do.

As Representative Lois Capps made plans to visit us, I told her, "Come and see for yourself—see the whole story on the ground. Then judge for yourself." This is what I want to tell each of you today: "Come and see! You are very welcome. See and hear the whole story—the fears and hopes of both sides—and then make up your mind for yourself."

As I come to address you, I am not asking you to be pro-Palestinian nor to be pro-Israeli. I am asking you to be pro-humanity, pro-truth, pro-peace and pro-reconciliation. Because it is only then you help both peoples to find a dignified solution.

It is time to commit ourselves to move from statements to action and to change our warrior swords into peaceful ploughshares. We all can say, as a graffiti said in Ramallah: "Better the pains of peace, than the agonies of war and occupation."

Let us sing with King David: "Justice and peace must kiss each other" (Psalm 85: 10).

May the peace of the Lord fill our hearts and direct our ways.

TRIBUTE TO LEE MARSHALL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lee Marshall on the release of her debut album, "Anchored." The National Children's Advocacy Center, located in Huntsville, hosted Lee's CD release party on Friday, February 27, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, Lee Marshall is a celebrated news anchor for WAFF NBC 48 in Huntsville. In addition to her role as the lead morning and noon news anchor, Lee is the host of a weekly segment on WAFF called "Kids to Love." On every episode of "Kids to Love," she highlights one of the five thousand kids that are in foster care and the five hundred that are waiting to be adopted in the State of Alabama. Every show is close to her heart because Lee herself was adopted. Lee is a shining example of what the love of a permanent family can do for a child's future success.

Lee also volunteers countless hours working with the American Cancer Society and the National Children's Advocacy Center. She is a strong supporter of the NCAC model and has lent her name to help educate others and raise awareness of the severity of child abuse.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in North Alabama are proud of Lee and the work that she has done for our area. I have admired her energy, compassion, and commitment to the community and on behalf of every one in North Alabama, I wish her the best of luck with her debut album.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA CLARK

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of a remarkable woman in Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize Sylvia Clark for her impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service.

Sylvia was a dear friend and a stalwart leader who will be greatly missed. She lived her life on the front lines of progress and proved to be a powerful force in transforming the landscape of our State. Her indomitable spirit sustained her through many challenges and molded a life of genuine accomplishment.

Sylvia was born in St. Anthony, Idaho, and spent a good portion of her youth in Honduras where she saw first hand the impact of poverty on women and children. She studied nursing at Johns Hopkins University and went on to become a registered nurse, a certified nurse midwife, a certified obstetrics and gynecology nurse, and earned a master's degree in public administration. Sylvia came of age professionally at the time women were gaining their rights to forms of birth control previously considered illegal. She began an eminent career at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains in 1967 and went on to become executive director where she guided the organization through turbulent political times and succeeded in building a preeminent reproductive health care agency, providing services to

over 100,000 clients through 35 health centers in six States.

No one has been more courageous and unrelenting in the struggle to make sure that every pregnancy is planned, that every child is wanted, and that every woman is assured access to reproductive health care. Sylvia's life is a testament to the principle that government should not interfere in the health choices of women. She was dedicated to the proposition that all women should be given the support they need to make wise decisions about their families. Despite numerous attempts to chip away at reproductive rights and health care services in Colorado, Sylvia never faltered and labored tirelessly to ensure that family planning practices in our State remain both respectful and voluntary. For these efforts, Sylvia was honored by the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice with the Alex Luken Faith and Freedom Award and the Anti-Defamation League's Civil Rights Award.

We are grateful for Sylvia's leadership in sustaining an ethic of family planning in our State and Nation. She was a fervent defender of rights that have deep roots in our democracy and our tradition of civil liberties. I believe Sylvia's message to us would be that we must be ever vigilant and continue the fight for the kind of America which respects these rights.

Sylvia Clark lived a life of meaning and one that is rich in consequence. It is the character and deeds of Sylvia Clark, and all Americans like her, which distinguish us as a people. Truly, we are all diminished by the passing of this remarkable woman. Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Sylvia Clark, a distinguished citizen. It is the values, leadership, and commitment she exhibited during her life that serve to build a better future for all Americans.

MONTENEGRO'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform my colleagues of the steps Montenegro has undertaken to combat trafficking in persons. This progress was reported to me by Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister, Dragan Djurovic, the republic's anti-trafficking coordinator, Aleksandr Mostrokol, and Mirjana Vlahovic from the Montenegro Women's Lobby. All three were in Washington last month for a conference hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Montenegro is a republic of the former Yugoslavia, and the only one to remain in a state with Serbia. After some political changes took place in the late 1990s, Montenegrin authorities stood in opposition to Slobodan Milosevic's undemocratic rule at home and aggression towards Serbia's neighbors. Montenegro, however, has been plagued by official corruption and organized crime. Trafficking in persons, the human slavery of our day, has become a highly developed criminal activity in Montenegro, as in other places in the region.

Last year, Montenegro received considerable attention for a case in which a trafficking victim—a woman from Moldova who had been

raped, tortured and severely beaten for more than 3 years while enslaved in prostitution—escaped her captors, went to the authorities and provided testimony against several persons, including Deputy State Prosecutor Zoran Piperovic. What was a welcomed effort to prosecute traffickers even if they hold official positions, however, turned problematic as the victim was subjected to various forms of intimidation and her family in Moldova was threatened due to her cooperation in the investigation. When charges were suddenly dropped against Piperovic and three others, I issued a statement expressing outrage over this development. This set a dangerous precedent for going after traffickers with clout and connections elsewhere. Many likewise criticized the Montenegrin authorities for the failure to bring the case to trial.

To its credit, the Montenegrin Government responded to the widespread criticism. Mr. Djurovic invited a joint team of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe to examine the case and make recommendations. Flaws were found. As a result, both the accused Deputy State Prosecutor and the prosecutor responsible for dropping the charges were sacked and new prosecutors put into office. In addition, the Montenegrin Government adopted an anti-trafficking strategy and passed several new laws designed to combat trafficking as well as to prevent future manipulations of the legal system. Additional laws, including one on witness protection, are still being developed.

In my meeting, Mr. Speaker, I welcomed the progress which has taken place in Montenegro in recent months. I also encouraged my guests to ensure that the new laws are properly implemented, and that the police, in particular, be made part of the effort to combat trafficking rather than part of the problem. Finally, I urged them to seek the reopening of the high profile trafficking case. In my view, it is insufficient to learn lessons from a crime and a subsequently botched investigation or prosecution; the perpetrators still need to be brought to justice.

The meeting left me hopeful that progress is being made in Montenegro. I also hope, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues will join me in supporting U.S. programs designed to combat trafficking in persons in Montenegro, in southeastern Europe, and around the globe.

HONORING MR. CLIFF "C.J." GUFFEY

HON. BRAD CARSON

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, Cliff "C.J." Guffey is the Executive Vice President of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO. Vice President Guffey was elected as the Executive Vice President of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO in November 2002. Prior to his election to the American Postal Worker's Union's second highest elected office, he served as Assistant Director, Clerk Division from 1986 to 1999. Prior to serving as an officer at the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO headquarters he was President of the Oklahoma City Area Local from 1979 to 1986.

Vice President Guffey's job within the Postal Service was as an LSM Operator with brief tenure at a station.

Vice President Guffey also served with the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970 as a rifleman in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division in Viet Nam.

Vice President Guffey was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma. His father was a career navy pilot with the United States Navy and he and the family were stationed around the world living in: Hawaii, Naples Italy, San Diego and Alabama, just to mention a few.

Cliff is married with children and numerous grandchildren. He and his wife Donna reside in Virginia. Cliff and Wife Donna, have two daughters; Carrie and Terrie. Daughter Carrie is married to Matt Benjamin. Daughter Terrie is married to Derek Kilgo.

NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate March 2, 2004 as National Sportsmanship Day.

National Sportsmanship Day is based on the belief that athletic competition will teach students, coaches, and parents valuable lessons that are useful on and off the athletic field. A study conducted by Michigan State University in the 1990s found that 14 million of the 20 million American children who participate in organized sports drop out by age 13, mostly because their parents' attitudes take the fun out of playing the games. Recent news stories of fights among and between officials and parents and the pressure parents place on their young children to "win at any cost" highlight the importance of sportsmanship.

National Sportsmanship Day serves as an opportunity for athletes and sports fans of all ages to recognize and discuss the need for ethics, fair play and sportsmanship. This year, more than 12,000 elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as colleges and universities in all 50 states and more than 125 countries, are participating in the fourteenth annual celebration of the personal ethics and hard work of athletes.

Each year, the Institute for International Sport, based in Rhode Island's Second District, recognizes individuals who exemplify ethics and sportsmanship in both their professional and personal endeavors by naming them as Sports Ethics Fellows on National Sportsmanship Day.

The 2004 Sports Ethics Fellows represent a range of athletes, coaches, and administrators as diverse as those who enjoy sports. Each one of the Fellows is a tribute to his or her game, and their skills are only surpassed by their desire to play fairly. Their strong character and great talent make them each a role model to current and future generations of athletes.

This year's list of fellows consists of the following athletes, coaches, and administrators:

Wayne Bryan—Tennis; Bill Buckner—Professional Baseball; Patti Dillon—Marathon Winner; Chris Drury—Professional Hockey; Jennie Finch—Softball; Karen Finocchio—Head Coach of the Brown University Men's