

negative effects on the Tibetan people's distinct cultural, religious and linguistic identity. More Chinese settlers are coming to Tibet resulting in the economic marginalization of the Tibetan people and the sinicization of their culture. Tibetans need to see an improvement in the quality of their life, the restoration of Tibet's pristine environment and the freedom to decide an appropriate model of development.

I welcome the release of Ani Phuntsok Nyidrol, even as we recognize the injustice of her sentence and continue to urge for the release of all political prisoners in Tibet. The human rights situation in Tibet has not seen any marked improvement. Human rights violations in Tibet have a distinct character of preventing Tibetans as a people from asserting their own identity and culture. The violations are a result of policies of racial and cultural discrimination and religious intolerance.

Against this background we are encouraged and grateful that many individuals, governments and parliaments around the world have been urging the People's Republic of China to resolve the question of Tibet through peaceful negotiations. Led by the European Union and the United States there is growing realization in the international community that the issue of Tibet is not one of human rights violations alone but of deeper political nature which needs to be resolved through negotiations.

I am also encouraged by the recent improvements in the relationship between India and China. It has always been my belief that better understanding and relations between India and China, the two most populous nations of the world is of vital importance for peace and stability in Asia in particular and in the world in general. I believe that improved relations between India and China will create a more conducive political environment for the peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue. I also strongly believe India can and should play a constructive and influential role in resolving the Tibetan problem peacefully. My 'Middle-Way-Approach' should be an acceptable policy on Tibet for India as it addresses the Tibetan issue within the framework of the People's Republic of China. A solution to the Tibetan issue through this approach would help India to resolve many of her disputes with China, too.

It is 54 years since the establishment of the People's Republic of China. During Mao Zedong's period much emphasis was put on ideology, while Deng Xiaoping concentrated primarily on economic development. His successor Jiang Zemin broadened the base of the Communist Party by enabling wealthy people to become part of the Communist Party under his theory of "The Three Represents". In recent times Hu Jintao and his colleagues were able to achieve a smooth transition of leadership. During the past decades China has been able to make much progress. But there have also been shortcomings and failures in various fields, including in the economy. One of the main causes of the shortcomings and failures seems to be the inability to deal with and act according to the true and real situation. In order to know the real and true situation it is essential that there be free information.

China is undergoing a process of deep change. In order to affect this change smoothly and without chaos and violence I believe it is essential that there be more openness and greater freedom of information and proper awareness among the general public. We should seek truth from facts—facts that are not falsified. Without this China cannot hope to achieve genuine stability. How can there be stability if things must be hidden and people are not able to speak out their true feelings?

I am hopeful that China will become more open and eventually more democratic. I have for many years advocated that the change and transformation of China should take place smoothly and without major upheavals. This is in the interest of not only the Chinese people but also the world community.

China's emergence as a regional and global power is also accompanied by concerns, suspicion and fears about her power. Hosting the Olympic Games and World Exposition will not help to dispel these concerns. Unless Beijing addresses the lack of basic civil and political rights and freedoms of its citizens, especially with regard to minorities, China will continue to face difficulties in reassuring the world that she is a peaceful, responsible, constructive and forward-looking power.

The Tibetan issue represents both a challenge and an opportunity for a maturing China to act as an emerging global player with vision and values of openness, freedom, justice and truth. A constructive and flexible approach to the issue of Tibet will go a long way in creating a political climate of trust, confidence and openness, both domestically and internationally. A peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue will have wide-ranging positive impacts on China's transition and transformation onto a modern, open and free society. There is now a window of opportunity for the Chinese leadership to act with courage and farsightedness in resolving the Tibetan issue once and for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude for this consistent support that we have been receiving throughout the world. I would also like to express once again on behalf of the Tibetans our appreciation and immense gratitude to the people and the Government of India for their unwavering and unmatched generosity and support.

With my prayers for the well-being of all sentient beings.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANTHI POULOS JONES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a dedicated scholar and public servant and dear friend from Potomac, Maryland. Anthi Poulos Jones, born in Greece and raised in New Hampshire, recently passed away at the age of 57. Anthi dedicated her life to government service and the challenging legal profession. I am honored today to bring her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

After graduating from Windham College in Vermont, Anthi went on to receive a master's degree in Russian Studies and a law degree from American University. As a perpetual scholar, Anthi took up additional studies in international law at Georgetown University and the prestigious Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands.

Throughout her pursuit of knowledge, she also worked as a legislative assistant and staff lawyer for Senator Thomas J. McIntyre, Charles McC. Mathias Jr., John Glenn Jr., and Hank Brown. During the 1990's, Anthi worked for my office, where she served as a valuable member of my staff and counsel. Anthi's dedi-

cation and ceaseless work ethic has benefited many citizens of Colorado. After working on my staff, she was appointed as a scholar-in-residence at the Law Library of Congress where she focused on war crimes and reparations for property looted in wartime.

Anthi was an active patron of the arts and a devoted patriot. She served as the founder and chairwoman of the Committee on World War II Art Claims and the US Committee on the Parthenon where she advocated for the return of ancient Greek statues that were removed from Greece and taken to England in the 19th century.

Mr. Speaker, Anthi Poulos Jones was a dedicated scholar and government steward who selflessly served her community and country, and I am honored to pay tribute to such an industrious public servant. Her lifetime of service is an incredible model for America's youth. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this time of bereavement.

CONGRATULATING JIM WALTZE ON BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate Jim Waltze, the CEO of construction industry leader Griffith Company, on being selected as president of the Associated General Contractors of America. Mr. Waltze is a visionary leader in an industry that is one of the pillars of our economy.

Jim Waltze started in contracting at the age of 21, and in 1973 at age 28 he joined the Griffith Company, one of the top major construction firms in Southern California. His career at Griffith has been marked by regular promotions—to Chief Estimator in 1975, vice president/district manager in 1977 and executive vice president in 1986. He was named president of the company in 1992, and added the titles of chief executive officer and board chairman in 1997.

Under his leadership, Griffith Company has taken on some of the largest port projects in Southern California, including the \$37 million Seaside Project for the Port of Los Angeles and the \$71 million Pier T Project for the Port of Long Beach. He has been the driving force for innovation at the company, setting up a company wide strategic planning process and the development of divisions for specialty structures, underground projects and materials. The company has been a pioneer in computerized estimating and project management systems.

The contributions of Jim Waltze go beyond the success of his company, however. He has been involved for most of his career in organizations that promote the economic health and high standards of the contracting industry. He has been a board member of the Associated General Contractors of California for two decades, and was elected to the National Board of Directors for the Associated General Contractors of America in 1987.

The positions Jim Waltze has taken on with the AGC range from the Chairman of the

Highway Division in 1995 to an active involvement in the group's Young Constructors Forum for students coming into the profession. He served from 1999–2001 as co-chairman of the National Quality Initiative, established by the Federal Highway Administration to ensure that the construction and maintenance of our interstates and national highways meets the highest possible standards. He has been an active member of the Transportation Information Program and Transportation California, groups that strive to ensure adequate resources are available for our state and federal highway systems.

Jim Waltze has served for the past two years as vice president and senior vice president for Associated General Contractors of America, and he will be installed on March 12 as the chairman of the national group. The contractors of California are proud to be represented by one of their own this year.

Mr. Speaker, the general contractors of America build our highways and airports, ports and dams, our military installations, government buildings and skyscrapers. Their dedication to excellence has helped our nation be the world's leader in quality construction, indeed in our quality of life. Visionary leaders like Jim Waltze continue to push the drive for excellence and innovation that will keep America the world leader into the future. Please join me in congratulating him and wishing him well as he takes the reins of the Associated General Contractors of America.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous contribution to America's continuing freedom that is provided by employers who support our "citizen soldiers" in the Guard and Reserve.

In today's perilous world, each of us knows that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. The men and women of America's Guard and Reserve are the vanguard of that vigilance. They are clerks and cashiers, merchants and mechanics, doctors and lawyers. Most importantly, they are our friends and neighbors, our sons, daughters, fathers and mothers.

They represent the best among us. Along with the full-time members of our armed services, those volunteers help ensure that we all have the fullest opportunity to exercise the liberties for which generations of American heroes have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, in recent months we all have seen National Guard and Reserve units from our own states and districts called to active duty for the war on terrorism. We all have heard the public declarations of support for those activated troops and the families they leave behind. But the true measure of that support lies not in words but in actions. And there is no greater comfort for our Guard and Reserve personnel than the certainty that they will be able to return to their civilian jobs when they come home, and that their loved ones will continue receiving the benefits of that employment while they are gone.

The employers who provide those assurances, who guarantee the jobs and benefits of

America's Guard and Reserve personnel, should be counted among the heroes of the war on terrorism. They are shouldering an important part of the burden of defending our homeland from those who envy and despise us for the freedom to choose liberty, tolerance and diversity. America is blessed with employers who have the foresight to understand the great value of having a force of trained and qualified personnel ready to answer their nation's call to arms with the sure knowledge that they are appreciated and financially protected.

So I encourage my colleagues to join me, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing and applauding the essential role played by employer support of the Guard and Reserve, and the invaluable service they provide to the men and women who bear the weight of battle. The Three Star program launched by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committees across the country is one way to acknowledge the understanding and support of those employers who are enabling a new generation of American heroes to go into harm's way unencumbered by concerns for their families' financial well-being. They deserve our patronage, and our thanks.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANNE HEPP

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute today to Anne Hepp, a woman from my district who supplies an invaluable service as the Spanish language interpreter for the Montrose and Delta County Colorado courts. The honesty and integrity Anne brings to her job is matched only by the commitment and skill she brings to making sure that accurate and complete communications flow between the court and Spanish-speaking defendants. It is my pleasure to take this opportunity and thank Anne for the significant contributions she makes to her community and state.

The daughter of a French high school teacher, Anne's interest in linguistics began at an early age. Having many friends who spoke Spanish, Anne studied the language in middle and high school, even participating as a foreign exchange student in Mexico. With the large number of Spanish-speaking citizens in her community, Anne knew she could use her language skills to become an interpreter. Her great skills and dedication to the judicial system has earned high praise from judges, attorneys, and most especially the defendants she assists.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Anne provides a vital service to her community and the judicial system, and I would like to recognize her contributions before this body of Congress and this nation today. I thank Anne for her continuing efforts and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

REGARDING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON GAY MARRIAGE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves to consider a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, I would like to take this opportunity to submit for the RECORD the following letter from a constituent of mine, whose words and sentiments are echoed by millions of Americans throughout the country. Though this letter was addressed to the members of the Massachusetts State Legislature, I believe the passion and conviction this mother has for the rights and privileges of her children, and her gay son in particular, is extremely relevant to the debate that we may soon have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

FEBRUARY 21, 2004.

Members of the Massachusetts Legislature,
State House, Boston, MA.

DEAR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES: I am the mother of four children. Our family values are evidenced by the concern they have for each other's well being. They are so alike in thought and deed that it continues to amaze me. They are outstanding, productive members of society and I am equally proud of all of them. However, passage of this discriminatory constitutional amendment will forbid my gay son from enjoying the same rights and privileges as his brother and sisters.

I implore you to vote no.
Sincerely,

ELSIE FRANK.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I urge all of my colleagues to heed the words of Mrs. Frank.

AN INDECENT ATTACK ON THE FIRST AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, we will soon debate the "Broadcast Indecency Act of 2004" on the House floor. This atrocious piece of legislation should be defeated. It cannot improve the moral behavior of U.S. citizens, but it can do irreparable harm to our cherished right to freedom of speech.

This attempt at regulating and punishing indecent and sexually provocative language suggests a comparison to the Wahhabi religious police of Saudi Arabia, who control the "Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice." Though both may be motivated by the good intentions of improving moral behavior, using government force to do so is fraught with great danger and has no chance of success.

Regulating speech is a dangerous notion, and not compatible with the principles of a free society. The Founders recognized this, and thus explicitly prohibited Congress from making any laws that might abridge freedom of speech or of the press.

But we have in recent decades seen a steady erosion of this protection of free speech.

This process started years ago when an arbitrary distinction was made by the political left