

Connecticut Voices for Children. CT Voices is a research-based public education and advocacy organization that works statewide to promote the well-being of Connecticut's children, youth and families. Janice and the co-founders of CT Voices have built this very special organization around a staff with education and experience in education, law, health, business, government and the non-profit sector. With such comprehensive vision and talented staff, CT Voices has been able to provide new and unique insights into the impact of policy and issues on today's youth and families. In fact, in just under a decade, CT Voices has become a leading voice in public policy with political leaders, the media, other advocacy groups and others regularly turning to them for public and budget analysis. The outstanding success of CT Voices allows this organization to have a real impact on public policy—a reflection of the remarkable efforts of Janice and her co-founders.

Currently serving as the Senior Advisor on Early Childhood for Connecticut's Governor M. Jodi Rell, Janice's expertise in early childhood education is recognized throughout the state. In addition to this role, she also continues as a lecturer at the Yale University Child Study Center and acts as a part-time senior consulting fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children. The multitude of work that Janice has done on behalf of our youngest citizens has gone a long way in increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and its positive impact on our children.

I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Herb; her three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Liz, Darren and Yoya, and Stephen and Amy; her grandchildren, Alisia, Elena, Vivian, and Mateo, as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in congratulating my dear friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel as she is honored by the ACES Education Foundation. Her many years of dedication and commitment has left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut and a legacy that will continue to make a difference in the lives of our young people for generations to come.

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EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR  
THE LIFE AND WORK OF POPE  
JOHN PAUL II

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**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my profound sympathy for the passing of Pope John Paul II, a man whom I'm certain will go down in history as one of history's greatest leaders.

This Pope's remarkable life—a tremendous intellect, limitless compassion and deep spirituality—was the foundation of his forceful teaching about the inherent dignity of every human being. Shaped by his experiences under Nazi and Communist regimes, the Pope taught us that this dignity is the first principle from which all others derive, calling on us to respond to the cry of the poor and to protect the weakest among us.

Pope John Paul II taught us, by his words and example, that we should have the "love of preference for the poor," that requires us to

respond to the needs of the weakest among us. As he wrote in "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" in 1987, "[T]his love of the preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future."

Human dignity, he also reminded us, should never be eclipsed by oppressive political systems, which deny the individuality of the person. Nor should the dignity of the human person be destroyed using tools of what he so appropriately called the "Culture of Death," such as legalized abortion or physician-assisted suicide.

Pope John Paul II spoke to the world about the importance of every human person, and he especially addressed the responsibility of our nation during his visit to the United States in 1995. I am submitting this statement for the RECORD, in which the Pope so eloquently called on us to live up to our democratic responsibilities, reminding us that, "[d]emocracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life."

The freedom of this country can only be understood within context of the moral responsibilities of our democracy. As we mark the passing of this tremendous man, I believe we should remember his exhortation to the United States: "At the center of the moral vision of your founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development."

"I say to you again, America, in the light of your own tradition: love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death."

May God grant Pope John Paul II eternal light and peace, and may his personal witness to faith, hope and courage remain in our hearts and those of all the world.

STATEMENT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES GIVEN ON OCTOBER 8, 1995

Dear Mr. Vice-President, Dear Friends, Dear People of America,

As I take leave of the United States, I wish to express my deep and abiding gratitude to many people.

To you, Mr. Vice-President, for graciously coming here to say goodbye. To the Bishops of the Dioceses I have visited and the many people, who have worked so hard to make this visit a success. To the public authorities, to the police and security personnel, who have ensured efficiency, good order and safety.

To the representatives of the various Churches and Ecclesial Communities, who have received me with great good will; to Americans of all races, colors and creeds, who have followed with interest and attention the events of these days; to the men and women of the communications media, who have labored diligently to bring the words and images of this visit to millions of people; and especially to all those who, personally present or from afar, have supported me with their prayers.

I express to the Catholic community of the United States my heartfelt thanks! In the

words of Saint Paul: "I give thanks to my God every time I think of you—which is constantly in every prayer I utter" (Phil 1:3).

I say this, too, to the United States of America: today, in our world as it is, many other nations and peoples look to you as the principal model and pattern for their own advancement in democracy. But democracy needs wisdom. Democracy needs virtue, if it is not to turn against everything that it is meant to defend and encourage. Democracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life. But these values themselves must have an objective content. Otherwise they correspond only to the power of the majority, or the wishes of the most vocal. If an attitude of skepticism were to succeed in calling into question even the fundamental principles of the moral law, the democratic system itself would be shaken in its foundations (cf. *Evangelium Vitae*, 70).

The United States possesses a safeguard, a great bulwark, against this happening. I speak of your founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. These documents are grounded in and embody unchanging principles of the natural law whose permanent truth and validity can be known by reason, for it is the law written by God in human hearts (cf. Rom 2:25).

At the center of the moral vision of your founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development. I say to you again, America, in the light of your own tradition: love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death.

At the end of your National Anthem, one finds these words: "Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just. And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust!'" America: may your trust always be in God and in none other. And then, "The star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave".

Thank you, and God bless you all!

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NOMINEES FOR KENTUCKY NEW  
ERA/ROTARY ACADEMIC ALL  
STAR TEAM

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**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Kentucky New Era/Rotary Academic All Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky.

The Academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based on their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities (both community based and school-related), employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my District are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

Griffin Blane, Gregory Kyle Rader, Ralph King Anderson IV, Kody Douglas Carpenter, Dianne Lisette Rousseau, Lauren Whitney Scott, Jennifer Renea Fowler, Samantha Joy White, Chad Darrel Brown, Casey Jo Calhoun, Bryan Hill, David Clayton Blake, Stephanie Leigh Huntsman, Danielle Diane Brown.

Matthew Wyn Lewis, Kristin Averitt Dickinson, Brittany Nichole Goodenough, Haylee Laura Lynne Ortiz, Drew Martin Swain, Sarah Christine Wilson, Marianne Wynn Lassiter, Amy Beth Shemwell, Brandon Bowron, Jerika Nashea Wilson, Melissa Nail, Kathryn Elizabeth Gill, Jonathan Christopher Bass, Zachary Daniel Ferguson, Erika Elaine MacMillan.

Ryan David Mullen, Andrew Christian Chiles, Barry Eli Knoblock, Paul Thomas Latham, Joshua Allen Fitzhugh, Sarah Christine Wilson, William Matthew Suiter, Amy Nicole Adams, Norman Bradley Fox, Juliana Elyse Patterson, Robert Kyle Whitaker, Pretesh Parmar, Nicholas Pickford Thompson, Dustin Glynn Kostalek, Ann Marie Crabtree,

Kellye Lynn Smiley, Meera Ramesh Patel, John Hayes Lester, Emily Scott, Sarah Beth Vied, Alicia Lynn Morris, Ashley Chewning, Brittany S. Hurt, Brittnee Collins, Chelsea Barnett, Corrinna M. Kinnard, Janelle Nichol Gilmer, Megan Gray, Sam Mitchell.

Sherry Cheatham, Wesley Croom, Bree Raquel Hokulani Goodwin, Brooke Davies, Elizabeth Settle, Emily Beatty, Kate Milani, Laura Beth Baggett, Morgan C. Murray, Sarah C. Hazelmyer, Shelley L. Traylor, Taylor Queen, Wendy A. Johnson, Andrew Landreth, Chelsea Musselman, Jacob Kyle Langston, Jonathan A. Chavez, Megan Jones.

Melissa Starks, Molly Ware Stuard, Nadeem Ramzi Haroun, Rachel Brown, Sarah Elaine Howell, Sarah Elizabeth Fields, Chelsea Rae Prince, Chris Kirkman, Erin Hamilton Oakley, George W. Barnes, Helen G. Crenshaw, Hunter Carroll, John Paul Bointott, Kalleb Anderson Greene, Kelsey Fish, Lindsay Elizabeth Gray, Shane Veteto.

Mr. Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

ACKNOWLEDGING JASON CRAWFORTH'S CONTRIBUTION TO IDAHO

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to an individual from my district whose initiative and vision might well be paying dividends in Idaho from years to come.

Through hard work and passion, Jason Crawforth gathered support from many medium and large technical institutions throughout my great state in support of a promotional effort in the Wall Street Journal on behalf of Idaho's outstanding business environment.

Companies such as Jason's own Treetop Tech, Micron Technology, Hewlett-Packard, Dell, and Extended Systems are just a few of America's top technology businesses that have chosen to locate large operations in Idaho over the years.

Anyone who spends even a short time in Idaho soon comes to realize the enormous potential of my State and its people, and the great benefits of doing business there.

From the low cost of living and absence of urban congestion to the overall quality of life, Idaho has a lot to offer the technology industry. Jason Crawforth is one of Idaho's greatest advocates, and leaders like him are among our most valuable assets. I hope the House will join me in acknowledging Jason's contribution.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PARENTS OF THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the heart-wrenching details of Ms. Terri Schiavo's case are well known to all of us. Her personal case, not to mention the family rift that has resulted, is certainly a tragedy and my heart goes out to Terri, her husband, parents, and loved ones who all are trying to do what they believe is best for Terri.

However, Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that should be determined by those very people. This is not a matter for Congress to decide. Unfortunately, since Terri's family has been unable to agree on the best course of action, they have had to undergo, and continue to undergo today, lengthy legal battles. While it is unfortunate, that is what our legal process is for, and it has repeatedly ruled in favor of Terri's husband. Bringing this bill to the floor of the House marks yet another example of the Congressional leadership's subversion of the judicial process. Anytime the leadership disagrees with a ruling by a court, they strip its power. This is not the way these matters should be handled. It is not only subversion of the legal process, but of the Constitution of the United States of America.

In fact, in a 1990 case before the Supreme Court that pertained to some of the very same issues of the Schiavo case, Justice Antonin Scalia, one of the most conservative justices on the court, stated that he wished that the Supreme Court had stated, "clearly and promptly, that the federal courts have no business in this field." He went on further to say, "the point at which life becomes 'worthless' and the point at which the means necessary to preserve it become 'extraordinary' or 'inappropriate' are neither set forth in the Constitution nor known to the nine justices of this court any better than they are known to nine people picked at random from the Kansas City telephone directory."

Justice Scalia's statement highlights both the difficult nature of the issues involved, as well as his clear belief that matters such as these have no business in the federal courts. This is a highly private issue, and though it is unfortunate that Terri's family was forced to go to the courts, it should remain at the state level.

Congress should not have interfered by passing S. 686. It represents a gross overreach of Congressional power into a highly private issue. An issue, Mr. Speaker, that is at root between Mr. Schiavo and his wife Terri, and on the immediate periphery, between Mr. Schiavo and the Schindlers. It is amazing that some have chosen to play politics with this tragic family situation. My prayers are with the entire family, especially now that Terri has passed away.

This case does highlight, however, the need for individuals to make their personal and private health care decisions and embody them in a living will. At the very least, family members should have the comfort of knowing they're doing what their loved ones would have wanted. One of the best things that can emerge from this heartbreaking case will be an increase in families discussing and creating living wills.

Finally, I regret that I was unable to return in time for the debate and vote on S. 686. Once I received official notice of a recorded vote, it was impossible for me to arrive in Washington, DC in time for consideration of this measure. That being said Mr. Speaker, I rise now to state for the record that I would have voted against S. 686.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SGT MICHAEL T. HIESTER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is written if you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect.

I rise humbly today to pay a debt of honor and respect to Army National Guard Master Sergeant Mike Hiester of Bluffton, Indiana.

As I saw firsthand last December at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, Hoosiers have made an extraordinary difference for freedom in Operation Enduring Freedom, and Master Sergeant Mike Hiester was a leader of men in that place. His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart (posthumous), two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, four Good Conduct Medals, three Reserve Components Achievement Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism expeditionary and Service Medals, Armed Forced Reserve Medal with M device and Bronze Hour Glass device, NATO Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with "3" device, Order of St. George, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge (posthumous) and the German armed forces Schutzenschnur. His state awards include the Indiana Long Service Medal (2nd award), Indiana Overseas Service Ribbon, and Indiana Outside Continental United States Ribbon (2nd award).