SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

As the resolution notes, Rotary was founded in Chicago, Illinois, on 23 February 1905, and Rotarians now have set an example of a full century of service to their communities.

But Rotary is more than history. Today there are more than 400,000 Rotarians in the United States and more than 1.2 million Rotarians in over 32,000 clubs in 166 nations throughout the world—including 20 clubs in Colorado's 2nd Congressional District alone.

Rotarians provide tangible demonstrations of the power of their ideal and motto of ''Service Above Self'' by their efforts around the world toward elimination of diseases and the improvement of health as well as the provision of potable water and education for all. And over the years, through The Rotary Foundation, they have provided generously for undertakings that have improved the condition of people in all parts of the world.

In particular, Rotary International and its members have provided essential support toward the eradication of polio, measles, and other diseases, including donations of more than $600 million toward this cause, and have provided vaccines for immunizing over 2 billion children in the world. And in addition, Rotary Clubs annually provide tens of millions of dollars of local and global humanitarian support through grants, the services of Rotary Volunteers and matching grants.

In the field of education, Rotary Clubs collectively are among the largest private provider of scholarships in the history of the world, annually providing scholarships to tens of thousands of students. Also, Rotary International has sent over 200,000 students on Youth Exchange programs that foster understanding of people throughout the world as well as the development of leaders who go on to serve society. And Rotary International has provided $80 million to promote Group Study Exchanges of over 42,000 young adults for extended visits to other countries and to the United States where they learn, teach and create deep relationships, understanding and appreciation for different cultures.

So, it is very appropriate for Congress, through this resolution, to recognize Rotary International and Rotarians in every State and around the world as they commemorate and celebrate Rotary's centennial and to encourage them to work for even greater success in their second century of service.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER JAMES GOODMAN

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I pay tribute today to the life of California Highway Patrol Officer James Goodman, who was killed in the line of duty on June 3, 2004. Officer Goodman was a man of outstanding character and spirit who selflessly served the state of California.

Officer Goodman joined the California Highway Patrol in 1984. In 1989 he was the first to arrive on the scene when the Cypress Freeway collapsed during the Lorna Prieta Earthquake. With complete disregard for his own safety, he crawled through a tiny space to attempt to rescue a victim who was trapped in a truck that had been crushed. He received the Governor's Medal of Valor Award in 1991 for his heroic efforts that day.

Officer Goodman was killed when his motorcycle collided head-on with a minivan as he was pursuing a suspect involved in an earlier accident in San Bernardino, California. He had served honorably with the California Highway Patrol for 20 years.

Those who knew Officer Goodman remember him as a selfless man who loved his family and his work. He had a passion for riding motorcycles and for serving Californians. Officer Goodman was dedicated to protecting the people of California, and was willing to put his life on the line for the safety of others. He died honorably and will forever be remembered as a brave and courageous man.

CZECHS APPRECIATE AMERICAN SACRIFICES FOR LIBERATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, I was honored to join Congressman JACK KINGSTON as he led a delegation for a wreath laying and dedication of a monument in Pilsen, Czech Republic, to the veterans of the U.S. Army who liberated Western Bohemia of Czechoslovakia in May 1945.

Czech President Vaclav Klaus presided with Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek and Pilsen Mayor Miroslav Kalous. The large double columns of the monument symbolizing Czech-American friendship were hailed by the U.S. Presidential delegation led by Veterans Administration Secretary Jim Nicholson. The American delegation was hosted by Ambassador William Cabaniss, a former Alabama State Senator, who delivered a letter from Congressman SPENCER BACHUS and Birmingham Rotarians to establish the city of Pilsen as the sister city of Birmingham, Alabama.

The impressive monument corrects a distortion of history, where former communist oppressors bizarrely claimed that Americans had not been present and that the liberators were Soviet troops in American uniforms. Fortunately, the long suppressed truth is now clearly marked, proudly proclaiming ''Thank You America'' for the U.S. Army in May 1945.

On April 29, 2005, prior to attending the festivities, Diane Brown presented me the following article written by her neighbor Jana Culik of Chapin, South Carolina. Her story is an inspiring personal account of heroism and appreciation of the United States by the Czech people who now live in a liberated democracy that enjoys membership in NATO and the EU.

AMERICAN FLAG

(By Jana Culik)

I think that the following little narrative should be shared—it is about an American flag made by my mother, Dagmar Pavlansky, in Czech Republic (former Czechoslovakia) in the spring of 1945 at the end of the Second World War.

I was a 6-year-old child at the time, and as such I could not be trusted enough to be part of my parent's decision concerning making flags—American, French, English and Soviet representing four allies that the Czech people hoped to welcome into their country. However, I remember that there was a shortage of almost everything, especially of any kind of cloth material and even thread sewing were not available. After the war, when I was older, my mother told me that she had to dye white bed sheets and go into the attic to rummage through old magazines and newspapers to find pictures of the flags. She had to work at night when my older sister and I were asleep—what she was doing was a crime, it was against the law of the occupants—the Nazis. I was told it was punishable by death.

Then there came May of 1945—the marvelous month when the war in Europe ended and my Czechoslovakia (near Pilsen at Blatna) was liberated by the American army. I will never forget the night when I was awakened by my smiling parents in company of three American soldiers. Our house was big enough to become the unofficial meeting place for the officers who were stationed in our little town. I remember my father, Judr. Jan Pavlansky, who was a good pianist, playing ''Happy days are here again'' and ''Roll out the barrels,'' and the soldiers teaching us to dance the boogie-woogie. All the soldiers were wonderful—friendly, helpful, and generous. My love for the American flag started during those times, and it has been a life long affair.

I am not sure what happened to the other flags my mother had made. Through the years of hardship when my country became a part of the Easter Europe (the unlucky countries ruled by the Soviet Regime) I was remembering the American one. The flag kept reminding the people behind the Iron Curtain that freedom and decency still existed in the world even if they could not enjoy it themselves in almost 40 years.

In August of 1968, when Czechoslovakia tried to free itself and wanted to become a democratic, self-ruled country again, it was overrun by Soviet tanks. My husband, Karel Culik, and I immigrated to Canada. It took 22 years before we could go back to visit Czechoslovakia. We went back in 1990 after the Soviet bloc in Europe collapsed. By then we had moved to the United States and were living in Chapin, South Carolina.

When I returned to Czechoslovakia, my first ''quest'' was to find the American flag of my childhood. Despite the fact that my family had to move from place to place, the flag had survived on the bottom of an old suitcase with other cherished mementos given to use by the American soldiers in 1945.

Nowadays the flag is here in Chapin. It is still one of my most treasured possessions. Through the years, I have become a collector of keepsakes related to special eras of my life. It seems that the American flag or at least the symbol of it has been present my whole life and it has now come full circle—in 1945, then later on, and especially now the American flag still stands for freedom.

God bless America!