

CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND
VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4472, the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act. By bringing to the floor bills that already passed the House but with a few key provisions stripped, the House leadership is using procedural maneuvers to thwart the bill supported by a bipartisan majority of House members and by a significant majority of Americans. I am particularly outraged that the leadership jettisoned the hate crimes provisions from H.R. 3132, which passed by a strong bipartisan vote of 223 to 199 last September.

While all of us want to protect our children, we cannot fully reduce crime and protect child safety without acknowledging the terrorizing impact that hate-motivated violence has in our society. I have serious concerns with several provisions included in H.R. 4472, most notably the provisions that would impose harsh, new mandatory minimums, expand the number of federal crimes that carry the death penalty, and subject children to adult trials and adult sentences. However, I have more concerns about what is not in the bill. Last September, the House voted to protect children from sexual predators and from the perpetrators of hate-crimes. This bill retreats from that position and will leave our children vulnerable to violence on the basis of their sexual orientation, disability, gender, ethnicity, race or religion. Our children deserve better from us.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 4472 and enact long overdue hate crimes legislation that will send a clear message that hate violence has no place in America.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT BRENT
DAVIS**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Lieutenant Brent Davis of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. After 31 years of service, Lieutenant Davis is retiring, and he leaves a long legacy of honorable service behind.

Our first responders are rare people who prize service to others above all else. Highway Patrol officers like Lieutenant Davis put their lives on hold to perform a demanding, stressful job protecting the public. In Missouri, our Highway Patrol officers do more than supervise our highways. They are reliable first responders, they are vigilant in preventing crime, they are essential in our war against illegal drugs. They are also brave, considerate, fair and tough—and no one is a better example of these qualities than Lieutenant Davis.

Lieutenant Davis joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol on January 1, 1975, and was stationed at Sikeston after graduating recruit training. On August 1, 1986, he was promoted to corporal and became the assistant zone

commander for Zone 6, Sikeston. On August 1, 1989, Davis was promoted to sergeant and moved to Poplar Bluff as a zone sergeant. He worked on the road for 17 years. In September 1992, he became the Public Information Officer. Davis said he really enjoyed the Public Information/Education Officer for Troop E, where he served for 10 years. He was promoted to Lieutenant in September 2002, becoming the enforcement lieutenant for Troop E. In October 2003, Davis became the Special Services Lieutenant, in charge of Drivers Examination, Motor Vehicle Inspection and Commercial Vehicle Inspection Divisions.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Davis on his outstanding, selfless accomplishment of 31 years of service through the Missouri Highway Patrol. My thoughts are with Lieutenant Davis, his wife Janna, and the rest of his family and friends as they look back on his proud record of service and ahead to his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT
FIRST CLASS CHRISTOPHER P.
TOVAR**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant First Class Christopher P. Tovar for his service in the United States Army. Last month Sergeant Tovar was selected to model a statue depicting a soldier from World War II, which is now on display at an American Legion Memorial in Brinkley, Arkansas.

Sergeant Tovar entered the Army in Houston, Texas, on April 13, 1993. He enlisted as a Human Intelligence Collector and received Arabic Language training at the Defense Language Institute before being assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. Following that assignment, Christopher received further training in Mandarin-Chinese before being assigned to the 500th Military Intelligence Group, Camp Zama, Japan. There he worked as a liaison between the U.S. and Japanese police and intelligence agencies. Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, Sergeant Tovar accepted an assignment to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command to assist in bolstering the U.S. Army's pool of linguists.

Sergeant Tovar was assigned to Headquarters, 6th Recruiting Brigade in North Las Vegas, Nevada, in January 2002. He serves the recruiting command as the Foreign Language Advocate for the region, assisting the recruiting field force to identify and contract foreign language speakers into the Military Intelligence Field. His duties in this position include conducting presentations at high schools, community colleges, and specifically for high school language departments, attending heritage speaker festivals and acting as liaison between the field force and higher headquarters for language positions in the Army. Within the headquarters, Sergeant Tovar serves as the First Sergeant, in charge of the day-to-day activities of the soldiers working within the headquarters command; as Master Fitness Trainer, in charge of the physical training of the soldiers; and as the Equal Opportunity Representative, responsible for maintaining a positive work environment and conducting required training under this program.

Sergeant Tovar's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He was also awarded the Military Intelligence Corps' Knowlton Award for lifetime service to the Military Intelligence Corps.

Sergeant Tovar and his wife of 11 years, Lauren, live in Las Vegas with their one-year-old daughter, Madison.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Sergeant First Class Christopher P. Tovar on the floor of the House today. His exemplary service stands as an example to all military members and his continued service is greatly appreciated in this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING DAVE PEREA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dave Perea, a longtime Rosemead resident and Teamsters union member, who passed away on February 14, 2006.

Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Dave was the second oldest of 11 siblings and had 6 older half-siblings. Dave attended East Los Angeles schools including Hammel Elementary School, Belvedere Junior High, and Garfield High School. He also attended East Los Angeles College for a year before putting his studies aside to support his family during his father's illness.

Dave became a Teamster and held various jobs before joining Momentum Textiles, where he worked for 22 years and retired in 1998. He was a surrogate parent for the friends of his children and was affectionately known as the "Mayor of Charlotte Street."

In 2003 Dave became deeply involved with the grassroots organization, Save Our Community, which is committed to stopping plans to build a Wal-Mart in a pristine area just two blocks from his house. Dave was a driving force for Save Our Community and was instrumental in many of its efforts. Whenever anyone in the organization needed anything, he was there to lend a helping hand.

Dave is survived by his mother, Rosita, and 10 of his siblings; his wife, Mary Ellen; his daughters, Suzanne, Doreen, and Joanne; and his grandchildren, Nicholas, Andrew, Erica, Austin, Matthew, and Amber. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN
DANIEL L. VAN KIRK**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Daniel L. Van Kirk for his service in the military. Last month, Daniel was chosen to model for one of two bronze statues depicting a sailor and soldier from World War II, that were placed at an American Legion Memorial in Brinkley Park, Arkansas.

Captain Daniel L. Van Kirk was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, on September 30, 1978.

He was commissioned in 1998 as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, following graduation from the Marion Military Institute. He earned a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from National University in San Diego. After completing the Armor Officer Basic Course in Fort Knox, Kentucky, Daniel was assigned to 4-64 Armor Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he served as Assistant Battalion Maintenance Officer. He was deployed to Kuwait in 2002 for Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2003, he was sent to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom as the 1st Platoon Leader in Bravo Company and after returning he was sent again with Charlie Company as Executive Officer.

After completing the Armor Officer Advanced Course in 2005, Daniel has been assigned to the 6th Recruiting Brigade Las Vegas, Nevada, serving as Brigade Assistant S3.

Daniel's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, and Combat Action Badge.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain Daniel L. Van Kirk on the floor of the House today. He is a model of patriotism and a fine example to all members of the military and citizens of Nevada.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, though I was absent on Thursday, March 9, 2006 for personal reasons, I wish to have my intended votes recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

March 9, 2006: Rollcall vote 33 on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 2829—"aye"; rollcall vote 34 on Chabot amendment to H.R. 2829—"aye"; rollcall vote 35 on the Hooley amendment to H.R. 2829—"aye"; rollcall vote 36 on the Paul amendment to H.R. 2829—"nay"; rollcall vote 37 on the Rehberg amendment to H.R. 2829—"aye"; and rollcall vote 38 on the final passage of H.R. 2829—"aye."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEBSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Webster Volunteer Fire Department. Fifteen courageous citizens formed this outstanding and brave fire department on March 23, 1906. Since its inception, the de-

partment has had over 850 faithful volunteers that have protected the communities of East Webster, Village of Webster, and North East Penfield.

Today, the Webster Volunteer Fire Department has a membership of 140 brave firefighters who on average respond to 1,200 calls per year. These calls for aid range from fires, accidents, emergency medical care and service calls; all showing the department's ability to assist the varying needs of the communities they proudly serve. In addition to their heroic tasks, the department also provides fire prevention programs, CPR and first aid training for all citizens. The Webster Fire Department also works closely with various neighborhood groups such as local Boy Scouts troops, Girl Scouts troops, and various other groups.

In honoring their 100th anniversary, the Webster Fire Department will begin its celebration with a founders banquet, followed by a gigantic carnival and parade for the entire community.

I stand here today proud of the services these brave men and women provide our area. Their strong tradition of service and bravery has kept our citizens safe over the past century. I personally thank the Webster Volunteer Fire Department and thank them for their past service as well as the next 100 years that lie ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEIGHTS PLAYERS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Heights Players, Brooklyn's oldest community theater group.

For half a century, families, children and individuals living in the 12th Congressional District and surrounding areas have been enriched through the exposure to quality theater offerings at a reasonable price. The Heights Players has also excelled at providing an outlet for amateur and professional actors, technicians, writers, designers and directors to hone their skills, gain experience, and perform before a live audience.

Since its inception in December 1956, those involved with the Heights Players have worked to establish the group not only as a community theater, but also as a growing nonprofit theatrical organization. In its 50 seasons of operation, the Heights Players has made many contributions to the community, such as the Theater for Children program, and performances for senior citizens and hospitalized children who otherwise lack the means to access this type of cultural and educational experience.

The Heights Players has extended their community service in recent years, reaching countless other city residents through their unique and creative offerings. Since 1988, the group has completed performances for over 1,000 homeless New Yorkers each year.

In recognition of its extraordinary efforts on behalf of disadvantaged New Yorkers, the organization has received a host of special

awards and commendations over the years from the Partnership for the Homeless, the Brooklyn Borough President, the Brooklyn Heights Association, and the New York City Council.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Heights Players, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to commend this organization and all of its creative members for their outstanding service and dedication to making live theater accessible for those living in the New York City metropolitan area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 on the motion to instruct conferees regarding the Pension Protection Act, H.R. 2830, I meant to vote "yes" on the motion but inadvertently voted "no."

HONORING THE GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the recent accomplishments of a very special church in Lafayette, LA.

On March 5, 2006, members of the congregation of Good Hope Baptist Church gathered to dedicate their new Family Life Center. This day was the culmination of an 8-year project that not only provides a new facility to the church, but much needed jobs for its community as well. Credit for the Family Life Center should go to the Building Committee, under the leadership of Othus Doomes, Jr. and the church's pastor, Dr. Ricky Carter, who were instrumental in bringing the vision of the center to fruition.

The purpose of the center is to provide for the total needs of a person—emotional, spiritual, material, practical, functional, psychological, intellectual and social. It will provide a variety of uses for its community including day care, recreational activities, as well as classrooms for educational purposes. The new facility is equipped with a commercial kitchen, to provide hot meals for those in need, as well as a gymnasium which can also be used for worship service.

Today, I honor Dr. Carter and the entire congregation of Good Hope Baptist Church, and congratulate them for the completion of this great facility, which will benefit Lafayette for many years to come.

THE NATIONAL UNIFICATION COUNCIL CEASES TO EXIST

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian declared