

IN SUPPORT OF THE GLEN ROCK
COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TO
CURB UNDERAGE DRINKING

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the community of Glen Rock for joining together to fight underage drinking, which, according to the National Institutes of Health, results in the deaths of approximately 5,000 people under the age of 21 each year.

Many Glen Rock high school students face a destructive rite of passage called the Keg Race. The Class of 2007 is expected to consume 107 kegs of beer before graduation day in June. While no one has yet died as a result of this under-culture of house parties and drinking, the community has come together to try to put an end to this practice before some irreversible damage is done.

Regrettably, this is not a problem isolated to the community of Glen Rock. A 2003 study by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism noted that by the time they have reached the eighth grade, nearly half of all adolescents have had at least one drink and more than one in five reports having been "drunk." About a third of all high school seniors report engaging in binge drinking—that is, having at least five or more drinks in a single occasion—within two weeks of being asked as part of the report.

Elected leaders, spiritual leaders, and parents are joining together to form a web of support for each other and for community young people to help break this cycle of underage drinking in Glen Rock. And, I commend their efforts and hope other communities will follow their lead.

TRIBUTE TO KOUICHI R. TANAKA,
M.D., M.A.C.P.

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Kouichi R. Tanaka for his important contributions to the field of medicine and medical education.

Dr. Tanaka was born in Fresno, California where he lived on a grape farm with his parents and three siblings. In July, 1942, he and his family were placed in an internment camp in Poston, Arizona. Despite the lack of books and appropriate educational facilities, Dr. Tanaka pursued his dream of becoming a physician.

He would go on to earn a Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine degree with high distinction from Wayne State University, serve in the United States Army, and become a resident in medicine and fellow in pathology and hematology.

Dr. Tanaka began his academic career at the UCLA School of Medicine in 1957 and joined the faculty at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 1961 as chief of the Division of Hematology. He would also serve as associate chair of the Department of Medicine, acting

chair of the Department of Medicine, director of the Hematology Research Laboratory, program director, Professor of Medicine, and play a key role in training over 450 internal medicine physicians during the past 46 years. In addition, Dr. Tanaka has written nearly 300 research publications, leading to important contributions in the study of erythrocyte metabolism and to the understanding of hemolytic disorders.

Dr. Tanaka has received many awards and held many positions of distinction. He was President of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society at Wayne State University School of Medicine and founding associate editor of the American Journal of Hematology. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Wayne State University School of Medicine; the Sherman M. Mellinkoff Faculty Award at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; and the Laureate Award of the American College of Physicians Southern California Region 1. He is the first Japanese American elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He was ACP Governor for Southern California Region I, was awarded Mastership in the American College of Physicians, and was presented with the 1999 UCLA Medical Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award. In 2004, he was selected to the inaugural class of "LA BioMed Legends".

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share how proud I am to have Dr. Tanaka working in my district's most important biomedical research institute, the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

URGING ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COM-
MISSION OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL TRACING SERVICE TO
EXPEDITE RATIFICATION PROC-
ESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 240, which urges all member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service, ITS, who have yet to ratify the May 2006 amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords Treaty, to expedite the ratification process to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany.

The Holocaust was not a random act of mass murder but a systematic campaign of genocide carried out by the Nazis against the Jews. The world must never forget the more than 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. In total, the atrocities were more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe.

We must never forget the evil acts that happened during that era and we must continue the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and anti-Semitism in every form today.

After over 60 years, the Holocaust is still a presence, and there are living memorials all

over the world dedicated to the memory of those who so cruelly lost their freedom and their lives, and to the continuing education to conquer prejudice, hatred, and injustice. As we allow for open access to the Holocaust archives, we remind the world that the Holocaust indeed was a sad part of our world's history, should anyone doubt its existence. As recently as December 2006, the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, held the second Holocaust denial conference in Tehran in 1 year. The time to act is now. The opening of the archives at Bad Arolsen could not be more opportune, especially with the resurgence of anti-Semitism in this part of the world.

The International Tracing Service (ITS) archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, remain the largest closed Holocaust-era archives in the world. The 50,000,000 records on the fates of some 17,500,000 individual victims of Nazi war crimes will forever be memorialized, reminding the world of the travesty and devastation that occurred in Nazi Germany. There have been too many instances of survivors and heirs of Holocaust victims being refused their moral and legal right to information—for restitution purposes, slave labor compensation, and personal closure.

Problems persist when those who have requested information in the past have reported facing significant delays and even unresponsiveness; furthermore, the records remain inaccessible to researchers and research institutions.

The 1955 Bonn Accords established an International Commission of 11 member countries, which includes the United States, and is charged with overseeing the administration of the ITS Holocaust archives. The amendments to the Bonn Accords require each of the 11 members of the International Commission to ratify the amendments before open access to the Holocaust archives is permitted.

The International Commission of the ITS agreed upon amendments to the Bonn Accords that would allow researchers to use the archives and would allow each Commission member country to receive digitized copies of archive materials and make the records available to researchers under the respective national laws relating to archives and privacy. Only 4 members out of the 11 Commission member countries have ratified the amendments to date. Although the United States is one of the 4 members that have ratified the amendment, there are 7 member countries that have yet to ratify. It is imperative that these 7 member nations ratify the amendment because it is essential that Holocaust researchers obtain access now, while survivors are living. I join my colleagues in urging all countries that have yet to ratify the amendments to abide by their treaty obligations made in May 2006 and to expedite the ratification of these amendments.

The murder of 6,000,000 Jews and more than 5,000,000 other victims during the Holocaust must not be forgotten. We must remember those who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust and those who were not so fortunate to survive the evils committed by the Nazis. I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 240.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN R. SMITH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to COL John R. Smith, Chief of the Air Force Programs and Legislation Division, for his 25 years of service to the U.S. Air Force and our country. A command pilot with over 3,600 flight hours, Colonel Smith has supported combat operations around the world to include Operations Desert Storm, Restore Hope, Allied Force, Northern and Southern Watch, and Desert Fox. He has also flown numerous presidential support missions as well as humanitarian missions in relief of the devastation from hurricanes George and Mitch, flood relief in Mozambique, and earthquake relief in Turkey.

COL John R. Smith was born into the Air Force, the son of a World War II pilot and former prisoner of war COL Darrell Smith (ret.) and his wife Helen. Following his father into the Air Force, after high school he earned an appointment to the Air Force Academy and graduated in 1982 as a distinguished graduate. Upon completion of pilot training, he returned as a T-37 instructor pilot to teach and mentor future aviators first at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and then at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, home of the Pilot Instructor Training School. In 1987, he was selected as Randolph's Instructor Pilot of the Year. Following his tour in Air Training Command, Colonel Smith was selected to represent the United States Air Force as an exchange officer with the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. In 1992, Colonel Smith was selected to fly the C-5 at Travis Air Force Base, California. From the C-5, Colonel Smith was assigned to the Pentagon in the Air and Space Operations directorate where he served as the C-5 and C-141 Program Element Monitor directing over \$1.5 billion in funding for these two fleets. He was then reassigned as a Joint Warfighting Capabilities Analyst where he prepared recommendations on Department of Defense budgets, programs, and force structure alternatives for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Smith was selected to command the Third Airlift Squadron, flying C-5s out of Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. Under his leadership, the Third overcame low aircraft maintenance reliability rates to support 17 major contingencies, exercises, and relief operations including critical taskings in support of operations in Iraq, Bosnia, and the Far East. The squadron was twice selected as the best operations squadron of the year at Dover, garnered 18 higher headquarter aircrew awards, and earned the year 2000 nomination for the best airlift squadron in Air Mobility Command. Following command, Colonel Smith attended Air War College and was then selected for a tour in the Secretary of the Air Force's Office of Legislative Liaison where he served as the Deputy Chief of the Weapons Systems Division. For the last 2 years Colonel Smith has served as the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division. There he is responsible for Air Force legislative engagement with the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in offering our sincere

thanks to Colonel Smith, his wife Jana, their four daughters, Renae, Elayne, Claire, and Pamela, and four sons Benjamin, Zane, Chad, and Kyle, for their service to our Nation. I would like to especially remember Zane, their second son, who died from leukemia at the age of 2. We wish the Smith family the best of luck in all future endeavors and congratulate Colonel Smith on the completion of an outstanding and successful active-duty career.

CALLING ON THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 7, which calls on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur and step up its effort to stop the genocide. I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Rep. BARBARA LEE, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor.

Since 2003, more than 400,000 people have been killed in Darfur and an estimated 2.5 million have been displaced. More than 3 million other Darfurians depend today on international aid for their survival. The United Nations has identified the situation in Darfur as the worst current humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world. The United States has officially labeled it genocide.

As we learned last week on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the international community must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of innocents. When we say we must "never forget," we must demonstrate that we mean it. H. Con. Res. 7, which has 115 co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle, is an important step in this cause.

This important legislation calls on the League of Arab States to support and accept United Nations peacekeepers as the best option to enforce a cease-fire, protect civilians, and ensure access for humanitarian aid workers; and to work with the international community to bring about a lasting peace in Darfur.

I hope that the Arab League will play a constructive role in ensuring humanitarian assistance in Darfur, insisting that the Bashir government accept more peacekeeping troops, and make a stronger effort to engage Sudan's neighbors in the peace process—which is what this Resolution is designed to do. Finally, the Arab League must work with the United States and the United Nations to work with the Sudanese government to help forge a comprehensive plan for stability and reconstruction across the whole of the country.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 7 and I hope all of my colleagues will lend it their support.

CONGRATULATING SAM BIANCO UPON BEING AWARDED THE UNITED WAY OF AMERICA'S "JOSEPH A. BEIRNE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD"

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Sam Bianco, of Vandling, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who was chosen by the United Way of America to receive its prestigious "Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award."

Established in 1974 by the United Way of America, the award annually recognizes a union member or labor leader who has rendered outstanding service to a local United Way community.

The award is named in honor of the late Joseph A. Beirne, co-founder of the Communications Workers of America International Union and the first union member to ever serve as board president of United Way of America.

Mr. Bianco has been a staunch volunteer and supporter of the United Way of Wyoming Valley since 1955. At that time he served as a campaign solicitor at International Ladies Garment Workers Union shops. He also served as business agent for the Pittston ILGWU and, later, as district manager for the Wilkes-Barre ILGWU. He currently serves on the United Way of Wyoming Valley's board of directors, finance committee, campaign cabinet and he has chaired the labor participation committee for the past 27 years.

Under Mr. Bianco's volunteer leadership, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council and United Way of Wyoming Valley were named the 1998 recipient of the "National AFL-CIO Model Cities in Community Services Award" for the outstanding partnership created between the local labor movement and United Way in jointly addressing and meeting human service needs.

Mr. Bianco, as president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, has partnered with the United Way of Wyoming Valley on numerous community service projects including the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive; creating the "Unions in the Community Girl Scout Patch" and being a co-sponsor of the annual United Way Labor Christmas Project.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bianco for giving his community so many years of devoted service. His contributions to the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania are legendary as is his love of helping people in need.

THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAME "AMERICA"

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fifth centenary of the word "America"—a name that has become