

CALLING ON VIETNAM TO IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 243, which calls on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Mr. Speaker, as a co-sponsor of this resolution, I am extremely concerned and saddened by the resumption of repressive tactics of the Vietnamese Government. It was only six months ago that the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom removed Vietnam from its "Countries of Particular Concern" list, a list mandated by the International Religious Freedom Act which we passed in 1998. However, despite their removal from this list, the Vietnamese government instead chose to resort to arbitrary arrests and detentions of religious community leaders and human rights activists.

Father Nguyen Van Ly, a founder of the Committee for Human Rights in Vietnam, was arrested for what authorities called, "conducting propaganda activities to harm the security of state." Father Nguyen Van Ly has spent nearly thirteen years in prison for the fight for religious freedom and democracy in Vietnam. Just last month, two prominent Vietnamese human rights attorneys, Mr. Nguyen Van Dai and Ms. Le Thi Cong Nhan, were arrested for "spreading anti-government propaganda."

Mr. Speaker, the United States prides itself on the promotion of democracy, good governance, protection of human rights and religious freedom, and the advancement of the rule of law. We cannot look the other way when a "Most Favored Nation" is committing the grossest of human rights violations against its citizens. Congress cannot ignore the blatant disregard Vietnam is displaying towards its own people while it continues to detain and silence Vietnamese lawyers, democracy activists, and human rights advocates. As Vietnam aspires to integrate itself with the global economy, I believe it must also understand that the United States and the rest of the world is watching their actions and we condemn their atrocious digression and disregard for the most basic human rights.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2007

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I speak in support of H. Res. 29, in support of the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2007.

Mentoring is an extremely important responsibility. It provides our youth with positive role

models and aspirations for children that might find themselves directionless and without motivation. The benefits of mentoring are unquestioned; it helps with a young adult's individual development, and also prepares the next generation for their role in our community. Needless to say, I am grateful for all the mentors I have had throughout the years.

Some of the other wide ranging benefits of mentoring include improving relationships with parents, peers and teachers; staying motivated and focused on their education; facing daily challenges; exploring new careers and expanding their knowledge.

Research shows that youth who are actively engaged in high quality mentoring relationships show improvement in the areas of self-esteem, academics, and social skills. Those with a strong mentor are more likely to graduate from high school and are less likely than their peers to engage in harmful behavior such as drug or alcohol abuse.

In Eastern Washington, many organizations have undertaken this important task of mentoring. Inland NW Mentoring, based in Spokane, Washington, is a partnership of more than 20 organizations dedicated to a variety of mentoring services. This partnership is a collaboration of non-profits seeking "to connect people who wish to volunteer their knowledge and experience as mentors." I applaud the dedication of this consortium to ensure that tomorrow's leaders are equipped and envisioned through mentoring relationships.

Another institution that over the years provided structure and a goal-oriented education are the Boy Scouts of America. Specifically, in Eastern Washington there are more than 6,700 boy scouts in the Spokane area whose outstanding programs build character, leadership, citizenship and important life skills. The Scout leaders, volunteers and sponsors are making a positive impact on the leaders of tomorrow.

We must also applaud everyone who participates in Children of Promise, an organization that offers positive role models for children who have incarcerated parents. Other important organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest ensure that kids in Eastern Washington have the friend they desperately need.

I would also like to salute the Gonzaga University Campus Kids program, which collaborates with four community elementary schools to provide student mentors to 4th, 5th and 6th graders. It is good for our young adults to be a part of encouraging and supporting those young people coming after them.

H. Res. 29 presents an opportunity to encourage more adults to invest in positive relationships with young people. It is an opportunity for us to say thank you to the many organizations who are already investing their time and energy to positively influence the next generation. Serving this next generation through mentoring will not only provide individual returns, but as a community and a society, we will see the lasting impacts of these important mentoring relationships.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRUCE VANOVEN

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gibson County Deputy Sheriff Bruce Vanoven for his dedication and valor in the line of duty.

On a July night in 2006, Deputy Vanoven responded to a distress call from Cameron White. White had been shot, stabbed, and left for dead in a Pike County cornfield.

Without knowledge of White's location or whether the suspect had left the scene, Vanoven searched the field for White and three other victims, who had already died from their injuries. As a result of his willingness to jeopardize his own safety to help others, Deputy Vanoven arrived in time to administer medical assistance to White until paramedics could reach the scene. His heroism saved Cameron White's life.

For his actions, Deputy Vanoven has received accolades from America's Most Wanted and the American Red Cross and was named Deputy of the Year by the Gibson County Sheriff's Department. As someone who has spent his career in law enforcement, it is a true honor to have this opportunity to recognize Bruce Vanoven. I commend his actions and thank him for his service to the people of southwest Indiana.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE GREEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lawrence Green for being named "Driver of the Year" by the Environment Industry Associations. Mr. Green is an employee of IESI waste service and an exemplary citizen of Forest Hill, Texas.

The award is presented annually by the Environment Industry Associations. EIA recognizes the best drivers from the U.S. and Canada involved in solid waste hauling and recycling services who have demonstrated their commitment to their profession, shown a commitment to service and quality, and operated their vehicles in a safe and responsible manner.

Mr. Green is an employee of IESI, an environmental services company founded in 1995. The company has since expanded across the southern and northeastern United States. During his 24 years of service, he has collected an estimated 87,000 tons of waste in the Colleyville and Haltom City area. Over the course of 1.5 million miles, he has not had a single accident or complaint.

Lawrence Green's services have extended beyond his job description. On one occasion, he followed and apprehended some children whom he had seen breaking into a car. Another time, he carried home a girl who had fallen off of her bicycle. Although he has proven himself worthy of being promoted, he has turned down the offer on different occasions.

I would like to commend Mr. Green for his outstanding service and congratulate him for

being named "Driver of the Year." It is terrific to see someone who both enjoys his job and excels at it. I wish him success in the future, and I am very proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING VICKI SILKWOOD
PRESIDENT OF THE MISSOURI
FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Vicki Silkwood, a constituent of the 6th district of Missouri who recently was installed as President of the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women for 2007–2008. As President, she will preside over the Missouri Board of Directors and will serve on the Chillicothe Business and Professional Women's/USA Board of Directors.

The Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women has approximately 1,000 members statewide and works on achieving equality for women in the workplace through education, advocacy and research.

Ms. Silkwood has been very active over the years with the Chillicothe Business and Professional Women's organization. She has held numerous leadership positions, beginning with two consecutive terms as President of the Chillicothe local and as District Director for the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women's Board. Ms. Silkwood has also served as Membership Retention Chair for the State Board, State Treasurer, and State First and Second Vice President and President Elect.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Vicki Silkwood for her accomplishment of being selected as President of the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women for 2007–2008. It is an honor to represent Ms. Silkwood in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH
FREEDOM PROTECTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Freedom Protection Act. This bill restores the First Amendment rights of consumers to receive truthful information regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements by codifying the First Amendment standards used by Federal courts to strike down the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) efforts to censor truthful health claims. The Health Freedom Protection Act also stops the Federal Trade Commissions (FTC) from censoring truthful health care claims.

The American people have made it clear they do not want the Federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict

such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers' efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents' comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers' access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with four Federal court decisions vindicating consumers' First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

FDA bureaucrats have even refused to abide by the DSHEA section allowing the public to have access to scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against diseases by claiming that every article concerning this topic is evidence of intent to sell a drug.

Because of the FDA's censorship of truthful health claims, millions of Americans may suffer with diseases and other health care problems they may have avoided by using dietary supplements. For example, the FDA prohibited consumers from learning how folic acid reduces the risk of neural tube defects for 4 years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,000 cases of preventable neural tube defects!

The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; and that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures.

The Health Freedom Protection Act will force the FDA to at last comply with the commands of Congress, the First Amendment, and the American people by codifying the First Amendment standards adopted by the Federal courts. Specifically, the Health Freedom Protection Act stops the FDA from censoring truthful claims about the curative, mitigative, or preventative effects of dietary supplements, and adopts the Federal court's suggested use of disclaimers as an alternative to censorship. The Health Freedom Protection Act also stops the FDA from prohibiting the distribution of scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against disease.

This legislation also addresses the FTC's violations of the First Amendment. Under traditional First Amendment jurisprudence, the Federal government bears the burden of proving an advertising statement false before censoring that statement. However, the FTC has reversed the standard in the case of dietary supplements by requiring supplement manufacturers to satisfy an unobtainable standard of proof that their statement is true. The FTC's standards are blocking innovation in the marketplace.

The Health Freedom Protection Act requires the government bear the burden of proving that speech could be censored. This is how it should be in a free, dynamic society. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes.

Madam Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then shouldn't we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning

about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for good health care and the First Amendment by cosponsoring the Health Freedom Protection Act.

GENETIC INFORMATION
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

I am a cosponsor of this important legislation, which bans discrimination in the workplace and in health insurance on the basis of predictive genetic information. It prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage or increasing premiums because of genetic factors. Also, under this bill, employers cannot consider genetic factors in the process of hiring, firing, or promoting workers. H.R. 493 is much like a Minnesota law, which I voted for when I was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Genetic discrimination has the potential to affect every person in the United States. Despite advances in modern medical technology, it is impossible to predict with certainty whether a given individual will actually develop a disease. Patients recognize that few laws exist to prevent health insurers or employers from using their predictive genetic information to deny them coverage or jobs. As a result, they may avoid taking an important genetic test or participating in genetic research.

Federal employees are already protected from genetic discrimination by an executive order signed by President Clinton and retained by President Bush. It is time to extend this protection to the rest of our country.

H.R. 493 will give Americans the security they need to take care of their health needs without worrying that they will face discrimination. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my full support for commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade as called for by H. Res. 272, which was introduced by Representative BARBARA LEE.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade is a very important part of world history that should never be forgotten. Millions of men, women, and children were forcibly removed from their homeland, packed into ships under inhumane conditions, and then after being lucky enough to survive the treacherous high seas, sold like