

the hearts of many. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends, and may this young man be an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN VERA
WENTWORTH OF HERNANDO
COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera Wentworth of Hernando County, FL. Vera has done something that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday. Born December 19, 1906 in Hartland, ME, Vera received her degree in the 1920s from a college in Farmington, ME. One of the early teachers who worked in a one-room schoolhouse, Vera kept a pot-belly stove filled with wood to keep the children warm. As a testament to the hardiness of Maine residents, Vera taught at different schools throughout Maine for 49 years. Her fondest childhood memory was the day her father bought her a new car while she was in college.

Married to Neal Felker in the early 1920s, Vera was blessed with three children, two boys and one girl. While her husband sadly passed away in the late 1940s, Vera remarried Harold Wentworth in 1954. She also raised Harold's 2-year old son, and she now has a combination of seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Vera gets the most pleasure these days from being with her family. Although she lived alone surviving cold winters in Maine till she was 97 years old, she moved to Hernando County in 2002 to be closer to her daughter and her son-in-law. Vera's daughter says the proudest moments in her mother's life was the ability to teach for 49 years, and that she would have taught longer if they didn't require her to retire.

Vera's advice to young people today is, "go to church, respect your parents and get an education." Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Vera Wentworth for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

HONORING THE CITY OF BAR-
BERTON DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Barberton Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. The City of Barberton located in beautiful Summit County, Ohio has played host to this meaningful event. Dr. King's ideals of freedom, justice and opportunity need to be celebrated now more than ever.

Barberton originally started out as a collective of small farms owned by various individuals. In January of 1890, the Barberton Land Development Company purchased 600 acres

of land that would eventually become Barberton. Over the next 2 years, William A. Johnson plotted and surveyed the land leaving an indelible mark on the city. In this short time, the population of Barberton grew at such leaps and bounds that a reporter from the Beacon Journal remarked that the city had grown by "magic." This moniker stuck and to this day, the city is nicknamed "Magic City." The population boom of Barberton exemplifies Dr. King's dream of opportunity.

All Americans know of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s stature as a national hero. From his celebrated "Letter from Birmingham Jail" to his organization of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King demonstrated that eloquent words followed with significant action could affect social change without resorting to violence. His "I Have a Dream" speech movingly spelled out his dream of racial equality and propelled the issue to the forefront of national consciousness.

In closing, I commend the City of Barberton and all the organizations that have spent countless hours organizing this celebration honoring Dr. King's birthday. Dr. King's dedication to racial, social and economic justice is a model that the world should emulate now more than ever.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: I fully support stem cell research and its potential to solve many of the world's most complex medical mysteries.

Many scientists have concluded that certain types of stem cells, called pluripotent stem cells, may one day be used to develop treatments for debilitating diseases.

Some of these types include cells derived from adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, amniotic fluid and finally, human embryos.

Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research began in 2001 when President Bush announced a policy that allowed researchers to destroy and conduct research on stem cell lines that had come from human embryos already destroyed prior to August 9, 2001.

This policy did not encourage or offer incentives from the government to destroy human life for research.

Yet the newly elected Democratic majority chose to bring a bill to the House floor today that forces taxpayers to encourage and fund the destruction of human life for embryonic stem cell research.

This legislation also has no protections to ensure human embryos can not be cloned by researchers who receive this funding and access to destroyed human embryos.

It is disheartening that the Democratic leadership wants to force all taxpayers to fund the destruction of human embryos for research, regardless of any moral and ethical concerns they may hold.

Stem cell research is currently legal in the United States. In fact, nothing in any past federal legislation or policy would ban privately funded embryonic stem cell research.

Yet private investors are reluctant to fund embryonic stem cell research that destroys human life and many have chosen to look for alternatives that offer better results.

In this world, we are measured by our treatment of the most delicate and weak among us. And in the world of science, there are lines that must be drawn when the destruction of innocent human life is at stake.

CHRISTIANS CONTINUE TO SUFFER
IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, just before the new Congress convened, many of us celebrated Christmas with families and friends. I hope that every one of my colleagues, old and new, had a very happy Christmas and holiday season. But Christmas is another anniversary also for the Christians of India. Since Christmas 1998, 8 years now, India has been focusing its persecution in large measure on Christians.

In September, the convent and school of Loreto were violently attacked by the violent Hindu organization the Bharatiya Janata Yuva, a youth arm of the BJP, which is the political arm of the RSS, a Fascist organization that published a book on how to get minorities, including Christians, falsely implicated in criminal cases. A BJP spokesman demanded a high-level inquiry into the school, according to the Tribune newspaper of Chandigarh, saying it engaged in "irrational behavior." As I noted at the time of the attack, apparently, being a Catholic is irrational behavior and "unscientific activity" in the world of Hindu militants.

Over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been murdered in India. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked. Laws have been passed requiring the permission of the Hindu regime before one may be baptized. Christians have faced jail time, as well as threats and physical violence, just for sharing their faith.

Missionary Graham Staines was sleeping in his jeep with his two young sons when they were surrounded by a mob chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. The mob then burned Staines and his sons to death. Missionary Joseph Cooper of Pennsylvania was beaten so severely that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. Police gunfire broke up a Christian religious festival on the theme "Jesus is the answer." Is this the secularism that India is so proud of?

It would be bad enough if Christians were the only ones suffering. But they are not. Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and others have also felt the lash of Indian repression. The time has come for freedom in the subcontinent. The time has come for the persecution to end.

Madam Speaker, there is a way to help bring freedom and secularism to the people of south Asia. We should end all U.S. aid and trade with India until everyone within its jurisdiction enjoys full human rights there. And now that we have a new Congress, we should go on record in support of freedom everywhere in South Asia. There is no better time

than now. If we can help to stop the persecution we have a duty to do so.

I would like to place an article from the website of the Bible League into the RECORD at this time, Madam Speaker. It has further details about the persecution of Christians.

“HE HEARD OUR FEARS AND PRAYERS”

Nearly two years after the establishment of anti-conversion laws, Indian Christians are celebrating the effects of their repeal. Only time will tell the long-term blessings of this legal change, but several resulting miracles have already taken place. In the first month alone, a group of 50 Indian church planters reports having baptized over 1,200 new Christians!

Christians throughout India were stunned when the pro-Hindu government was overturned in the Spring 2004 national election, and several state governments annulled local anti-conversion laws.

Said one local Bible League-trained Christian, “I praise God for enabling us to spread the Gospel in our country. He heard our fears and prayers regarding the election. God gave us an extra bonus when He made our state government remove the anti-conversion law which was in force until now. Hallelujah!”

UNDETERRED BY FEAR

Indian Christians have faced many hardships in sharing the Gospel. Bible League-trained Christians in India report that they or fellow believers have faced threats, physical attacks, and jail time for sharing their faith.

Baptisms, in particular, became a significant challenge for local churches. Under the anti-conversion laws, anyone who chose to become baptized was legally obligated to seek permission from the government, as well as provide them with the name of the person performing the baptism. Fearing repercussions, many new Christians did not make this outward profession of faith until after the laws were repealed.

Still, thousands of Indians were undeterred in their faith. A local Bible League-trained Christian, while under the anti-conversion law, wrote, “We continue to encourage Christians through the Word of God. We remind them of the promises (Matthew 28:20) and the testimonies of the great martyrs. We are encouraged to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ, regardless of what happens to us. We are prepared for imprisonment, punishment, and even death for the sake of Christ.”

RELYING ON GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

Continue to pray for the Church in India. The repeal of state anti-conversion laws has been a tremendous miracle—but challenges still remain. One state continues to uphold anti-conversion laws, and persecution persists throughout the country.

Yet God has been faithful to His children in India, and they are recognizing Him as their Savior by the thousands. Praise God for increasing opportunities to share His Word with the lost.

THE GREAT COMMISSION—MATTHEW 28:19–20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR WAYNE R. BELL FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, Sergeant Major Bell was born in Washington, DC, on 17 January 1957. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on 28 February 1977 in Boston, MA. Upon completion of recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, SC, he was assigned to AA V School at 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion Camp Lejeune, NC. Upon completion of school he reported to Company D for duty as an AAV crewman.

In February 1978, Sergeant Major Bell was ordered to Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Brigade, Kaneohe Bay, HI for three years. In November 1978 he was meritoriously promoted to Corporal and deployed with Battalion Landing Team 2/3 on West PAC 79 as a crew chief. In October 1980, he was promoted to Sergeant.

In April 1981, Sergeant Major Bell was transferred to School’s Battalion, Assault Amphibian School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA where he served as a crew chief and classroom instructor. During this tour of duty he helped implement a new course of instruction for the LVTP7A1 family of vehicles. In March 1984, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and attended the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy in Quantico, VA.

In June 1984, Sergeant Major Bell was transferred to the 3d Marine Division for duty with 1st Track Vehicle Battalion, Okinawa, Japan. He served with both Companies A and B and deployed to Thailand, Korea and the Philippines.

In May 1985, Sergeant Major Bell returned to CONUS and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA, for duty with 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion. He served in a variety of billets from section leader to Company Gunnery Sergeant. Promoted to Gunnery Sergeant in January 1990, he was transferred to Marine Corps Security Forces Battalion, Diego Garcia and assumed the duties as Guard Chief and Training Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge. In March 1993, he was assigned to Company A, 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion and deployed with 13th MEU (SOC), Battalion Landing Team 1/9, West PAC 93–94, as the AAV Detachment Platoon Sergeant.

Selected to First Sergeant in April 1994, Sergeant Major Bell’s assignments as a First Sergeant included: Company C and H&S Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division (April 1994–March 1996); United States Naval Academy Company, Marine Barracks 8th and I, Washington D.C. (April 1996–May 1997) where he was subsequently selected for promotion to Sergeant Major. He was assigned to the Assault Amphibian School Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA, as the Battalion Sergeant Major from June 1997–March 1999. In April 1999, he was reassigned as the Squadron Sergeant Major for HMM 268, MAG 39, 3d MAW, MCAS Camp Pendleton, CA, where he

deployed with the 11th MEU as the Air Combat Element Sergeant Major.

In April 2002 Sergeant Major Bell was reassigned to the 11th Marine Regiment where he deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In July 2003, he was assigned as the Sergeant Major of 1st Marine Division and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II from Feb 2004–Mar 2005. He was assigned to his current billet as Marine Corps Installations West Sergeant Major on 24 February 2006.

Sergeant Major Bell’s personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal w/2 Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal w/2 Gold Stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Sergeant Major Bell is married to the former Ms. Crystal Nadine Bynoe of Boston, MA. They have three sons, Sherman (31), Shannon (29), and Wayne Jr. (22), and five grandchildren Temarah (9), Julius (8), Micah (4), Jayden (2), Nia (1).

On behalf of the people of the United States whom Master Sergeant Bell spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it’s unethical to end one life in pursuit of helping others.

I am for stem-cell research. I am for scientific sound, ethical, adult stem-cell research.

The failure of embryonic stem-cell experiments has dried up private research dollars. Consequently, proponents have no alternative but to pressure Congress for funding.

Today, the House of Representatives passed legislation that requires taxpayers to fund science that ends innocent human lives for the questionable potential of improving the lives of others.

This legislation would divert resources from truly promising treatments in favor of controversial research whose benefits remain speculative.

To conduct scientific research of this type, thousands of embryos, persons at the beginning of life, must be killed. The debate is about the inherent value of human life at its earliest stage. Supporters of embryonic stem-cell research will not take a position on when life begins. They know that if they do, they cannot sustain their argument.

Moral arguments aside, it is a fact that other forms of stem-cell research are resulting in treatments for people who suffer from debilitating diseases. Adult stem cells, which are extracted from umbilical-cord blood, placenta,