

buildings and facilities, promoting resource efficiency by using recycled and sustainable products, and recycling used material, and increasing the use of biofuels in State automobiles and improving their fuel efficiency.

Across Iowa, communities large and small are following the example set by the State government, and in many places blazing their own path. These efforts must be replicated across the country and around the world if we are to curb the emission of greenhouse gases and protect our planet for future generations.

IN CELEBRATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSON'S 170TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, on May 4, 2008, First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi will celebrate its 170th anniversary. First Baptist Church of Jackson has a rich history and has grown immensely in size over the years, not only in members but in its outreach to the community through different ministries.

When the church was founded in 1838, Jackson was a 16 year old village with less than 600 people and was struggling to become the permanent seat of state government. Although the early years of the church proved difficult with an economic depression, a yellow fever epidemic, and the Civil War, the church still grew strong in its relationship to God and continued to reach out to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

God has blessed First Baptist Church of Jackson because on May 4, the church stands 170 years old and occupies a 750,000 square foot facility in downtown Jackson. It also includes a sanctuary that seats 3,000; a chapel; two fellowship halls; a Christian Life Center with two regulation basketball courts; rock climbing wall; racquetball court; walking track; fitness facilities; and a fully staffed counseling center. Currently, they have a weekly television broadcast of their Sunday service that covers much of Mississippi as well as a national broadcast on Direct TV. In 2006, First Baptist Church of Jackson established a Madison Campus that has 200 active members today.

First Baptist Church has centered its ministries on connecting people to God through faith in Jesus Christ so that their lives can be transformed into passionate followers of Christ. Today, ministries of the church include an inner-city ministry that has a medical clinic, dental clinic, and legal clinic as well as after school programs for children. Other ministries include help for women recently released from prison and a ministry for international citizens from over 26 countries that teaches them English and assists them in adjusting to life in America. Last year, First Baptist sent hundreds of members across America and throughout the world to build homes and churches, provide medical and dental care, and spread the love of God.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Congress joins me in celebrating with First Baptist Church of Jackson. For 170 years, the church has served out its battle cry, "Connecting People, Transforming Lives into Passionate Followers

of Jesus Christ." This momentous occasion is a true testament of the service, commitment, love, and foundation this church is built upon. May the Lord continue to bless First Baptist in the years to come.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT JEFFERSON ELKS LODGE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of an established and important landmark in New York's first congressional district—the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the oldest, largest and most respected private organizations in the United States. From its humble beginnings in 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has grown to nearly 1.3 million men and women with 2,300 local lodges throughout the country.

Through these local branches, the Elks organization has contributed more than 5.6 million volunteer hours and \$142 million in philanthropic service last year alone. Many of my constituents are proud hosts of the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge, and many more of my constituents are beneficiaries of the Lodge's invaluable service and contributions to the community.

Since 1958, the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge has been recognized as a benevolent order dedicated to serving the community, including their notable service to our nation's youth and returning veterans. The members of the Port Jefferson Lodge support numerous charitable and patriotic activities in my district—from awarding youth scholarships and aid to disadvantaged families to local food pantry and veterans' program donations.

Through its "Helping Hand" dinner, the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge recently raised \$37,000 for a local Marine Corps veteran, Richard Kramer, who died from cancer due to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. The lodge donated funds and hosted events at its facility in order to gather community support for the Kramer family. This is a shining example of the Port Jefferson Elk's mission of goodwill and just one among many good deeds performed by the Elks on behalf of the veterans and citizens in our community who are most in need.

I am proud to represent the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge. It is an ally and champion of our continuing efforts to ensure that our veterans receive their deserved benefits and the best quality of life—a small price to pay in return for their bravery, sacrifice, and honorable service to our country. The Elk's mission is best reflected by their pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge and to recognize its 50th anniversary. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I thank the Lodge and its members for their steadfast dedication to eastern Long Island and for embodying their cherished principles of "charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity".

HONORING MRS. PINKIE PARKER HARDY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy. We lost our beloved Mrs. Parker Hardy on April 3, 2008. She led a full and vibrant life during her 91 years on this earth, raising a loving family and mentoring many in her church and community.

On May 19, 1916, Pinkie Parker was born in Washington, Louisiana to Alice White and John Parker. During Pinkie's life, she witnessed many of the Nation's most turbulent and controversial moments. Growing up in the south in the first quarter of the last century, Pinkie was self-educated and she devoted her energies to her community, her family, and her faith. She was a life-long resident of Eunice, Louisiana.

In 1936, at the age of 20, Pinkie Parker married Herman Joseph Hardy. From this loving union, five sons and two daughters were born. In 1949, Mrs. Hardy, a devout and extremely active member of this congregation until she became ill just last year.

Mrs. Hardy contributed immeasurably to the growth and service of St. Mathilda Parish during her life. Bishop Flynn appointed her as the first Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at St. Mathilda. She also served as Lector and Parish Council President for several years. For 50 years, Mrs. Hardy was an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver (KPC) Council No. 92. Mrs. Hardy spent 26 of those years serving as the Grand Lady of KPC.

In 1987, Mrs. Hardy was the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Diocese of Lafayette. In 2002, she received the Bishop's Medal for devoted service to her church and society.

It is clear that Mrs. Hardy was an indispensable component of her community. She came of age and lived her adult life during the most tumultuous and influential political period in American history. Mrs. Hardy's life exemplifies that of many African-Americans during this century, their struggle for human rights and civic freedom, and their strength and perseverance.

These important men and women are seldom recognized for their greatness. Mrs. Hardy's life is one to be remembered and admired as an example of the true work and inner fortitude that keeps this country together. These individuals dedicated their lives in the service of their God and community in the face of incredible odds. Each and every one of them had a unique story, a special impact, and a loving family. Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy was a member of mine.

On a very personal level, Mrs. Hardy was "family" to me. She shared her deep religious faith, her wonderful Creole cooking (especially her gumbo) and her insights as a strong, yet gentle African-American woman with me on several occasions. To know "Mrs. Pinkie" was to love her.

Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy will be sorely missed by all those who loved her and were honored to have her kindness and spirit touch their lives. Her memory and legacy will live on through her seven children, a daughter-in-law,

34 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild as well as innumerable relatives and friends.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy. We extend our deepest condolences to her family and children. Thank you for sharing her great spirit with so many people over the last century. May her soul rest in peace.

THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House the following publication in the Washington Post of a letter penned by human rights activist Hu Jia, who was recently charged with subverting state authority and sentenced by a Beijing court to 3½ years in prison for his human rights advocacy activities.

As we approach the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, and China continues to grow as an economic and political powerhouse, we must remind ourselves of China's abusive and oppressive treatment of innocent civilians, and fight against the tyranny of the communist regime in Beijing.

[From the Washington Post, April 5, 2008]

THE REAL CHINA AND THE OLYMPICS

(By Hu Jia and Teng Biao)

This week, a Beijing court sentenced human rights activist Hu Jia to 3½ years in prison for subverting authority and to one additional year's loss of his "political rights." He was arrested in part for co-authoring, with Teng Biao, an open letter on human rights. Below, The Post prints Human Rights Watch's translation of the Sept. 10, 2007, letter.

On July 13, 2001, when Beijing won the right to host the 2008 Olympic Games, the Chinese government promised the world it would improve China's human rights record. In June 2004, Beijing announced its Olympic Games slogan, "One World, One Dream." From their inception in 1896, the modern Olympic Games have always had as their mission the promotion of human dignity and world peace. China and the world expected to see the Olympic Games bring political progress to the country. Is Beijing keeping its promises? Is China improving its human rights record?

When you come to the Olympic Games in Beijing, you will see skyscrapers, spacious streets, modern stadiums and enthusiastic people. You will see the truth, but not the whole truth, just as you see only the tip of an iceberg. You may not know that the flowers, smiles, harmony and prosperity are built on a base of grievances, tears, imprisonment, torture and blood.

We are going to tell you the truth about China. We believe that for anyone who wishes to avoid a disgraceful Olympics, knowing the truth is the first step. Fang Zheng, an excellent athlete who holds two national records for the discus throw at China's Special Sport Games, has been deprived of the opportunity to participate in the 2008 Paralympics because he has become a living testimony to the June 4, 1989[,] massacre. That morning, in Tiananmen Square, his legs were crushed by a tank while he was rescuing a fellow student. In April 2007, the

Ministry of Public Security issued an internal document secretly strengthening a political investigation which resulted in forbidding Olympics participation by 43 types of people from 11 different categories, including dissidents, human rights defenders, media workers, and religious participants. The Chinese police never made the document known to either the Chinese public or the international community.

Huge investment in Olympic projects and a total lack of transparency have facilitated serious corruption and widespread bribery. Taxpayers are not allowed to supervise the use of investment amounting to more than \$40 billion. Liu Zhihua, formerly in charge of Olympic construction and former deputy mayor of Beijing, was arrested for massive embezzlement.

To clear space for Olympic-related construction, thousands of civilian houses have been destroyed without their former owners being properly compensated. Brothers Ye Guozhu and Ye Guogiang were imprisoned for a legal appeal after their house was forcibly demolished. Ye Guozhu has been repeatedly handcuffed and shackled, tied to a bed and beaten with electric batons. During the countdown to the Olympic Games he will continue to suffer from torture in Chaobei Prison in Tianjin.

It has been reported that over 1.25 million people have been forced to move because of Olympic construction; it was estimated that the figure would reach 1.5 million by the end of 2007. No formal resettlement scheme is in place for the over 400,000 migrants who have had their dwelling places demolished. Twenty percent of the demolished households are expected to experience poverty or extreme poverty. In Qingdao, the Olympic sailing city, hundreds of households have been demolished and many human rights activists as well as "civilians" have been imprisoned. Similar stories come from other Olympic cities such as Shenyang, Shanghai and Qinhuangdao.

In order to establish the image of civilized cities, the government has intensified the ban against—and detention and forced repatriation of—petitioners, beggars and the homeless. Some of them have been kept in extended detention in so-called shelters or have even been sent directly to labor camps. Street vendors have suffered brutal confiscation of their goods by municipal agents.

On July 20, 2005, Lin Hongying, a 56-year-old woman farmer and vegetable dealer, was beaten to death by city patrols in Jiangsu. On November 19, 2005, city patrols in Wuxi beat 54-year-old bicycle repairman Wu Shoujing to death. In January 2007, petitioner Duan Huimin was killed by Shanghai police. On July 1, 2007, Chen Xiaoming, a Shanghai petitioner and human rights activist, died of an untreated illness during a lengthy detention period. On August 5, 2007, right before the one-year Olympics countdown, 200 petitioners were arrested in Beijing.

China has consistently persecuted human rights activists, political dissidents and freelance writers and journalists. The blind activist Chen Guangcheng, recipient of the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award and named in 2006 by Time Magazine as one of the most influential 100 people shaping our world, is still serving his sentence of four years and three months for exposing the truth of forced abortion and sterilization. The government refused to give him the Braille books and the radio that his relatives and friends brought to Linyi prison in Shandong. Chen has been beaten while serving his sentence. On August 24, 2007, Chen's wife, Yuan Weijing, was kidnapped by police at the Beijing airport while waiting to fly to the Philippines to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award on behalf of

her husband. On August 13, 2007, activist Yang Chunlin was arrested in Heilongjiang and charged with subversion of state power "for initiating the petition 'Human Rights before Olympics.'"

China still practices literary inquisition and holds the world record for detaining journalists and writers, as many as several hundred since 1989, according to incomplete statistics. As of this writing, 35 Chinese journalists and 51 writers are still in prison. Over 90 percent were arrested or tried after Beijing's successful bid for the Olympics in July 2001. For example, Shi Tao, a journalist and a poet, was sentenced to ten years in prison because of an e-mail sent to an overseas website. Dr. Xu Zerong, a scholar from Oxford University who researched the Korean War, was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for "illegally providing information abroad." Qingshuijun If [Huang Jinqiu], a freelance writer, was sentenced to a 12-year term for his online publications. Some writers and dissidents are prohibited from going abroad; others from returning to China.

Every year in mainland China, countless websites are closed, blogs deleted, sensitive words filtered. Many websites hosted abroad are blocked. Overseas radio and television programs are interfered with or strictly prohibited. Although the Chinese government has promised media freedom for foreign journalists for 22 months, before, during, and after the Beijing Olympics, and ending on October 17, 2008, an FCCC [Foreign Correspondents Club in China] survey showed that 40 percent of foreign correspondents have experienced harassment, detention or an official warning during news gathering in Beijing and other areas. Some reporters have complained about repeated violent police interference at the time they were speaking with interviewees. Most seriously, Chinese interviewees usually become vulnerable as a result. In June 2006, Fu Xiancai was beaten and paralyzed after being interviewed by German media. In March 2007, Zheng Dajing was beaten and arrested after being interviewed by a British TV station.

Religious freedom is still under repression. In 2005, a Beijing pastor, Cai Zhuohua, was sentenced to three years for printing Bibles. Zhou Heng, a house church pastor in Xinjiang, was charged with running an "illegal operation" for receiving dozens of boxes of Bibles. From April to June 2007, China expelled over 100 suspected U.S., South Korean, Canadian, Australian, and other missionaries. Among them were humanitarian workers and language educators who had been teaching English in China for 15 years. During this so-called Typhoon 5 campaign, authorities took aim at missionary activities so as to prevent their recurrence during the Olympics.

On September 30, 2006, Chinese soldiers opened fire on 71 Tibetans who were escaping to Nepal. A 17-year-old nun died and a 20-year-old man was severely injured. Despite numerous international witnesses, the Chinese police insisted that the shooting was in self-defense. One year later, China tightened its control over Tibetan Buddhism. A September 1, 2007, regulation requires all reincarnated lamas to be approved by Chinese authorities, a requirement that flagrantly interferes with the tradition of reincarnation of living Buddhas as practiced in Tibet for thousands of years. In addition, Chinese authorities still ban the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet and a world-renowned pacifist, from returning to Tibet.

Since 1999, the government has banned many religious beliefs such as Falungong and the Three Servants. Their followers have experienced extremely cruel and planned persecutions. Many died from abuse, suffered torture, brainwashing, imprisonment and