

CONGRATULATING THE SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMICS TEAM ON WINNING THE NATIONAL FED CHALLENGE

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I wish to highlight the accomplishments of the Saint Joseph High School Economics Team. On May 18, 2010, this team outscored other excellent teams from across the country in the National Fed Challenge and went on to represent Indiana as one of only four teams nationwide that qualified for the final competition at the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, DC.

The Economics Team then faced tough competition from Boston, New York, and Richmond, Virginia. Following their 15 minute presentation about the economy they were asked questions by a panel of judges consisting of Federal Reserve staff members, professional economists, and educators. After the judges weighed in, the St. Joseph High School economics team of South Bend, Indiana, captured the national championship. These St. Joseph students demonstrated their unmatched knowledge of federal monetary policy and the economy, and for the first time in their school's history, after three previous trips to the national tournament, they triumphed. The team consisted of five students: Elizabeth Everett, Theodora Hannan, Donny MacDonell, Angela Watkins, and Joe Watkins. These outstanding students were coached by their teachers, Julie Chismar and Phil DePauw.

I offer my congratulations to the St. Joseph High School Economics Team and all those affiliated with their success in the National Fed Challenge. These students serve as a model of commitment and dedication to educational excellence, and I am certain that their winning tradition will continue.

HONORING MRS. IVALITA JACKSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC, to offer our deepest condolences as we pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Mrs. Ivalita Jackson, beloved mother of our friend and CBC colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE and her brother, Michael. With Mrs. Jackson's passing on May 18, 2010, at the age of 84, we are reminded of her life's journey, the joyful legacy she inspired, and her bold commitment to selflessly care for others.

Ivalita Jackson, affectionately known as "Ivy," was born on January 15, 1926, in St. Petersburg, Florida, to Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd and Vannie Bennett. Mr. Bennett worked as a Pullman porter and Mrs. Bennett was both a homemaker and businesswoman. When Ivalita was 16, she and her sister Valerie moved to Queens, New York, to seek greater opportunities and to help their family back in Florida.

The two set a course marked by self-reliance, strong work ethic and personal respon-

sibility that continues to inspire their loved ones to this day. It was in New York that Ivalita began a life of service by seeking training in vocational nursing. And, she soon met the love of her life, New York native and comic book artist, Ezra Clyde Jackson, to whom she was married for 47 years.

Known for her expertise in the care of infants and premature babies, Ivalita Jackson was one of the first African American nurses to work at the Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital (now the New York Hospital Queens) and was a pioneer for other African American women in her field. "Jackie," as her colleagues called her, was loved and respected by patients and coworkers alike.

Mrs. Jackson cared for others' children during the graveyard shift so that in the morning she could walk her own small children to school. Her role as a mother was one of the guiding principles in her life and she made every effort to be involved in her children's school activities.

She also took great joy in her active leadership roles at Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she was a dedicated charter member and part of the gospel choir. In addition, Mrs. Jackson made sure that her children were involved in church activities and instilled with a sense of spiritual and public service.

A dedicated wife, sister, mother and grandmother, Mrs. Jackson was known by many as a true "renaissance woman." She was a talented flower arranger, a wise mentor, a compassionate spirit and a woman who commanded an enormous amount of respect. With wit and wisdom, she reminded others to show love in spite of hardship and to love themselves so that they might love others that much more.

Though preceded in death by her husband, Mrs. Jackson is survived by son, Mr. Michael Jackson, daughter, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, grandchildren, Jason Lee and Erika Lee, and a sister, Mrs. Vivian Smith.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus join family and friends in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson. On behalf of those whose lives she touched in magnificent ways, we honor and salute her. Ivalita was truly a great woman and she will be deeply missed. The contributions she made to others throughout her life are countless and precious. Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, the entire family and Mrs. Jackson's extended group of loved ones and friends. May her soul rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING CHIHUAHUA
DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, which I am excited to announce is in the 23rd district of Texas, on its recent nomination to participate in the Museum Assessment Program, MAP. The program has served over 5,800 museums since 1981 and is administered through the American Association of Museums in a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Mu-

seum and Library Services, IMIS. The program will help the museum, beyond its current success, identify through peer review, how to improve programming and operations to address current and future challenges.

The Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute is located within the scenic Davis Mountain range near Fort Davis. Through research and education, including its proximity to Sul Ross State University, the non-profit institute promotes public appreciation and awareness for the natural diversity of the Chihuahuan Desert. Highlights include a 1400-sq.-ft. cactus and succulent greenhouse, a desert botanical garden, over 3 miles of hiking trails, and interpretive exhibits.

The institute offers opportunities for visitors of all ages to learn through the Life-Long Learning Program. This program features workshops, fieldtrips, and lectures on a variety of topics related to the natural history of the desert region. Other programs for school and youth groups help parents and teachers reinforce scientific concepts by offering exciting, interactive activities. Teachers can continue their professional education with interesting classes that emphasize outdoor learning and hands-on activities to use as demonstrations for their students.

Exhibits include "Our Dynamic Landscape: Geology, Culture, History," the "Chihuahuan Desert Mining Heritage Exhibit," a "Geological Timeline," and constant changing interactive "Atrium Exhibits."

Again I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the recognition of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute by the Museum Assessment Program for its outstanding efforts on educating the community about regional and ecological awareness. This continuous hard work has a positive impact on visitors and students alike who in turn will appreciate preservation of the earth's natural history, regional habitats, and more importantly, the importance of preservation for future generations.

FAITH AND FOREIGN POLICY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a piece by Tom Farr, former American diplomat and senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs which recently ran in The Washington Post.

Farr highlights several of the more alarming findings outlined in the recently released annual report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Whether it is the persecution endured by Tibetan Buddhist monks or the violence perpetrated against the ancient Christian community in Iraq—religious freedom is under assault around the world.

Farr points out that the commission makes a host of policy recommendations which should prove invaluable to the U.S. State Department as it seeks to advocate for those whose voices have been silenced around the world.

However, Farr also rightly notes that "one could easily conclude that Obama Administration officials have no intention of giving priority

to religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy, if for no other reason than the President's extreme lassitude in nominating an official to head the IRF (International Religious Freedom) operation—the ambassador at large for international religious freedom required by the IRF act.”

I commend this piece to my colleagues. It is a sobering but realistic assessment of the diminished state of religious freedom advocacy in U.S. foreign policy. It ought to be cause of great concern for all Americans who cherish this first freedom.

OBAMA AT THE CROSSROADS ON RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY

FAITH AND FOREIGN POLICY

(By Thomas Farr)

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (IRF) has come down hard on the Obama administration for its failure to promote international religious liberty. “U.S. foreign policy on religious freedom,” said Commission chairman Leonard Leo, “is missing the mark.”

The Commission, established by the 1998 IRF Act, is a bipartisan group of nine men and women drawn from across the American political and religious landscape, and it includes Obama supporters. To its credit, the group's annual report, released last week, is raising the right issues at the right time.

The report reminds us of a primary reason the United States seeks to advance religious freedom. It recounts in disturbing detail the cruelties practiced worldwide on human beings because of their religious beliefs and practices, or those of their tormentors. A small sampling: Rape victims still languish in Pakistani prisons because religious laws require women to produce four male witnesses to the act of rape. Unable to do so, many rape victims have been accused of “adultery,” found guilty, and imprisoned.

In March 2009 Chinese security forces literally beat to death a Tibetan Buddhist monk for passing out leaflets supporting the Dalai Lama. In China, the torture and “disappearance” of Buddhist monks and nuns, and of disfavored Muslims, Christians, and adherents of Falun Gong, occur with inhuman regularity.

In Saudi Arabia a senior cleric recently issued a fatwa calling for the death of anyone arguing that men and women could work together professionally. Such edicts emerge from a Saudi interpretation of Islam called Wahhabism, a malevolent political theology that continues to be exported from the desert kingdom worldwide—including to the United States.

In Iran, Shi'a Muslims critical of the regime's brand of Shi'ism were executed for “waging war against God.” Iranian Baha'is live in constant fear of imprisonment, torture and death.

All this makes for a dismaying reading, but the section on Iraq is particularly wrenching. In a country whose opportunity for ordered liberty has been purchased with American blood, Christians are being targeted and murdered. Thousands among this ancient but rapidly shrinking Iraqi minority have been forced to flee their homes and villages.

The slow death of Christianity in Iraq is a tragedy about which most Americans know very little. Had this story gotten the attention it deserved from the mainstream press, perhaps public opinion would have brought more pressure on the Bush administration to do something about it. The Commission, long a leader in this area, has provided powerful reasons for the Obama administration to act.

These and other tragic stories in the report provide a human face to the alarming trends

published by the Pew Forum in its December 2009 analysis, *Global Restrictions on Religion*. It found that 70 percent of the world's population live in regimes where citizens are vulnerable to religious persecution. As a humanitarian matter alone, surely this is unacceptable to the American people and their elected representatives.

Of course, no one supports persecution. The question is what can, and what ought, the United States do about it? Most Americans want their government to try and relieve the suffering of innocent human beings. But are there other reasons for action, reasons that might lead to U.S. IRF strategies that both reduce human suffering and further American interests? More on this below.

The Commission provides a host of practical, country-specific recommendations, for example, linking the substantial U.S. economic assistance to Egypt to improvements in that country's respect for religious freedom, or taking steps to ensure that the Chinese hear a consistent message on this issue from all U.S. officials (which is not now, nor ever has been, the case).

The report urges more pressure on the Saudi government to do what it has already pledged to do—reform the religiously-biased text books that teach Saudi children the wrong lessons, and make their “religion and morals police” more accountable. This is the same Wahhabi-inspired “police” agency that a few years ago prevented Saudi schoolgirls from fleeing a burning school building because they were not sufficiently covered. Fourteen girls perished in the flames.

Importantly, the report adds to the Commission's “watch list” two key Muslim democracies—Indonesia and Turkey. The commissioners judge, quite accurately, that those nations, while making strides in other areas critical to democracy, are lagging in religious freedom. This matter is important to the United States, not only because we want to help the victims, but also because the success of democracy in these countries is vital to our own security.

This brings us to the “other” reasons for advancing religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy. The Commission's findings tend to confirm what scholarship in international relations and sociology are strongly suggesting: democracy in highly religious nations cannot consolidate and yield its benefits—including economic opportunity, security, low levels of religious extremism, and peace with other democracies—without religious freedom. That is a lesson our foreign policy elites must learn, not only that we may help influence the democratic consolidation of allies Turkey and Indonesia, but also to ensure that our investments of blood and treasure in Iraq and Afghanistan succeed.

Commission chairman Leonard Leo highlighted the connection between religious freedom and national security in his remarks: “If the United States cares about human rights, if we value international stability, if we are concerned about countering extremism, freedom of religion . . . must be a critical component of our nation's diplomacy, national security and economic development objectives.”

The Obama administration should pay close attention to these words as it decides how to position its own religious freedom policy. Whether it will do so or not is still unclear. The report acknowledges that some good things are beginning to happen inside the State Department. But it also points to signs that IRF policy is being sidelined and may assume an even lesser role than it has in previous administrations.

Decisions over the next several weeks will likely tell us which path this President will take. Will he and Secretary Hillary Clinton

decide to retool and upgrade an IRF policy that was neglected by prior administrations of both parties? With proper leadership and training, U.S. religious freedom strategies will not only help alleviate human suffering far more effectively than they have to date, but they can also help achieve the national security goals emphasized by Chairman Leo.

On the plus side, there are a few reasons for hope. Within Foggy Bottom, a handful of officials are working hard to convince skeptical senior Department leaders of what ought to be obvious: the global resurgence of religion warrants systemic training for foreign service officers in religions and religious freedom. Our embassies abroad need expertise in this area, just as they possess expertise in politics, economics, or military affairs. This case has recently been made by, among others, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in a series of recommendations to the administration.

Unfortunately, as the Commission's report makes clear, many within the administration are resisting the obvious. One could easily conclude that Obama officials have no intention of given priority to religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy, if for no other reason than the President's extreme lassitude in nominating an official to head the IRF operation—the ambassador at large for international religious freedom required by the IRF Act. Sixteen months into the Obama presidency, with a bevy of envoys on issues from outreach to Muslim communities to the closure of Guantanamo long in place, the administration has not seen fit to move on the IRF position.

What the report does not mention is that the White House is said to be on the verge of announcing the President's nominee for ambassador at large. That person is reported to be a pastor rather than a diplomat, and someone with no experience in either foreign policy or religious freedom. Would the President nominate someone to head his programs on Muslim outreach, women's rights, disabilities, energy policy, climate change, or any of the other issues that are represented by senior envoys under his administration, if he or she were not a seasoned expert in the field? Why would he do so in the field of religious freedom?

If this were not enough, the Commission also notes reports that when the new IRF ambassador shows up for work, she will have even less authority and less support than is the norm at Foggy Bottom, and less than is required by the IRF Act itself. Other ambassadors at large, such as the official in charge of Global Women's Issues, work directly under Secretary Clinton. The IRF ambassador, on the other hand, will reportedly have four other officials between her and the Secretary. And the office that has for 12 years served the IRF ambassador (as required by the IRF Act) will now report to someone else.

Is the Democratic-controlled Congress paying attention? Does it care that a law it passed unanimously under one Democratic President is apparently being set aside by another?

One final point. The Commission report worries, correctly in my view, that both the President and the Secretary of State have taken to speaking publicly of “freedom of worship” rather than “religious freedom.” Why should that matter? Because “worship” is essentially a private activity, far less threatening to authoritarian governments or powerful majority religious communities than is religious freedom. The latter encompasses both private worship and public practice. It means protection for all religious communities on an equal basis, including the right to engage in the political life of a nation.

If the Obama administration wanted to downgrade U.S. international religious freedom policy, it might prepare the way by rhetorical shift such as this.

Is that what the administration is doing? It is too soon to tell, but there are reasons to be concerned. In a follow-up post I will explore why the President and Secretary of State might in fact be acting to move IRF to the obscure margins of U.S. foreign policy, and, if they are, why their actions would reduce our nation's capacity to undermine religious persecution, and harm the interests of the American people.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ERNIE HARWELL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, in Ernie Harwell's famous definition of baseball, he wrote that it was "just a game, as simple as a ball and bat; yet as complex as the American spirit it symbolizes." There was nothing complex, however, about what one of baseball's most iconic broadcasters meant to us all. Ernie lent his voice to one of America's deepest loves for more than 50 years, most of them calling games for his beloved Detroit Tigers. He passed away a few short weeks ago at the age of 92.

Ernie brought Tiger Stadium into Michigan living rooms from Hamtramck to Bloomfield, and made the old ballpark at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull feel like a neighborhood sandlot. He'd call out the hometowns of fans who caught foul balls as if he knew all 35,000 of them by name. The beauty of his commentary was in its understated grace—simple, earnest, and full of insight. Ernie was the rare broadcaster who made you feel like you were in the stadium. He'd tell you the score at least once a minute, but never fell victim to the need to hear himself speak. A silence filled with the hum of the crowd and the call of a vendor was almost as important to his broadcast style as the vignettes from every era of the game that peppered his play-by-play.

For Ernie's faithful listeners spring was a time of hope and rebirth, as he welcomed four decades of spring training seasons with a familiar Psalm: "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." It is the kind of hope we can all relate to, especially fans of a certain team in my district who believe that every year might just be "next year."

When Ernie retired from broadcasting in a moving on-field ceremony in 2002, he told us "rather than say good-bye, please allow me to say thank you." Today, it's our turn. Thank you, Ernie, for all the memories. You will be missed.

HONORING SUSAN LAFFERTY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Susan

Lafferty upon being named as a 2010 Common Threads honoree. Mrs. Lafferty will be honored by California State University, Fresno at the 2010 Common Threads Award luncheon to be held on Friday, April 16, 2010.

Mrs. Sue Lafferty was born and raised in Los Angeles, California; away from farmland and agriculture. Mrs. Lafferty married Dave in 1976, and they moved to the Hanford-Lemoore area to begin their farming adventure.

Today, Mrs. Lafferty spends many volunteer hours working with the youth and agricultural education programs. She became involved with the Kings County 4-H Program while her daughter, Katie, was involved with the program. Although Katie is an adult, Mrs. Lafferty continues to spend countless hours with the group. Within the Kings County 4-H she has served as project leader, community leader, council secretary, council director and department chair for the Dairy Show 4-H Fair. Mrs. Lafferty is also the co-founder of Kings Harvest 4-H.

In 2009, Mrs. Lafferty encouraged eight 4-H members to develop a farm gleaning program to help them earn their Emerald Star and to supply fresh fruits and vegetables to the local food banks. Through her leadership and direction, the members were able to donate almost fifteen hundred pounds of tomatoes, nine hundred pounds of cantaloupes, seven hundred and fifty pounds of onions and two thousand pounds of sweet corn to Kings Community Action food pantry.

Beyond 4-H, Mrs. Lafferty volunteers for the Kings Fair Boosters, where she has served as President, Vice-President and secretary while also working on special events and fundraisers for the fair. Over the years, she has served in various positions for the Kings Fair Junior Fair Board, Kings Lamb Feed Committee, Hanford Future Farmers of America Parents' Club, Beef Educational Enhancement Fund (BEEF), Tulare County Fair and Great Western Livestock Show as well as the Dance Guild. Mrs. Lafferty is a lifetime member of Hanford Future Farmers of America.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Susan Lafferty upon her achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Lafferty many years of continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARGO, FLORIDA, POLICE CHIEF LESTER ARADI

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the people of Largo, Florida, I have the privilege to represent will turn out Friday to honor their police chief, Lester Aradi, as he retires after 9 years of leading the force and a 37-year law enforcement career.

Chief Aradi has been a strong and compassionate leader who has earned the respect of the people he serves, the city's leaders under whom he works, and most importantly the men and women he leads on the Largo police force. Integrity and ethics are the words most often mentioned when people speak of Chief Aradi.

He has had a clear impact on making Largo's streets safer. Part of the reason is that he did not lead from behind a desk. He was always out in the field.

It was my privilege to work with Chief Aradi on a number of initiatives during his tenure. These include introducing new technologies into the police force to help make sure his officers had the latest equipment to do their jobs more safely and effectively. We also teamed up with the community on a project he spearheaded to create a local Silver Alert program to put out notices when senior citizens were reported lost or missing. Chief Aradi took the program state-wide and it is now a model national program.

Chief Aradi also had a special place in his heart for the families of his officers. My wife Beverly and the Chief worked together on a number of heartrending situations involving families who faced difficult times related to illness, injury, and even the death of an officer with a young family.

St. Petersburg Times reporter Lorri Helfand recently featured the life and career of Chief Aradi. Following my remarks, I would like to include her story for the benefit of my colleagues. Also, I will include an editorial from the same publication which speaks for the community in saying that Chief Aradi "will be remembered and will be missed."

Madam Speaker, serving in law enforcement is a thankless job. The officers put their lives on the line every day to protect our homes, our schools and our communities. As their leader, serving 24 hours a day 7 days a week, Chief Aradi has been the consummate professional—leading his force by example.

The people of Largo will miss Chief Aradi and we all wish him and his wife Diane the best in their well-deserved retirement years. Thank you Chief for a job well done.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, May 23, 2010]

THANKS, CHIEF ARADI, FOR YOUR SERVICE TO
LARGO.

Lester Aradi left a good job in Illinois almost 10 years ago to come to Pinellas County because he had read a book, *Who Moved My Cheese?* and learned that change is good. Now, he's ready for another change. On June 1, Aradi will retire from his job as Largo's chief of police, and while the change may be good for Aradi, it will be a real loss for Largo.

Aradi, who lives in Clearwater, took over a police department that had been scarred by scandal and disrupted by having three chiefs in seven years. It desperately needed a steady hand at the helm. He brought discipline, direction and a closer bond between the department and the community.

Aradi was not Largo's first choice to replace retiring chief Jerry Bloechle in 2000. City officials initially preferred Vail, Colo., police Chief Greg Morrison, but after a visit to Vail, then-City Manager Steve Stanton cooled on Morrison and instead chose Aradi, the deputy chief in Buffalo Grove, Ill.

Aradi had risen through the ranks of the Buffalo Grove department for 25 years and was being groomed to take over as chief there—until he read that book about cheese. Aradi was familiar with the Tampa Bay area, having vacationed here often and even purchased a house in Clearwater. In the Largo job, he saw a challenge—a police department with a young, well-educated rank and file, but problems with leadership, discipline and profile in the community.

It was a risk for Aradi. He had never even lived outside of Illinois. He had never been