

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESTORING FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTIONS OF RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS SPEECH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation restoring First amendment protections of religion and religious speech. For fifty years, the personal religious freedom of this nation's citizens has been infringed upon by courts that misread and distort the First amendment. The framers of the Constitution never in their worst nightmares imagined that the words, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech. . . ." would be used to ban children from praying in school, prohibit courthouses from displaying the Ten Commandments, or prevent citizens from praying before football games. The original meaning of the First amendment was clear on these two points: The federal government cannot enact laws establishing one religious denomination over another, and the federal government cannot forbid mention of religion, including the Ten Commandments and references to God.

In case after case, the Supreme Court has used the infamous "separation of church and state" metaphor to uphold court decisions that allow the federal government to intrude upon and deprive citizens of their religious liberty. This "separation" doctrine is based upon a phrase taken out of context from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists on January 1, 1802. In the letter, Jefferson simply reassures the Baptists that the First amendment would preclude an intrusion by the federal government into religious matters between denominations. It is ironic and sad that a letter defending the principle that the federal government must stay out of religious affairs. Should be used two hundred years later to justify the Supreme Court telling a child that he cannot pray in school!

The Court completely disregards the original meaning and intent of the First amendment. It has interpreted the establishment clause to preclude prayer and other religious speech in a public place, thereby violating the free exercise clause of the very same First amendment. Therefore, it is incumbent upon Congress to correct this error, and to perform its duty to support and defend the Constitution. My legislation would restore First amendment protections of religion and speech by removing all religious freedom-related cases from federal district court jurisdiction, as well as from federal claims court jurisdiction. The federal government has no constitutional authority to reach its hands in the religious affairs of its citizens or of the several states.

As James Madison said, "There are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by the gradual and silent encroachment of those in power, than by violent

and sudden usurpation." I sincerely hope that my colleagues will fight against the "gradual and silent encroachment" of the courts upon our nation's religious liberties by supporting this bill.

HONORING CHARLOTTE EDMUNDSON FOR HER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHILLICOTHE STATE BANK IN CHILLICOTHE, MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charlotte Edmundson, vice-president and head of customer service for the Chillicothe State Bank in Chillicothe, Missouri. Charlotte has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for her 47 year commitment to the bank and the citizens of Chillicothe.

Charlotte is well known among staff and patrons of the bank for going above and beyond customer service standards, when dealing with both banking and non-banking issues. She interacts on many levels with everyone she comes in contact with and maintains the highest degree of professionalism and honesty. She prides herself on getting her job done right and getting it done on time.

During her years with the bank, Charlotte attained knowledge of the customer service department and the bank's operations that made her an exemplary employee heavily relied upon by management and fellow bank staff. Her coworkers have described her as honest, reliable, helpful, trustworthy and professional.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Charlotte Edmundson, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service as both an employee and citizen of Chillicothe, Missouri.

HONORING THE JENKINTOWN LIBRARY ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Jenkintown Library on its 200th anniversary.

Established in 1803, the Jenkintown Library is now the third oldest library in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. For two centuries it has been a center for community learning and is still satisfying the changing needs of the area. The library's vast collection contains books, periodicals, DVD's, and other forms of multimedia. The library also offers programs that reflect the diverse interests of the community it serves.

It is fitting that the Jenkintown Library is celebrating its bicentennial next week, as it corresponds with National Library week. National Library week is a time to recognize and highlight the contributions of both libraries and librarians for connecting people with the resources that they need to live and to learn. It also recognizes libraries as a place for education, self-help, and opportunity, something that the Jenkintown Library exemplifies.

Two hundred years after its founding, the Jenkintown Library still retains its architectural beauty and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979. Throughout its long history, the library has been able to keep up with the needs of the community, and I am confident that the library will continue to contribute for many years to come. I am grateful for the service that the library has provided to not only the citizens of Jenkintown but to all Montgomery Countians.

HONORING JULIE INMAN OF ORANGE COUNTY FOR RECEIVING THE CLARA BARTON SPECTRUM AWARD

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julie Inman of Orange County for receiving the Clara Barton Spectrum Award.

The Clara Barton Spectrum Award, given by the Red Cross, was awarded to eight outstanding women in Orange County.

Julie was honored for founding SupportAbility, a non-profit organization that raised \$11,000 for scholarship that went to 14 students who have overcome great adversity.

Julie herself is not unfamiliar with overcoming adversity. When she was 15 years old, Julie suffered a massive stroke. Doctors told her she would never speak again. Three years later, she graduated from Mater Dei High School.

Julie has dedicated herself to helping others beat the odds. Her courage has served as inspiration for many.

Let this young lady's accomplishments serve as an example of the wonderful things our young people are capable of achieving.

I wish her the best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN STEIN

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, last week the United States Air Force lost six servicemen

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and women in Afghanistan when their helicopter crashed while on a humanitarian mission to evacuate two injured children. Lieutenant Colonel John Stein of western Illinois was among those killed. I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate his life, commend his remarkable bravery, and extend my sincerest condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones. He will be missed.

A Bardolph native, John Stein began dating his wife, Barbara (Nelson) Stein, while the two were students at Macomb High School. He graduated in 1981, she in 1980. Macomb High School principal Michael Sartore remembers Stein as a quiet, hard-working, dedicated student. A career military officer, Lt. Col. Stein resided with his family at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Georgia. The couple has three children: Doug, 17, Erin, 13, and Timothy, 11. His mother, Hazel Henry, still lives in Macomb.

Lieutenant Colonel Stein was a helicopter pilot with the 41st Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, a part of the 347th Operations Group specializing in rescuing downed pilots behind enemy lines. Kelly Friday, a childhood friend, said that even in high school Lt. Col. Stein wanted to be a helicopter pilot. "Any goal he set out to achieve, he mastered it," he recalled. "He was very intelligent; anything he touched he mastered."

On behalf of the communities in western and central Illinois, I would like to extend my thoughts and prayers to the Stein family at this difficult time. Lieutenant Colonel John Stein's courage in serving his country will not soon be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING DUSTIN WRIGHT FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dustin John Wright, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dustin has been very active with his troop, participating in such scout activities as the H. Roe Bartle Summer Camp for five years, and the BSA snorkeling and ranger programs. Over the 10 years he has been involved in scouting, Dustin has earned 35 merit badges. Additionally, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, and troop's chaplain aide. Dustin also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements with such awards as the Parvuli Dei Catholic Religious Award, the Ad Altare Dei Catholic Religious Medal, the Arrow of Light Award, the World Conservation Award, and the Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Dustin constructed and installed a handrail for a bridge, and improved 150 feet of trail with gravel at the Heartland Presbyterian Center in Parkville, MO.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dustin John Wright for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce three bills relating to abortion.

First, the Freedom of Conscience Act of 2003 prohibits any federal official from expending any federal funds for any population control or population planning program or any family planning activity. It is immoral to force the American taxpayers to subsidize programs and practices they find morally abhorrent.

Second, I rise to introduce the Partial-birth Abortion Funding Ban Act of 2003. This bill prohibits federal officials from paying any federal funds to any individual or entity that performs partial-birth abortions. The taxpayer must not be forced to fund this barbaric procedure.

Finally, my Life-Protecting Judicial Limitation Act of 2003 provides that the inferior courts of the United States do not have jurisdiction to hear abortion-related cases. Congress must use the authority granted to it in Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution. The district courts of the United States, as well as the United States Court of Federal Claims, should not have the authority to hear these types of cases.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in support of these three bills. By following the Constitution and using the power granted to the Congress by this document, we can restore freedom of conscience and the sanctity of human life.

HONORING ROCKLEDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Rockledge Volunteer Fire Company on its one hundred years of service to that community.

Many things have changed for the company since its founding in 1903. It has grown from a single wagon pulled by the firefighters themselves to a small fleet of trucks capable of meeting all fire fighting needs. While it was once reliant on others to help put out its fires, the Rockledge Volunteer Fire Company is now large enough to lend its services beyond the town borders of Rockledge.

The fire company has become a staple in Rockledge, and its members have always been active in the community that they served. The late Jules Ceigekowski served in the company for seventy years, and Robert Snyder, a former police and fire chief in Rockledge just celebrated sixty years of service in 2002. In addition, the fire company offers junior memberships to those under the age of 18.

Since its beginning, the Rockledge Fire company has been based on volunteerism,

community, and caring for others. I firmly believe that it is those three principles that will continue to carry the company and its members for many years to come, and I am grateful for the service the company continues to provide to the citizens of Rockledge. Again, I congratulate the Rockledge Volunteer Fire Company on its 100th anniversary.

APPLAUDING THE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS OF THE TEACHERS AND FACULTY AT THE ORANGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, IN SANTA ANA, CALI- FORNIA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the fundraising efforts of the teachers and faculty at the Orange County High School of the Arts, in Santa Ana, California.

Like many schools across the nation, the Orange County High School of the Arts is facing serious budget concerns. Forecasting \$600,000 in cuts, a number of janitors, clerical and cafeteria workers were laid off. School officials announced that many more teachers could be laid off during the school's second semester.

In spite of these dire outlooks, teachers are leading a fund-raising effort that has raised \$73,000 so far to prevent more layoffs and increases in class sizes.

In a band called "Will Play for Food," teachers are selling out concerts to raise money. Some have even donated back their raises.

These teachers are going above and beyond their duties to maintain a high quality education at their schools. Our teachers should be using their energy to improve the performance of their students, instead of performing to keep their jobs.

The bottom line is that we are leaving our children and our teachers behind. If we want to stimulate the economy and improve our country's future, the best investment we can make is the education of our youth.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL EVAN JAMES

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, last week western Illinois lost one of its sons in the war against Iraq, and I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate his life, commend his bravery, and extend my condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones. Corporal Evan James, a member of the Marine Corps Reserves Unit based in Peoria, Illinois, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. While his unwavering commitment to this nation and its ideals are an inspiration, it is a tragedy that this young, promising life was cut so short. He will be missed.

Corporal Evan James, 20 years old, was born to Mike and Donna James of LaHarpe, Illinois. A 2000 graduate of LaHarpe High