

find employment. Not only does it give them a place to shower and do their laundry, but it also aids in giving those less fortunate the tools needed to look for employment. These simple services greatly increase the odds of getting a job for those with very few resources.

Bob Kelsey has been the director of the Catholic Outreach Day Center since its creation in 1997, but at the age of seventy he is passing his responsibilities on to another. In the four years of the day center's existence, Bob, with the help of over 40 volunteers, has helped to provide more than one thousand jobs to the less fortunate members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Kelsey has dedicated many resources and provided many opportunities to those members of his community who are less privileged. The Catholic Outreach Day Center has become a very valuable asset for many people. Mr. Kelsey has touched the lives of so many and will be greatly missed, but through the ongoing support of his community his vision will survive to make a difference. Thanks Bob for your efforts on behalf of others.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF DOUGLAS G.  
SPORLEDER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Chief Douglas G. Sporleder on his retirement from the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Chief Sporleder is retiring after 21 years of service to the people of Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara County Fire Department serves an area of 137 square miles and a population of 259,000, and consists of 270 paid personnel and 40 volunteers operating a regional network of sixteen fire stations with a \$32 million budget.

Chief Sporleder is third-generation fire service. His father and grandfather were also chief officers in the fire services. Upon his retirement, Douglas Sporleder will have been fire chief for over 21 years, nearly half the time that the Santa Clara County Fire Department has been in existence.

Starting as a volunteer firefighter in 1963, Chief Sporleder attained the rank of chief in 1980 after progressing through the ranks of firefighter, captain, training chief and assistant chief. He is also the Santa Clara County Fire Marshal and the Local Mutual Aid Fire and Rescue Coordinator, and a member of the Governor's Special Arson Task Force and the California Fire and Rescue Service/FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.

Chief Sporleder's other professional accomplishments include: speaking at the National Fire Academy and the International Association of Fire Chiefs conference; certificates of appreciation from Santa Clara County, the American Heart Association; and the recipient of the American Legion Certificate of Commendation for Heroism. He has served as president of the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs' Association, and is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the IAFC Metro Chiefs Division, the Western Fire

Chiefs' Association, the California Fire Chiefs' Association, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Special Fire Districts' Association of California.

An active participant in community service and community affairs, Chief Sporleder will be sorely missed by the Fire Department and the County. I cannot thank Chief Sporleder enough for his years of service to the people of Santa Clara County, and wish him nothing but the best in the future. He is a leader as well as someone I am proud to call my friend.

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN M. FAGAN

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Susan M. Fagan, a Peace Corps volunteer, who lost her life after serving in Ghana in November. At the time of her death, Susan was visiting her family in Ohio. The cause of death is believed to be malaria.

Mrs. Fagan, of Barefoot Bay, Florida, had served in the Peace Corps from November 29, 1999, to November 2, 2001, in Akwida, Ghana, where she started tourist management committees so that the villagers could benefit directly from the burgeoning tourist industry in Ghana. Before completing her service, Susan had developed and presented to the Ghana Tourist Board a longterm plan for promoting tourism in the Akwida region. Thanks to Susan's hard work, that plan is being utilized today.

Susan is survived by her father, William Wilson, her stepmother, Linda Wilson, her sisters, Debra Moore and Shelby Wilson, and stepbrothers, Terry and Brandon Zastrow. A memorial service was conducted in East Liverpool, Ohio, on Thursday, December 6, 2001. A second memorial service was held in Florida on December 13, 2001. Susan is also survived by her deceased husband's family, father and mother-in-law, Raymond and Dona Fagan, brother-in-law, William Fagan, and sister-in-law, Dori Ziomek.

Susan embodied the best traditions of Peace Corps Volunteers, and her life and work will be deeply missed by all who knew and worked with her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. In memory of Susan Fagan, the Peace Corps flag was flown at half-staff on December 6, 2001.

Susan helped the people of interested countries and helped promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people she served. Susan always saw the humor in a situation and never allowed the frustrating things about living in a developing country get her down. She considered herself very lucky to have had such an opportunity.

"I am very proud to say that Susan's life embodied the Peace Corps goals," said Ghana Country Director Leonard Floyd. We will all miss her—her family, friends, the Peace Corps staff, the Peace Corps Volunteers and all of the people who considered her a friend and family in her Ghana home of Akwida." Indeed, her example will continue to inspire us.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 21, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbaev will be meeting with President Bush. Sometime in January, Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov is likely to arrive for his visit. The invitations to these Heads of State obviously reflect the overriding U.S. priority of fighting international terrorism and the corresponding emphasis on the strategic importance of Central Asia, which until September 11 had been known largely as a resource-rich, repressive backwater.

As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have chaired a series of hearings in recent years focused on human rights and democratization in the Central Asian region.

Clearly, we need the cooperation of many countries, including Afghanistan's Central Asian neighbors, in this undertaking. But we should not forget, as we conduct our multi-dimensional campaigns, two vitally important points: first, Central Asian leaders need the support of the West at least as much as we need them.

Unfortunately, Central Asian presidents seem to have concluded that they are indispensable and that we owe them for allowing us to use their territory and bases in this fight against the terrorists and those who harbor them. I hope Washington does not share this misapprehension. By striking against the radical Islamic threat to their respective security and that of the entire region, we have performed a huge service for Central Asian leaders.

Second, one of the main lessons of September 11 and its aftermath is that repression of political opposition and alternative viewpoints is a key cause of terrorism. Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice have declared that the war on terrorism will not keep the United States from supporting human rights. I am hopeful the administration means what they have said. But given the sudden warming of relations between Washington and Central Asian leaders, I share the concerns voiced in many editorials and op-eds that the United States will downplay human rights in favor of cultivating ties with those in power. More broadly, I fear we will fall into an old pattern of backing repressive regimes and then being linked with them in the minds and hearts of their long-suffering peoples.

In that connection, Mr. Speaker, on the eve of President Nazarbaev's meeting with President Bush and in anticipation of the expected visit by President Karimov, as well as possible visits by other Central Asian leaders, I want to highlight some of the most glaring human rights problems in these countries.

To begin with, corruption is rampant throughout the region, and we should keep this in mind as the administration requests more money for assistance to Central Asian regimes. Kazakhstan's President Nazarbaev and some of his closest associates are under investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice for massive corruption. Not surprisingly, to keep any information about high-level misdeeds from the public—most of which lives in