

Frankford's importance in our State's history cannot be ignored. I congratulate Frankford on its history and accomplishments, and wish all the people of Frankford an equal amount of success in the town's future.

LETTERS OF PRESIDENT CLINTON ON THE STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT ARPAD GONCZ OF HUNGARY TO ROMANIA AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT EMIL CONSTANTINESCU

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last week an event of historic international importance took place in Bucharest, Romania. The President of the Republic of Hungary, His Excellency Arpad Goncz, paid a state visit to Romania at the invitation of His Excellency Emil Constantinescu, the President of Romania. This visit marks a new milestone in the efforts of both countries to reconcile historical differences that have divided the two for most of this century.

I have been a strong and consistent advocate and supporter of the efforts of Hungary and Romania to improve their relations. The expansion of democracy in both countries since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact six years ago has been an important element in the reconciliation that we have witnessed over the past few years. Changes in Romania have permitted that government to recognize the civic rights of the minority of ethnic Hungarians which live within the borders of that country. The recently elected Romanian Government includes, as one of the partners in the governing coalition, representatives of the Union of Democratic Hungarians in Romania.

Last year, in September of 1996, the Governments of Romania and Hungary signed a "Treaty of Understanding, Cooperation and Good Neighborliness" in the most significant concrete realization of this reconciliation to that point. These steps set the stage for the recent visit of President Goncz to Romania.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that this reconciliation began under the previous government of Romania led by former President Ion Iliescu, and it has continued and expanded under the present government led by President Constantinescu. This reflects the broad national consensus in Romania in support of this effort.

I congratulate the leaders of both countries on their continuing efforts to improve the relationships between their countries.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of meeting in Bucharest with the two presidents—President Goncz of Hungary and President Constantinescu of Romania—during the historic visit to Romania. On the occasion of the state dinner, which was the formal highlight of the visits, at the request of President Clinton, I read and delivered to the two presidents letters from our own President commending the two leaders for their efforts and their contribution to this unprecedented reconciliation. Mr. Speaker, I place in the RECORD the text of the letter from President Clinton to the Presidents of Hungary and Romania:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON,
May 22, 1997.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Please accept my congratulations and profound support on the occasion of your historic meeting with President [Constantinescu/Goncz].

The reconciliation and strengthened friendship that Hungary and Romania have pursued in recent months are an inspiration for Europe and the world. We have all witnessed too many rivalries the world over, conflicts that are not resolved but become endless cycles of recrimination and bitterness. Today, Romania and Hungary are showing that with wise leadership, democracies can chart a better course; that the values of tolerance, understanding, and common purpose can overcome division, with benefits for all.

Through your meeting and the other steps being taken to cement the growing friendship between your two nations, Romania and Hungary are demonstrating that they share the deepest values of our common Western civilization and have the strength and conviction to put these values into practice to the benefit of all their citizens. I know that the governments and peoples of both nations are determined to continue on this path as they move toward joining an undivided Europe.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

IN TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE GOLD AWARD

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to give tribute to the three young ladies who have earned the highest award possible for a Girl Scout. The Gold Award is awarded for distinguished achievement and has been presented to Ms. Miranda Peek, Ms. Jacque McAnally, and Ms. Elena Pearce.

The Gold Award is notable in that its award recognizes those special young women who display great spirit and deep commitment to themselves, their troop, their community, and their Nation. In reaching this Gold Award level, they affirm that they possess two important characteristics which will serve them well in years to come—setting goals and working hard to achieve them. This achievement further recognizes that they have chosen to rise beyond expectations by assuming the responsibility of leadership roles.

I wish to congratulate them, their families, and their fellow Scouts, and I wish them nothing but success in any endeavor they undertake in the future.

STATEMENTS BY KAREN RICE AND DANIELLE INKEL, CANAAN HIGH SCHOOL, REGARDING CHILD ABUSE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed

in the RECORD this statement by high school students from Canaan High School in Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Ms. Inkel: Good morning, Congressman SANDERS. We would like to bring your attention to the issue of child abuse. Child abuse is a serious problem in today's society. We need to focus on it and we need to fight it.

One specific thing that we feel needs to be done is to start a child safety network. This is sort of like a criminal network. As of right now when there is a complaint of child abuse to Child Protective Services, a case is opened and an investigation is begun. If this family moves to another State the case is closed. The former State can warn the new State, but because of confidentiality, the case stays closed. This means that the abuse will most likely continue.

We feel that all the States should work as one to unite to fight this problem. Across the United States why cannot we unite to fight this problem.

Ms. Rice: In order to start this child safety network we need to come up with something for funding. We suggest that we increase alcohol, tobacco and other consumption-based taxes by about 0.5 percent. The money generated from these taxes would be used to start up a child safety network.

If this program were started the lives of many innocent children would be saved. We understand that a few people will lose their incentive to buy, but there are still many other users willing to buy at any cost. Therefore, we believe that there will still be left money earned to go into a desperately needed program, one that protects the wellbeing of children.

Child abuse is wrong and it is a disgrace that so many cases go undetected and unpunished. It is time that the government do something about this atrocious problem.

Child abuse is a very serious problem. Last year there were 200,000 cases of child abuse reported. One female in every three or four is likely to be sexually victimized before she is 18 years old. Data for males is more scarce and less reliable, but it is 1 in 10 and 1 in 6, and 2 percent of Americans will be sexually victimized in childhood; child abuse is one of the most unreported of all crimes.

It is a problem everywhere. There is child abuse in every State, and what we really want to—first of all, we need more money because there are some caseworkers that are getting 50 or 60 kids a week to have to take care of and that doesn't give them much time to actually sit down and work with these kids, so more money needs to be put to that. And we wanted money for this program of the child safety network because of these families who are just moving out of the State and the cases are just being closed because they cannot say anything because of confidentiality and these kids are just going to be moved everywhere and nothing is being done about what is going on.

Ms. Inkel: I have no idea really why someone would ever imagine hitting a child. Some say it is because they were abused when they were younger, some blame it on alcohol and drugs.

TRIBUTE TO MICKEY AND WILMA HIRNI FOR 40 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mickey and Wilma Hirni

on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. The event will be celebrated on June 19, 1997.

Attending Exeter High School in Exeter, CA, these high school sweethearts, discovered their love was strong enough to last a lifetime, prompting their marriage on June 19, 1957. The Hirnis continued to pursue their individual interest after getting married, never letting the importance of their relationship escape them. They have three children: Marlene, Karrie, and Mark; all of whom are married and have children themselves.

Agriculture has always surrounded the life of Mickey Hirni. Following his graduation from Exeter High School he continued his education and agricultural interest at California State Polytechnical University. He has now become a prominent figure in the community with the success of his business, Sierra Western Agricultural Services, Inc. and his membership on the school board. As president of the Exeter Lyons Club, Mickey Hirni is respected for his adherence to moral values and hard work. Among all of his achievements and responsibilities, he reflects on his family as the most important aspect of his marriage, both past and present.

Credit for the success of this 40-year anniversary also belongs to Wilma Hirni. Having graduated from Exeter High School in 1956, Mrs. Hirni pursued her interest in nursing at Fresno City College and is currently an operation room registered nurse at the Visalia Center for Ambulatory Medicine and Surgery. Her dedication and hard work in the area of nursing has made it possible for her to become operating room director. Her feelings about her marriage mirror that of Mr. Hirni, and during the course of all her responsibilities she has upheld her devotion to the marriage.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the 40th wedding anniversary of Mickey and Wilma Hirni. Their commitment to each other serves as a model for all men and women and should be held in the highest respect. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mickey and Wilma Hirni my best wishes for future success.

IN MEMORY OF THE GOLDEN
TEMPLE MARTYRS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, on this 15th anniversary of the massacre of over 20,000 Sikhs at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, I join many of my colleagues in rising to remember and condemn that terrible act.

How could anyone not condemn such a brutal act?

It is ironic that June 6, the last day of this military assault, was the 40th anniversary of D-day, the day on which the Allies began the invasion of Europe which ultimately destroyed the Nazi empire. The Golden Temple massacre, called Operation Bluestar, kicked off a campaign of state terror against the Sikh Nation which is still going on.

According to estimates from the Punjab State Magistracy and a coalition of human rights groups and journalists, more than a quarter of a million Sikhs have died at the

hands of the Indian regime since 1984. Christians in Nagaland, Kashmir's Muslim community, and many others have also been subjected to this brutality.

American support for freedom in South Asia is essential. The best thing that this country can do to honor the victims of the Golden Temple massacre is to use our strength to see to it that the people of South Asia can live in freedom. We can do this by cutting United States aid to India, and declaring our strong support for the people of Khalistan. These are reasonable measures that will induce India to begin observing the basic principles of democracy and human rights so that freedom and stability can reign all through South Asia. We should move now to enact these measures in memory of the Golden Temple martyrs.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ST. MAXIMILIAN MARIA KOLBE SCHOOL OF RIVERHEAD

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe School of Riverhead, Long Island as it celebrates its 25th year of keeping the Polish language and culture alive on the east end of Long Island. In just a quarter century, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe School has established an integral role in Long Island's Polish tradition, and as a beacon of pride to the Polish community around the world. The school educated 99 students this past year, all of whom have benefited from the simple dream of parents in 1972—to instill the language and culture of the Polish people in their children.

The school's patron saint gave his life in the Oswiecim concentration camp during World War II, and the school was aptly named in honor of a man who sacrificed so much for his people. It is a great and worthy honor of his memory that Feliksa Sawicka, the school's principal since its inception, has made it her goal to create an environment in which children of Polish descent can be instilled with the pride and the storied legacy of their ancestors. Ms. Sawicka has been honored on numerous occasions for her work on behalf of Polish-American children. Just last year, Poland's President Aleksander Kwasniewski bestowed upon her the honorable Gold Cross of Merit, and she has received a commendation from the Polish Institute of Education.

St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe School has taken its students and educators around the world in pursuit of greater cultural and historical knowledge. In 1982, students journeyed to Rome, where they witnessed the canonization of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. The school's teachers participate in Polish American Congresses throughout the United States, where they have reached out to members of the Polish community from different walks of life, and have enriched their own cultural awareness. Students toured Ellis Island, where they traversed the same ground where their ancestors first stepped foot on America—and envisioned the educational opportunities for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren that so many are receiving at the St. Maximilian Kolbe School.

Students are introduced to traditional Polish dances and songs, and participate in cultural events such as Manhattan's annual Pulaski Parade. Furthermore, they learn the importance of community involvement while performing traditional Polish dances and songs at Long Island nursing homes, fairs, and schools, parents and students volunteer to represent the school at Polish fairs throughout the year. The St. Isidore's School in Riverhead has displayed great and contagious generosity by allowing the Polish school to operate within its own facilities for the past 25 years.

On the occasion of the school's 25th year in educating Polish students, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the efforts of Ms. Sawicka, of her fellow educators, and of the parents who have enrolled their children in the St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe School, keeping their culture and language alive through the next generation of Long Islanders.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR BRADLEY,
DOLORES HUERTA, ABE LEVY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Tom Bradley, Dolores Huerta, and Abe Levy, who this year are each receiving awards from the Jewish Labor Committee, western region. It is impossible to exaggerate the impact Tom, Dolores and Abe have had on the lives of working men and women. They are three people who truly made a difference.

I have been fortunate to benefit from their friendship and learn from their efforts. As an attorney, Abe Levy has fought for the rights of workers and their unions throughout the legal system, including arguing before the Supreme Court. He has also appeared on their behalf before the National Labor Relations Board, the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, and the Railway Labor Board. Abe has devoted his professional life to fighting for decency and justice in the shops, factories and workplaces. Abe also had the great wisdom to hire me for his labor law firm—and the patience to keep me.

As time goes by, Tom Bradley's many accomplishments seem even more impressive. His first successful campaign for Mayor of Los Angeles, in 1973, was a model effort which brought together people from all races and ethnic groups in pursuit of a common goal. It is the rare politician who can reach across communities and transcend barriers as effectively as Tom.

I have worked with my dear friend Dolores Huerta for over 20 years. When I think of Dolores, words such as courageous, compassionate, and determined come easily to mind. As a member of the California Legislature, we worked closely to create the Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975. For the first time, farmworkers were given the right to organize and vote for a union. This remains among my most cherished political memories—in no small part because of Dolores.

Our collaboration continued when I went to Congress. Literally since the moment I arrived in 1983, we have worked together to fight continual attempts by growers to bring back the