Ellis said Tuesday from the Chicago headquarters of Farley Foods. “I met the family, and when you stand there and realize that her son’s heart is in your body, well, I just, I get kind of talking about it. I could tell it was the same for her when she looked at me.”

Ellis and the Robisons decided to share their story to help increase awareness during National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, which began Sunday and runs through Saturday.

Across the United States, transplant centers are suffering a critical shortage of organs and tissue and have launched the first nation-wide campaign to increase the number of donors. The Coalition on Donation has enlisted Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls as its national spokesman. Jordan will be featured on 30-second radio and television commercials, on billboards, transit advertising and through direct mailings throughout the country.

The coalition is a national, non-profit alliance that represents nearly 100 organizations involved in organ and tissue procurement and transplantation. Its campaign is to educate the public about the need to become donors. The coalition estimates that permission from next-of-kin is denied in 50 to 80 percent of the cases where there is high potential for donation. Discussions prior to death can eliminate confusion and uncertainty, giving those in the medical field the assurance they were facing in Europe.

In 1897, the first Zionist Congress was called in Basle, Switzerland with the purpose of establishing the Jewish homeland as a home-land for the Jewish people under public law. Theodor Herzl emerged as the father of modern Zionism and founder of the World Zionist Organization. He believed a mass exodus to the Jewish homeland was the only response to the anti-Semitism the Jews were faced with in Europe. He wrote in his Zionist novel, “If you will it, it is no legend,” a sentiment that became the mantra of the Zionist movement.

Thus Herzl never lived to see the establishment of the State of Israel, his legacy lived on through the movement. The Zionists remained committed to their goal throughout several years of turmoil. Despite religious persecution by the Nazi regime in Europe, and an intense struggle with militant Arab opposition, the Jewish initiative prevailed. The Zionists’ plan was finally realized on May 14, 1948 with the U.N. resolution of November 1947, which established the State of Israel. This resolution allowed the Jewish people to live in their historic homeland, free from the religious persecution they were facing in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join with me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Zionist Congress, an organization which has shown perseverance throughout adversity and a dedication to the principles of the Judaism.

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WorkLink promotes telecommuting as an efficient way of doing business and helping employees better balance their time between work and family. WorkLink offers an alternative to many companies and employees to maintain and encourage performance and productivity; assists companies in cutting expenses by consolidating office and parking space; improves employee moral by accommodating work and family needs; and helps the community by reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality.

Currently, two-thirds of the available space at WorkLink is equipped with offices and workstations with the advanced technology and inter-connectivity to handle most advanced office telecommunication functions. The facility houses many business types, including engineering, financial, computer consulting, computer programming, sales/marketing, healthcare, publishing, distance learning, and charitable professionals.

By stepping out on the cutting edge of telecommuting, the city of St. Peters is offering those in their community a tremendous opportunity. I am sure WorkLink will serve as a model for other communities, and I commend Mayor Tom Brown and Helen Robert, WorkLink manager, for their vision and hard work.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to express my appreciation to Zaiga Antonetti, for her tireless efforts for small businesses in the State of Connecticut.

Ms. Antonetti has served on numerous statewide and regional committees and commissions involving small business issues, and worked hard to assure that the needs of Connecticut’s small businesses are met. She serves on the board of directors of the Connecticut Community Accounting Aid and Services, Inc., and the Hartford Business Advisors. She was twice honored by the U.S. Small Business Administration for her work with small business owners as Small Business Advocate of the Year and Women in Business Advocate of the Year.

Zaiga deserves many accolades she will receive as she is honored for her accomplishments and dedication. For her tremendous contributions to small businesses in Connecticut, I salute and thank her.

The long list of witnesses heard by the committee is a reflection of the strong interest generated by this legislation among human rights groups and religious and public policy organizations.

For those of my colleagues who have not yet had an opportunity to study this bill, I want to share a letter submitted to the committee for inclusion in the hearing record from representatives of six prominent human rights organizations.

I hope my colleagues will find this thoughtful statement useful as the debate on this legislation moves forward.

HON. BEN GILMAN,
Chairman, International Relations Committee.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GILMAN: We in the human rights community strongly support the goals of the ‘Freedom From Religious Persecution Act’ of bringing the spotlight of attention on governments that persecute persons for their religious beliefs, putting pressure on the authorities to end religious repression, and assisting victims of religious repression who seek asylum in the U.S. as a last resort.

We have worked for many years on ending religious intolerance and persecution, as well as improving U.S. immunity and refugee policy. We believe that the proposed ‘Freedom From Religious Persecution Act’ could better achieve these shared goals if the following changes were made.

Findings: The Findings section is largely limited to persecuted Christians and religious minorities in communist countries. We believe that a list of countries should also be expanded to include other vulnerable religious communities so that the bill will have more universal resonance and be more effective in combating religious persecution. We would encourage the sponsors of the bill to indicate a strong desire to insure that the bill is applicable to all types of human rights violations, including religious persecution.

Application and Scope: The bill includes an investigation of persecuted groups. One standard is that those named in the bill will automatically be entitled to asylum. We are concerned that the sponsors of the bill have indicated a preference for certain religious groups. We question whether the beneficial treatment of persecuted religious groups, who should certainly be spared the summary exclusion provision, is a problem for the bill.

Asylum provisions: Human rights groups have been encouraged by the adoption of summary exclusion procedures which we believe make it much more difficult for those of any type to make their case and receive asylum. We urge that it be strengthened so that it is applicable to the widest possible number of regimes, institutions, and individuals that might be subjected in any way to the right of religious freedom.

Creation of a New Bureaucracy: The bill creates a new bureaucracy and mandates the monitoring of human rights trends and religious persecution. We are concerned that the bill does not provide enough protection for all who flee persecution of any type.

We urge that it be strengthened so that it is applicable to the widest possible number of regimes, institutions, and individuals that might be subjected in any way to the right of religious freedom.

Sanctions: Our organizations favor the imposition of certain sanctions against governments and to be engaged in gross abuses of human rights, including the persecution of religious believers. We strongly support existing human rights law that prohibits bilateral aid (Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act) and U.S. support for international financial institutions (such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank). We believe that this legislation is a clear and very welcome indication that Congress is more attentive to religious persecution, would be able to draw on extensive information about a government’s human rights record and build a stronger case for sanctions against those who violate religious freedom than would a stand-alone office of religious persecution operating in isolation.

There is little likelihood that exports of any type will actually be realized under the current, flawed summary exclusion procedures, which rely upon high-level procedure to decide the fate of asylum seekers. This crucial deliberation by inspectors will apply to even those fleeing religious persecution, who will be required to prove that they are members of the named groups. This process will be conducted without any public scrutiny and without any counsel of any kind allowed for the asylum seeker. We are not clear what will happen to individuals who are permitted to bypass the credible fear determination process. For example, will such individuals be detained in asylum hearing, as is currently the case with most asylum seekers, or will they be released into the community?

The bill’s exemption of persons whose religions are named by the Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring is a clear and very welcome indication that Congress is more attentive to religious persecution. We urge that it be strengthened so that it is applicable to the widest possible number of regimes, institutions, and individuals that might be subjected in any way to the right of religious freedom.

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Failing that, however, the Congress should at a minimum enlarge the definition of religious persecution so that the broadest number of victims might take advantage of the asylum protections from the Foreign Assistance Act. The maximum number of vulnerable religious believers might be spared the summary exclusion process and the possibility of forced return to persecution. A definition of religious persecution that is restricted to the most severe forms of persecution or to adherents of faiths that are currently a target of persecution might handicap the defense of religious freedom.

We believe that the creation of a New Bureaucracy and the monitoring of human rights trends and religious persecution is more appropriate than a stand-alone office of religious persecution as the adoption of summary exclusion procedures which we believe make it much more difficult for those of any type to make their case and receive asylum. We urge that it be strengthened so that it is applicable to the widest possible number of regimes, institutions, and individuals that might be subjected in any way to the right of religious freedom.

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Tribute to Joel Bone

Hon. Scott McInnis of Colorado

In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a young man in my district who should not be an inspiration to us all. His name is Joel Bone and he is from Glenwood Springs, CO. Joel attends Glenwood Springs High School and has worked diligently in recent months to organize the Prime Monday Sports Club which is a forum he creates in order to bring together special needs students and teachers so they could get to know each other outside the classroom.

Joel was recently recognized by the National Downs Syndrome Congress for his efforts and presented with their Outstanding Citizen Award, which is traditionally given to young adults who exhibit a high degree of self-advocacy.

The award was presented to Joel at the 25th annual convention of the National Downs Syndrome Congress in Phoenix, AZ on August 8. Joel was given the honor of being seated at the head table and then read his acceptance speech in front of 2,000 people where he himself praised all the risk takers in the audience.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today to tell the entire House of Representatives about this fine young man from Glenwood Springs whose attitude and work ethic is a lesson to us all.

Tribute to Woodrow F. Brokenburr

Hon. Brad Sherman of California

In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise before you today to pay tribute to Woodrow F. Brokenburr, the outgoing Chairman of the Board of the Thousand Oaks/Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce.

President Kennedy once wrote, “For of those to whom much is given, much is required.” Woodrow Brokenburr is an individual who has fulfilled this prophecy through his countless contributions to our community.

When asked to describe Woody, the first word that comes to the minds of his friends and colleagues is committed. In addition to a full time career as a Senior Engineer/Project Manager at GTE California, Woody spent several years on the Board before assuming the additional responsibility as Chairman this past year. His commitment to service and responsibility extends to every aspect of his work. At a recent speech before a delegation from China, Woody spoke to the crowd for the first three minutes in Chinese. This attention to detail and thoroughness of preparation is just one example of how committed and distinguished Woody is as an individual who sees everything though to the end.

In addition to his experience on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, Woody Brokenburr has sat on the board of several other community organizations, including the Conejo Free Clinic, the Consortium for Advanced and Technical Education and the International Development Research Council. Woody has recognized the importance of our children’s education in order to prepare them for a bright and promising future, and he started the Education Committee at the Chamber of Commerce to address problems and questions facing our schools.

Within our community, Woody is seen as an excellent role model, and his career has been highlighted with several awards and distinctions. He is the recipient of five United Way Leadership Awards, the Distinguished Service Award from the California Association of School Administrators, Region XII, and the GTE’s Outstanding Volunteer Award.

I join these organizations in commending Woody for the work he has already done to our community. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Woodrow F. Brokenburr as he concludes his term as chairman of the board.

The Father of Roselle

Hon. Henry J. Hyde

of Illinois

In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, the Chicago Tribune of last Sunday provided a feature article on one of my district’s finer public servants, Joseph Devlin. The article describes Joe’s active life and his great contributions to Roselle, IL, and DuPage County as well. I proudly share this with my colleagues:

[From the Chicago Tribune, Sept. 14, 1997]

The Father of Roselle—Joseph Devlin wears many hats while serving others

(By David Sharos)

If public service were a commodity that could be marketed and sold, Roselle’s Joseph Devlin would probably be one of the western suburbs’ leading entrepreneurs.

Devlin wears many hats, which currently include village trustee, the administrator for the Roselle Historical Foundation, a member of the DuPage County Stormwater Committee, the DuPage Water Commission and financial officer for the American Legion. He is also a former mayor of Roselle.

Roselle Chief of Police Richard Eddington still calls him Mr. Devlin in public, but in the community he is known by his first name for more than 40 years. Devlin says he wishes people would simply call him Joe.

Devlin moved from Pennsylvania in 1963 and has seen Roselle, a town that then boasted 1,000 people and barely a square mile in size grow to 23,000 people and 8 to 10 square miles.

“There’s the father of our village,” said Marj Peterson, a longtime friend. “Roselle as we know it today was really launched as a result of him.”

Before moving to Roselle, he fought in a war, went to college and earned a degree in mechanical engineering; he became president of a swimming pool and supply company, helped raise three daughters and worked in public office for more than 25 years.

In World War II, Devlin served on a B-24 as a navigator and was captured behind enemy lines after his plane was shot down over Romania. He became a prisoner of war. In civilian life, his greatest hardship occurred three years ago when his wife, Barbara, died of cancer.

Not long ago, he said, “I received a card from board members on one of my birthdays that said, ‘Congratulations, you’ve survived another year.’ When I opened it, the card said, ‘In fact, you’ve survived it all.’ I guess maybe I have.”

Serving his fellow citizens and the community he loves is what continues to drive Devlin.

“I’m proud of everything I’ve done in my whole life,” Devlin said. “I tend to take over things once I get involved, not because it’s a trip or anything. I think I’m a natural problem solver and I like to get things done.”

Many citizens and public officials in the village say Devlin has lent a guiding hand in making Roselle the community it is today. From sidewalks, which were once nonexistent, to installing sewer plants and streets, to obtaining Lake Michigan water, to building a $3.5 million Village Hall, Devlin’s mark is everywhere.

“Of all the services Joe has performed, I still have this image of him carrying a shovel around in the trunk of his car . . . to repair rats in the streets after it rained,” said village administrator Robin Weaver. “Joe would go over to people’s houses he didn’t even know and help them pump out their basements if they were flooded. He still does.”

The Village Board presented him with a plaque in 1994 for 25 years of public service. During the presentation, he listened to a letter read by Mayor Gayle Smolinski that cited many of his accomplishments.

“I love it one of these pillars of the community who has just always been there when we needed him,” Smolinski said. “He often kid us during meetings when a female board member or I cast a deciding vote against him. He’ll say, ‘I knew we shouldn’t have given women the right to vote.’ Joe’s been one of the greatest influences in terms of empowering women in local government that I know. He has three daughters, and I think that’s influenced him.”

Devlin said that during his eight years as mayor from 1973-81, Roselle became one of the first towns to hire a female police officer and a female firefighter. He also says having women on the Village Board is an asset because they look at things in a different way from men.

Fred Koehler, who owns and manages the Lynfred Winery in Roselle, said Devlin is the person who made his business possible. “Joe was the guy who supported them all the way and thought it would be a good thing for the village and would bring people here,” Koehler said.

Al Johnson, Devlin appealed to State Sen. Doris Karpel, who in 1980 successfully steered two bills through the legislature that