

The Club has been recognized as one of the leading service clubs in Sussex County, New Jersey, as a result of its many community activities. Some of these activities including sponsoring high school Key Clubs, giving over \$98,000 in scholarships to high school seniors over the past twelve years, providing approximately \$35,000 per year in financial support for community groups and activities in Sparta Township, as well as community service projects ranging from flower planting and roadside cleanups to providing volunteer assistance to senior citizens and delivering food to the needy.

As the Kiwanis Club of Sparta continues its long tradition of dedicated service to the Sparta community, I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, to join me in commemorating the 50th anniversary of their organization. I sincerely wish that it may enjoy many more years of fellowship and service.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day for our democracy. This was the week that the House of Representatives was to debate and vote on campaign finance reform. Yet, here we are on Friday with the news from the leadership that a vote has been delayed. What is most upsetting is the reason for the delay, a majority of the House supports campaign reform.

The leadership, out of fear of actually doing something, first tried to push a bill that contained so many poison pill provisions that it was destined to fail. Now that this strategy appears doomed, the leadership simply pulled the bill and refuses to even consider a vote. The will of the majority in the House has now been denied, just as a majority in the Senate was denied passage of a reform bill.

The reason a majority of members support real reform is because they have heard from their constituents, just as I have, that the citizens are tired of the influence of big money in the political process and they want reform. If we fail to change the current system, we will continue to erode the confidence of the public in our democratic system.

I hope that next week brings, at last, the chance for this body to make a difference in our campaign finance system. The people of my district want action now!

HONORING THE MIDLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RON KLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. KLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Midland Volunteer Fire Department of Beaver County. The fire department was recently named to the Pennsylvania Fire Services Institute's 100 Year Honor Roll. This honor roll commemorates fire departments with more than a century of service. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the

volunteers, both past and present, for more than 100 years of public service to their community.

The Midland Volunteer Fire Department is made up of individuals who risk their lives in the service of their fellow citizens. The volunteers have other concerns in their lives including their careers and their families. However, when the emergency call sounds, the members of the Midland Volunteer Fire Department put their own lives on hold to provide safety and emergency services to the citizens of Midland. They provide an invaluable service to the entire community.

On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I would like to wish the Midland Volunteer Fire Department many more years of successful public service. They have protected the lives of the families, the property, and the spirit of their community with honor and dignity. I ask you and all members to join me in a special salute to the Midland Volunteer Fire Department.

SECRETARY OF STATE MAD- ELEINE K. ALBRIGHT'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR RELIGIOUS FREE- DOM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 12, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held an important meeting with a number of the distinguished members of the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom. I had the great honor of chairing that meeting of the Caucus. The Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom was established last year by the Secretary of State to report to the Secretary and to the President on issues of religious persecution and appropriate United States government policy on religious liberty issues.

The Advisory Committee is composed of a number of distinguished religious, academic, human rights and foreign policy leaders. The Committee members have spent a great deal of time meeting and examining the relationship between religious freedom and American foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad presented its Interim Report to the Secretary of State and the President. Our hearing on Thursday focused on this significant report. In order to deal with serious, and in many places growing, pressure upon believers who wish to practice their religion in peace, the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad has met a number of times this past year and has prepared an excellent report on the problem of religious persecution. The report of the Advisory Committee includes a series of thoughtful and useful recommendations for United States policy to encourage and promote religious liberty.

I am delighted, Mr. Speaker, that Secretary Albright began immediately to implement the recommendations made by the Committee. At the time the Advisory Committee's Interim Report was made public, she announced that she was implementing the first recommendation of the Committee by designating a new

senior-level coordinator at the Department of State who will have responsibility for integrating concern for religious freedom into U.S. foreign policy and for developing a coordinated interagency strategy on this issue of great importance to the American people.

As Secretary Albright said when she met with journalists at the time the report was released,

America is a leader in promoting religious freedom because it serves our interests and because it is right. We hope to pursue that goal with even more vigor and effectiveness in the days ahead.

REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE MAD-ELEINE K. ALBRIGHT ON THE INTERIM REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ABROAD, WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 23, 1998

Good afternoon. I wanted to come down here today to bring to your attention the very constructive and timely interim report I've just received from my advisory committee on religious freedom.

I very much welcome this report. Although I've just begun to study it, its overall direction and tone is very much in keeping with the Administration's own intentions and aspirations. So I'm pleased to tell you now what I told the committee just a little bit earlier, which is that I'm taking immediate action on the report's first and most important recommendation.

I will designate a new, senior-level coordinator within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor to ensure that our efforts to advance religious freedom are integrated successfully into our broader foreign policy. The coordinator's responsibilities will include developing a strategy for appropriate overall implementation of the advisory committee's recommendation. This work will be done under the direction of Assistant Secretary John Shattuck, and in consultation with the White House, religious leaders, members of the advisory committee and of Congress.

In this way, we can assure the American people and the committee that its best ideas will be brought to life, not studied to death. I also assured the committee that I consider the promotion of religious freedom to be an integral component of US foreign policy to be pursued not in isolation, but as part of our efforts to increase the respect for human rights around the world.

That's why I've urged our diplomats to raise our concerns about religious freedom energetically; report on these issues thoroughly; and maintain contact with NGOs and local religious leaders on a regular basis. We will continue these and other efforts and give serious consideration to the committee's ideas on how we can do them better.

As we speak, the resilience and depth of the human desire to worship freely is on display in Cuba. Decades of repression could not vanquish the thirst for religious liberty on that island, just as it has not diminished the desire among the Cuban people for political liberty. The Cuban Government did the right thing in permitting His Holiness, the Pope, to accept the invitation of his church to visit.

Let us pray that the message of freedom and respect for the individual which he is conveying will influence the direction of government policies long after this historic visit is concluded so that Cuba, indeed, becomes more open to the world, and the world can, indeed, become more open to Cuba.

In closing, I want to thank publicly every member of the religious freedom advisory committee. This is a committee uniquely

qualified to discuss and review America's approach to promoting religious freedom abroad. Its members include religious leaders who represent millions of Americans of all major faiths and denominations, and scholars who have dedicated their professional lives to the study of issues related to religious liberty.

In the course of their work, they interviewed such eminent figures as the Dalai Lama, Cardinal Daly of Northern Ireland and Pastor Robert Fu of China. The committee clearly took its work very seriously, and we take it seriously as well.

America is a leader in promoting religious freedom because it serves our interests and because it is right. With the committee's counsel, we hope to pursue that goal with even more vigor and effectiveness in the days ahead.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BOROUGH OF NORTH CALDWELL,
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Borough of North Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey.

The Borough of North Caldwell was part of a large tract of land known as "Horseneck" that was purchased by a group of colonists from the Indians who lived in the area in 1701. In 1784 a group living in Horseneck organized a Presbyterian Church Society and in 1787 they voted to change the name of their community to Caldwell in honor of the Reverend James Caldwell who had helped them form their church group. North Caldwell continued as part of Caldwell Township until the last 19th century, when citizens, wanting improved roads and a better school, felt they could better achieve these goals as an independent municipality.

Since its modest beginning, the Borough of North Caldwell has steadily developed into a thriving residential community, counting among its residents a nationally known portrait painter and an American Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry. While the area was originally farm country, North Caldwell soon had its share of local industry. By the early half of the 19th century a large bark mill was established, which boasted a water wheel that was five feet wide and eighteen feet in diameter. After changing ownership in 1846, the mill was converted to operate as a grist mill and a saw mill. By 1931, multistory buildings had been erected and a prosperous local economy was in full operation.

The ensuing years brought many complexities and the demand for organization of a variety of resources for citizens' needs. North Caldwell currently has a full-time professional staff, including a police department, which has grown from three officers in 1930 to seventeen today, and a fire department incorporated in 1922, which is 28 members strong. The Borough's excellent school system dates back to 1770, when the first schoolhouse was built. Several subsequent schools were built during the 19th century, and the first Board of Education was appointed in 1903. Today there are several schools in the Borough, including the

West Essex Regional Schools opened in 1961.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 100 years, the Borough of North Caldwell has prospered as a community and remains a thriving municipality today. By all accounts, it will continue to prosper in the future and I ask my colleagues to congratulate all residents of North Caldwell on this special anniversary year.

STATEMENT UPON THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT THE ATTACHMENT OF NONEMERGENCY ITEMS TO EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, "Emergency" supplemental bills should contain funding for just that—emergencies. They should not be golden opportunities to attach funding for pet projects or legislative riders.

That is why I have introduced this legislation to "prohibit nonemergency spending or legislative provisions in emergency appropriation laws." This bill will not effect nonemergency spending bills, supplemental or otherwise. It is my belief that emergency bills are larger magnets for nonessential spending and inappropriate legislative provisions because they have the greatest likelihood of passing.

Our government should spend money on many worthwhile projects and programs. But a responsible government should make those spending decisions during the course of considering annual appropriations bills and other nonemergency supplemental bills. We shouldn't slow down much needed emergency money, or bank on its urgency, to pass all sorts of extraneous measures.

This legislation is a way to assure the people I represent that nothing will be stuck into these emergency bills "in the middle of the night." I want people to start trusting Congress again!

IN HONOR OF HARRISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEING AWARDED THE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE GRANT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives I would like to congratulate the Harrison School District for being awarded the Technology Literacy Challenge Grant.

The Harrison Public School System understands that the Internet is not a novelty anymore. Increasingly it is an essential tool for information gathering.

The grant which totals over \$94,000, will be used to provide public Internet computers at Harrison High School, Harrison Community Center, and the Harrison Town Library. These funds will also pay for community Internet training programs. This program is not limited

to students. When the town's technology plan is fully implemented, all of Harrison's citizens will be able to share and collect information through the Internet. No one will be excluded from this virtual community because of a lack of equipment or expertise.

On May 31 Harrison Schools will be sponsoring a "Technology Fest." This event will open the schools to the public to share students' technology related projects. I would like to thank District Technology Coordinator, Frank A. Cappelle, and Superintendent John Di Salvo for making these educational opportunities possible.

THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, as we examine proposed changes to the nation's health care delivery system, we must consider the vital role that public hospitals play in our communities. Recently, Dr. Bailus Walker, Director of the Health Policy Program at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and Deitra Hazelwood Lee, a Research Analyst, prepared a report which is entitled, "The Future of Public Hospitals." The report gives in-depth insight of the problems confronting the nation with regard to the decline of public hospitals. The work is worthwhile reading and I am pleased to share it with my colleagues and others throughout the nation.

THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Public hospitals nationwide are struggling to provide medical care to those Americans who need it most—the poor, the underinsured, and the uninsured. Because of the growth of Medicaid managed care, reductions in federal and state government funding, and the rise in the number of people without insurance, some public hospitals no longer have the financial stability to stay afloat. Many are merging, converting to private institutions, or closing their doors.

In the past, most cities had at least one public hospital, and cities like New York and Los Angeles had entire public hospital systems. But between 1981 and 1993 the number of public hospitals fell by 25 percent, a trend that is accelerating. Now Congress plans to cut Medicaid funding given specifically to public hospitals that serve a large number of Medicaid, low-income Medicare, and uninsured patients. The pending budget cuts are also going to shrink public hospitals' revenues far below what is necessary to meet the many health care needs of those who rely on this system for treatment.

Given the popularity of privatizing services, and the apparent growth of so many forms of health care, some—though not the poor—may wonder, Why is it worth preserving public hospitals at all? Can't the rest of our health system pick up the slack? It would be nice if that were possible, but the facts prove otherwise. Indeed, already the tears in the public hospital safety net are creating a new healthcare crisis in its own right. It we continue to lose these hospitals, many African Americans and other minorities, especially in urban communities, stand to lose their last certain access to medical care.

Public hospitals provide a significant share of all hospital care for those who are socially