

Passage of the Reinstatement of Rehabilitation Benefits for Seniors Act, which I am proud to cosponsor, is necessary to ensure that seniors have sufficient access to necessary physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services under Medicare. I am proud to say that this bill is also fiscally responsible, requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a new methodology for payment of rehabilitation services by January 1, 2000, to ensure budget neutrality. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

HONORING NEIL RHODES WINNING
ESSAY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, please include the attached text in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

1997-98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION

(By Neil Rhodes, Colorado Winner)

A few years ago, when I was about eleven years old, I was profoundly affected by the chronicle of a young Jewish girl during the second world war: a girl who, while hiding out from the Nazis, wrote in the red-checked diary she had received for her thirteenth birthday; a martyr who was eventually discovered and sent to her death in a concentration camp; a visionary whose diary writings encompassed the plight of millions around the world. That little girl was Anne Frank.

One of the final entries in Anne's red-checked diary proclaimed the desperation of a nation without democracy. It read: "ideals, dreams, and cherished hopes rise within us only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered . . ."

At the young age I was, this was the first real connection I had ever experienced with the evils of tyranny. Since then I've encountered a multitude of other stories and situations that have increased my awareness of democracy.

Like the time I visited a small holocaust museum and spoke with Mr. Kelen—a survivor of the holocaust himself; or the time I traveled just across the Mexican border, and witnessed first-hand the crippling poverty caused by government corruption; the time I sat glued to the television, my eyes locked on the image of a young Chinese boy facing certain death as he stood in the path of an oncoming military tank.

Every new experience helped shape my thoughts, mold my perspective, and strengthen my voice as an American citizen. I have come to realize just how fortunate I am—how fortunate we all are—to possess the light of democracy.

I've learned that democracy is priceless and powerful. Priceless, because our basic rights are stained with the blood of millions who fought to gain them. Democracy also has boundless power: quite simply, the power to shatter the chains of bondage forever.

But as we live our lives in freedom we must remember the horrible truth that Anne Frank wrote about. The horrible truth is that there are still millions of people living in the darkness of oppression. For those not yet experiencing liberty, we must continue the battle. If we believe in our own sov-

ereignty, that is our duty. The Declaration of Independence does not say "All Americans are created equal" but that "All men"—all around the world—"are created equal." Thus, we cannot simply work to continue our own democratic system; we must bring that system to the rest of the world. Only then will the visions of our forefathers be completed.

In the social and political arena every American has a voice—a platform from which to speak. In many parts of the globe that could not be farther from the truth. Anne Frank never had a voice. I, however, do. I stand before you now, and I speak on behalf of those who couldn't and those who still cannot.

My voice in our democracy is the reflection of a free person; my voice pays tribute to the thousands who died for the cause of liberty; my voice cries out an urging for the respect of our nation and an offering of hope for the future.

Yes, even in the midst of the cruelest oppression, hope is one thing that can never be destroyed. Because, you see, I never finished the quotation by Anne Frank that I gave earlier. Here is the quote in its entirety: "ideals, dreams, and cherished hopes rise within us only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered . . . yet in spite of everything I still believe that people really are good at heart."

Anne Frank's devotion to the human spirit should serve as an example to all of us, and especially to Americans. Progress in the world must begin with you and me. I would hope that one day all Americans would understand that with strength, compassion, diligence, and the fortitude of our voices, we have the ability to change democracy from an ideal, a dream, and a cherished hope . . . into a powerful and permeating reality.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP JUAN
JOSE GERARDI

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep condolences to the people of Guatemala on the brutal murder of Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi on April 26th.

Bishop Gerardi played a leading role in establishing and directing the Catholic church's human rights office in Guatemala. Just two days before his death, his office made public its report, entitled "Guatemala: Never More," which documented over 55,000 instances of violence and human rights violations in that country's 36-year civil war. His death reminds us that despite the strides Guatemala has made since peace accords were signed in December 1996, the process of building peace, reconciliation and respect for human rights remains fragile. For that reason, I have joined several of my colleagues in writing a letter to President Arzu of Guatemala expressing our condolences on the death of Bishop Gerardi and urging him to maintain a clear and strong commitment to implement the peace accords.

Bishop Gerardi was truly a martyr to the cause of truth. The best way that we in the Congress can honor his memory is to pass the Human Rights Information Act, H.R. 2635, which would require all federal agencies charged with the conduct of foreign policy to declassify and disclose records on human rights violations in Guatemala and Honduras

after 1944. The survivors of human rights violations in these countries, and the relatives of those who did not survive, have a right to know the truth. If we are serious about our commitment to democracy, peace and human rights in Central America, then we should do no less.

IN HONOR OF KENTUCKY NURSES
WEEK

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the nurses of Kentucky, as well as throughout this nation. Nurses are a strong component of our health care system and are known for providing health care with a human touch.

In my home state, nurses are celebrating Kentucky Nurses Week and they have every reason to be proud. Working hard and achieving professional and personal goals, many nurses in my community have proven themselves time and time again. Continually striving to upgrade standards of care and improve services, Kentucky nurses have shown that they are committed to providing the best quality health care possible for their patients.

I hope you will join me in recognizing this noble professional during this week, and throughout the year. Certainly, they are deserving of this acknowledgment.

THE NATIONAL GUARD IN A
BRAVE NEW WORLD

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

[From the Economist Newspaper Limited,
May 13, 1998]

THE NATIONAL GUARD IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD
ANYTHING USEFUL TO DO, BESIDES FIGHTING
THE ARMY?

It was one of the sweetest victories in the 350-year history of the National Guard, the citizen-soldiers of Nevada left their factories, farms and investment banks for a battlefield in California, where they disguised their American tanks as Russian T-80s and donned the colours of an imaginary country called Krasnovia. Within a few hours they had pierced the defences of the adversary, a mechanised brigade of full-time soldiers from Georgia (the American state, that is). Guardsmen across the nation rejoiced at their Nevadan comrades' success. They had given the Pentagon sceptics a bloody nose—and proved that "weekend warriors" are perfectly capable of engaging in full-scale armoured combat whenever Uncle Sam needs them.

Unfortunately, not every battle in the relentless conflict between the full-time American army and the Army National Guard, a mostly part-time force with strong local roots, has such a rapid and decisive outcome. Most of the time, the two institutions are locked in an inconclusive war of attrition which makes it impossible for Pentagon