

inspiring respect for our flag, the Stars and Stripes, (3) encouraging a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and Union; and (4) perpetuating the memory of those whose lives were sacrificed in our nation's wars.

I salute the Gold Star Mothers of the Thirtieth Congressional District, the entire Greater Philadelphia area and the Nation as a whole. Starting with just 25 members, Gold Star Mothers grew quickly and today has members from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. All of us should be grateful that our Nation produces men and women with the courage and dedication to make the supreme sacrifice so that we might be free. We should be thankful too that our Nation has mothers whose courage and compassion help make those sacrifices worth it and—in the most special way—make sure that the memory of those who died for our country lives on.

God bless the Gold Star Mothers. We humbly offer our tears, humility and gratitude as a nation. We pray there will be no more lives unnecessarily lost and no more tears. God love and protect all of our brave soldiers in this great Nation.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey, officially incorporated in 1916, traces its roots to the Female Charitable Society established in Morristown in 1813. The Society was established by women who felt obligated to provide coal, food and clothing to poor individuals in northern New Jersey, and, by 1898, also provided nursing services. The VNA was founded on the enduring civic and charitable virtues embodied by the Society, and today continues their long tradition of serving the community.

In the early 1900's, Morris County, like many other areas in the country, experienced a wave of immigration that brought with it many challenges in providing health outreach services. To respond more effectively to these changing social conditions, the VNA hired its first full-time nurse in 1914, Ms. Mable R. Saulpaugh, who went on to make 771 house calls without the use of a car. By 1918, the VNA opened up its first day care center for expectant mothers, and, later that same year, purchased their first automobile, which greatly increased its sphere of influence.

During the 1920's and 1930's, the VNA established several key outreach tools to ensure that a broad spectrum of individuals were aware of the health services that the VNA could provide to them. Most popular among these was the Well Babies and Children parade, where prizes were awarded for the healthiest-looking baby and toddler. Additional tools included going directly into the schools and following up with home visits for children

at risk of disease. Indeed, the VNA's prodigious outreach work served as an impetus for hospitals in the area to establish their own outpatient departments.

By 1936, the VNA's outreach methods provided for considerable success in fighting Tuberculosis, and played a major role in reducing it from the number one cause of death to the eighth in Morris County. During World War II, and in ensuing years, the VNA focused on increasing its staff size, so as to widen its ability to serve the community. By 1960, the VNA had expanded to eight nurses serving 37 towns in Morris County, with a total budget of \$60,000. Less than twenty years later, the VNA had revenues in excess of \$1 million, and today boasts a staff of 400 employees offering comprehensive health services to the Morris County area.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its long history, the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey has never lost sight of its crucial role in providing superior home health care to those in need. As the VNA today deals with the extraordinary challenges of meeting the specific needs of those suffering from AIDS and other diseases, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, to join me in commemorating the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey on this special anniversary year.

BULLETPROOF VEST
PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for H.R. 2829, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act. This is much needed legislation to help protect our law enforcement officers as they work to make our communities safe.

The threats facing our police officers have grown more complex and dangerous. Police-men who put their lives on the line every day too often find themselves in the sights of criminal who have high powered automatic and semi-automatic weapons. Violent criminals have too often used these weapons against law enforcement officers. We need to give "the good guys," our law enforcement professionals, every means of protection against criminals. This problem is so severe that the federal government should support state and local efforts to provide more protection to our police men and women. That is the purpose of this legislation.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act authorizes the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make \$25 million in grants to states or local governments to purchase bulletproof vests for use by law enforcement officers. These grants are matched by state and local governments, unless it would produce a financial hardship on the community. Additionally, it gives preferential treatment considerations to applications from jurisdictions that have the greatest need for such funding, a mandatory policy for using bulletproof vests, or a violent crime rate above the national average.

Since 1980, 1,182 police officers have been killed by firearms. According to the Federal

Bureau of Investigation, 42 percent of those officers could have survived if they had been wearing bulletproof vests. Today, 25 percent of state and local law enforcement officers do not have access to a single bulletproof vest. That is 150,000 police officers who every day are 14 times more likely to die if they are hit by a bullet. The statistics are shocking and the public policy is uncontrovertible. Please join me in supporting final passage of H.R. 2829. Thank you.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON
AKIN BIRDAL: TURKEY'S LEAD-
ING RIGHTS ADVOCATE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning Akin Birdal, the President of the Human Rights Association of Turkey (IHD), was gunned down in his Ankara office. A right-wing squad has claimed responsibility for the attack which left Turkey's most vocal human rights critic comatose.

Since 1986, under Akin Birdal's leadership, the IHD has established itself as the largest independent human rights monitoring NGO in Turkey. Akim Birdal has appeared before the Helsinki Commission and met with its staff in Washington and Ankara. He is in high regard by legislators and diplomats around the world. In recent years he has received awards from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the International Human Rights Law Group and NGOs in Europe. Last year, he was elected Vice-President of the prestigious International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIHD).

This vile assault takes place against a backdrop of repression and intimidation against rights workers throughout Turkey. The Government of Turkey has criminalized non-violent human rights advocacy. Security forces and right-wing death squads have collaborated in the murders of human rights activities, Journalists, Kurdish dissidents and others. More than a dozen IHD offices have been closed by authorities and IHD leaders, including Mr. Birdal face continuous legal and other harassment.

Mr. Speaker, despite great personal danger, Akin Birdal and his colleagues dared to continue speaking against human rights violations by the State. The IHD has been especially critical of the "dirty war" waged against Turkey's Kurdish rebels. In recent weeks, the climate of intimidation escalated. Mr. Birdal reported numerous death threats against himself and his family. Unsubstantiated allegations by security officials leaked to the media stated that Birdal took orders from the PKK, an outlawed Kurdish guerrilla group. Mr. Birdal vigorously denied such allegations and denounced the "primitive conspiracy" orchestrated by Turkey's military rulers against their "enemies list."

Mr. Speaker, the shooting of Akin Birdal is a great tragedy for all who cherish human rights. His steadfast support for peace and non-violence is an inspiration to many in Turkey and abroad. IHD was working with NGOs around the world to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On this auspicious occasion, it

is sad to note deteriorating human rights conditions in Turkey and a steady slide towards outright military rule. Instead of supporting the work of independent human rights NGOs, which make significant contributions to development of civil society and the rule of law, the Government of Turkey instead represses them, labels their members "terrorists," and makes them open targets.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Government supports Turkey militarily, economically and politically. Turkey is a NATO ally and member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. I therefore welcome the settlement by the State Department spokesperson condemning the attack and urging that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

However, our government must do more to demonstrate our commitment to democracy in Turkey. If we truly value a stable and long-term relationship, we must not continue to ignore the fact that the military's predominance in politics precludes true democracy. The inability of military or civilian administrations to peacefully address the Kurdish problem or the rise of Islamic political activism remains a recipe for disaster. The resulting political instability fuels the climate in which human rights activists are attacked, free speech is curtailed and other fundamental freedoms eroded.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak today, my thoughts and prayers are with Akin Birdal, his family, his colleagues at IHD and all those in Turkey committed to the ideals of human rights and democracy. It is a sad day for all, and we can only hope that this incident will make people think and act seriously about the state of human rights in Turkey.

A TRIBUTE TO VIRNITA
McDONALD

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and truly remarkable dedication of Virnita McDonald of Joshua Tree, California. My dear friend Virnita will be recognized at a dinner honoring her longtime service to Copper Mountain College as it commemorates the McDonald Hall Student Center.

Virnita McDonald, a fine writer and public relations professional, has long been active in numerous community and civic affairs throughout the Morongo Basin. She has served on many boards and local commissions and has received a number of awards for her fine work. But Virnita is perhaps best known for her work relating to Copper Mountain College.

Virnita has been a driving force behind the establishment and success of Copper Mountain College since 1977 when she was first elected to the Board of Trustees. As of today, she has served five terms on the Board. Her tenacious advocacy for a campus in the Morongo Basin led her to participate in the very first fundraising efforts in 1979. The following year, Virnita went to Sacramento to personally lobby state legislators on establishing an auxiliary for the purpose of fundraising for the yet unnamed campus. Shortly thereafter, the trustees choose the name "Copper Mountain College" as a result of a contest to

name the new college sponsored by the Hi-Desert Publishing Company. In 1981, community leaders gathered for the official groundbreaking at the future site of Copper Mountain College. Today, the campus continues to grow and prosper in remarkable ways as a result of Virnita's vision and determination.

In 1984, I had the distinct honor of nominating the Friends of Copper Mountain College for the Presidential Volunteer Action Award. At the time, Virnita was serving as president of the college board and was largely responsible for the incredible progress being made in moving the campus forward. Later that year, a group of "Friends" traveled to Washington, DC to accept the award from President Reagan. It was a touching and fitting tribute to Virnita and many others who had worked so hard to fulfill the dream of establishing a college campus in the Morongo Basin.

Mr. Speaker, Virnita McDonald has been at every step in the creation of Copper Mountain College and deserves a great deal of credit for her longtime devotion to this fine campus. I ask that you join me and our colleagues in paying tribute to this remarkable woman who fittingly will have her name associated in perpetuity with the new student center. Virnita McDonald is one of the finest, most devoted women I have ever met. As a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and as a community leader, Virnita continues to set a remarkable example for all of us to emulate. It is only appropriate that the House pay tribute to her today.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT Mr. Speaker, fantasy heroes can't help but call attention to themselves, with their unusual cars and costumes. Real life heroes, however, are often humble people, preferring to avoid the spotlight.

In October, 1997, Police Officer Chris McCurley of Etowah County, Alabama, lost his life in an unexpected gunfire battle. Three other officers were also shot in this savage attack: Rick Correll, Khris Yancey, and Gary Lee Entekin—who lost a leg as a result of wounds. Officer McCurley's wife Donna, Tommy Watts, Officer Entekin, and other officers are in Washington DC for National Police Week, which honors the work of officers all over the country.

Officer Entekin's words about Chris McCurley are more eloquent than anything I could say:

I worked side by side with him for years, and he helped me through a lot of hard times. He was the best partner you could ever ask for. He never backed down. He would be the one I'd want with me.

These are true, American heroes, and on behalf of those whom they serve, it is my privilege today to thank them.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S
CHINA POLICY THREATENS
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, increased regional tension and instability resulting from this week's nuclear test detonations in India have heightened concerns over the Administration's policy toward Communist China. China's targeting of thirteen CSS-4 missiles at the continental United States and its unwillingness to abide by existing non-proliferation agreements prove that China is a threat to peace, in general, and American interests, in particular. In light of these critical concerns, I urge the President not to agree to any future dual-use technology transfers to China at this time, including those in the Administration's proposed space agreement. Furthermore, I strongly urge the President and all Members of Congress to oppose maintaining China's Most-Favored Nation (MFN) trade status.

Since President Clinton's election in 1992, China has violated non-proliferation agreements at least twenty times. On a number of occasions, China has transferred military technologies directly to nations hostile to American interests, including Pakistan, Iran and Libya. Additionally, China continues to refuse to join the Missile Technology Control Regime to prevent the future spread of these dangerous technologies. In spite of a clear record of Chinese unreliability and irresponsibility, the Clinton Administration has continued to support waivers allowing additional missile technologies to be transferred from American corporations to the Chinese government. Of particular concern to me is the recent waiver granted by the President to Loral Space and communications, a company currently under investigation by the Justice Department for making allegedly illegal transfers of sensitive missile technologies to Communist China. As the editors of the New York Times noted in April, this waiver "could open the door to discussions about the same kind of guidance system expertise under investigation in the 1996 case, effectively undermining the Justice Department investigation" of Loral.

In the interest of justice and international security, I urge the President to withdraw his support for Most-Favored Nation status for China and to end American dual-use technology transfers to China. Only after it ceases to deploy missiles capable of attacking the United States mainland, ends its transfers of military technology to nations such as Pakistan, Iran and Libya, and agrees to the terms of the Missile Technology Control Regime should China become eligible to receive military technologies from the U.S. and be considered a candidate for Most-Favored Nation status.

I further urge that the President refuse to accept so-called "detargeting agreements" as progress toward any national security goal. As most Members are aware, retargeting can occur with a single keystroke in today's computer age. As long as China maintains offensive missile capabilities against the United States, American policy should seek to render these weapons unreliable and ineffective. Denial of technology transfers could prove a valuable tool in achieving this objective.