

to mark the progress of the liberation struggles in Africa.

For my constituents and I, this year's celebration is especially significant because it occurs as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of emancipation from slavery.

For Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora, this year has special significance as we await the enactment of the African trade bill and look forward to the passage of a similar proposal for the Caribbean.

It is my hope that as we come together, not only in the Virgin Islands but around the world, to reaffirm our oneness, we can move closer to our full economic liberation with the creation of a new and unique trade area which will link all of Africa's children, those on the continent as well as those in the United States and the Caribbean.

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO PLEASE EXPLAIN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO COMMUNIST CHINA

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I would like the President to explain to the American people why authority for approving technology transfers to Communist China was transferred from the State Department to the Commerce Department in this administration.

I would like to know why national security concerns would be overruled by commercial considerations, thus endangering the security of all Americans.

The idea that it is official U.S. policy to improve Communist China's rockets defies explanation. Instead of developing a missile defense system of our own, this administration is helping to develop Communist China's strategic nuclear missile program, a program with missiles even now aimed at the United States.

This policy is madness, utter madness, and I am still awaiting an explanation from this administration why they determined that assisting Communist China in the development of its "Long March" missile is in the national interest of the United States.

Refusing to build a national missile defense because perfecting China's missiles is a higher priority is not only nutty and bizarre, it clearly puts our country at increased risk.

SUPPORT H. CON. RES. 203 TO FUND VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS STAMP

(Mr. MASCARA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support my resolution, H.Con.Res. 203, the resolution

requesting the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It honors those men and women who fought, bled and died in every war in which the United States has engaged during this century.

The U.S. Postal Service is issuing many stamps to celebrate this century. Some of these are very worthy events and deserve to be recognized. However, the VFW should be given as much consideration as cartoon characters, Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe.

As we leave this century, I believe the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee should do the right thing; issue a stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of one of the Nation's oldest veterans organizations.

At the present time, I have over 125 cosponsors, a bipartisan effort. I ask other Members to join me in do sponsoring H.Con.Res. 203 to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars with the issuance of a 100th anniversary commemorative stamp.

TRIBUTE TO ROSCOE ALLEN, JR., OF OCILLA, GEORGIA

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Roscoe Allen, Jr., of Ocilla, Georgia. Mr. Allen has been selected by the Small Business Administration as Small Businessperson of the Year for the State of Georgia, and he will represent Georgia in the selection process for the National Small Businessperson of the Year.

In just 2 years, Mr. Allen has made his mark in the competitive snack food industry. He broke into the peanut processing business by putting in long hours, traveling many miles and practicing his straightforward sales pitch to his wife and long-time friend. His company, known as the Roscoe Allen Company, is the first southern, African-American-owned peanuts and mixed nuts processor. His products are sold in grocery stores all across the southeast as well as in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Allen's commitment to providing quality products and outstanding service at an economical price and for achieving success in a competitive market in such a short period of time. I congratulate Mr. Allen and wish him all the best at the Small Businessperson award ceremony and commend him for being an outstanding example of a small businessman and to let him know that all of Georgia is very proud of him.

PARENTS, WITH GOD'S HELP, RAISE OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, another tragedy in our schools: more expert analysis.

One group said America should heed the advice of the First Lady when she said it takes a community to raise a child. I do not mean to be disrespectful, but I disagree.

Communities do not raise a child; PTAs do not raise a child; schools do not raise a child; day care centers and summer camps do not raise a child. My colleagues, the awesome responsibility of raising a child is still the parents. Parents raise our children.

Maybe if America got back to basics and placed more emphasis on parents instead of communities, our kids would be much better off. If the community wants to help, they might allow God back into our schools. Parents, with the help of God, will be much more effective raising our kids.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN BELGIUM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern over an increase in religious intolerance in the country of Belgium.

In 1997, the Belgian parliament published a Sect Report which branded Evangelical Christians, Pentecostals, Amish, Charismatics, and other Evangelical mission groups as potentially dangerous sects. In addition, the Belgian parliamentary report also targeted Catholic Charismatics.

Former King of Belgium, Baldwyn I, who was known to be close to the Charismatic movement inside the Catholic church, was even attacked on the front page of a daily newspaper.

The Belgian Sect Report was followed by legislation on April 30 this year which established a Sect Observatory.

Mr. Speaker, its highly disturbing that a government which abides by the Helsinki Accords, as well as the European Convention on Human Rights, should violate these agreements by establishing a government network to monitor the religious activity of law-abiding citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the fundamental right of religious liberty must be protected for all people, including those in Western Europe.

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BESTEA CONFERENCE REPORT

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, today later on the floor of the House of Representatives, the BESTEA conference report will be up. And Members on both sides are to be commended for the work they have done on this piece of legislation.