

structure, but also the very center of our democracy.

In my year and a half in Congress, I have often commented on the openness of our capitol building. I have seen how the history of both the building and our nation, expressed the walls and ceilings and stairs, interested and inspired school children and senior citizens alike. The supreme sacrifice given us by Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson is in the same tradition of courage and honor demonstrated by every man and woman who have given their lives so that we may be free.

I would like to complement the outstanding work performed daily by the Capitol Hill Police Force. Every day, they stand on the street corners and in doorways and give directions to lost and tired visitors. They answer the same questions one hundred times a day. And they do it with courtesy, dignity, and professionalism. They are goodwill ambassadors to thousands of visitors—yet they remain largely unheralded. Finally, they are highly trained law enforcement agents sworn to protect the lives of Members of Congress, staff, and all others who make their way to Capitol Hill.

Last Friday, two brave men upheld their oath with heartbreaking efficiency, and today we mourn their loss.

IN TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deepest sympathy to the families of Officer Jacob Joseph "J.J." Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson. These fine men made the ultimate sacrifice for their government and their country. My wife, Tawni, and I will keep their loved ones in our prayers in this time of terrible pain and sadness.

This is my first term in Congress. I have been impressed by how accessible the Capitol building, and all the buildings in the Capitol complex, are to the American public. I have also been impressed with the superb level of security provided to the Members of Congress, staff and the public by the Capitol police force.

This senseless act of random violence will cause some people to call for closing the doors of the Capitol to the public—turning it into a fortress. This building has historically been the center of the People's government, housing the proceeding of the House, the Senate and the Supreme Court. The public has always been able to freely witness the proceedings under its roof. Millions visit the Capitol of the United States each year. They come from across the country and around the world for the chance to walk through the halls of what they know is the ultimate beacon of Democracy and freedom.

Officers Chestnut and Gibson knew, as well as any of us, how important a visit to this Nation's Capitol is to so many people who pass through its doors. Their names have been added to the list of those who have died to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. Many of us forget all too often that freedom has a heavy

price. Their astonishing bravery is becoming clearer as we learn the details of their struggle to stop the gunman last Friday. Their selfless instincts were to protect, at all cost, the innocent people working in and visiting the Capitol that day.

Sealing off the Capitol to the public would sidestep the real issue that these Officers and police everywhere in America deal with every day—escalating gun violence. We should use this horrible incident to examine our society and consider what can be done to reduce this violence and keep guns out of the hands of those who would perpetrate such heinous crimes. When it comes to the point where children are shooting other children in our schools and a gunman shoots his way into the U.S. Capitol, we must recommit ourselves to finding real solutions to gun violence.

We should honor the memory of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson by taking the steps necessary to reduce gun violence in our country. That is the challenge posed to us by their ultimate sacrifice. That is the legacy they deserve.

MORAL VALUES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 29, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MORAL VALUES

I've often been impressed in talking with Hoosiers about the concern that many of them have that the state of moral values in the country is weak. With all of the tough issues of the day, like the problems of campaign finance or how to maintain solid economic growth in the economy, the moral concern of Hoosiers comes through repeatedly. They worry about moral decline and about the character and values exhibited by Americans today.

More generally, the polls show that by substantial majorities the public believes that the United States is in a long-term moral decline. They see behavior that weakens family life, widespread disrespect for authority, an inclination towards self-indulgence and a lessening of personal responsibility. They see a lot of behavior around them they do not approve of: A professional athlete spits on an umpire or abuses women, a movie star says she wants a baby but not a husband, and a politician makes a lot of money on a book deal from a personal scandal. They do not like to see children being mistreated or ignored, marriages disintegrating, high levels of violence and drug use, deteriorating educational systems, less emphasis on responsibility and accountability, increasing coarseness and incivility in popular culture and politics, too much emphasis on making money, not enough concern about the distinction between right and wrong, less concern with the truth.

I think most Hoosiers understand too that there is only so much government can do to improve the moral culture of the country. Certainly government actions can make it either harder or easier for families to prosper, or for children to get a good education, for example. Government can punish actions which threaten the social order. It can fund programs to fight drugs and crime, pass laws

against discrimination and pornography, and hold congressional hearings to spotlight moral issues. Public officials can be positive or negative role models. But government's power to foster attitudes like civility and respect is limited.

Fortunately there are many institutions which strengthen our society and build character and citizenship. It is not surprising then that the country is becoming more concerned about civil society—that is, the relationships and institutions that are not controlled by the government but are essential, like families, neighborhoods, and the web of religious, economic, educational and civic associations that foster character in individuals and help children become good people and good citizens.

By all odds, the most important is the family, where children first learn or fail to learn the simple virtues: honesty trust, loyalty, cooperation, self-restraint, civility, compassion, personal responsibility, and respect for others.

Religion is very important in the lives of most Americans, and our churches foster the values that are essential to good quality of life in America. They emphasize personal responsibility, respect for moral law, and concern for others. They remind us of the timeless and transcendent virtues toward which we all must strive.

A large number of voluntary civic organizations help define our country and help us achieve social goals. All of us know the importance that civic organizations like Little League, the Chamber of Commerce, service clubs, the Future Farmers of America, Boy and Girl Scouts, and hundreds of others play in improving our lives. People want to be able to play in the parks, go to the library, learn from and help each other, and participate in all sorts of activities and relationships that make life meaningful.

In every community there are people who push for greater exposure to music, poetry, literature, and the other arts. The arts strengthen our communities by affirming important, core values: creativity, sensitivity, integrity of expression, craftsmanship.

Schools, of course, are crucial. They shape the lives of students and at their best require basic standards of good conduct: responsibility, respect for teachers' authority, respect for other students. They pass on the culture of the country and the responsibilities of citizenship, thereby sustaining our democratic values.

Business enterprises of all kinds and descriptions are increasingly playing a prominent role in our civil society, quite apart from their critical economic role. Labor and management both have a role to play in ensuring honest value in return for fair reward, in promoting ethical business practices and in enforcing standards of conduct in the workplace. Businesses also can provide vital support for all sorts of community efforts.

One institution demands special mention because of its size and influence, but also because it is widely criticized as undermining civic life, and that is the media. Often I hear that the media—including movies, video games, Internet sites, and television—are hostile to the values that parents want for their children.

These and other institutions are in no small measure responsible for the country's success. The concern is that many of them are eroding.

I frequently ask Hoosier audiences what the United States is all about. One theme that comes through is that this is a country that should permit every person the opportunity to become the best they can become. Civil society helps advance that goal. The purpose of government and the other institutions of our society is to help foster the conditions to permit individuals to achieve their