TRIBUTE TO THE PROCTOR FIRE DEPARTMENT/SUTHERLAND FALLS HOSE COMPANY ON THEIR 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, August 15, 1998, will be a great day for Vermonters. We celebrate the centennial of the Proctor Fire Department/Sutherland Falls Hose Company. On behalf of all Vermonters, I want to wish the department a very happy birthday.

For a century, the Proctor Fire Department has been a vital part of its community. The firefighters continually risk their lives to protect the welfare of their neighbors. One such person was Firefighter Maurice "Sonny" Foster, a twenty-three year veteran of the department. He gave his life on January 23, 1994, while fighting the Proctor Fire Department/Sutherland Falls Hose Company. On behalf of all Vermonters, I want to wish the department a very happy birthday.

In memory of Mr. Clyde Raymond Barrow

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of Clyde Raymond Barrow. He was a dear friend, a devoted family man, and a committed community member. His life enriched the lives of countless people. I would like to take a few moments to reflect on this special person.

Clyde Barrow was born on March 3, 1923, in Guilford, Vermont. He passed just a few weeks ago at the age of 75 on July 9, 1998, in Chicago. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, the Reverend Willie Taplin Barrow; his adopted children, Dr. Patricia Carey and John Kirby, Jr.; his two sisters, Avis Barrow Foster and Kaye Barrow Foster; ninety-eight Godchildren; many nieces and nephews; as well as friends and relatives too numerous to count. The Barrows are also the parents of Keith Errol Barrow, who preceded his father in death in 1993.

To Reverend Barrow, and Clyde's surviving family and friends, I wish there was some way that I could lift this burden of loss from your shoulders. We must take comfort in the fact that Clyde's courage, dignity, and kindness. Clyde Barrow's life is an example of righteousness for us all to follow.

Although Clyde Barrow is no longer with us, he has left scores of memories and a legacy that will live on. He was the strong, silent partner of the little warrior, Reverend Barrow, supporting her in her many civil rights battles and her stewardship of Operation Push. A welder by trade, Clyde also labored countless hours to build and strengthen his community by volunteering his considerable time and talents. Clyde's involvement with organizations such as the Doctors Hospital of Hyde Park and the Vernon Park Church of God's MAST (Men Achieving Success and Training) Homeless Ministry represent his well-earned reputation as a good Samaritan. As one who cherished children, Clyde Barrow went out of his way to know the youth in his church and neighborhood. Without a doubt, Clyde Barrow was the embodiment of the neighbor we all want living next door to us: a rock and a conscious within the community.

In times such as these, it is comforting to remember the words of our Lord: "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes with the dawn." Clyde Raymond Barrow was a fine man, dedicated to his family, his community, and his God. The Barrows are in my thoughts and prayers during this time of sorrow, God. The Barrows are in my thoughts and prayers during this time of sorrow.

My deepest concern now rests with the families of others who were forced to conclude from the rope marks that their beloved relative had been executed by hanging.

It is safe to say that Mr. Rowhani was executed no due process nor afforded a lawyer prior to his execution. He was notified of his execution for the alleged sin of sharing his sincerely held faith. I will state this very clearly—Mr. Rowhani was the victim of the most extreme form of religious persecution. Mr. Rowhani died for his faith and this is an outrage which must be denounced.

Mr. President, this barbarous act flies in the face of the Universal Declaration to which Iran is party. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to practice his religion. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to a public trial. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to counsel. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to appeal. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to NOT be hung at the end of a rope for holding minority religious beliefs.

My deepest concern now rests with the fifteen other Baha'is now being held by the government of Iran for exercising the same freedoms that are enshrined in the Universal Declaration. This is an outrage which must be denounced.

One government, however, the government of Iran, is distinguished as an egregious violator of a central principle this document expounds—namely, the right to believe. The Universal Declaration explicitly states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

On Tuesday, July 21st, the Iranian government summarily executed an Iranian Baha'i for the single alleged act of converting a Muslim to the Baha'i faith. The Baha'is are Iran's largest religious minority with about 300,000 adherents and suffer continuous persecution for their faith. The executed, Mr. Ruhollah Rowhani, a medical equipment salesman with four children, had been picked-up near the northern Iranian city of Mashad by the Iranian authorities in September 1997. He was held in solitary confinement during that extended period until his execution.

The facts are stark in their cruelty. His family was allowed to visit him briefly the day before his execution but, amazingly and cynically, they were not notified of his execution. Notification was set for the next day. They finally discovered the death only after they were given one hour to arrange for his burial. With brutal disregard, the Iranian government refused to divulge any information to this grieving family who were forced to conclude from the rope marks that their beloved relative had been executed by hanging.

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