

well as their resistance to chemical, biological, and radioactive agents. Moreover, Soviet and Czech intelligence agents helped organize shipments of POW's to the U.S.S.R. during the Vietnam war, and that, at least, 200 were sent between 1961 and 1968.

It is my hope that this information will lead to a further clarification regarding the safe return of any living POW's who may still be in captivity in Korea or elsewhere.

Americans should always remember the love of country that America's veterans have shown as well as their personal sacrifices, courage, convictions, and dedication to freedom that these individuals have exhibited.

Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, the gentleman from Arizona, BOB STUMP quoted a portion of President Abraham Lincoln's letter to a mother who lost five sons on the battlefield:

I cannot refrain from tendering to you the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

May it be of some solace to the families and loved ones of our missing and POW's that there are many of us in the Congress committed to a full and final accounting of our missing.

TRIBUTE TO WILFREDO GOMEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Wilfredo Gomez, an outstanding Puerto Rican athlete who has been a successful boxer. He was honored on Friday, September 11, at the "Centro Cultural Latino" in my Bronx congressional district.

Mr. Gomez was born on October 29, 1956 in Santurce, Puerto Rico. His record speaks volumes about his achievements: 42 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw, 40 knockouts. He is in the Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

On May 21, 1977, he defeated by knockout Dong Kyum Yum in the 12th round to conquer the World Boxing Council (WBC) Junior Featherweight title. He defended that title 17 times and won all the fights by knockout which set a world record.

On March 31, 1984, he defeated Juan Laporte for the World Boxing Council Featherweight title in 12 rounds and on May 19, 1995 defeated Rocky Lockridge for the World Boxing Association (WBA) Jr. Lightweight title.

Through his long dedication and success in boxing, Mr. Gomez has served as a role model for millions of youngsters in the United States and Puerto Rico who, like him, dream of succeeding in the world of sports.

Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Wilfredo Gomez for his contributions and dedication to boxing, as well as for serving as a role model for the youth of Puerto Rico and America.

GUNMEN IN EL SAUZAL, MEXICO

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that 19 men, women and children were brutally murdered early this morning in El Sauzal, Mexico. This small town, a suburb of Ensenada, is just an hour south of the Mexican border, and not far from my home district in Southern California.

According to news reports, some twenty people living in three neighborhood homes were jerked from their beds and lined up against a wall shortly after 4 a.m. this morning. They were then brutally gunned down execution style, murdered in cold blood.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Mexican authorities find these killers and put an end to the violence which has plagued this region in years past. We cannot afford an increase in drug and gang-related violence along our southern border. I urge my fellow southern California colleagues to join me in urging that we continue to support our border patrol officers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to cast a series of votes on September 14, 1998. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

S. 2206, rollcall No. 426. I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 304, rollcall No. 427. I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 254, rollcall No. 428. I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 185, rollcall No. 429. I would have voted "aye".

HAPPY 130TH ANNIVERSARY ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the strength and stability that people find within their church is a divine power. And nothing is stronger than the stability provided by longevity. On September 26, the Zion Baptist Church of Saginaw, Michigan, will celebrate its 130th anniversary in a fashion that is sure to inspire every one of its parishioners.

The members of today's church can look back fondly upon the church's history and learn great lessons from the church's history. While the church had a successful but non-eventful first 59 years, it has had a very active period since then. Reverend Reid became pastor in 1928. He committed the church to a \$10,000 expansion package, only to have the Great Depression place demands on the church that it would not place on itself. It fell to the next pastor, Reverend Arnold, to find

the funds necessary to pay off the debt. He succeeded.

Reverend Schatine then came, and wanted to help build a parsonage. The project once again proved to be overwhelming and satisfying at the same time, as Brother Hawkins exercised his leadership of the parish. Reverend Toomey completed this phase before Reverend Johnson came in 1942, who then oversaw a major expansion of the church. Reverend O.J. Steel organized the chorus and added a baptismal pool to the church.

In 1956, Reverend Roosevelt Austin became the Pastor, a post which he still holds today. His devotion and leadership have helped Zion Baptist Church grow, with a new edifice and an educational expansion. He has been a most positive force within the community, having been very active with the NAACP, OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw, Saginaw City Council, Second National Bank Board of Directors, President of the Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education, and many other civic and religious organizations.

Throughout this time, the people who have benefitted have been the thousands of parishioners who have found strength, guidance, and solace from Zion Baptist Church, its Pastors, and its congregation. This 130 year testimony of faith is something to be truly celebrated. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Pastor Austin and the congregation of Zion Baptist Church a most joyous 130th anniversary, and many more to come.

TRIBUTE TO THOMPSON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to some of the fine young people at Thompson Valley High School. The varsity cheerleading squad was awarded the Colorado High School Activities Association's academic champions award for having the highest grade point average of any school their size. I commend these young ladies for their great academic achievement in addition to their hard work on the cheerleading squad. Their dedication and drive is sure to carry them to a bright and opportunistic future. I applaud Shari Robinson, their coach, for her leadership. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that these young ladies: Allison Anderson, Laressa Branson, Shannon Curtis, Christine Foote, Jenny Giansiracusa, Sara Griebbe, Sara Klaas, Elizabeth Leon, Kristen McTeer, Jodi Naylor, Hilary Pederson, Britni Rhodes, Kirsta Rinehart, Jeanell Santee, Dana Terry, Allysian Vissat, and Jamie Williams, will continue to excel in their academic and athletic endeavors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, one of the saddest chapters in America's history is that of