

the same issues her killers did. She even subscribed to witchcraft until she chose to embrace God and turn her life around. For this, for her beliefs, she was killed.

Sadly, in the news coverage over the past week, the media has focused on a small group of students who isolated themselves from others because they felt alienated. But we can see by this tragedy at Columbine that when circumstances were dire, students and teachers cast aside their differences and worked together.

As a man of Christian faith, I cannot help but be proud of the number of students recounting stories of being trapped in the school and surrounded by death who found solace in prayer. Yet how ironic that on any other day, our Nation's children cannot pray in school. In fact, children have been barred from bowing their heads in private prayer, from expressing their religious beliefs in school newspapers and even bringing the Bible to school.

Mr. Speaker, can anyone today say that our children are better off than they were 30 years ago when prayer was accepted in our schools? Thirty years ago, teachers were concerned with students smoking in school, skipping class and an occasional fistfight. Today teachers are being asked to deal with teen pregnancy, drug abuse and the physical safety of their students.

Mr. Speaker, let Littleton, Colorado be our wakeup call. Faith is exactly what this country needs. The children in Littleton turned toward God during their time of crisis. We should not force them to turn away from God during their daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, today our Nation is faced with two choices: We can continue down the path we have created for ourselves or we can look to a time in our history when children felt safe in school, and we can learn from our mistakes. This country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. Yet we have become an America in which children reach for a gun before they reach for their Bible, or turn to violence instead of their parents or their church.

Mr. Speaker, I have the great honor of representing the citizens of eastern North Carolina. What makes me so proud of my constituents is that they, like so many Americans across this Nation, have a great respect for the Bible and the Constitution. They live their lives for God and country and they nurture these beliefs in the lives of their children. These are the values that this country needs.

As Mother Theresa once said, "If you become a burning light of justice and peace in the world, then really you will be true to what the founders of this country stood for. This is to love one another as God loves each one of us. And where does his love begin? In our home. How does it begin? By praying together."

Mr. Speaker, how did we ever imagine to lose sight of our founders' intentions? The students and teachers of

Columbine High School have shown us that we must join together to return an America that gives families the freedom to raise their children in an environment that is safe, where children are free to live and to learn.

In the words of George Washington, "The smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which heaven itself has ordained."

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with the community of Littleton, Colorado as they begin their healing process.

As a tribute to the families and friends who lost loved ones, let us turn this tragedy into an opportunity.

We took prayer out of school and we have seen the results.

Let us now change course and return to the values on which this nation was founded.

Please do not allow those who died in Littleton to have died in vain.

TRIBUTE TO SAM GILMAN OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a good friend of mine, Sam Gilman of Illinois. Tonight the Quad Cities Israel Bonds Council will award Sam with the Jerusalem Medal for dedicated service to his community and to Israel. I have learned so much from Sam about public service over the years and I take great joy in seeing him recognized for his outstanding achievements. He knows what it means to give of yourself to help others.

After graduating from college, he served our country in the United States Army during World War II. Following law school at Harvard, Sam returned to the Quad Cities to practice law and later became a director of the Pinnacle Banc Group. He has also helped build enduring institutions that serve the entire community, including founding WQAD and WKPT and serving as chairman of the board of Franciscan Medical Center.

Sam has been instrumental in developing a strong Jewish community and support for Israel in western Illinois. His leadership as a director and past president of the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities, as founder of the Quad Cities Yom HaShoah Committee, and past director of the Tri-City Jewish Center strengthened those groups and laid a foundation to be erected for an active community for many years to come.

I have witnessed Sam's love for Israel and his dedication to helping Jews in need around the world. In 1986 we went together with a group to Israel and I learned to appreciate the deep affection he has for that land and its people. Two years later, on a journey to the former Soviet Union, I joined Sam as we met with refuseniks and worked to help Soviet Jews fighting for their freedom under a repressive regime.

Sam's work and that of countless others in the Jewish community is directly responsible for securing the right of Jews to emigrate from the former Soviet Union and for helping Israel to resettle this mass exodus of people in a land where they can now be free.

Finally, I have been fortunate to benefit from Sam's wise counsel and support for almost 20 years. He has been a true mentor to me as I first sought to represent western Illinois in Congress, and as treasurer of my campaign, he has always had a critical role in every race that I have run. Most of all, I am proud to call Sam a friend and look forward to many more years of sharing his advice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

KOSOVO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, last night's votes on our war were a wakeup call to our President, to NATO and to the world. The American People's House voted against a declaration of war, against ground troops, and also defeated a resolution on a tie vote, even, in support of the current air war. That should be a clear message to the world that America is in the process of switching the more they learn about this ill-conceived war.

Next week's supplemental defense appropriations bill is in deep trouble. How can a Congress vote against a declaration of war this week and then the next week turn around and fund it? I want to make sure as one of those who is against this war, who started skeptical but has turned into someone who feels it is time to aggressively speak out before American men and women die on a battlefield in an ill-conceived, ill-planned and unwinnable war, that several things are true about this supplemental appropriation. Those of us who oppose it are not unconcerned about the refugees. Two weeks ago when I was privileged to go along with the CODEL over to that area and visited a refugee camp in Macedonia, you cannot help but be moved by the terrible stories that the individuals are telling about how they have been forcibly removed from their country. It is terrible. The question is not whether it should pull at your heart and how terrible it is. The question is what can we do about it and is this unprecedented? It is wrong when the Serbs do it, it is wrong when the Croatians do it, it is wrong when the Bulgarians do it, and it