

the top of our mutual agenda. India's vast pool of highly trained English speaking professionals offers our nation critical resources in our efforts to stay competitive and to remain the world's leader in high tech industry. We need to offer India a security and economic partnership.

India's testing must be understood in terms of its verifiable, objective security concerns and how the world's nuclear powers have responded to those concerns. Any changes to the Pressler amendment should be considered in terms of U.S. national interests in relation to Pakistan's behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I will soon be introducing legislation regarding sanctions against India and Pakistan. However, before we consider any changes in the law affecting Pakistan there must be fundamental changes in the Government in Pakistan. We cannot support a government that permits and encourages actions that lead to the murder of Americans or any other innocent civilians.

According, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 227.

H. RES. 227

Whereas the United States has a vital interest in ensuring stability in South Asia, reducing tensions between India and Pakistan, and preventing the spread of terrorism;

Whereas Pakistani-backed armed forces and, reportedly Pakistani regulars, have crossed from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir, India, and occupied Indian military positions that were temporarily abandoned for the winter season;

Whereas this incursion has the financial and military support of Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan's strategy is to support the armed incursion into Kashmir and renegotiate the Line of Control;

Whereas the Indian armed forces have been forced into action to defend the territory on the Indian side of the Line of Control and push the terrorists and Pakistani military forces out;

Whereas Pakistani armed forces, reportedly, are involved in these incursions;

Whereas the actions by Pakistan are contrary to the Lahore Declaration, an agreement between India and Pakistan to promote regional stability, peace, and security in South Asia;

Whereas the forces include well-trained and heavily armed Afghans and Pakistanis associated with Osama bin Laden, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, and the Government of Pakistan; and

Whereas the Group of Eight (comprised of the United States, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and Russia) on June 20, 1999, called for an immediate end to the hostilities, restoration of the Line of Control, full respect in the future for the Line of Control, and resumption of the dialogue between India and Pakistan in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives—

(1) that it should be the policy of the United States to oppose the Government of Pakistan's support for armed incursion into Jammu and Kashmir, India;

(2) that it should be the policy of the United States to support the immediate withdrawal of intruding forces supported by Pakistan from the Indian side of the Line of Control, to urge the reestablishment and future respect for the Line of Control, and to encourage all sides to end the fighting and exercise restraint;

(3) that it should be the policy of the United States to encourage both India and

Pakistan to adhere to the principles of the Lahore Declaration.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 25, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 256. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall vote No. 256.

#### ARE YOU AN AMERICAN? THOUGHTS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, while participating in the recent Memorial Day observance at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in my District, I was privileged to hear an inspired essay about what it means to be an American. This essay was composed and presented by Elizabeth [Liz] Bokan, a student at Washington Middle School in Seattle. Many of us in the audience were deeply moved by Ms. Bokan's eloquence. Her words lend us confidence that our future as a nation is in the good hands of enthusiastic and creative younger generations.

Mr. Speaker, many of us will celebrate Independence Day by participating in naturalization ceremonies, helping to welcome new citizens to our ranks. I proudly offer Ms. Bokan's essay to all my colleagues as we return to our districts to renew the bonds that hold us together as a nation this July 4th.

#### ARE YOU AN AMERICAN?

Are you an American? Ask yourself this, and you come upon the easy answer, well yes, I am an American, as I am a citizen of America. But I ask you, is there not more to being an American? And how does a true patriot respond to pressure on one's beliefs, while maintaining the presence of mind that is characteristic of being an American?

In my school, I have been taking a class on American History. The truth will always hurt, no less in the sense of what this country great. I have learned of battles fought, and unnecessary blood spilled, and to what cause? Yet reading these texts, and seeing these illustrations of great American heroes, one thing seems to shine through. The pride individuals appear to hold in their home, in their title, and in their love for themselves and their people. Does that not signify that these people were very much Americans? But does each and every person have to measure up to the incredible genius of Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin simply to be called an American?

We are by name the country that accepts the unwanted of other societies; the Statue of Liberty asks for the sick and poor of the rest of the dismal world to travel to America, the land of the free. It is said that we have lost our charity, and our openness to the rest of the world's outcasts, and yet do we not open our lives and hearts to the immigrants that come to us searching for a better life, for the "American Dream"? One

of the magics that is America is the diversity of culture, accepting any and all customs, and yet still adopting them as valid Americans.

We have known what it is like to be the underdog, we have felt the ridicule of the rest of the world, and the pressures of an often losing struggle to overcome all odds, against us, and we continue to offer our support to those who feel the stress we felt, and more. And each and every one of those people we bring in as our own call themselves Americans, yet are they believed by the majority? In our society today, there is great conflict on every issue that could possibly be argued over, and people speak of the destruction of the American spirit. Yet the fact being overlooked is that the basis of the American way of life is within discord; we have the American right to disagree. But that discord brings about a people of accord, does it not? Through the wars fought and the policies enacted, we have always agreed to disagree in one way or another, and that leads to a harmony of the people.

But does an American necessarily have to be a hero, or a recently discovered patriot? Think of the thousands of soldiers whose names you've never heard, of the ones who have died for this country in the last 200 or so years, and of those who survived, who make sure these heroes can live on in American hearts. Think of the average working citizens, those who hold strict morals for themselves and those around them, who live their lives maybe raising a farm and a family. These people proudly call themselves Americans, and we believe them. Why? The truth is, Americans are people who will die for their country, who will stand up for their rights and those of the oppressed. Sure, it may be done with fear in their hearts, but is fear not also an American standard? We thrive on it, and have never felt the need to deny ourselves of it. The people we embrace and those who do the embracing are Americans. It is a state of mind to be an American, it is a love and joy in our freedom. I am an American, and if I could, I would tell the world, but it is enough to know that I can, I have the right to, and that absolutely no one can stop my love of the American spirit which I call my own.

#### IN HONOR OF DON FOWLER

### HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional college president in my district, Mr. Don Fowler. Mr. Fowler will retire as President of Lake Washington Technical College on June 30, after 19 years on its campus.

Lake Washington Technical College has blossomed under Mr. Fowler's leadership. The college, which enrolls 20,000 students, is the largest hi-tech college on the East Side. Moreover, 92 percent of its graduates secure employment upon graduation.

Lake Washington Technical College's strong commitment to life-long learning is exemplified by its extensive curriculum. Vocational education is just one of the many paths students may choose. This college also offers advanced skill training for the employees of local industries, hi-tech training, ESL classes for recent immigrants, and courses geared toward high-school students.

While I am confident that Lake Washington Technical College will continue to be a first-