

women, despite the threat to themselves and their children, stay in these abusive relationships. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one of the major reasons women stay in them is a lack of resources or fear of independence—a sense that there is nowhere else for them to go, and there is nowhere for them to get help. They believe that if they leave their partners, they will be forced into poverty and unable to provide for their children.

Strong women fought to break all women free from the shackles of being second-class citizens those many years ago. We vote, we work, and we succeed on our own. But too many still need help to enjoy this freedom completely. One of the most impressive programs that I have come across in my years in public service that addresses these concerns is New Choices/New Options. This program provides these new heads-of-household with the skills necessary to compete in today's marketplace. It is a program focused on providing assistance for displaced homemakers. What is most notable about this program is that in addition to teaching career development skills, it helps to instill a new sense of self-confidence in the women who participate in this program. Many women who come from abusive relationships not only need job training, but perhaps more importantly, they need the tools to help rebuild their lives—they need us to help them become pioneers for their children's futures.

Participants work one-on-one and in group settings to assess their needs and then design a plan to help meet these needs. They learn conflict resolution techniques and develop effective decision-making skills. This program helps participants build a safe and secure future for themselves and their families. It is so crucial that these women break this new ground like their sisters before them so they can break the cycle of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a societal ill that can occur at any time, to anyone. Let us confront this issue head on, so that during some future celebration of Women's History Month, someone can take to this very floor and commemorate the end of domestic violence.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS PLAGUING OUR SOCIETY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss a tragic and horrible situation plaguing our society, the incidences of school shootings. I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the following article by Mr. John Telfer, which appeared in the Midland Daily News on Sunday, March 11, 2001. He offers great and truthful insight into the appalling social problem of school shootings. He correctly writes that the answer is not more unnecessary gun laws, but rather we must find a solution that addresses the moral breakdown in our society. He truly writes about "The Heart of the Matter."

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

(By John Telfer)

President Bush, in the aftermath of the latest school shooting, did not make a new

call for gun control when commenting on the tragedy. Instead, he focused on the heart of the matter. "All adults in society can teach children right from wrong, can explain that life is precious," he said.

The media seemed almost disappointed. The last line of an Associated Press story read: President Clinton used a rash of school shootings during his term to call for stiffer gun control laws. Bush did not mention the issue.

Thank goodness. It is time for America to stop trying to use Band-Aid fixes to solve problems of the heart. Instead of seeking more gun control, we should be asking why some of our children think it is OK to kill people they dislike.

Let that sink in a moment. Some of our children think it is OK to shoot a person who has hurt them. That's a gun control issue? We need to face the facts as a nation that these kids no longer believe the commandment "thou shall not kill" applies to them. They have come up with their own definition of reality and it has nothing to do with what most people would deem morally correct.

A radio commentator the other day said we shouldn't be surprised by the violent actions of some young people. Every day they live in a world that encourages them to come up with their own definitions of right and wrong, from sexual promiscuity to illegal drug, alcohol and tobacco use to underage viewing of violent R-rated movies and more.

We encourage young people to come up with their own solutions to problems in school and life, often telling them there is no wrong answer. We don't want to place limits on their answers—that might stifle creativity. We expose them to images, concepts and viewpoints that require maturity to understand. We expect them to make good choices.

But in giving them all this freedom to choose, some kids are having a hard time figuring out where the boundary line is between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. The fact is our children need boundaries. They need rules. They need to know there are many incorrect solutions to the problems they are encountering. They need to be taught what is right and what is wrong and they need it pounded in their heads over and over and over again until you are so sick of doing it you are ready to throw in the towel as a parent. And then they need it again.

It's time for America to quit asking "why" these shootings keep happening. We know that answer. These kids have sick hearts. And they don't know the morally correct way to deal with the problems they are facing.

Our kids need to be taught right from wrong. They need to have boundaries they cannot cross without facing consequences. They need to know some values and beliefs are not negotiable. And they need all of these things while being taught under a forgiving umbrella of love. Then, and only then, will America be attacking the heart of the problem.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD P. MCFARLAND UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieuten-

ant Colonel Richard P. McFarland as he prepares to culminate his active duty career in the United States Air Force. Rich is the epitome of an outstanding officer and leader.

Lieutenant Colonel McFarland received his commission more than 20 years ago from the United States Air Force Academy. A graduate of Auburn University, as well as the Air War College, Rich McFarland has met the many challenges of military service as an Air Force Officer, and has faithfully served his country in a variety of command and staff assignments.

Rich concludes his career as the Special Assistant for Space, C3I and Intelligence in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs; he was instrumental in advising the Defense Department leadership on a broad range of national security issues of immediate interest to Congress. Rich's extensive knowledge of intelligence matters and space operations are instrumental in his role as the chief advisor to the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense and other Department of Defense Officials regarding national security strategy issues.

Mr. Speaker, service and dedication to duty have been the hallmarks of Lieutenant Colonel McFarland's career. He has served our nation and the Air Force well during his years of service, and we are indebted for his many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of the United States. I am sure that everyone who has worked with Rich joins me in wishing him and his wife, Anne, health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

THE CLEAR YOUR GOOD NAME ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, according to the Source of Criminal Justice Statistics, there were more than 10 million arrests in 1999 alone. Many of these arrests led to criminal convictions and helped make our streets and communities safer. The men and women of law enforcement play a critical role in enforcing our laws and creating a just society. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their service.

However, as any police officer will tell you, sometimes someone is arrested who is not guilty of any crime. It could be a case of mistaken identity or of someone being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Perhaps someone falsely accused an innocent person or simply lied to the police. When the mistake or false accusation is discovered, the innocent person is free to go, but the record of the arrest can haunt him or her for the rest of his or her life.

Today, we are announcing the introduction of the Clear Your Good Name Act, which would require the expungement of voided arrest records in order to clear the names of innocent people.

The bill defines a "voided arrest" as any arrest followed by the release of the person without the filing of formal charges, by dismissal of proceedings against the person arrested, or by a determination that the arrest was without probable cause. The bill would require expungement of voided Federal arrest