

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOPHIE HEIMBACH'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful woman, Sophie Heimbach who will be 100 years old on August 10, 2001. As is the case with most Jews born in the early twentieth century, Sophie's life began very peacefully, and happily. She was born on August 10, 1901 in Ochtrup, Germany. In 1938, with the rising strength of the Nazi party, Sophie was forced to flee Germany. While at first she was able to make a new home in Belgium, the outbreak of World War Two forced her to flee again, this time for France, Spain, Portugal, and finally Casablanca. As if being uprooted from one's home and having a death marking on one's chest were not bad enough, Sophie was also separated from her family for a very painful period of time. We have all heard tales of the horrors for the Jews during World War Two, but this woman lived them, and she did it not knowing what would become of her family.

Sophie was reunited with her husband and family in Casablanca, and from that point slowly began to relearn the small joys in life, even amidst pain. Casablanca led Sophie and her family to Cuba, and then eventually to the United States in 1942. They moved to Goshen, New York where Sophie earned her U.S. citizenship in 1947. Sophie and her husband worked diligently and humbly in their first months in the United States. She worked as a housekeeper for a wealthy landowner, and her husband Arthur as a farm hand. After a mere nine months, Sophie and Arthur had the resources to fulfill their American dream enabling them to purchase the family farm in Walkkill, New York. The Heimbach family flourished during their time in Walkkill, and succeeded in developing their farm to over 400 acres.

Arthur is now deceased, but he and Sophie are followed by two children, Charlotte and Louis, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Sophie is a woman of great devotion and dedication to her temple, her home and her family. She has lived a full life with as much grief as joy, hardship as luck. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her on her milestone 100th birthday.

PROSPECTS FOR UNITED STATES-
VENEZUELAN RELATIONS IN THE
CHAVEZ ERA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, United States-Venezuelan relations recently have become a

matter of concern on the current administration's Latin American foreign policy agenda due to some provocative statements made by President Hugo Chavez. The United States imports 14 percent of its oil from Venezuela, and with President Chavez being driven by his concern over maximizing profits to help serve one of his own policy goals of creating a "Latin American Union," the United States has possible cause for worry that what may be good for Venezuela may not be good for American interests.

Chavez also has visited recently with Saddam Hussein and Fidel Castro, criticized Plan Colombia and denounced Washington's \$1.3 billion funding of it, which has heightened Washington's edginess over the new status quo. But all of us must keep in mind that it is all but certain that the Venezuelan president's vision for a more unified Latin America will not disappear, and is shared by millions of other Latin Americans.

It is clear that patience is being called for as well as a sense of proportionality. After all, Chavez, at the present time, poses no danger to vital United States interests, and we risk destructive backlash from Latin America if the United States acts too harshly against the Venezuelan leader. Moreover, many of his condemnations of the development model are also being echoed by dissident IMF and World Bank officials.

The following research memorandum was authored by Pamela Spivack and Jill Freeman, Research Associates with the Washington-based Council of Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), an organization that has been long committed to addressing issues associated with democracy and human rights throughout the Hemisphere. COHA's researchers have often spoken out about controversial United States policies towards Latin American countries, and we have all benefited over the years from such insights. The attached article, which will appear in this organization's estimable biweekly publication, *The Washington Report on the Hemisphere*, addresses United States-Venezuelan relations and how Chavez's rhetoric has worried and concerned Washington. The article also points out that these alienating attitudes toward the United States as well as Venezuela's status as the world's third largest oil exporter are potential causes for the United States to reexamine its benign policies toward Caracas, emphasizing that caution and moderation are now required.

[From the Washington Report on the Hemisphere, June 25, 2001]

CAPITAL WATCH: PROSPECTS FOR U.S.-
VENEZUELAN RELATIONS IN THE CHAVEZ ERA

As concern grows in Washington over President Hugo Chavez's domestic and foreign policy moves, relations with Caracas could soon be seriously erode. Chavez's leftist Bolivarian rhetoric, his opposition to U.S. antidrug initiatives in Colombia, his close friendship with Fidel Castro, as well as the country's status as a major supplier of petroleum to the U.S., may persuade the administration to reexamine its relatively docile policies towards Venezuela.

The hero of the country's poor, his constituency carried him to an overwhelming victory first in 1998, and then again in 2000. Chavez speaks about integrating the continent, including the military, which is of great importance for both the goals of justice and the ability to combat external imperialist measures. Meanwhile, the Bush administration's fears that the strong man will need to be cut down are growing. Although the State Department's Peter Romero blasted Chavez's support of Colombia's leftist guerrillas in front of a Miami-Cuban audience, Washington's fears had remained latent, far down on its hemispheric agenda. This benign stance was due to the Clinton administration's "positive engagement" policy, geared to facilitate equitable ties with the rest of the region. However, there is speculation that Bush may more intensely monitor Caracas' political and economic actions in an effort to block Chavez's "Latin American Union" from coming to fruition.

DISSEMINATION OF VENEZUELAN RHETORIC

To the consternation of Washington policymakers, specific events have highlighted Chavez's efforts to export his peaceful revolution to neighboring countries. He has roundly criticized Plan Colombia, a massive U.S. military-driven scenario aimed at interdicting and destroying the drug cartels. He recently denounced Washington's \$1.3 billion funding of it as well as its components, such as intensified training of the military and Bogota's growing deployment of offensive helicopters, as a dangerous intervention that will not be successful. At a news conference at the U.N. Millennium Summit, September 2000, Chavez emphasized, "The only solution for Colombia is peace. Sending helicopter gunships to Colombia will not achieve peace."

Colombia is not the only regional country of interest to the Venezuelan leader. According to *El Pais* of Spain, there is evidence that Caracas has supported radicalized indigenous movements in Bolivia to demonstrate the solidarity of like-minded movements. At the Ibero-American Summit in Panama, 2000, Bolivian president Hugo Banzer exhibited some animosity towards Chavez for his alleged support of such movements. As has been noted in the *Miami Herald*, Chavez also has been accused of supplying equipment to the indigenous and military figures who later staged a coup in Ecuador. The paper implicated the Venezuelan leader in the delivery of over \$500,000 to Colonel Lucio Gutierrez, who overthrew the Ecuadorian government of Jamil Mahuad. In his failed coup attempt in 1992, Gutierrez adopted a populist slogan much like Chavez's own. The presence of such marrings on Chavez's hemisphere report card has been troubling to Washington.

THREATS TO U.S. INTERESTS

Chavez's recent association with such U.S. "enemies" as Saddam Hussein and Fidel Castro, has heightened the State Department's anxiety over his intentions. In particular, his evolving friendship with Castro puts the U.S. in a quandary, given that Venezuela is the third largest foreign supplier of crude oil to this country. Chavez flouted U.S. efforts to isolate Havana in devising a five-year deal with the Cuban leader to provide the island with oil to compensate for Cuba's lost Soviet aid. Venezuela will supply Cuba with 53,000

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

barrels of oil a day, at an annual market price of \$3 billion. By granting cheap credits and a barter system, the cost to Cuba will be substantially less. Increased oil revenues from growing U.S. imports that fill Chávez's coffers ironically help to subsidize Cuba's own consumption. Before his visit to Cuba, Chávez suggested, "We have no choice but to form an 'axis of power,'" challenging U.S.-hemispheric dominance. Chávez's declared objective is to generate good will for Venezuela throughout the region by offering similar preferential oil deals to many other Caribbean countries.

Despite climbing oil prices in the past two years, Venezuela remains a victim of increased poverty, rising crime rates and a shrinking economy. Chávez has set out to expand the state oil company to provide more jobs. To further this strategy, Venezuela will utilize its aggressive leadership in OPEC to sustain high world oil prices. With the U.S. importing 14 percent of its oil from Venezuela, Chávez bold strategy of maximizing profits to serve his policy purposes runs counter to U.S. interests.

Chávez also expanded his presidential powers to undermine the independent power of the judiciary, legislature, media and civic offices, all of which were known for their corruption under previous regimes. Up to this point, Washington has restrained itself, implicitly adjusting to Chávez's style of rule, a difficult position to maintain in light of the growing tempo of his socialist rhetoric and recent controversial policy proposals.

POTENTIAL U.S. ACTION

While the Clinton administration overlooked Chávez's political maneuvers in Latin America to maintain a semblance of amicable relations, some of his outcries evoked the wrath of Cuban-Americans wishing to punish him for pro-Castro activism. This is likely to build up the pressure on the Bush administration to "get tough on Chávez." Observers in Caracas assert that he has never concealed his goal of a unified Latin America distanced from Washington. It is doubtful whether a tougher response from Washington would hinder Chávez's defense of such a union. Former State Department official, Bernard Aronson, is already claiming that any disruption of oil agreements with Venezuela could weaken the U.S. economy. Due to economic difficulties and heightened crime, Chávez's promises of jobs and increased security have had to be delayed. However, it is important to note that he has been in office a relatively short period, and appears to have factored in U.S. scorn while seeking his public sector reforms. Whether Washington can long maintain its positive engagement policy towards Chávez's actions remains to be seen, but it is a certainty that he will continue to champion his messianic vision for Venezuela and Latin America.

FEDERAL PHOTOVOLTAIC UTILIZATION ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the recent increase in oil prices has focused national attention on the benefits we could achieve by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels by meeting more of our energy needs from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, biomass and geothermal energy. Today, I am introducing legislation to promote one of the most promising of these technologies, solar photovoltaics.

Quite simple, a photovoltaic, or PV, system converts light energy into electricity. The term "photo" is a stem word from the Greek "phos" which means light. "Volt" is named for Alessandro Volta, a pioneer in the study of electricity. Photovoltaic literally means "light electricity".

PV generated power offers distinct advantages over diesel generators, primary batteries, and in some instances, over conventional utility power lines. PV systems are highly reliable, and have no moving parts, so the need for maintenance is virtually non-existent. This is one of the main reasons they are used in satellites today, for which maintenance is both costly and time consuming. In addition, PV cells use sunlight to produce electricity—and sunlight is free!

The potential for photovoltaics is boundless. By way of illustration, solar panels in 1% of the Mojave Desert would provide enough energy to meet California's expected electric shortfall. The electricity needs of the entire United States could be met by panels in a 100 by 100 mile area in the South-Western United States.

PV cells are ideal for supplying power to remote communication stations, such as those in our National Park system, and on navigational buoys. Because they burn no fuel and have no moving parts, PV systems are clean and silent. Compared to the alternative of burning kerosene and diesel fuels that contribute to global warming, this quiet, clean source of power becomes even more attractive.

Another important feature of PV systems is their modularity—they can easily be adapted to any size, based on energy consumption. Homeowners can add modules as their needs expand, and ranchers, for example, can use mobile stations to produce electricity for pumps to water cattle as the animals are rotated to different grazing areas. After Hurricane Andrew in 1993 the Florida Solar Energy Center deployed several PV emergency systems right at the disaster locations where the energy was needed.

Because a PV system can be placed closer to the user, shorter power lines can be used if power were brought in from a grid. Shorter lines, lower construction costs, and reduced paper work make PV systems especially attractive. Transmission and distribution upgrades are kept to a minimum, which is especially important in urban areas. PV systems can be sized, sited, and installed faster than traditional energy systems.

I have had a longstanding interest in promoting the development of this technology. In June 1977 I introduced H.R. 7629, which established a program for the Federal government to encourage the development of PV technology by using it in federal facilities. At that time, photovoltaic technology was in its early developmental stage, and produced energy at a cost of more than \$1.00 per kilowatt hour, compared to less than \$.10 a hour for energy from fossil fuels. In these circumstances, there is a "chicken and egg" problem: because the technology is expensive, consumers will not purchase it, but, unless there are purchases, the produces will not be able to make the investments and engage in the large-scale production needed to bring the cost down.

The Federal government, which purchases billions of dollars of energy each year, is in a

unique position of facilitate a breakthrough for photovoltaics. Under my 1977 bill, the Federal government would have purchased substantial quantities of photovoltaic technology. These purchases would have given industry the resources and incentives to develop the technology and mass production efficiencies necessary to make photovoltaics competitive.

My 1977 bill became part of a larger bill to establish a comprehensive national energy policy, PL 95-619. Most unfortunately, the Reagan administration chose not to fund the bill, resulting in not only a lackluster renewable energy program but also a serious deterioration of national focus.

The collapse of the oil cartel and the return of low oil and gas prices in the early 1980's had a chilling effect on federal renewable energy programs. Despite Congress' consistent support for a broader, more aggressive renewable energy program than either the Reagan or George H.W. Bush administrations supported, federal spending fell steadily through 1990. Funding for renewable energy R&D grew from less than \$1 million on the early 1970's to over \$1.3 billion in FY 1997, but then nose-dived during the Reagan and Bush administrations. Funding steadily declined during the 1980's to \$136 million in FY 1990.

The trend was reversed during the Clinton administration. In June 1997 President Clinton announced the Million Solar Roofs Initiative. The program called for the installation of one million solar energy systems on homes and other buildings by 2010. In October 1997, President Clinton committed to placing 20,000 solar energy systems on Federal Buildings. So far the results have been encouraging—over 2000 solar systems have been installed in federal facilities through the year 2000. For example, the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in San Francisco developed a solar hot water heating project, which qualified as part of the Federal commitment. The project was completed easily and quickly, cost less than \$10,000 and has energy savings of \$1,100 per year, which means that has a 9-year payback period.

Just across the Anacostia River, here in the Nation's Capitol, at the Suitland Federal Center, the General Services Administration has installed a large PV system to supply electricity for the Federal center. From the Presidio in San Francisco to Fort Dix in New Jersey, the Federal government has installed numerous effective PV systems. Solar power is used extensively for diverse purposes in our National Park and National Forests—supplying lighting to the Tonto National Forest in Arizona and drinking water to hikers in the Rocks National Park in Lakeshore Michigan. The isolated research facilities at Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, California are powered by PV systems.

During disaster relief activities solar power systems step in quickly to supply efficient, easy to install, mobile power sources. In addition to solar power in federal buildings, national parks, communications, and disaster relief activities, solar power is used extensively in transportation support—bus stop lighting, parking lot lights, railroad signal lights, traffic monitoring and control, Coast Guard light-houses, beacons and buoys. Furthermore, the government is leading the way with innovative technologies for solar powered vehicles. The Department of Energy is the chief sponsor of the American Solar Challenge, which this year

will see solar power cars race from Chicago to Southern California, over the Great Plains, the Rockies and the great American desert. Clearly, solar power offers something for everyone.

In October 2000, at the Utility Photovoltaic meeting in Baltimore, Department of Energy officials announced that more than 100,000 solar energy systems had been installed in the U.S. since the beginning of the solar roof initiative. Under the Clinton administration, the Department of Energy had organized 51 partnerships from coast to coast—dedicated to working on matters such as interconnection, electricity restructuring, and Federal solar purchases.

Through the efforts of the solar industry, with the support of the federal government, solar technology has made substantial progress in recent years. The cost has been reduced to \$.20 per kilowatt hour, and further reductions are expected. As a result, sales are increasing at a dramatic rate. Sales of photovoltaics within the United States has been growing at a rate of 25% a year. The United States photovoltaics industry is a strong exporter, with almost 70% of U.S. production going to export sales. There is room for growth in our exports. Currently, the U.S. has about 20% of the world market and Germany and Japan each has a larger market share than our country.

I believe that we need to continue the Federal government's role in promoting the development of this technology. The Federal government should continue to be a major customer, and help the technology reach its full potential. My bill will express Congressional support for the type of program established by the Clinton administration, and provide the necessary funding. My bill establishes a goal for the Federal government during the next five years to acquire photovoltaic systems for Federal buildings which will produce at least 150 megawatts of electricity. This will accomplish the goal of the 20,000 solar roof initiative. The bill authorizes appropriations of \$210 million a year for the next five years, the level of funding needed to purchase approximately 18,000 photovoltaic systems. The bill also establishes a program for evaluation of the systems used in Federal facilities to ensure that the government is encouraging development of the most advanced technology.

Mr. Speaker, using Federal government procurements to "jump start" a technology is not without precedent. In fact, photovoltaic technology itself is a product of space technology, and was advanced by NASA in the Hubble space station program. As a result, photovoltaic systems power nearly every satellite today as they circle the earth. Similarly, in the early days of the computer era the cost of microchips was prohibitive. Large-scale purchases by the government (NASA and DOD) helped bring the costs down to commercially competitive levels. As another example, the General Services Administration, using its FTS 2000 telecommunications contact, was also successful in promoting advancements and enhancements in telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the program established by my bill can make a major contribution to energy efficiency, protection of the environment and reduced dependence on foreign energy. I will be working to incorporate this program in any energy legislation passed in this Congress.

AMERICA HAS EARNED OUR RESPECT AND ALLEGIANCE EVERY DAY

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on July 4, our nation will commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—an astounding historic achievement for liberty and freedom. It's sad that in 2001, political correctness has replaced patriotism and respect for America's achievements with cynicism and even disrespect.

James Merna, Past Maryland Commandant of the Marine Corps League brought this example to my attention during his speech entitled, "Heroes and Role Models for Today and Tomorrow," at the Elks Club Flag Day Observance in Frederick, Maryland on June 10.

In May, Mr. Fran Parry, a track coach from Gaithersburg High School in Maryland was suspended for 12 days. Why? He confronted and reprimanded a student who was disrespectful during the Pledge of Allegiance. The student replied that he wasn't American and didn't have to be respectful during the Pledge.

It took support and pressure from other students, parents and the community after the incident became public before Coach Parry was reinstated.

America has earned our respect and allegiance every day.

I submit Mr. Merna's entire speech for the Record and I urge my colleagues and all Americans to read it.

REMARKS OF JAMES E. MERNA, PAST MARYLAND STATE COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, AT THE ELKS CLUB FLAG DAY OBSERVANCE, FREDERICK, MD, JUNE 10, 2001
"HEROES AND ROLE MODELS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW"

Thank you for inviting me. I am honored to speak to the Elks, one of America's largest and most influential fraternal organizations.

At the outset, allow me to extend my congratulations to the Frederick Elks Lodge on the celebration of your 100th anniversary this year. This is an accomplishment of which you should be justifiably proud, for a century of service in brotherhood to each other, to your community, and to the nation. I wish you many more years of good fellowship and service.

I have a number of ties to the Frederick community, forged in years of friendship and admiration. Let me mention just three:

(1) The Shangri-La Detachment, Marine Corps League. This great organization was originally formed here in Frederick, I believe, in 1948. After many years of service, it became somewhat inactive. A few of us came here in 1968, helped reissue its charter and get it reinvigorated, and today it flourishes as one of the most active detachments in the entire League. I made many good friends here, among them, your own Tommy Grunwell, Ken Bartgis, and the late Charlie Horn.

(2) Ben Wright, your football coach here at Governor Thomas Johnson High School. Earlier in his career, before he coached your Patriots, he coached three of my four sons when he was the head football coach at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, in Greenbelt.

He's a true winner in every respect, athletically and morally.

(3) My son John Merna, Major, U.S. Marine Corps. Two summers ago, John commanded a reinforced Marine rifle company (Echo 2-5) on a five month cruise in the South China Sea. The float was part of the Seventh Fleet whose purpose, besides being a good will mission for the U.S., was to conduct amphibious exercises and training with designated Asian forces.

Nonetheless, let me offer a few of my observations on the current fervor, or the lack thereof, for patriotism in America today, and what needs to be done, if anything, particularly with regard to our youth.

We can start by asking ourselves, who still observes Flag Day today? We may see a few houses in our neighborhoods who will fly their flags on their porches or in their front yards. But, increasingly, we no longer feel compelled to honor the flag. That kind of patriotic display is steadily being regarded as old-fashioned or tedious. Contrast today to a little more than 100 years ago when Flag Day in 1894 drew some 300,000 people to city parks in Chicago alone. Unfortunately, powerful forces in our society, popular culture, and political circles oftentimes emphasize our cultural differences, rather than our unity as Americans.

Let me mention a recent incident that occurred only two and a half weeks ago, just down the 270 Pike from here, in Gaithersburg, Maryland, which should give us cause for concern. Many of you may already know the story. It was in the Washington Post on May 23rd. It involves a local high school track coach from Gaithersburg High School who was suspended for 12 days for confronting a student who was disrespectful during the school's reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I was incensed as soon as I heard of this incident. Here we have a 27-year veteran of the Montgomery County school system, a highly successful track coach who has won three state and 15 regional titles, suspended from his teaching and coaching jobs only because he attempted to get a student to show respect while the Pledge of Allegiance was being recited in the school.

The coach's name is Fran Parry. He lives a stones throw from here, in nearby Clarksburg. I called and spoke to Coach Parry Tuesday, just five days ago. He told me that it was a spontaneous event, that the student who is a football player and who was on the track team, rushed past the coach who asked him to stop while the Pledge of Allegiance was being recited. The student angrily replied that he wasn't an American and didn't have to. The coach told him that was a bad attitude and that he had relatives who died for the very freedoms that the student enjoys. The student just laughed at Coach Parry and said "So what." The coach told me he didn't think too much of the incident until the next day when he was summoned to the principal's office and told he was being suspended from his duties and placed on administrative leave.

The student is black. Coach Parry told me 80 percent of his track team is African-American and they backed the coach 1000 percent. There was not one dissenting voice among them. The coach met with the student's parents, expressed regret over the incident but told them he wouldn't change his message. He was then told by the Deputy Superintendent that he was on leave indefinitely and that there would be an investigation focusing on whether he was a racist.

Coach Parry told me that the community was unbelievably behind him. Families and students called. He had 29 calls one night from people that he didn't even know, from all cultures. Chris Core, on WMAL Radio,

Washington's most popular afternoon radio talk show, had a two-hour call in. Chris Core supported the coach "110 percent." Only two callers dissented. The very next day, Coach Parry told me, he was called by the principal and told he was being reinstated.

So here's a case of a student who shows blatant disrespect for the symbol of our freedom and the American way of life, who places the tenure and career of an outstanding and highly successful coach in jeopardy, and walks away blameless. At the same time, Coach Parry was told that he was "too caustic," was suspended from his job for 12 days, and given a letter of reprimand.

Something's wrong here. The wrong guy has been punished. This is political correctness at its zaniest. Whatever happened to accountability and personal responsibility for one's own behavior? Instead of being portrayed as the villain, Coach Parry should be hailed as a patriot. Webster's dictionary defines a patriot as "one who loves his country and zealously supports its authority and interests." The coach did what you and I would have done under the same circumstances. Thomas Paine, in one of his most favorite quotes, said, "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country, but he that stands for it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

There's more to this story, as I found out in talking to Coach Parry. As I said earlier, the student used to be on the track team at school. He and the coach knew each other well. The student sometimes ate his lunch in the coach's office, used his microwave. Coach Parry even drove him home after track practice at times when he needed a ride. But the student had an attitude problem, and it came to the fore with his disrespect for the *Flag of Allegiance*.

Where does Coach Parry derive his patriotic fervor? From his dad and his uncle who fought with the Marines on Iwo Jima, the bloodiest battle in World War II. His uncle was with the Third Marine Division. He landed on the beach at Iwo with 48 Marines in his platoon. When he left on a stretcher, 40 of the 48 Marines were killed. The remaining 8, including himself were wounded. Coach Parry's dad was with the Fourth Marine Division. After he learned that his brother was wounded, he visited him later aboard a hospital ship off Iwo.

And if that isn't proof enough of Coach Parry's patriotic heritage, I learned that his great-great-grandfather served in the American Revolutionary War as a sergeant in the First Maryland Regiment, and was wounded in battle in New Jersey while pulling down a British flag. What a legacy. I mention this family history only to put in perspective the total picture. The bottom line, as Coach Parry told me, is that "people do care—I'm testimony to that." He told me that he had just received in the mail an unsolicited musical tape of patriotic songs from a group called "Friends of America" from Fort Collins, Colorado. One of the songs was "I'm Proud to be an American." To that, I can only add, thank God that Coach Parry is an American. He's All-American, first team, in my opinion.

From this example of Coach Parry, it proves the point that coaches hold a unique place in the educational system of this country. They are not only teachers of young men and women, they are also their leaders. They test their spirit, and at the same time force them to test themselves. Coaches do as much to build the character of the future leaders of our country as any other group.

Let me tell you about another great coach—one who I regarded as the best coach in America—my high school coach at St. Agnes Home for Boys in Sparkill, New York,

one of the two orphanages where I was raised.

His name was Jim Faulk, an inspirational leader unsurpassed. When he was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 1978, the program citation read: "Jim Faulk not only was the coach, he was 'Mr. Everything' at St. Agnes. He did it all. He was the athletic director, the guidance counsellor, the social worker, the disciplinarian, the trainer, the varsity and J.V. coach for all the sports, which included football, basketball, baseball, wrestling and golf. In his spare time he also ran a full sports program for the alumni. He even drove the school bus." In his acceptance speech, he said, "I made it only because of the gutsy kids I coached at St. Agnes." I know he said it because I was there.

Jim Faulk came to St. Agnes in 1933, fresh out of the University of Alabama. Through the years, he turned down lucrative offers from Villanova and other prestigious colleges to remain at a much lower salary with the orphan boys and kids from broken homes. He devoted his life to St. Agnes—and to the Dominican nuns there—helping needy youngsters advance through life.

He produced football teams so tough that few schools wanted to play him. One of the schools that accepted the challenge was St. Cecelia's High School in Englewood, New Jersey. Its young coach then, just out of Fordham, later went on to fame as head coach of the Green Bay Packers and the Washington Redskins—Vince Lombardi.

Coach Faulk tried to set up a game with the New York Military Academy, an exclusive prep school for West Point. They only played us when our coach had them flunking we were a fancy prep school like them—they thought we were St. Agnes Prep. Little did they know we were an orphanage with ragtag uniforms and sometimes borrowed equipment. Anyway, we established a relationship and ended up playing them for many years.

During World War II, Coach Faulk took a leave of absence from St. Agnes to join the Marines. He was a Captain in command of artillery units and saw extensive combat in the Pacific, including action at Guadalcanal. He remained in the Marine Corps Reserve in later life and retired as a full colonel.

He wrote many inspiring letters from his combat assignments during the war that were reprinted in a newsletter sent out by the nuns to St. Agnes men serving in the military around the globe. He always addressed his letters "To the Fightingest Boys in the World." In one of his letters, as he was aboard ship and waiting to go over the side, he wrote:

"There is absolutely no group of men in this wide world as loyal and devoted to its alma mater and to each other as you fighting boys from St. Agnes. No doubt, as you move from place to place in your travels to all continents and mingle with men from all states and nations, you must begin to appreciate more and more that spirit of St. Agnes—the spirit that is so much a part of your daily lives.

"No one but a St. Agnes boy could understand that deep loyalty and respect you have for each other. Stick together in war as you did in peace. Let the Sisters back home know where you are and what you are doing. Whether a private or a captain, you all speak the same language; you all have the same ideals and you are all heroes in my book. The Sisters feel likewise. They are bursting with pride and joy over your accomplishments."

That's the type of man Coach Jim Faulk was—always caring, inspiring, encouraging and motivating St. Agnes men to excel and achieve. And many St. Agnes graduates heard his message and followed in his footsteps. Let me mention some of them.

St. Agnes had as many as 600 kids fighting in World War II. Over 40 were killed, hundreds were wounded, and many were decorated for bravery. Guys like: Charlie Loesch, who lost his leg in the muddy mountains of sunny Italy. (His reaction: "when I get my artificial leg, everything will be just the same as when I had two genuine legs"); 1st Lt. A.J. Fabrizi, who completed 50 bombing missions over enemy territory with the 15th Air Force in Italy; Francis Mahon, who went back to Walter Reed Hospital for the third operation to save his eye; the mother of Bill Callahan wrote to let us know her son was a P.O.W. His address then was Stalag 17 B, Germany; Frank Napoli paratrooper, won the Silver Star and the Purple Heart after major landings in Sicily and Salerno, Italy; Sam Torresse who Coach Faulk wrote to and said, "I was sorry to hear about your wounds . . . it will take more than a Nazi to flatten you"; Jim Nestor—Coach Faulk talked to other Marines who were with him when he gave his life on a ridge in the Marianas "trying to prevent a breakthrough of fanatic, drunken Nips"; and Captain David Loeser, Army, killed in action in Luxembourg, the first St. Agnes kid to attain the rank of Captain.

I could go on and on, but as Coach Faulk said, these were gutsy kids, and true heroes they were. They were my legacy, they are yours, and they are America's.

Literally hundreds and hundreds of St. Agnes men, including two brothers and myself, joined the Marine Corps, inspired by the example set by Coach Faulk. I had two other brothers join the Navy. Coach Faulk was, in my opinion, probably the greatest unofficial recruiter the Marine Corps ever had.

Jim and his wife Betty were never blessed with children. We took care of that. Some of us named our children after him. My oldest son is named James Faulk Merna. Coach Faulk was very proud of his namesake and visited him with much pride when he was a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. Our son graduated with the Class of 1987, is married with two children, and is a lawyer with the most prominent law firm in Atlanta.

Coach Faulk once told me in a letter, while I was in Korea during that war, "One character trait that I admired in all of you St. Agnes men—you went out into the world with two strikes on you, and never expected to be embraced, gave your all for your country when it asked, and, now, most of you are raising families who can truly say—my father came up the hard way."

Now you can see why I said earlier that someone like Coach Faulk was the greatest coach that I have ever known. Our nation needs strong coaches like Coach Faulk, Coach Parry, and Ben Wright, because they are doing as much to build the character of our future leaders as any other group of men or women.

One last final thought. Our nation is in the midst of a huge nostalgia fest with the Second World War. A number of "Greatest Generation" books have been written, the best by Tom Brokaw of NBC News, box-office attendance records have been set for the new blockbuster movies like "Saving Private Ryan" and now "Pearl Harbor." There has also been significant publicity about the World War II Memorial now finally approved for the Mall in Washington, D.C.

Let us build on this momentum. We have elections coming up next year, and another Presidential election in 2004. As George Will pointed out recently, during the last administration, at times, we had a president, a CIA director, a Secretary of Defense, a Secretary of State, and a National Security Advisor, none of whom had any military experience. It's almost as appalling in the Congress. According to the National Association for Uniformed Services, in 1965, 82% of the members

of Congress and 80% of the staffers had military experience. Now less than 1/3 of Congress and 5% of their staff have had any military experience. And on the civilian side, only 6% today of Americans younger than 65 have ever served in uniform.

Those numbers by themselves are not alarming because it's recognized that we are not at war and we have at present an all-vol-

unteer military. We just need to be sure that we elect public officials who have a greater understanding and a strong commitment to support our national security and defense by deeds, not mere words. We need their solid support, as well as from local school board officials, for military recruiters who were denied access to high school campuses 19,228 times in 1999.

Thank you for inviting me to participate in your Flag Day celebration today. As members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, you have long set an example the rest of us must try to follow if we are going to preserve for our future generations the same priceless treasures of liberty and freedom which our forebears passed on to us.