

rights. As if that was not enough, the bill intentionally supersedes any state or local anti-discrimination law. This means that a local law, passed by a community that believes employment discrimination based on religion is wrong could be effectively overturned if a religious organization receiving federal funds wants to fire an employee based solely on their beliefs. I find the willingness of this Congress to codify employment discrimination and destroy state and local antidiscrimination laws deplorable.

Additionally, the "Charitable Choice" bill would permit taxpayer dollars to go toward religious worship and proselytizing. Under current law, a religious organization that receives federal funding cannot use those funds for proselytizing, religious worship, or religious instruction. However, H.R. 7 contains an ill-defined provision that would allow federal funds to be funneled through governmental agencies in the form of vouchers that could be applied toward services provided by a religious organization. These funds would be available to religious organizations even if they are used for religious instruction, proselytizing, or sectarian worship. Congress should not weaken protections in current law that ensure the separation of church and state.

In conclusion, I believe H.R. 7 should have been defeated because it attacks some of the basic principles in America. I do not believe Congress should allow the wall dividing church and state to be chipped away. Congress should recognize the important contributions that religious organizations make in providing social services to needy people but should also maintain the essential protections for our democracy.

HONORING SUSIE LOAFMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember a caring and compassionate individual from Silvercliff, Colorado who has recently passed away. It is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life and memory of Susan Marie "Susie" Loafman who died on Wednesday, July 11, 2001.

Susie had endured cancer and diabetes for sometime, but this did not stop her from giving so much to others in her life and in the community. After graduating from Custer County High School in 1950, she proceeded to open a local restaurant in 1964 and named it "Susie's Cafe and Bar." The popularity of this establishment grew so great that people who knew of the restaurant would not drive by without visiting Susie's restaurant. Beyond the demands of operating the eatery, Susie was engaged civically with such organizations as the Chamber of Commerce, the Women's Club, the Altar and Rosary Society, the Merchants Association and the Custer County Cattlewomen. While adding to the community in this respect, she also built a strong foundation within the walls of her house by serving as a foster mother to over 30 foster children.

Mr. Speaker, at the age of 71, Susie Loafman will be remembered and appreciated for her spirit and kindness. As family and

friends mourn her passing, her lessons and tenderness will live forever in the hearts of those that knew her and that she assisted. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and warmest regards to her family at this time of remembrance. She will surely be missed.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CAROLE
JEAN THOMAS FAJARDO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in remembrance of Carole Jean Thomas Fajardo, who passed away this month. Mrs. Fajardo was born in Pueblo, Colorado, and was a committed activist in the San Gabriel Valley and other areas. She graduated from the University of Texas in El Paso. She is survived by her husband Mr. Richard Fajardo who is a well-known attorney in the Los Angeles area. Her passions included music, art, animals, learning, and community empowerment efforts. And of course, Mrs. Fajardo adored her husband and family.

One of Mrs. Fajardo's most powerful traits was her innate passion for social justice. She served as a field deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, and was instrumental in helping empower community members and community based organizations. She was also a Warden's assistant who counseled families and prisoners at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. One of her duties was to assist family members and media representatives during scheduled prison executions.

Mrs. Fajardo was also a strong supporter of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and served as executive assistant to MALDEF President Antonia Hernandez. This is where she met and fell in love with her husband Richard Fajardo.

Mrs. Fajardo was also a volunteer at the Central American Resource Center. During her years at CARECEN, she helped people in need and served as a strong supporter of migrant and refugee rights.

Mrs. Fajardo will be dearly missed. Let us continue to keep her in our hearts and minds, and follow her example of leadership and caring.

HONORING CHUCK AND LORENE
TOBIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Charles "Chuck" and Lorene Tobin for their many years of devotion to each other as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

After their marriage, the Tobin's moved to Dolores, Colorado in 1951, where Chuck began to work for the Texaco Bulk Plant and volunteered for the local fire department. After a dedicated career, he retired in 1992. Lorene was employed as a cafeteria cook with the Dolores School system until 1988. Since their retirement, they have both been enjoying the

great outdoors and other events throughout the community.

Chuck and Lorene met at the Old Del Rio Restaurant where she was a waitress, and the two instantly fell in love. They are the proud parents of two sons, Chuck and Mike Tobin, and a daughter, Lynda Grossberg. The couple still resides in Dolores, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a wonderful privilege and honor to salute the 50th anniversary of Chuck and Lorene Tobin. It is with excitement and admiration that I wish them many more great years together.

LIFT THE UNITED STATES
EMBARGO ON CUBA

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, encouraged in part by a recent resolution passed by the Texas State Legislature, I rise again this Congress to introduce my bill to lift the United States Embargo on Cuba.

On June 29, 2001, the Texas state legislature adopted a resolution calling for an end to U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba. Lawmakers emphasized the failure of sanctions to remove Castro from power, and the unwillingness of other nations to respect the embargo. One Texas Representative stated:

"We have a lot of rice and agricultural products, as well as high-tech products, that would be much cheaper for Cuba to purchase from Texas. All that could come through the ports of Houston and Corpus Christi." I wholeheartedly support this resolution, and I have introduced similar federal legislation in past years to lift all trade, travel, and telecommunications restrictions with Cuba. I only wish Congress understood the simple wisdom expressed in Austin, so that we could end the harmful and ineffective trade sanctions that serve no national purpose.

I oppose economic sanctions for two very simple reasons. First, they don't work as effective foreign policy. Time after time, from Cuba to China to Iraq, we have failed to unseat despotic leaders by refusing to trade with the people of those nations. If anything, the anti-American sentiment aroused by sanctions often strengthens the popularity of such leaders, who use America as a convenient scapegoat to divert attention from their own tyranny. History clearly shows that free and open trade does far more to liberalize oppressive governments than trade wars. Economic freedom and political freedom are inextricably linked—when people get a taste of goods and information from abroad, they are less likely to tolerate a closed society at home. So while sanctions may serve our patriotic fervor, they mostly harm innocent citizens and do nothing to displace the governments we claim as enemies.

Second, sanctions simply hurt American industries, particularly agriculture. Every market we close to our nation's farmers is a market exploited by foreign farmers. China, Russia, the middle east, North Korea, and Cuba all represent huge markets for our farm products, yet many in Congress favor current or proposed trade restrictions that prevent our farmers from selling to the billions of people in