

"Your Mom was taken away by the policeman," a neighbor told me. I wandered around the house, waiting for Mom in a long, suffering afternoon without having anything to eat. At about nine in the evening, Mom came back with bruises and told me with tears: "Mom has to leave. They (the police) won't let me stay at home any longer." I couldn't accept that. Lying on the bed without sleep, I wondered: Is Mom going back home again? What shall I do? Who will cook for me? Who will pick me up from school? The next morning, I knew Mom was leaving but I pretended not to care about this while a river of tears flowed in my heart.

I found the door was locked and Mom had left that afternoon after class. I was very anxious and desperate so I had to find a place to stay. I went to stay at my cousin's home.

At that time I thought the school was my only place to find some rest. But the police would not even let me go. In the beginning, they tried to know where my parents were by asking my teachers to question me. The fact is I really knew nothing about that except they were working somewhere. Then the police started following me everyday from school to my cousin's home after class. One day, a policeman rushed into my cousin's home and threateningly told me, "It's hard for us to believe that you don't know where your parents are. It's impossible that there is no communication between you and your mom. Sooner or later we'll find and arrest her even if you don't tell us." The most terrifying thing happened when two policemen stormed into my cousin's home the night before I had to take a major entrance exam for high school. They searched everything everywhere, upside down, and warned me before they left, "It's not possible that your Mom won't come back when you take this entrance exam. You will be severely punished according to the law if you don't report it immediately." My heart was so stirred and terrified that I couldn't continue to review my class notes. Nobody from my relatives came to meet me the next day after the exam; only a few policemen were watching me with suspicious and evil eyes. They followed me wherever I went. And I failed to enter senior high school. My brother-in-law and all my other relatives could not receive me because of the police's harassment. How much more pressure could I bear as a teenage girl? Having to throw away the beloved books of my education and ideal without knowing what my tomorrow will be, I am still walking outside my hometown, living life like a real wanderer.

TESTIMONY NO. 2

Somebody reported to the public security bureau that my whole family believes in God. My parents had to run away from home that night after hearing about that. Suddenly I was left alone in our three-bedroom house that night. I was so terrified that I turned on all the lights in the house. I started crying and asking myself: Is Mom going to come back? How could I live my life after this? How could I bear the suffering of being separated from Mom who always cares most about me?

After that, I had to stay at my grandma's home. But the police turned their attention onto me in order to find my parents. In the beginning, they tried to get information about my parents' whereabouts by asking my teacher to question me. Failing to get any information, they started harassing me by following me daily after school. I was so isolated that nobody at my school dared to stay with me because there were always policemen around me wherever I went. Every morning when I walked to school from grandma's house, a policeman came up and "escorted" me and sometimes interrogated me as if I were a criminal.

Because both my grandparents were over seventy years old and very ill, they were not able to take care of me. And none of my relatives were willing to invite me to stay with them because of the fear of police. I had to leave my beloved school with tears. I am now really a wanderer. Whenever I wander around a school watching other children playing games, I cannot help bursting out into tears. When can I resume my school?

TRIBUTE TO MARY ALICE RYAN

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mary Alice Ryan, president and CEO of St. Andrew's Episcopal-Presbyterian Foundation in St. Louis, Missouri, and for the past two years National Chairperson of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). Through her work with St. Andrew's, and her active participation in aging-services organizations in St. Louis, and at the national level, Mary Alice Ryan continues to make a truly considerable difference in the lives of many older Americans.

Ms. Ryan has been a member of AAHSA since 1979, and has served in a number of leadership capacities. On November 2, at AAHSA's 40th Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, Ms. Ryan will complete her term as the organization's chair, having served as its top elected leader since 1999. Prior to that, she served with distinction on the association's House of Delegates and as the treasurer for its Board of Directors. Over the years, Ms. Ryan has worked on a number of the association's committees, including professional development, assisted living, and continuing care. She also chaired AAHSA's state affiliate, the Missouri Association of Homes for the Aging, in 1986.

As President and CEO of St. Andrew's Episcopal-Presbyterian Foundation, Ms. Ryan oversees several facilities throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area that provide a wide range of services to seniors, including nursing home care, assisted living, and independent senior housing. In addition to serving its own residents and clients, St. Andrews shares its expertise with other long-term care providers, assisting them in building, establishing, and operating high-quality housing and services for seniors.

Although she is stepping down from AAHSA's chairmanship, Ms. Ryan will continue to serve on AAHSA's board as it strives to advance the association's vision. That vision, espoused by AAHSA's 5,600 not-for-profit member organizations, calls for the development of a healthy, affordable, and ethical system of long-term care and services for older adults and others with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mary Alice Ryan for her distinguished record of service to older Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HAROLD
KREUGER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Harold Kreuger on being awarded the John Campanius Holm Award on October 27, 2001 that is presented by the National Weather Service. Harold is one of only twenty-five people to receive this distinguished award and it is an accurate reflection of the hard work, discipline and patience that Harold has displayed throughout his career.

Mr. Kreuger will be receiving this award in honor of his exceptional service in the Cooperative Weather Observer program. He became part of this volunteer organization when he established the Cochetopa Creek observing station at his ranch in Cochetopa Creek, Colorado in 1947. Harold has been collecting and recording daily weather data for the program ever since. The data that he collects plays an essential role in gaining further knowledge of weather patterns and aids in more accurate weather predictions. Harold's efforts are of enormous importance in Colorado due to the state's ever-changing weather conditions.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to have this opportunity to recognize Harold for his superior service to the National Weather Service for the last fifty-four years. He has patiently volunteered his knowledge and experience and, in turn, provided invaluable data that has furthered the advancement of meteorological science. Thanks Harold for your time and your commitment.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
JERRY SOLOMON

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and fellow Dale County, Alabama native, Congressman Jerry Solomon, who passed away last Friday. Although Jerry retired from this great institution three years ago, he never really left us. He was integral to the conservative effort to gain the House in 1995 and he served honorably as the powerful chairman of the House Rules Committee from that time until his retirement.

Jerry Solomon was born in Okeechobee, Florida on August 14, 1930. As a young boy he left Florida for Dale County, Alabama to live with relatives. He settled in the small Dale County community of Echo which is only ten miles from my hometown of Midland City, Alabama.

A few years later, Jerry moved to Delmar, New York to join his family. It was New York State which became his new home and where he later attended Siena College and St. Lawrence University. Jerry served his country joining the U.S. Marine Corps at the outset of the Korean War and remained on active duty until 1952. He was a Marine Corps reservist until 1959.

For over 25 years, Solomon labored as a successful businessman in Glens Falls, New

York where he lived with his wife, Freda. His political career began at the local level where he served as Queensbury Town Supervisor and Warren County Supervisor. He then served six years as New York State assemblyman.

Jerry successfully ran as a Republican for Congress in 1978 and steadily gained in popularity in his home 22nd Congressional District of New York. In 1990, Solomon received more votes than any other New York state congressman.

His was a familiar voice for House Republicans on matters regarding veterans and our national defense. And I was honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with him in support of our men and women in uniform and to protect the American flag.

Jerry was a true patriot and personified what is to be an American. I am proud to have called him a colleague and personal friend.

RECOGNIZING FORT WASHINGTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Washington Elementary School for their distinguished educational program.

Fort Washington is a school with a rich history. Fort Washington Elementary Union School District formed on July 6, 1874 and consisted of one school. Lincoln Elementary Union School, a one-room school, formed January 21, 1909. On March 3, 1945, the two schools merged after the original Lincoln School burned down. A new Fort Washington Lincoln School, consisting of five classrooms, was built in 1957 at the site of the current school. On December 22, 1959, the new district elected to join eight other rural elementary school districts to form the highly acclaimed Clovis Unified School District. Since then, the school has added over one dozen classrooms, a staff lounge, multi-purpose room, administrative offices, outdoor amphitheater, and a blacktop area. Clovis Unified built another elementary school on the site of the original Lincoln School in 1977. This new campus was named Lincoln Elementary. Fort Washington-Lincoln School was then changed to Fort Washington Elementary School, proud home of the Patriots.

Over 750 students are currently being served by 67 dedicated staff members. In June of 1986, Fort Washington was selected as one of 210 exemplary public schools from across the nation as part of the United States Department of Education's First National Recognition Program for elementary schools. In 1997, the school was recognized as a California Distinguished School. During the 1998-1999 school year, the school accomplished a feat that has only been attained by two percent of the schools in the United States; Fort Washington received the honor of being designated a National Blue Ribbon School for the third time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fort Washington Elementary School for their renowned educational program. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Fort Washington Elemen-

tary School many more years of continued success.

TURKEY CONTINUES TO DEEPEN
ITS DEMOCRATIC VALUES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, we have been debating in this body for some time now how to achieve the appropriate balance, in war and in peace, between protection of the state and protection of the individual liberties that are so important to a healthy democracy. As we wrestle with the aftermath of September 11th, we begin to see the same debate and the same concerns echoed in other democracies around the world.

One debate, not much focused on, has occurred in our ally and good friend, Turkey. That nation, which has lost over 30,000 of its citizens due to terrorist attacks, and which has suffered great hardship as a result of their support for our policy of economic sanctions against Iraq and others in the Middle East, has nonetheless conducted a vigorous public debate about what kind of democracy should flourish in Turkey. That debate has ended with a series of constitutional reforms, reforms that the State Department says "embodies the values that the international coalition is defending."

These reforms are broad ranging. In some cases, they expressly limit the power of the state to stifle freedom of expression, or to pry into the private lives of citizens, even those who might be suspected of criminal behavior. Others enshrine individual rights to gather, to protest or to form political parties. Still others aim for a more inclusive society by allowing use of languages other than Turkish. A group of the reforms seek to place an economic floor of support below the citizens in order to help assure opportunities for economic betterment. Finally, a group of reforms seek to streamline government and make it more responsive to the citizenry.

More than 30 constitutional reforms were adopted. Once implemented, they should go a long way toward erasing any opposition to Turkey's entry into the European Union.

It is also important to note that these reforms have been made in a Moslem nation. Turkey has always believed it important to protect the secular nature of its society, often at the risk of being criticized from within and without. Turkey's reforms, indeed its impetus to reform, is living proof that democracy and Islam are compatible.

Mr. Speaker, there are two other things about these reforms that are remarkable. First, Turkey moved boldly on many fronts to examine past practices and seems willing to make large changes to enshrine democracy. Second, despite economic pressures, political pressures, and the exigencies of the current war against terrorists, it never wavered in its pursuit of a democratic ideal. Turkey, and the entire community of democracies, should feel justly proud of what has been accomplished to date.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HILDAGARD
(CHIEF) ALEXANDER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember an honorable and distinguished man who proudly served his nation for twenty years in the United States Army. It is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life and memory of Hildagard (Chief) Alexander.

Chief Alexander has witnessed some of the most frightening scenes in American war history. The Chief enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was soon in the thick of battle landing on Omaha Beach in Normandy. Chief Alexander went on to serve in the Korean War before being discharged in 1962. It is my privilege to acknowledge Chief Alexander for the sacrifices he made so future generations can enjoy the freedoms and liberties that shape the American way of life. Furthermore, I wish to honor Chief for his role as a community leader in Colorado's Western Slope. Perhaps others best remember him as the children's representative for the Shriner's Hospital. He dedicated much of his time toward bringing joy and happiness into the lives of children. Chief was a proud man whom many had deep respect for. We will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Alexander will be especially missed by his wife, Margaret, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. As family and friends mourn his passing, Chief's compassion will shine through the hearts of those closest to him. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and warmest regards to his family during this time of remembrance. Chief Alexander will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE D. TABLACK

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of a George D. Tablack.

Mr. Tablack was a lifelong resident and a well-respected leader of the Mahoning Valley. He was a Korean War Veteran, a steelworker at Youngstown Sheet and Tube and later an accountant with the Ohio Department of Taxation.

Mr. Tablack served in the Ohio House of Representatives from May 1970 until 1978. In 1979, he was appointed to the Ohio Environmental Review Board by then Governor James A. Rhodes and also sworn in as Sheriff until 1981. He later went on to pursue a successful career as a lobbyist and political consultant until 1995, when he became the Mayor of Campbell.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Mr. Tablack for his outstanding accomplishments while serving as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. He, along with then Ohio Senator Harry Meshel, will be regarded as two of the greatest lawmakers in Ohio's history.

I send my deepest regrets and sympathy to his wife and to his family. May God bless them.