

"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