

schools, e.g., we stayed at the HMCS Cabot naval reserve station on cots in a classroom. (We enclose a letter just written to Lieutenant Commander Margaret Morris, Commander of the Cabot facility for further detail.)

Teddy bears were bought by private citizens and delivered to children at various sites.

A cab driver offered us his home and a home-cooked meal.

Prescriptions were refilled and supplied gratis by the Red Cross.

The Canadian flags were flown at half-staff. This gesture, alone, moved many Americans to tears.

Sympathy cards to the United States handmade by Nova Scotia school children were posted on walls at the Halifax airport.

Newspapers were dominated by stories of events at home and Canadian support. (We enclose examples.)

Words cannot adequately express our appreciation, respect and admiration for our Canadian friends.

We will be glad to give further details should that be helpful.

Special thanks to you for your consideration of a reference to Canadian support and HMCS Cabot in the Congressional Record . . . and a mention to the U.S. Ambassador.

Sincerely,

ASH AND SUSAN COLLINS.

ASHTON B. COLLINS, Jr.,
Placitas, NM, October 29, 2001.

LCDR M.A. MORRIS,
*Commanding Officer, HMCS Cabot,
St. John's, Newfoundland.*

DEAR COMMANDER MORRIS: Some time has passed since we were with you and your HMCS Cabot personnel, as your guests in the days following the tragedies of September 11.

We will never be able adequately to express our gratitude for the extraordinary qualities of welcome, warmth, empathy, support, and solidarity that you gave us . . . all the "airplane people" . . . so generously and spontaneously.

We also will never know how, when so many people descended on HMCS Cabot so unexpectedly, you were able to anticipate so efficiently . . . and gracefully their needs, ranging from the obvious, such as hot meals (and the quality of which was outstanding!), cots and blankets, hot showers, and a variety of amenities to the less obvious but vital such as TV sets strategically placed so we could get our first news of the unfolding events and analysis.

And you were superb in your information flow to us . . . letting us know when you knew of potential and actual plan for ultimate departure.

Your people also were great about keeping track of all of their new "guests" and were sources of all manner of helpful information about St. John's and Newfoundland.

It is clear to us that this quality of response to extraordinary events comes from the heart, and from outstanding leadership. You exhibited both, in high measure; we salute you.

We Americans learned a lot about our great neighbors to the North, in a short time. And it was all of the best.

Now, in a modest turnabout, we enclose a small token of our New Mexico, with the sincere invitation to you to visit us in our home (photo enclosed) to let us show you something of our American Southwest.

We also enclose a check for your discretionary use in behalf of all the great people of HMCS Cabot.

Sincerely,

ASH COLLINS.

ALARMING DEVELOPMENTS FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, troubling amendments to the current Kazakh law on religion await President Nursultan Nazarbayev's signature to enter into force. Both the lower and upper houses of the Kazakh parliament passed the amendments without any substantive modifications. As a result, if President Nazarbayev signs the legislation into law during the ten-day window, Kazakhstan would seriously undermine its commitments as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practice their religion or belief.

Introduced without public consultation in late November 2001, the amendments passed the lower house on January 17 and the upper house on January 31 of this year. The sudden rush to passage was surprising. Kazakhstan had been working with the OSCE Advisory Panel of Experts for Freedom of Religion or Belief to craft a law in harmony with its OSCE commitments. In fact, an earlier draft heavily criticized by the Advisory Panel was withdrawn in August 2001. The Advisory Panel issued a report on the latest draft on January 16, 2002, highlighting serious deficiencies in the text. However, it appears little heed was given to their critique. Reportedly, the executive branch pushed vigorously for legislation providing stricter controls on minority religious groups, which would explain the rapid consideration.

In response to these unfolding events, myself, Chairman BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL and six other Commissioners of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission, wrote President Nazarbayev last week about these developments. The text of that letter which I am submitting for the RECORD, highlights several, but not all problematic elements of the recently passed legislation. Of particular note are the increased hurdles for registration and vaguely worded articles, which could allow for arbitrary denials of registration for religious groups, and consequently their legal existence. Accordingly, there is great concern for the future of religious freedom in Kazakhstan, whether for Muslims or Christians.

Mr. Speaker, in the letter we respectfully asked President Nazarbayev not to sign the amendments into law.

Our concerns are not based on mere supposition; related laws and regulations have been utilized to suppress faith communities in Kazakhstan. For example, this past summer Article 375 of the Administrative Code was introduced, requiring the registration of all religious groups and including language penalizing unregistered religious groups. Police have since justified several raids on religious meetings citing Article 375, resulting in harassment and imprisonment as well as reported beatings and torture. Actions late last year against unregistered Baptist pastors is an illustrative example.

On October 27, 2001, Pastor Asylbek Nurdanov, a Baptist leader in the Kyzyl-Orda

regional city of Kazalinsk, went to a police station after his church was raided for failing to register. Once there, he was reportedly severely beaten and stripped, with one officer attempting to strangle him with a belt. Another threatened to cut off his tongue with scissors if he did not renounce his faith. It was also reported that on November 10, Pastor Nurdanov was forcibly taken and detained in a psychiatric hospital in Kyzyl-Orda. While he was released on November 16, such abuse is unacceptable. Other reports of police harassment and detention of Baptist pastors who have not registered their faith communities also exist. For example, on September 25, 2001, the Aktobe public prosecutor initiated legal proceedings against Baptist Pastor Vasily Kliver on the charge of "evading the registration of a religious community." In October, Baptist pastor Valery Pak was jailed in Kyzyl-Orda for five days on the same charge.

These reports of harassment, torture and detention indicate a serious failure to uphold Kazakhstan's human rights commitments as an OSCE participating State. As is evident, our concerns about Kazakh authorities utilizing the proposed amendment's restrictive nature to harass, if not condemn, religious groups are borne out by past practice in Kazakhstan. Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that President Nazarbayev will honor the obligations his nation freely chose to uphold as a participating OSCE state and not sign the amendments into law.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the text of the letter sent to President Nazarbayev last week be included in the RECORD.

January 30, 2002.

His Excellency NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV,
*President of the Republic of Kazakhstan,
Astana, Kazakhstan.*

DEAR PRESIDENT NAZARBAYEV: We write today to express our concern over the proposed amendments to the Law on Freedom of Religion and Religious Associations. We view the amendments, scheduled for consideration by the Senate on January 31st, as problematic, since they would seriously undermine Kazakhstan's commitments to human rights as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Therefore, should the Kazakh Senate approve the amendments, we respectfully ask that you not sign them into law.

The OSCE Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion and Belief issued a review of the proposed amendments on January 16, 2002. The review found the proposed amendments, while an improvement from an earlier draft withdrawn in August 2001, seriously deficient in many respects. In addition, the OSCE Centre in Almaty has stated the current religion law meets international standards and found no justification for initiating the new provisions. Therefore, we believe the remarks contained in the OSCE Advisory Panel critique should be followed fully.

Problematic areas include, but are not limited to, permitting the registration of Muslim groups and the building of mosques only after a recommendation of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan. In addition, the number of individuals required to form a religious association would increase from 10 to 50, regardless of religion. Furthermore, the proposed amendments would permit dissolution of a religious group should individual members of the group commit repeated violations of the law. Each of these examples would allow the government to arbitrarily deny registration, and thereby

legal existence, on specious legal grounds not in harmony with OSCE commitments.

Reportedly, your government's justification for the new requirements in the current amendments, which create hurdles for registration, is to combat religious extremism. Yet the definition of "religious extremism" in the amendments is vague and inherently problematic, potentially categorizing and prohibiting groups on the basis of their beliefs, rather than on their having committed illegal actions. Such vague language would allow the arbitrary interpretation of a group's beliefs and uneven implementation of the law.

Our fear of Kazakh authorities harshly employing new requirements against religious groups is not unfounded. While the existing religion law does not require registration of faith communities, Article 375 of the Administrative Code, a provision added last year, requires the registration of faith communities. Since the promulgation of that article, we have received several reports of unregistered groups being penalized through criminal sanctions, as well as individuals being beaten while in custody. The harassment, detention and beating of individuals for merely belonging to unregistered religious groups, as well as disproportionate criminal charges for an administrative violation, are in direct violation of OSCE commitments.

In calling for these actions, we remind you of the 1991 Moscow Document in which the OSCE participating States declared that "issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are of international concern" and "are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned." It is in this light that these requests are made.

Last autumn, your government made a wise decision by choosing to honor its OSCE commitments and withdrawing the earlier version of the amendments. Recognizing the crucial importance that the very highest standards of religious freedom and human rights agreed to and proclaimed in various Helsinki documents be upheld, we respectfully urge you to take similar steps and not sign the amendments into law, should they pass the Senate without substantive modification.

Sincerely,

Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S.S. Chairman, Steny H. Hoyer, M.C., Zach Wamp, M.C., Alcee L. Hastings, M.C., Christopher H. Smith, M.C. Co-Chairman, Joseph R. Pitts, M.C., Robert B. Aderholt, M.C., Louise McIntosh Slaughter, M.C.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WILLIAM JIMENO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call to your attention the story of an American hero, Officer William Jimeno of the Port Authority Police Department. Officer Jimeno of Clifton, New Jersey miraculously survived being buried for fourteen hours in the rubble of the World Trade Center after heroically responding to the scene on the morning of September 11, 2001.

September 11, 2001 has emblazoned so many unforgettable images in our minds. Per-

haps none is more vivid, however, than that of courageous men and women in uniform working so valiantly to save the lives of others. It is therefore only fitting that Officer Jimeno be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

A member of the Port Authority Police Department for only nine-months at the time of the attack, Officer Jimeno and two fellow officers immediately rushed from the Port Authority Bus Terminal to the Twin Towers after the first plane hit. Soon joined by two additional officers, Will and his colleagues secured axes, air packs, and helmets to help evacuate the buildings.

The officers were in the lobby of Tower Two on their way back to Tower One when an indescribable noise pierced through the air. Tower Two was coming down.

Officer Jimeno found himself and four others from the PAPD, Sergeant John McLoughlin, Officer Dominick Pezzulo, Officer Antonio Rodriguez, and Officer Chris Amoroso, buried alive, crushed under steel and concrete and surviving inside an air pocket made by part of an elevator.

After fourteen hours, and after losing three of his fellow officers who had been trapped near him, Will was pulled from the rubble.

Officer Jimeno's actions that day, and everyday of his recovery since, are a testament to his character and spirit. Rather than be daunted by the tragedy that occurred, he is steadfast and resolute in his commitment to serve others.

As Will himself has said, "As soon as I'm better I'll put my uniform back on and go back to work."

Those who attacked us on September 11 thought our commitment to freedom and to each other made us weak. They never met Will Jimeno. The bravery and love he exhibited in the face of terror make him an example for us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the City of Clifton, Will's family and friends, myself, and a truly grateful nation in honoring a great American, Port Authority Police Officer William Jimeno.

HONORING EMILY WATKINS SPICER AS A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emily Watkins Spicer, an educator and community leader, who will be honored on February 20 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnati. The recipients for this prestigious award are selected on the basis of their achievement in the world of work, but the criteria also includes an awareness of others; civic service; leadership; and distinctive accomplishments.

Emily Watkins Spicer grew up in Cincinnati during the 1940s—a time when many young African-American women were not able to realize their career goals. At Withrow High School and later at the University of Cincinnati, she remembers some teachers would not call on her in class. Never allowing herself

to become bitter, Emily turned her formidable energy and talent to becoming a teacher, her lifelong dream.

After graduating from Withrow in 1944, Emily earned a bachelor's degree in teaching from the University of Cincinnati in 1948. She worked for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission for ten years, then accepted a job teaching physical education at Lincoln Heights High School. While earning her master's degree in guidance counseling at U.C., she taught health and physical education at Heindol Junior High. Completing her master's degree in 1963, she held teaching and counseling positions at Aiken High and Woodward High. In 1971, she was named assistant principal at Woodward.

In 1976, Emily became principal of Merry Junior High in Mt. Adams, where she had the task of supervising 1,000 seventh and eighth graders who were bused from other parts of the city. Her accomplishments were noticed by the Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools, James N. Jacobs, who named Emily principal of Taft High School. Emily's appointment marked the first time a woman was named senior high school principal for the Cincinnati Public Schools. At Taft, Emily was credited with giving the high school—then in deplorable physical condition—a new spirit as well as a new look.

Although she retired in 1983, Emily remains active in community and educational pursuits. She served four years on the Greenhills-Forest Park School Board, and helped open a charter school, the Hamilton County Math and Science Academy. In 1979, Emily was recognized as a "Woman of the Year" by the Cincinnati Enquirer.

All of us in Cincinnati area are grateful for Emily Watkins Spicer's dedication to our community, and congratulate her on being recognized as a Great Living Cincinnati.

HONORING THE REVEREND DONALD PIERCE WEEKS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Reverend Donald Pierce Weeks. He has been an outstanding member of the clergy, working tirelessly for the people of his community and our nation.

Reverend Weeks served in East St. Louis, Illinois at the Holy Angels Shelter for Women and Children from 1981 to 1988, by giving advice and sharing personal experiences. In October 1986, St. Clair County dedicated this month to him in recognition of his work. He also traveled to Cairo, Illinois to teach individuals how to read and write, so they could pass voter tests administered years ago.

After his service in Illinois, he was sent to work at Saint Patrick's Abbey in Oakland, California. While there, he was elected the Benedictine Monk in 1999 and has served in this position ever since. His dedication to fairness and justice is demonstrated daily by continually helping men and women recover from their alcohol and drug addictions. In addition, Reverend Weeks selflessly serves his community by feeding and counseling homeless men,