

Your answer is—we trust in God to keep them safe

For God is wise, and what you say is—
“The best way to die is dying free.”

I want to thank Miss Seviere for sending me her poem. I want to join with her and express my faith in our troops and my hope for their safe and speedy return.

HONORING MARY IMBRIACO

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Imbriaco of Groton, Connecticut who is celebrating her 100th birthday on April 9, 2003.

Mary was born in Italy and traveled to the United States with her family at the age of 13. She grew up in the town of Groton and became a United States citizen in the 1930's.

Dedicated to her family and her community, Mary raised four children and worked almost her entire life, only retiring recently at the age of 85. Just 10 years ago she suffered a stroke. Her strong will and determination have helped her to triumph during this difficult time.

Today Mary resides in the same house that she has called her home since 1933. She has a passion for music and singing and brings many gifts to her community and her family. Mary's life is an inspiration to all who know her and I commend her on a lifetime of achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in celebration of Mary Imbriaco's 100th birthday. She is a blessing to our community and to this country.

Tanti Auguri!

SECURING BLESSINGS OF PROVIDENCE FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray for the safe return of our troops, and I pray for peace. I know that many other Americans do as well. I do not believe, however, that it is the place of government to tell Americans how or when to pray. Matters of faith are deeply personal, and it is one of the founding principles of this government that the state should not intrude upon them.

IN HONOR OF HUGH AND MARTY DOWNEY AND THE PLACE OF HOPE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hugh and Marty Downey of Ar-

vada, Colorado, who have dedicated their lives to over five hundred orphans in Matoso, Kenya.

Raising more than \$300,000 a year through private donations and small businesses, the Downeys are able to run a home and medical center for the children that is known as “the place of hope” or Lalmba to the people of Kenya.

Stationed with the U.S. Army as a communications specialist in Africa over forty years ago, Hugh Downey knew little of Africa and the role he would play with Kenya's children. Today, he and Marty spend six months out of the year raising 500 children in African grass huts and the other six months with their own grown children back in Colorado.

Home to 2.2 million out of 3 million AIDS victims, Africa has found itself in an epidemic affecting both children and adults. In Kenya, 190,000 deaths a year are caused by HIV/AIDS, so it is not surprising that the majority of the Downey's orphans were born to parents who died from AIDS. The rate of Kenyans contracting the AIDS virus has doubled in the past decade, and will continue to rise and affect children.

As AIDS continues to greatly affect the African economy and society, Marty and Hugh Downey have been called upon to educate and house an increasing number of orphans. Many African adults, because they suffer from AIDS, are unable to support their families—in fact, their children are forced to drop out of school and work to support their dying parents. As the cost for AIDS medication and school fees increase, most children have no choice but to begin working at a young age. By offering education and preventive AIDS medication for the children, the Downey's are giving these Kenyan children the chance at a future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marty and Hugh Downey for their dedication and commitment to bettering the future for over 500 African children with their creation of Lalmba and to wish them continued success with their chosen mission of mercy and hope.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN CARL D. PURSELL UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN HALL OF FAME

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing former Congressman Carl D. Pursell, who was recently inducted into the Plymouth, Michigan Hall of Fame.

Congressman Pursell's career in public service began as a member of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. He was quickly elected to the Michigan State Senate, and subsequently to eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he held numerous leadership posts.

Congressman Pursell was a national figure in efforts to balance the budget. As Budget Task Force Chairman, he led the authorship of two federal budgets proposing no new taxes and no new spending. As the Ranking Republican on the Labor, Health and Human Serv-

ices, and the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman Pursell oversaw funding for all of the nation's job training, labor, health care, biomedical research, and education programs. Congressman Pursell also served on the Appropriations Committee, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee during his tenure.

Carl, who once graced this chamber with his intellect, wit, and kindness, has been, is now, and always will be a tremendous inspiration to our community back home, and to this Congressman in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to former Congressman Carl D. Pursell for his fine service to our country as he is inducted into the Plymouth, Michigan Hall of Fame.

CONCERNING TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I urge all Americans to unite in support of our troops now engaged in battle in Iraq.

Our Commander and Chief, with the approval of Congress, called our armed forces into action to disarm a rogue regime that threatens our freedom and security.

With our troops now in the line of fire, with more than 28 Americans having made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, the time for protest has past. The time for unity has arrived.

We live in a free society where we all share the right to debate the best policies for our nation. And in a free society, each of us also has the right to assemble and to protest. These are sacred rights.

But once our nation has decided to act through our democratic process, and once our troops have been sent into harm's way, the time for debate and protest is over.

Just as we share sacred rights, we also share sacred duties. Today, with American troops in the field, we all share a duty to unite behind them and ensure that our actions do them no harm.

But if just one floor speech by a member of Congress, just one acceptance speech by a Hollywood director, or just one street protest causes Saddam Hussein and his forces to hold on for even one day longer, then those responsible will have done a terrible disservice to those serving so bravely in our name.

I would never question any American's right to speak or protest, I only question the wisdom of doing so at this time.

No matter what political beliefs we hold, we are all Americans—and those soldiers in uniform fighting on the front lines are our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers.

Those who undertake further protests at this point only fuel the resolve of our enemy, and they must take full responsibility for their actions.

Perhaps some need to be reminded why we are fighting and what we are fighting against.