

"He was the public face of the Freedom Coalition for a good deal of time," Silverman said.

More recently, Zimmerman worked to help convince the Lawrence school board to add "gender identity" to a list of classes for which district employees have protection from discrimination.

**MORE EXPLANATIONS NEEDED  
FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I continue to have serious concerns about the activities of the Justice Department under the current Administration.

So, I agree completely with an editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News regarding the recent directive by the Attorney General instructing U.S. Attorneys to limit use of plea bargains and to pursue the most serious possible charges in most cases.

As the editorial notes, "if there is a problem with overly lenient sentences and go-easy prosecutors, the Justice Department has yet to prove it. Ashcroft might be trying to fix a system that isn't broken. The order also could have the dangerous effect of diminishing the discretion of federal judges and prosecutors, a critical point now that more and more offenses that were once purely state law are now federal crimes."

The editorial concludes by saying "Congress should insist that Ashcroft more thoroughly explain why this order is necessary." On that point, I fully concur, and urge the Judiciary Committee to seek such an explanation without delay.

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is the full text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Sept. 24, 2003]

**WHAT PROBLEM IS ASHCROFT SOLVING?**

Attorney General John Ashcroft is becoming a prolific writer of memos to the 94 U.S. attorneys.

His latest instructs them to pursue the toughest possible charges and seek the severest sentences possible. And he also ordered them to limit the use of plea bargains. The goal, he said, was to bring uniformity and consistency to federal criminal prosecutions.

By itself, the order is not unreasonable. It reflects the Bush administration's stand on law enforcement, and it returns to a similar order the department issued in 1989 during the administration of Bush senior. The order was relaxed during the Clinton administration. And Ashcroft's order has reasonable exceptions on plea bargaining, for example, to reward cooperation and clear overcrowded dockets.

But if there is a problem with overly lenient sentences and go-easy prosecutors, the Justice Department has yet to prove it. Ashcroft might be trying to fix a system that isn't broken.

The order also could have the dangerous effect of diminishing the discretion of federal judges and prosecutors, a critical point now that more and more offenses that were once purely state law are now federal crimes.

Ashcroft also has told the U.S. attorneys to report judges who impose lighter sentences than called for by federal sentencing guidelines. Yet seeking the toughest charges

with the maximum sentences could also increase the federal judiciary's already backlogged workload. With little possibility of a plea bargain, more defendants now have an incentive to go to trial and then continue the fight through the appeals process.

Congress should insist that Ashcroft more thoroughly explain why this order is necessary.

**12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
NAGORNO KARABAGH REPUBLIC'S  
INDEPENDENCE**

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic's independence from the Soviet Union.

In 1991, the world underwent dramatic changes as communism was finally overthrown in the Soviet Union and millions of people got their first tastes of democracy. The autumn of that historic year saw many of the former Soviet Republics declare their independence and begin the process of self-governance.

Armenia has made amazing progress in rebuilding a society and a nation in the face of dramatic obstacles. The United States must continue to support Armenia's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and a market economy, and I am proud to stand with Armenia in so doing. While we should look forward to the future, we must never forget the struggles of the Armenian people throughout their history.

I look forward to the strengthening of the diplomatic and economic ties between the United States and Armenia so that the people of both nations can forge an alliance that will never be broken. I offer my sincerest congratulations to Armenia on the anniversary of its independence.

**TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SAVAGE**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Dorothy Savage of Ordway, Colorado has tirelessly worked to promote literacy and the importance of education in Colorado. She is a valued citizen, and I am honored to share her story here today.

A former teacher, Dorothy knows the importance of educating our children. Dorothy volunteers her time to teach elementary school children the joy of reading. She also encourages other seniors to volunteer to tutor children. At 93 years young, Dorothy was recently crowned the Colorado State Fair Silver Queen for 2003, a recognition honoring her courageous outlook on life and youthful spirit. Dorothy has dedicated her reign to promoting literacy among children.

Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Savage has selflessly taken the attention that has been given to her

and focused it on a cause that is near to her heart. She has announced that she will dedicate her reign, and the attention that comes with it, to promoting literacy. For years, Dorothy has attempted to share the joy and wonder of reading and writing with the children of her local community. For her enthusiasm and tireless work, I am honored to join with my colleagues in thanking Dorothy Savage. I wish her the best of luck in the future.

**HONORING ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL  
PARISH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the St. Peter's Cathedral Parish in Scranton, Pennsylvania as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary on Sunday, September 28, 2003.

Reverend Monsignor Joseph Quinn announced that a yearlong celebration of events will culminate this Sunday, the anniversary date of the dedication of the Cathedral, with a grand celebration of liturgy in St. Peter's Cathedral.

St. Peter's Cathedral and its parishioners have a storied history. In 1841, the Catholic faith was formally brought to Scranton by James Sullivan, a missionary priest who celebrated the first Mass in a house on Shanty Hill, located in what is now the South Side of the city. Within the next seven years the first Catholic Church had been built in that section and dedicated by Bishop John Kenrick of Baltimore.

In 1853, a small wood frame church was constructed on the corner of Franklin Avenue and Spruce Street in what would become downtown Scranton, to accommodate the growing number of Catholics in the Scranton area. It was named St. Vincent de Paul Church, and later renamed St. Peter's Cathedral. Before its completion, Rev. Moses Whitty became the first pastor of what was to eventually become known as St. Peter's Cathedral. With the establishment of the Diocese of Scranton in 1868, this parish began a history of faith that continues today.

With the rapidly growing number of newly arrived immigrants, it was soon necessary for Father Whitty to search for a site to construct a new church. Three lots in the 300 block of Wyoming Avenue were purchased for the sum of approximately \$2,000, a large sum for its day, at the present site of the Cathedral. In 1865 ground was broken at the corner of Linden Street and Wyoming Avenue for the new church. Some deemed it to be "in the woods" as it was far removed from the primary commercial area of the community then located in the Bellevue and Hyde Park areas of the city.

On March 10, 1867, Bishop James Wood of Philadelphia blessed the new church. The establishment of the new Diocese of Scranton and the installation of its first Bishop followed quickly in 1868 with the consecration of the Most Reverend William O'Hara. A native of Ireland and the former pastor of Saint Patrick's Church in Philadelphia, Bishop O'Hara was to remain as the first head of the new diocese until his death three decades later on February 3, 1899.