

Rollcall No. 641 (H. Con. Res. 288): "aye."
 Rollcall No. 642 (H. Res. 393): "aye."
 Rollcall No. 643 (H. Res. 423): "aye."
 Rollcall No. 644 (H.R. 3140): "aye."

TRIBUTE TO VACAVILLE'S CRIME
 PREVENTION EFFORTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to call my colleagues' attention to a real success story in the City of Vacaville, California. As this article printed in the Fairfield Daily Republic explains, the Police Department in Vacaville is receiving a good deal of well-deserved recognition for the programs and services it provides. The Vacaville P.D.'s comprehensive and preventative approach to crime is a welcome one, and it is having an amazing effect. Despite statewide increases in crime this past year, major crime in Vacaville is significantly down. In a sense, by investing time and effort in the community, they are stopping crime even before it happens. This should be a lesson to all of us. I urge my colleagues to read the attached article, and I commend the City of Vacaville and its Police Department for all their hard work.

[From Fairfield Daily Republic, Nov. 27, 2003]

COMBATTING CRIME "HOLISTICALLY"—VACA
 POLICE USE NEW APPROACHES TO MAKE
 COMMUNITY SAFER

(By Nada Behziz)

VACAVILLE.—For decades, American doctors have prescribed pills for pain—white ones, blue ones, big ones, new ones.

And for centuries, practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine have eased aches, strains and spasms through herbal remedies and preventive care.

Now, those two philosophies are merging in Vacaville in a slightly different venue: public safety.

The Vacaville Police Department's transition from the "war on crime" model to more of a preventive slant is what police officials attribute to the city's decrease in crime.

"We're not at war with our community," said Vacaville police Chief Bob Harrison. "We're looking at crime more holistically. We want to provide comprehensive care to really get at the problem."

Vacaville is one of the only cities in California that not only provides preventive programs within elementary and grade schools but has a department within the police department that provides comprehensive, preventive resources to the community.

Sarah Jacobs was torn between loving her husband and saving her children. It wasn't until a rainy evening when her husband threw her and her two sons out of the house with bruises that she packed her bags and left.

"We had no where to go, but I knew we had to leave," Jacobs said. "I heard from friends that the police department could help, so that was the first place I went."

Jacob found a warm place to sleep, an arrest warrant for her husband who left bruises all over her body and parenting resources to help her children recover, all in the same place.

"The police department was able to take care of my every need," Jacobs said. "Now it's time to take care of myself emotionally."

Vacaville's Family Investigative Response and Services Team office based within the police department staffs investigators, counselors and volunteers that provide resources for at-risk families.

Officials say their FIRST program helps stop crime before it happens by nourishing families and showing them non-violent ways of solving disagreements.

Many Vacaville residents in need of services, including parenting classes and access to computers, don't know where to find them. The center provides a "one-stop-shopping place" for people to get the help they need.

Through FIRST, 28-year-old Jacobs was placed in transitional housing, a furnished home of her own where the agency could counsel and monitor her.

And she was introduced to a new family. "Anything I could possibly say I need, they're on top of it. I've never had to call my counselor in the middle of the night, but I know she's there," she said. "I never had family that I was close to and could trust, now I found them."

Today Jacobs plans to return to school next year to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has hopes of one day becoming a lawyer.

The department first focused on domestic violence issues six years ago, but it wasn't long before police officers noticed that residents who visited were not in need of police services as much as they were human services. The program expanded to incorporate elder abuse, sexual assault and child abuse situations more than four years ago when FIRST opened its doors.

"People ask us often if we believe this is our job as a police department," said Lt. Scott Paulin, who runs the FIRST division of Vacaville Police. "We have to look beyond putting handcuffs on people and fill the gaps to prevent the criminals in the first place."

The gap between criminal activity and the department's clearance rate is slowly closing. While crime increases at a steady rate in California, this year alone, part one crimes—which include homicides, rape, assault and theft—have already dropped 6 percent from last year in Vacaville. The department's clearance rate hit almost 30 percent, a goal that Harrison says the department will surpass this year.

With one of the lowest percentages of overall crime in California, Vacaville was chosen this year by the California attorney general as one of two state police agencies for its "Best Practice Program," which will be featured on the attorney general's Web site as examples of excellence for other cities. The decline in crime, Harrison says, is in part due to the officers' visibility in the area and their personal investment since the vast majority live in the city.

"If it's in your back yard, you care if it's clean," Harrison said. "Many of our officers live in town and it's a place they use on a daily basis and want to take good care of."

But Officer Erwin Ramirez says the commute from the Bay Area is worth not worrying about a parolee coming after his wife and three children.

"When you have three kids and a wife, you want to keep them away from danger," said Ramirez, who says he makes at least five arrests each month. "It's a great city but I don't want to risk my family's danger by living here."

Ramirez came to Vacaville three years ago after beginning his career as a patrol officer with the Suisun City Police Department and says the stark difference between the community's reaction to police officers is what makes Vacaville special.

Driving around in his patrol car, Ramirez is approached by children on their scooters smiling and waving as he drives by.

"The department has done a great job at dispelling the stereotype that comes with the police," Ramirez said. "We go around the neighborhoods and talk with the people and hand out stickers to the kids. Hopefully they will remember that the next time we come by."

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS DEVOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated volunteer from Montrose, Colorado. Dennis Devor is a humble and caring individual who commits his free time to the betterment of his community. His enthusiasm for serving others resonates throughout Colorado. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Dennis, and his tremendous service to the Montrose community before this body of Congress.

Dennis was recently awarded the prestigious "9Who Care" Award given out by a Denver television station to honor unsung heroes in the community. Dennis' primary occupation is in the law, but he makes time before and after work to be involved in charitable organizations like the Montrose Education Foundation, Salvation Army, Montrose Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. In addition to those organizations, Dennis is also an active member of United Methodist Church. Dennis always makes volunteer work an important priority in his life. His tireless dedication often results in early mornings and late nights spent working to better the lives of those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Devor is a hard-working individual who has enriched the lives of many members of the Montrose community. He demonstrates a passion for public service that sets a fine example for all Americans. Dennis serves with enthusiasm and commitment, and he certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. Thanks for your hard work, Dennis, and congratulations on a well-deserved award.

CONDEMNING THE TERROR
 ATTACKS IN TURKEY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the horrendous and cowardly attacks carried out in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 15, 2003. Twenty-five people were killed and over 300 were injured, as suicide bombers in trucks attacked two synagogues crowded with families attending bar mitzvahs. We should all mourn the unspeakable nature of this tragedy, and we must take decisive action against those responsible.

We are witnessing the resurgence of a pervasive and violent anti-Semitism, last seen on a widespread scale in the 1930s and 1940s in Europe. Some claim that this resurgence can be tied to the continued violence and political conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, but I fear it goes beyond that.

The November 15 attacks struck at Turkey's heart—deliberately—because since the 15th century, it has been a place of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Muslims. By targeting Jews there, the radical Islamic fundamentalists want to send a message: forget history and forget tradition. If you are Jewish, we will target you in any place, at any time. Ironically, and tragically, most of those who lost their lives in this attack were Muslim.

This is hatred, plain and simple. It is anti-Semitic and inhuman. As it destabilizes the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, it threatens our own national security and the security of our closest allies. I know that this Congress and the entire country have the resolve to combat these destructive forces wherever they might reside. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning with the families of those killed in Istanbul and to stand firm with me as our long and difficult struggle against terrorism continues.

TRIBUTE TO ILLINOIS STATE
SENATOR STAN WEAVER

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and mentor, the late Illinois State Senator Stan Weaver. When Senator Weaver passed away last week, aspiring public servants lost a role model. Few people in public life received the respect that he had among his colleagues, friends and constituents. His successful service to the people of east central Illinois began in 1956 when, at the urging of many citizens of Urbana, Illinois, he ran for mayor. He went on to serve one term as a State Representative then 10 terms as a State Senator. Best known for his exemplary service to his constituents and his ceaseless promotion of the University of Illinois, it is estimated that Stan Weaver alone guided over one billion dollars in construction projects to the University over 30 years.

Consistently prevailing in his campaigns for office, he never spent exorbitant amounts of money and rarely gave grand speeches but, instead, with quiet authority and an intimate knowledge of the political process and the inner-workings of government, translated his personable style into an incredible ability to relate with people and get things done.

I am very honored to have had such a close personal relationship with Senator Weaver and I am deeply saddened by the loss of my friend whom I knew and admired for, literally, my entire life.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JEAN STONER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a very special woman from my district. Mary Jean Stoner from Grand Junction, Colorado is known to many as the Grand Valley's favorite candy lady. Mary is retiring this year after 20 years in business and

it is my honor to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our nation here today.

Mary grew up in Sutherland, Iowa and it was there that she began educating herself in the art of candy making. After graduating from Iowa State University, Mary was able to apply a number of her Home Economics and Art classes to become an expert candy maker. Over time, she became a true master of her trade.

Mary and her candy have been bringing smiles to the faces of Grand Valley residents for many years. The candy that Mary makes is truly amazing. The people of the Grand Valley will be sad to see Mary go. However, they will be glad that she now has more time to visit and catch up with her friends and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Mary Jean Stoner. Mary dedicated her professional career to making people happy and it is my honor to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our nation. Thank you Mary.

HONORING EXERCISE TIGER
FOUNDATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished group of Americans. On November 14, 2003 the Exercise Tiger Foundation held its National Adopt a Serviceman Program in Jefferson City. It is essential that we take a moment to remember not only the sacrifice of veterans of Exercise Tiger, but also those men and women currently serving our Nation in the military. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to take a moment to remind all of us of the story of Exercise Tiger during the Second World War.

Unfortunately, for many people, the words "Exercise Tiger" hold no special significance. Few know of the sacrifice made by so many in late August of 1944. At its outset, Exercise Tiger was one of several training exercises conducted to prepare American and British troops for the upcoming invasion of Normandy. Concentrated on a beach near Dover, England, these operations were meant to prepare the raw recruits for combat, not provide them their first taste of war.

In the calm, early morning hours of April 28, 1944, tragedy struck. As eight Navy landing ships, or LST's, and their lone escort approached their landing area, nine German U-Boats patrolling the English Channel attacked. LST-507 was the first ship to be torpedoed; it quickly caught fire and survivors abandoned ship. Moments later, LST-531 was hit and sank within 6 minutes. The American ships quickly regrouped and returned fire, with LST-289 suffering significant casualties.

In a moment, the green American recruits became battle-tested veterans. Out of a 4,000 man force, nearly one-quarter were either missing or dead. While the heroism of the American troops under heavy enemy fire deserves high praise, the men who participated in Exercise Tiger had a job to do—practice landing operations resumed the very next day, April 29, 1944.

In most cases, the casualty information and details surrounding the mission would have been made public within days or even hours of the attack. With Exercise Tiger, however, this information was not released until after the D-Day invasion. This was necessary to keep the German military from learning about the impending invasion of mainland Europe.

As the world now knows, the allied invasion of Europe on D-Day was a success. Unfortunately, those who helped make D-Day possible have not been properly recognized for their sacrifice. This too, must change. We must take it upon ourselves to ensure that the virtues those who served in Exercise Tiger—courage, humility and steadfast devotion to completing the task at hand—remembered and documented for future generations.

As such, it is only appropriate that the Exercise Tiger Foundation has nominated eight members from various branches of the active and reserve forces as part of the National Adopt a Serviceman Program. This year's honorees are Staff Sergeant Patrick Reed, 1107th AVCAD, Missouri Army Reserve National Guard, Command Sergeant Gary L. Murphy, 139th Security Forces Squadron, U.S. Air National Guard, Master Sergeant Robert A. Jackson, 442nd Fighter Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Staff Sergeant Billy Jack Roberts, 509th Bomb Wing, U.S. Air Force, Petty Officer 2nd Class Yancy Woodard, Staff Sergeant Matthew Beadle, U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant Dennis Payne, 110th Engineers, Missouri Army Reserve National Guard, and Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Kristian Sova, U.S. Coast Guard. Without a doubt, their exemplary service to our Nation honors the example of those who came before them.

These individuals certainly deserve our recognition and support as they continue to defend our freedom both here and abroad. We stand united behind them, and united behind the freedom our Nation guarantees. May God continue to bless this Nation as well as all of those men and women who have served in uniform.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce an important piece of legislation, "The Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2003." Our Nation's transportation system faces tremendous challenges. We have more drivers who are driving more miles leading to severe congestion, particularly in many urban areas. An aging infrastructure is putting a strain on State and local transportation budgets, which are tied up in maintaining our existing system, with little, if any, money left for improving the system and planning for the future. And an aging population and changing development patterns that demand an innovative response to ensure the transportation system meets future needs. The public demands safer, less congested roads, and more transportation choices. Considering that we won't have the ability to simply build