

their tremendous loss. We honor his memory here today so that they will know that we all share their loss. Wayne T. Palmer was a great Tennessean, a man devoted to his family and to the education of young people, and an exemplary American citizen.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege as a Member of the People's House to honor his lifetime of service to others.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SWIFT
FAMILY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable family from my District. Dean and Pattie Swift of Jaroso, Colorado have done a great deal for the preservation of the environment. Recently, the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts named the Swifts as Conservation Farmers of the Year for the work they have done as owners of the Swift Seed Company. I am honored to call the attention of this body of Congress to the contributions the Swifts have made to preserving the environment.

The Swifts began farming in the San Luis Valley in 1975. Their company sells flower seeds worldwide. The seeds the Swifts sell are used primarily for the reclamation of mining sites and the re-seeding of areas devastated by wildfire.

Dean Swift serves as the Chairman of the Rio Grande Corridor Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of farmers and ranchers throughout Costilla County who are dedicated to the preservation of the Rio Grande on the Western border of Costilla County. In addition, Dean works in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited to promote wetland habitat on the Swift Farm.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Dean and Pattie Swift. The Swifts have done a great deal for the environment, not only on their family farm but also throughout our state. They have managed these feats while happily serving as wonderful parents to their two beautiful children. Congratulations Dean and Pattie on a well-deserved award.

RECOGNIZING KAZAKHSTAN'S
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the efforts of Kazakhstan, a predominantly Muslim secular nation that spares no effort to promote better understanding and dialogue between the Western world and the Islamic world. Some people may wonder why Kazakhstan would engage in such efforts and why it is succeeding in their efforts. I suggest they read a recent article by the Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Kanat Saudabayev, published by the Institute on Religion and Public Policy so they may learn of Kazakhstan's experience in achieving these goals. I therefore ask unan-

imous consent of my colleagues to introduce the article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From *www.religionandpolicy.org*, Nov. 26, 2003]

WE CALL FOR DIALOGUE, NOT HATE
(By Ambassador Kanat Saudabayev)

Extremists often use religion to create hate and further their selfish agendas which have nothing to do with religion. But, all religions are similar in that they denounce terrorism and teach tolerance, harmony and brotherhood.

That was the message delivered to the world by participants of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, who gathered in Astana at the initiative of Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of a secular Muslim-majority Kazakhstan. At the end of the Congress, senior clerics from Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism and other faiths adopted a declaration stating, "extremism, terrorism and other forms of violence in the name of religion have nothing to do with genuine understanding of religion, but are a threat to human life and hence should be rejected."

"Inter-religious dialogue is one of the key means for social development and the promotion of the well-being of all peoples, fostering tolerance, mutual understanding and harmony among different cultures and religions," the religious leaders said after the closing joint prayer.

Far from the "clash of civilizations" many see as part of the world's future, this Congress was a strong response to all who spread intolerance, hate and terrorism. The Congress also showed the world the noble goals of inter-religious peace are very real and very achievable. There's convincing evidence of this in Kazakhstan, where Muslims, Christians, Jews, Buddhists and others live in peace with each other and where freedom of religion is the crucial value of our society. Pope John Paul II called Kazakhstan "an example of harmony between men and women of different origins and beliefs."

Indeed, at the whim of often cruel fate in the past, Kazakhstan, however paradoxically that may sound, has truly become a center of unique diversity and tolerance.

During much of the 20th century, Kazakhstan was under the totalitarian domination of Soviet communism. The Soviets conducted cruel experiments with our land and our people. The forced settlement of the traditionally nomadic Kazakh people was followed by a widespread famine in the 1930s. Coupled with almost 500 nuclear tests during 40 years, this led to deprivation, death and emigration of millions of ethnic Kazakhs. In the 1940s, Stalin dumped hundreds of thousands of Germans, Chechens, Koreans and others in Kazakhstan as his regime deemed them untrustworthy in the face of the invading Nazis in the West and the Japanese in the East. Thousands of ethnic Russians and others were sent to Soviet concentration camps, part of the Gulag, in Kazakhstan. Many Soviet Jews were exiled to Kazakhstan for their religious beliefs. In the 1950s, more than a million ethnic Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians came to Kazakhstan to farm under the Virgin Lands program.

In those difficult years, the native Kazakhs gave all these people shelter and shared bread. Official Communist ideology, however, did not encourage people in their natural yearning for a religious life. Religious life was instead suppressed; ancient mosques, churches, and synagogues were used as shops, storage areas or even discos, rather than houses of worship.

Religious reawakening and freedom of conscience returned to Kazakhstan only after our independence. During the short 12 years,

ancient mosques, churches and synagogues were restored and hundreds of new ones built across the country. In 2002, Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL) put a cornerstone into the new synagogue currently under construction in Astana. Today, there are some 3,000 religious congregations representing more than 40 religious denominations serving the needs of 100 different ethnic groups. Recently, President Nazarbayev announced plans to build a single center in Astana which will have houses of worship of many religions.

This history of mutual respect and harmony is the background which led President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to convene the recent Astana Congress. The eager response of world's religious leaders to the call for the Congress is a reflection of the respect they carry for the President and his policies.

This is also the reason why many leaders from the United States and other countries have supported our endeavors to build bridges between religions and civilizations.

President George W. Bush, in his letter to President Nazarbayev, said, "For the United States, itself a multi-ethnic and religiously diverse nation, these meetings underscore the importance of working with our friends in Central Asia to advance the values of tolerance and respect that form the foundation of democracy."

A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators and Congressmen in a letter to President Nazarbayev called the Astana forum "Kazakhstan's worthy contribution to the promotion of peace and harmony during these difficult times." Senators Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Conrad Burns (R-MT), representatives George Radanovich (R-CA), Joe Pitts (R-PA), Robert Wexler (D-FL), Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa), Edolphus Towns (D-NY) and others also thanked Kazakhstan "for taking consistent and concrete steps to bridge the growing divide between Muslims and Jews at a time when tension in the Middle East is at a fulcrum, and intolerance and anti-Semitism are rising worldwide."

The recent report to Congress by the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim worlds, led by Edward Djerejian, points out the need for dialogue between the Muslim and Western worlds is more important today than ever before.

Such a conclusion is obvious. Similarly obvious are difficulties in putting it into practice.

But the example of Kazakhstan, working well with the United States, the West, and the Muslim world and speaking for dialogue of religions and civilizations, gives us ground for optimism that tolerance and mutual understanding, not hate and violence, will prevail.

A BILL TO EXPAND THE WORK
OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to add Trade Adjustment Assistance Recipients as a targeted group for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, thereby permitting employers to receive a tax credit when hiring these individuals. Most importantly, this bill would help address the loss of our manufacturing and other jobs to foreign competitors. The bill I'm introducing is a companion to a bill offered in the Senate by my good friend, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE of Maine.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program provides a credit of up to \$2,400 based on wages paid in the first year to a new employee for employers that hire workers from one of the targeted groups (welfare recipients, ex-felons, high-risk youths, qualified food stamp recipients, etc.). The WOTC program has been a major factor in moving the unemployed from the welfare rolls into the workforce, serving as a vital component of the welfare reform legislation.

The proposal in the bill is a very targeted approach. A Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) recipient is an individual who is unemployed and has been certified to receive benefits under the TAA program. TAA benefits include extended unemployment compensation and worker training.

The latter program provides benefits to individuals who have been laid off by an employer who has been disadvantaged by foreign imports or has shifted production, and jobs, to a country that has a free trade agreement with the United States or is a beneficiary country under certain other trade agreements. Thus, the proposal deals directly with the loss of jobs to countries abroad.

The TAA targeted group would be somewhat different than the other groups. The TAA group has been disadvantaged by foreign trade and competition. Even though the individuals may be skilled, they are unlikely to find jobs in their former industries because the jobs have moved offshore. Accordingly, the TAA recipient may need retraining. Qualifying as a WOTC/TAA recipient would help the person obtain a job, and the credit would contribute to the retraining costs incurred by the new employer. The TAA recipient hired by an employer would no longer receive TAA benefits, thus reducing the cost of that program.

The proposal is not the complete answer to unemployment. Nevertheless, I believe it is a step in the right direction, because it targets those workers who have lost their jobs due to foreign trade and competition. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this proposed legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANN
CAMERON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman from Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Ann Cameron is a wonderful person who brings warmth to the hearts of everyone she meets with her gentle laugh and remarkable sense of humor. Her enthusiasm spreads throughout the community as she passes her wisdom and knowledge on to future generations. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Ann's tremendous dedication to the Glenwood Springs community.

Ann celebrated her 101st birthday on November 12th. She was born in 1902 in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma before it became a state. As one of eight children, she grew up milking cows and picking cotton on the family farm before she went on to teacher's college. Ann became a stenographer and worked for attorneys most of her life. She credits reaching

her second century with hard work and staying busy.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Cameron is a gracious individual who enriches the lives of many members of her Glenwood Springs community. Ann has demonstrated a love for humanity that resonates in her life-long work ethic and compassionate personality that has led her to the exceptional milestone she celebrates this year. Ann's enthusiasm and dedication certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Congratulations on your 101st birthday Ann. May you have many more to come!

ARMENIAN TECHNOLOGY GROUP
AND CENTRAL DIAGNOSTIC LAB-
ORATORY IN ARMENIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to clarify a key provision in Fiscal Year 2004 Foreign Operations Appropriations which was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004.

As you know, this Congress continues to be a supporter of strong U.S.-Armenian relations to include economic and related programs. In fact, this bill appropriates \$75 million to help Armenia with its continued progress toward a market-oriented democratic nation.

However, it is not just economic assistance that Congress is voting on today. We are also voting on a provision which expressed the intent of Congress that the U.S. Agency for International Development provides sufficient funding to establish and operate a Central Diagnostic Laboratory in Armenia that can serve the Caucasus region. Currently, there is no such resource in Armenia or the region to safeguard human health and food safety against the threat of contamination or spread of disease.

I believe it is the intent of this Congress that the U.S. Agency for International Development utilize the services of the Armenian Technology Group, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization, to work with Armenian officials to establish and begin operations of this Central Diagnostic Laboratory. Furthermore, I believe it is key that this work begin as early as possible so that the Caucasus region, and by extension the United States, can benefit from the protection provided by this Central Diagnostic Laboratory.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
CONGRESSMAN DANIEL J. FLOOD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Congressman Dan Flood as his legacy is honored today, November 25, 2003, at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. The occasion will celebrate the Congressman's 100th Birthday, 10 years after his passing.

Although it has been over 2 decades since he has served in the House of Representa-

tives, Congressman Dan Flood's record of accomplishments and the legacy he left are still alive and well. Congressman Flood and I worked on several legislative initiatives together. Spearheading the effort to shape the recovery package for Northeastern Pennsylvania following the floods left in the aftermath of Hurricane Agnes stands out as an example of Congressman Flood's responsiveness to the district he loved.

Mr. Speaker, I insert in my remarks at this point the complete text of a story printed in the Wilkes-Barre Citizens Voice on the legacy of Dan Flood.

LEGENDARY LEGACY

It has been 23 years since he left Washington and nine years since his death in 1994.

Congressman Daniel J. Flood became a legend in his own time while in office, and remained a much-respected popular figure for 14 years after.

The fact that old friends, public officials, and news media will gather at King's College on Tuesday to observe his 100th birthday is yet another indication of just how much his long life of service to the country and his region meant.

Much of the Flood years by way of public papers and memorabilia are housed at King's College, through an agreement Flood set up in 1964 with Mary Barrett, longtime college librarian.

In the Flood collection room are tens of thousands of pieces of correspondence, hundreds of photographs, awards, plaques, and seals of the office he held and the departments of government with which he dealt for so many years.

It is traditional in assessing the Congressman's career that consideration comes on two levels—the federal government in Washington and the 11th Congressional District in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Until 1966, he represented Luzerne County. But after the Supreme Court's famous "one man, one vote" decision, the state's congressional districts were realigned.

Flood's territory expanded to include Carbon and Columbia counties. In 1972, as part of the decennial reapportionment, Montour and Sullivan counties were added.

Flood's lasting legacy on the national scene usually centers on his three decades of policy to keep the Panama Canal in U.S. control, the unending crusade to promote the so called captive nations of eastern Europe which were under Soviet domination, and his powers as a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Flood secured membership on the funding panel in 1949, and kept it throughout the end of his congressional service on January 31, 1980. His senior role on the Defense appropriations subcommittee, where he served for nearly 30 years, was significant in such areas as funding new weapons systems, supporting the Vietnam War and keeping the Tobyhanna Army Depot in business.

In fact, it was his strong relations with the most senior Department of Defense military and civilian commanders that enabled him to gain permanent legend status for his role in the recovery of the Agnes disaster in 1972. The effort was led from his emergency headquarters at the Naval Reserve Center in Avoca.

In 1966, after less than three years of service on the appropriations subcommittee for Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, election defeat for two colleagues and the unexpected death of the panel's chairman thrust Flood into the chairmanship of what quickly became an awesome assignment.

Flood handled it well—for the country and his district. President Lyndon B. Johnson