

Wanting to see his children grow up in a place that valued equality, Samuel Richardson fought for it in numerous ways, such as by picketing the F.W. Woolworth's in St. Paul to advocate for equal access and jobs for African Americans there. He advocated for fair housing. He marched with Martin Luther King in Washington in 1963. He joined numerous organizations and served as their leader.

Virginia Bardwell Richardson was born in Huntington, Tennessee. She attended the University of Minnesota, became a mother, and has always been passionate about education. She joined local activist organizations and served in leadership positions throughout her entire adult life.

When Samuel was hired by Supermarket giant Applebaum's in a prominent marketing position, he was one of the only black advertising directors west of Chicago. After a long career with Applebaum's, he became the Minnesota State Commissioner of Human Rights. There, he focused on new laws to address discrimination of all kinds, and to promote protections for people with disabilities. He then worked for the State of Minnesota's Department of Education, where he remained from 1971 until 1997.

While raising four children, Virginia was a critical part of volunteer organizations, including Assistant Chair of the Minneapolis Democratic-Farmer-Labor party, Minneapolis Public Schools' quality committee and the Minnesota Epilepsy Board. Almost 25 years ago, she went to work full-time at the PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights). Today, she serves as its manager of Parent Training.

Samuel and Virginia are founders of the Bryant Village Initiative. This neighborhood-based organization works to make residents' voices heard about the effectiveness of city and county programs. It also provides critical input to the police department and welfare programs to help make their work more successful.

The Richardsons are heavily involved in the Oakland Methodist Church. Both were active in their children's school Parent Teacher Associations. They have also been active politically, including work on the campaign to help the first black woman Mayor of Minneapolis get her start in politics.

"Most people are simply sitting and waiting to be led. All you have to do is step up and do it," Samuel Richardson said. "You want to see change and you want to see people enjoy all the things the Constitution offers."

Mr. Speaker, this generous activist couple is one example of the critical leadership required for the change that makes our nation a better place. Samuel and Virginia Richardson have advocated for positive change in our country on behalf of African Americans, women, the disabled, and the poor. I can only hope that today we are developing leaders for the future who have the Richardsons' same high level of dedication to public service.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND  
GEOFFREY B. CURTISS

**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2005*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Geoffrey B. Curtiss on the

25th anniversary of his ministry at All Saints Episcopal Parish and the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The parish will celebrate these important milestones at a service and reception on March 5, 2005, in Hoboken, New Jersey.

During his years as a priest, Rev. Curtiss has gone above and beyond his duties to his parish. With incredible motivation and a sincere desire to improve the lives of others, he has diligently worked to build a network of support services and organizations that have helped revitalize and transform the community. Upon beginning his service in Hudson County, Rev. Curtiss oversaw the consolidation of three, local Episcopal churches into one, now known as the All Saints Episcopal Parish. From the beginning, the church established a precedent for being progressive and accepting and welcoming people from all stages of life and segments of the community. Under Rev. Curtiss's strong leadership and creative vision, the All Saints Episcopal Parish has become more than a place of worship for its nearly 300 congregants; it is well-known for its community outreach initiatives and ministries. In addition to the church, Hudson County benefits from related programs Rev. Curtiss has helped found such as the All Saints Episcopal Day School, the youth ministry known as WOODY, and the Jubilee Family Life Center, which offers an after-school program and summer camp for youth from the Hoboken housing projects.

An influential member of the community, Rev. Curtiss has held numerous leadership positions in the past and continues to be greatly involved. For the Christ Hospital, Rev. Curtiss is the chair of both the Community Relations Committee and the Quality Improvement Committee, vice-chair of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the Transitional Committee. He is the president of the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice and treasurer of the Jubilee Interfaith Organization, which promotes immigrant rights and worker justice.

As president of the Hoboken Clergy Coalition in 1982, Rev. Curtiss was instrumental in the establishment of the Hoboken Shelter for the Homeless. A past president of the Board of Trustees of the Hoboken North Hudson YMCA and past president of the Hoboken Rotary Club, Rev. Curtiss is still an active member of both organizations. He is also a member of the Diocesan Council, the Episcopal Urban Caucus, the Department of Missions Board, the Commission to Dismantle Racism, and the non-profit housing board known as the Union City Renaissance Urban Renewal Associates.

Rev. Curtiss received his bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College and later graduated with a master's degree from the Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Geoffrey B. Curtiss for his years of dedicated, selfless service to the community. His passion to help those in need and strong leadership cannot be matched—and his work has touched the lives of countless individuals in Hoboken and the greater community. We congratulate him on his important career milestones and we are grateful to have such a positive force supporting and serving the community.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PFC MIN S.  
CHOI

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2005*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a New Jersey resident who served with dignity and honor as a soldier in Iraq. I join his family, friends and members of his community in mourning this great loss.

On Saturday, February 26, Army Private First Class Min S. Choi, 21, of River Vale, New Jersey died in Athertha, Iraq when an explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Choi was assigned to the Army Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

A resident of River Vale, N.J., Choi attended Pascack Valley High School. PFC Choi and his family emigrated to the United States from South Korea seven years ago. Following graduation in 2003, Choi enlisted in the Army because he wanted to serve his new country, and aspired to become a military officer and a United States citizen. His commitment to his adopted country and home humble us, and underscore how much we must treasure and protect the freedoms and democratic ideals of our great nation.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their Nation called them to duty to preserve freedom and the security of our neighbors, they answered without hesitation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to recognize the life of a proud soldier and heroic representative of the State of New Jersey. Army PFC Min S. Choi was an honorable defender of liberty and he deserves our gratitude and respect.

We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

TRIBUTE TO PEOPLE OF NAGORNO  
KARABAKH

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2005*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of Nagorno Karabakh, who recently celebrated the seventeenth anniversary of their National Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the courageous people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite their homeland with Armenia. They sought to correct the injustices of the brutal Stalin regime, under which the ethnic Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh was involuntarily placed within the borders of Azerbaijan.

Despite the peaceful request by the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement, the

central Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership responded with violence, which escalated to a brutal campaign against the people of Nagomo Karabakh. These brave citizens refused to give up their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land, fighting for the principles of democracy and human rights upon which our own country was founded.

Today, the unwavering strength of the Freedom Movement can be seen in the democratically-elected government of Nagomo Karabakh. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenia Issues, I congratulate the people of Nagomo Karabakh for their steadfast commitment to promoting freedom, democracy and economic development over the past seventeen years.

It is my hope that the past efforts of Nagomo Karabakh to achieve a peaceful secession from Azerbaijan will help bring a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict with Azerbaijan.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES TO  
OUR NATION'S SERVICE ACADEMIES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize several outstanding individuals from my district in West Virginia who have been nominated to our nation's service academies.

Making nominations to our nation's service academies is one of my most important duties as a Congresswoman.

These young men and women are all impressive individuals that have clearly demonstrated academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, and athletic achievements.

Their parents, teachers, and advisors should be very proud of their prestigious accomplishments.

I commend their parents and family for encouraging and supporting these young men and women in the pursuit of their dreams.

I am pleased they have decided to pursue military careers.

Those who choose military careers represent the best of West Virginia and ensure our state motto continues to ring true, "Montani Semper Liberi . . . Mountaineers Are Always Free".

There is no better way for them to use their talents.

I extend my sincerest congratulations for their nominations.

I am very proud of them.

These young men and women have my very best wishes for a bright future.

Jeremy Runco, Ranson; Thomas Flanagan, Charles Town; Sheena Huffman, Gerrardstown; Jerome Lademan, Charles Town; Samuel Talbott, Elkins; Tina Weekley, Ravenswood; Blake Chapman, Charleston; Garrett Dilley, Hurricane; Allen Hartley, Charleston; Alex Hemmelgarn, Clay; Matthew Kearns, Cross Lanes; Brian Martin, St. Albans; Jonathan McCormick, St. Albans; Noah Pfost, Ravenswood; Joshua Russell, Nitro; Joshua Suesli, Gassaway.

FOOD SAFETY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article, which I submit for the RECORD, written by my constituent, Richard Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore is the President and CEO of the GIC Group. The GIC Group combines experience and strength in research, analysis, and marketing with financial services and asset management. It offers this expertise to the agribusiness and biotechnology industries to help businesses gain access to global and domestic markets, to add value to current agribusiness activities, and to identify new markets.

Upon leaving the Bush Administration, former Secretary of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson stated that protecting the safety of the American food supply should be a top priority. Mr. Gilmore's article addresses that issue. While I may not agree with all of Mr. Gilmore's proposals, I recommend this article to every citizen interested in the integrity of the food supply chain and the safety of the food we consume every day.

U.S. FOOD SAFETY UNDER SIEGE?

(By Richard Gilmore)

When it comes to the prospect of an agroterrorist attack—the use of biological agents against crops, livestock, poultry and fish—US agriculture has rolled out the welcome mat. Integration and consolidation in the industry widen the potential impact of any single attack. Internationalization of the food chain offers limitless possibilities for human consumption contagions, as well as economic and political instabilities. To combat and anticipate potential attacks to the US food chain, greater effort should be placed on designing new disease-resistant varieties of plants and livestock on the basis of genomic information. Stricter regulations and enforcement capabilities should be introduced not only at our borders but at the point of origin where food is grown, procured for processed for domestic consumption within the United States. At the same time, the United States must develop a comprehensive preparedness and prevention strategy of international proportions in close coordination with our trading partners and the private sector.

CHANGES IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND REGULATION

The US strategy of protection for the food system, as mapped out in the Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-9 of January 30, 2004, presupposes that in striving to protect production, processing, food storage and delivery systems within US territory, a credible line of defense will be created to protect the food chain and encourage a thriving agricultural economy. In fact, US agriculture has undergone dramatic change. For crops, 'farm to fork' no longer is confined to a regionally based agricultural system, but now encompasses a highly integrated and consolidated global undertaking. For livestock, 'hoof to home' now takes on a new meaning that includes a high concentration of production, specialization of calf operations, long distance shipping and massive feedlots averaging thousands of head marketed per facility, for both domestic and international consumption. These commercial developments have resulted in previously unimaginable production and han-

dling efficiencies in domestic and export markets.

In 2001, over 70% of processed food in the United States was purchased from other countries, representing almost 30% of final gross product. Fifteen of the top 25 food and beverage companies in the global market are US owned, accounting for about 10% of the global market. US multinational companies account for roughly 6.5%. With greater consolidation on a global scale, interaffiliate trades account for an increasing portion of the value of the food chain. Like other nations, the United States is moving from self-sufficiency to an increasing dependence on other countries for its food supply.

At the same time, the US regulatory infrastructure for food safety is still a work in progress and is hobbled by overdependence on the private sector and underdependence on international cooperation. Whether it is a matter of detection, surveillance or information flow, the US government is currently dependent on the private sector for cooperation and support. To share information, government and industry have established the Food and Agriculture Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC; Washington, DC, USA), which includes key industry association representatives, especially from the processed food and feed sectors.

The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 sets up tracking mechanisms whose effectiveness depends on industry self-reporting. New food import regulations issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA; Rockville, MD, USA) now require prior notification of eight hours for goods arriving by ship, four hours by rail or air and two hours by road. This dependence on the private sector is burdensome for companies and both insufficient and unreliable for ensuring the public's food safety concerns.

Current regulations have evolved since last December, after a reality check of the US government's enforcement capabilities along with industry's feedback and support. The initial regulations failed on both counts and the prospects for the latest regulations remain uncertain. FDA and the Customs & Border Protection Agency (Washington, DC, USA) still have not adequately funded the enforcement infrastructure nor trained personnel to ensure statistically random, uniform inspections under the new prenotification time frames. Industry is called upon to fill the breach but is still relatively unprepared, with insufficient esource commitment to comply fully with the latest regulations.

There remains a remarkable lack of consultation, joint surveillance and shared research with trading partners worldwide. Whether grits or pasta, the US diet still thrives on an international food supply chain. Similarly, food protection and terrorist prevention have to be internationalized, particularly given the advances that continental-wide Europe and Japan have achieved in this regard.

THE THREATS

Although no precedent exists for an agroterrorist attack on the food chain, the dire consequences of natural outbreaks provide a glimpse of the potential damage that could be wrought. The scale of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks in Taiwan in 1997 and in the UK in 2001 or the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2002 was more devastating than previous epidemics because of the size and structure of modern agricultural production. Taiwan was forced to slaughter more than 8 million pigs and suspend its exports. In the United Kingdom, 4.2 million animals were destroyed in 2001 and 2002, with devastating economic consequences. The cost to Taiwan, a major supplier to Japan, was estimated to be over \$20