

the rest of his service, he helped General Patton's 3rd Army take control of the French campaign, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944.

The courage and dedication Starr displayed, earned him several medals, including the Purple Heart and five Bronze Stars. Starr's patriotism was reflected in his life's philosophy: it is easier to fight for one's country, even in the face of death, than it is to give up the freedoms we enjoy in America.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Starr, 1 sister, 5 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great granddaughter. Again, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we join with his family and our community to state that we will miss Corporal John Seymour Starr, an admirable citizen and veteran.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND O.W.
MACK OF HEARNE, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 16th, the congregation and community of Hearne in Robertson County, Texas will honor Reverend O.W. Mack for over 45 years of dedicated service as Pastor of the New Elam Missionary Baptist Church of Hearne.

Reverend Mack attended Blackshear School in Hearne and proudly served this great nation as a member of the United States Armed Forces. He returned to Texas to attend Prairie View A&M University where he became an educator. Later he came back to teach in the Hearne Independent School District and married Vina E. Blocker, also an educator. He later went to theological seminary to become a spiritual leader.

Reverend Mack was an educator for over 33 years, an Assistant Principal for 8 years, and he served on the Hearne Independent School District Board of Trustees for over 20 years. He has worked tirelessly over the years to improve the quality of education for children in Robertson County. His years of service in the field of education are an inspiring tribute to our community's values, and his vision for children in our community will offer hope for generations to come.

Under Reverend Mack's leadership as Pastor of the New Elam Baptist Church, many programs have been greatly expanded and ministries within the church have been enriched. Reverend Mack has led his church in mission efforts both locally and statewide. He serves as the President of the Congress of Christian Workers of the Lincoln District Association under the leadership of Moderator, Dr. W.W. Jackson.

Reverend Mack has a history of unselfish devotion to public service, a legacy of personal achievement, as well as dedicated commitment to his faith and family. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the leadership and commitment of Reverend O.W. Mack and his wife, Vina for over 45 years of dedication to the spiritual life and health of the community of Hearne and Central Texas.

Thank you Reverend Mack and May God bless you.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Morris, who over the last five years has guided the U.N. World Food Programme through five years of vital, life-saving support to millions of victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

A former Indianapolis business executive, president of the Indiana University Board of Trustees and head of the Lilly Endowment, Jim Morris could have retired to private life. Instead, Jim accepted the call and rose to the challenge to manage the world's largest food aid organization. Since 2002, Jim has been an eloquent spokesman and tireless administrator for relief programs stretching from Sudan to Iraq, Africa to Asia.

Under Jim's stewardship, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided food aid to over 4 million Ethiopian drought victims in 2003. That year, he also successfully guided WFP in carrying out the largest humanitarian operation in history, feeding 26 million Iraqis.

When tropical storm Jeanne struck Haiti in 2004, WFP showed up big for the 160,000 flood victims. In Darfur, Sudan, WFP battles insecurity and bad roads to get food aid to the 2 million refugees who have fled their homes in response to the conflict.

Reacting to the 2005 tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands of people from Indonesia to Somalia and left hundreds of thousands more without their homes or livelihoods, WFP mounted one of its most complex emergency operations ever. Using helicopters, aircraft, cargo ships, landing craft and traditional trucks, WFP provided essential food aid to 1.75 million tsunami survivors, averting starvation and widespread malnutrition in the wake of the disaster.

Under Jim's leadership, the WFP has made a difference, time and again by quickly getting food to millions of hungry and hurting people who desperately need it. Jim Morris is to be commended for his tireless advocacy for the world's poorest children, which has raised awareness and support for hunger programs, including in this body.

To this heroic Hoosier, who for five years has led the global effort to combat the daily hunger faced by more than 800 million people worldwide, I say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE G7 LEADERS ON THE EVE OF RUSSIA'S G8 SUMMIT

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has described the G8 as "a group of democracies . . . fully committed to free market principles, free trade, rule of law."

On July 15, the Russian Federation will chair the Group of Eight, G8, for the first time since its full integration in 2002 by hosting the annual G8 Summit in the city of St. Petersburg. While Russia's presidency of the G8 was originally intended to showcase its economic and social progress and demonstrate its further integration with the global community, a growing number of observers strongly feel that Russia is not meeting the democratic and free market principles that are the basis of the G8.

I share with my colleagues a recent letter that was circulated prior to the G8 Summit, from nearly 100 diplomats, politicians, academicians and civil society leaders from Russia, Europe and the United States. The letter, which includes notable figures from each of the G7 nations and Russia, was designed to bring attention to Russia's faltering democracy and human rights record. It was released at "The Other Russia" summit, organized by Garry Kasparov, former world chess champion and Russian political activist, to examine these problems and to highlight what they will mean for the future of Russia.

Mr. Speaker, Russia is an important ally to the United States in many ways although we face a number of disagreements with them on pressing global issues. What should not be at issue is the need for an open society in Russia that advances democracy, human rights and free enterprise. This goal is critical for the development of U.S.-Russia relations and the future of Russia itself.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE G7 LEADERS "THE OTHER RUSSIA"

We wish to express our gratitude to the courageous men and women attending "The Other Russia" Summit today and tomorrow in Moscow. This alternative to the G8 summit has been organized by Garry Kasparov, Lyudmila Alekseyeva and other Russian human rights and political leaders. The laudable purpose of the "Other Russia" Summit is to focus the world's attention on the increasingly autocratic and repressive policies of the Russian Government.

"The Other Russia" will bring together distinguished diplomats and politicians, academicians and civil society leaders from Russia, Europe and the United States to examine the deplorable state of human rights and the rule of law in Russia. Experts will document Russia's alarming number of political prisoners, the Kremlin's control over the media, the dangerous increase in government corruption, the continued violence in Chechnya and the return of a one-party state.

"The Other Russia" Summit will examine these economic and political trends, hoping to provide the Russian people with a clearer picture of what the further loss of human and political rights will mean to them. The gathering is also meant to impress upon the G7 leaders, who will be meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin this coming weekend in St. Petersburg, that there is another Russia—a Russia at odds with the corrupt, authoritarian regime which President Putin and those around him appear resolved to impose.

We urge our leaders—Prime Minister Tony Blair, President George W. Bush, President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Romano Prodi—not to equivocate when they meet the Russian President this weekend. He must be put on notice that Russia's

current domestic and foreign policies are unacceptable to its neighbors, to the international community and to many of its own citizens.

President Putin must be made to understand that fairness towards his political opponents and critics, the release of political prisoners and Russia's constructive engagement with its neighbors in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, are the standards by which his Government will be judged. Russia must meet these standards of justice, freedom and of internationally acceptable diplomacy if it wishes to remain a member of the G8 and of the community of democratic nations.

Today, Russia is moving in the wrong direction.

With the re-imposition of state control of the media, the nationalization of the YUKOS Oil Company, the abolition of elected governors, overt and covert meddling in the affairs of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Lithuania and outright support for the dictatorship in Belarus, the new NGO law restricting the work of human rights groups and other non-government organizations in Russia, and the imprisonment of political opponents like Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Mikhail Trepashkin, the Government of Russia is deliberately turning back the clock.

We appeal to the G7 leaders to raise these issues directly with President Putin this weekend in St. Petersburg. And we salute those who are in Moscow today, meeting in a hostile and dangerous environment to prove that a democratic Russia, "The Other Russia," does indeed exist.

Signatories: (Institutions are listed for purposes of identification only.)

Dimitar Abadjiev—European Parliament Observer, Bulgaria;

Dr. Patrick Aeberhard—President, Medecins du Monde;

Vo Van Ai—President, Forum Asia Democracy;

Doron Arazi—Historian;
Timothy Garton Ash—Oxford University, UK;

Brian Atwood—Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, US; Former US Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator;

Paul Berman—Writer, US;
Carl Bildt—Former Prime Minister of Sweden;

Roberta Bonazzi—Director, European Foundation for Democracy;

Elena Bonner—Honorary Chair, The Andrei;

Sakharov Foundation;

Michael Bourdeaux—Founder/President, Keston Institute, Oxford University, UK;

Pascal Bruckner—Philosopher, France;
Ian J. Brzezinski—Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy;

Hans Christoph Buch—Writer, Germany;
Vladimir Bukovsky—Cambridge University, UK;

Leos Carax—Film director, France;
Patrice Chéreau—Film and theater director, France;

Daniel Cohn-Bendit—Member, European Parliament, Germany;

Pierre Daix—Writer, France;

Prof. Nicholas Daniloff—Northeastern University, US;

Ruth Daniloff—Writer, US;

Fertilio Dario—Comitatus libertates;

Franco Debenedetti—Senator, Italy;

Martin Dewhurst—University of Glasgow, Scotland;

Freimut Duve—Former member of the German Bundestag; Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Representative;

Dr. Marek Edelman—Former dissident, Leader of the Warsaw ghetto uprising;

Humphry Crum Ewing—Chairman, The Standish Group;

Edouard Fillias—President, Alternative Liberale, France;

Paolo Flores de Arcais—Director, Micromega, France;

Carl Gershman—President, National Endowment for Democracy;

André Glucksmann—Philosopher, France;

Alex Goldfarb—Foundation for Civil Liberties, US;

Adam Gopnik—Writer, US;

Veronique Nahoum Grappe—Anthropologist, France;

Andrew P. Grigorenko—President, General Petro Grigorenko Foundation, Inc;

Robert Halfon—Political Director, Conservative Friends of Israel;

Daniel Hamilton—Johns Hopkins University, US;

Arthur Hartman—Former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union and France;

Satu Hassi—Member, European Parliament, Finland;

Roger Helmer—Member, European Parliament, UK;

Mary Holland—New York University, US;

Marie Holzmann—President, Droits de l'homme in China, France;

Robert Hunter—Former US ambassador to NATO;

Toomas Hendrik Ilves—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Bruce P. Jackson—President, Project on Transitional Democracies;

Kjell Olaf Jense—President, Pen Club, Norway;

Alan Johnson—Director, Democratya, UK;

Tunne Kelam—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Bogdan Klich—Member, European Parliament, Poland;

Bernard Kouchner—Former UN ambassador to Kosovo; Founder, Medecins sans Frontières, Medecins du Monde, France;

Irina Krasovskaya—President, We Remember Foundation, Belarus;

Guntars Krasts—Member, European Parliament; Former Prime Minister of Latvia.

William Kristol—The Weekly Standard, US;

Girts Valdis Kristovskis—Member, European Parliament, Former President of the Lithuanian Parliament;

Vytautas Landsbergis—Member, European Parliament, Former President of the Lithuanian Parliament;

Bernard Henri Levy—Philosopher, France;

Ekkehard Maass—German-Caucasian society, Germany;

Giwi Margwelschwili—Schriftsteller, Germany;

Cliff May—President, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies;

Michael McFaul—Stanford University, US;

Alan Mendoza—Executive Director, Henry Jackson; Society, UK;

Marianne Mikko—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Tim Montgomerie—Editor, ConservativeHome.com;

Martin Palouš—Permanent Czech Republic; Representative to the United Nations; former Czech Ambassador to the US;

Carlo di Pamparato—Children of Chechnya Action; Relief Mission (CCHARM), UK;

Richard Pipes—Harvard University, US;

Daniel Pipes—Writer, US;

Daniel Pletka—American Enterprise Institute (AEI), US;

Oksana Ragazzi—UK;

Josep Ramoneda—Philosopher, Center of Contemporary Culture, Spain;

Vanessa Redgrave—Actress;

James Rogers—Executive Secretary, Henry Jackson Society, UK;

Jacques Rupnik—Professor of political sciences, CERI, France;

Prof. Aloyzas Sakalas—Member, European Parliament, Lithuania;

Randy Scheunemann—President, Committee for the Liberation of Iraq;

Gary Schmitt—American Enterprise Institute (AEI), US;

Jorge Semprún—Former Minister of Culture of Spain;

André Senik—Philosopher, France

Andrew M. Sessler—Emeritus Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory;

Andrzej Seweryn—Theater director, Comédie Française, France;

Dr. Brendan Simms—Co-President, Henry Jackson; Society, UK;

Robert Singh—Birkbeck College, University of London, UK;

Aleksander Smolar—Historian, France/Poland;

Bart Staes—Member, European Parliament, Belgium;

Konrad Szymanski—Member, European Parliament, Poland;

Andres Tarand—Member, European Parliament, former Prime Minister of Estonia;

David Trimble—1998 Nobel Peace Laureate;

Prof. Inese Vaidere—Member, European Parliament, Latvia;

Ari Vatanen—Member, European Parliament, France;

Mark von Hagen—Columbia University, US;

Stuart Wheeler—UK;

Richard Wilson—Harvard University, US;

Henryk Wozniakowski—Director, ZNAK, Poland;

Tatiana Yankelevich—Director, Sakharov Program on Human Rights, Harvard University, US;

Ilyos Yannakakis—Professor, France.

CONGRATULATING AUGUST PIAZZA AS HE RETIRES FROM THE WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my good friend Mr. August Piazza, of Jenkins Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, upon the occasion of his retirement as superintendent of the Wyoming Valley West School District.

Mr. Piazza received his Bachelor of Science degree from Mansfield University and his Master of Science degree from Wilkes University. His post-graduate work includes principal certification and a superintendent's letter of eligibility from Temple University.

Mr. Piazza began his career with Wyoming Valley West School District in 1971. Over the past 35 years, Mr. Piazza has taught elementary grades ranging from kindergarten through sixth grade in subject areas including mathematics, social studies and reading.

He was an instructional support specialist, head teacher and department chairperson. He served as assistant principal and principal of the Wyoming Valley West Middle School.

Mr. Piazza was appointed as superintendent of schools in the Wyoming Valley West School District. He also holds the position of adjunct professor at Wilkes University Graduate School.