

to our military and marines like Rene Martinez. His selfless service to his country and community is a model for all of us to emulate.

As President Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem." LCpl Rene Martinez made a difference in this world. And his country will forever be grateful.

TRIBUTE TO PRISON FELLOWSHIP

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, this year, former White House aide Chuck Colson launched Prison Fellowship, now the world's largest Christian outreach to prisoners and their families.

While serving 7 months in a federal prison for a Watergate-related offense, Colson was appalled by the humiliation, drudgery, and hopelessness experienced by his fellow prisoners. After he was released from prison, Colson decided he could not turn his back on the men he left behind. So, in 1976, inspired by his own prison experience and his faith in Christ, Colson began Prison Fellowship.

Since then, Prison Fellowship has become a movement of like-minded citizens who are touching the lives of millions of prisoners and their families here in America and in 114 countries around the world. Prison Fellowship has helped maintain the bonds between prisoners and their families through the amazing Angel Tree program, in which some 7 million children of prisoners have received Christmas gifts on behalf of their incarcerated parent. At the state and national level, Prison Fellowship has also been at the forefront of criminal justice reform, helping states cope with prison overcrowding, fostering victims' rights, combating prison rape, promoting reentry programs, and so much more. By launching the InnerChange Freedom Initiative, Prison Fellowship has helped corrections systems reduce recidivism by working to transform prisoners from the inside out and linking them to mentors and communities of faith once they leave prison.

Clearly, by reaching out to the very men and women our society would like to forget, Prison Fellowship has not only helped former prisoners become productive members of society, it has also made our communities safer places to live.

Mr. Speaker, the Good Book reads "I was in prison, and you came to visit me . . . I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

I find it appropriate today to recognize and celebrate the incredible service that Chuck Colson and Prison Fellowship have rendered not only to prisoners and their families, but also to our communities, our Nation and our world.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans concerned with the reduction of crime and the restoration of lives celebrate both the man and the ministry on the 30th anniversary of Prison Fellowship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, 2006, I inadvertently failed to cast my vote for rollcall vote 468 due to the shortened period (2 minutes) between votes that evening.

On rollcall vote 468 (H.R. 6095), had I cast my vote, I would have voted, "aye".

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, H. Res. 723, which calls on President Bush to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, and H. Res. 992, which urges the President to appoint a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan. I am proud to be a cosponsor of all three bills.

Congress must act now to address what I believe to be the most disastrous humanitarian situation on the planet. We must make it an immediate priority—not just a legislative priority but a priority of conscience—to protect the lives of the men, women, and children who are suffering every day in Darfur, and in refugee camps just over the Sudanese border in Chad.

The situation in Darfur has become exceedingly dire. In direct violation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and numerous UN Security Council resolutions, the Sudanese government has begun to deploy some 26,000 troops to the Darfur region. This has coincided with a sharp increase in attacks on civilians and humanitarian aid workers, renewed aerial bombardment, and the all but complete deterioration of the fragile DPA. The Congress must use every tool at our disposal to end the horror that continues in Darfur.

The American people want us to act. From coast to coast, we have seen massive demonstrations on behalf of peace in Darfur. American Jewish groups, faith groups of all denominations, the Save Darfur Coalition and others are far beyond this Congress in their awareness and attention to this critical situation. We must honor their hard work by passing H.R. 3127, H. Res. 723, and H. Res. 992 today.

I was one of several members of Congress who worked to have the situation in Darfur officially classified a "genocide" by the United States Congress. I visited Darfur and I have seen the situation with my own eyes. I carry my experience in Darfur with me every day.

The people of Darfur have suffered for far too long. After each genocide of the last century, Rwanda being the most recent, we vowed "never again." Yet, we have become witness to another genocide. The time to act is now.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3127, H. Res. 723, and H. Res. 992.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NAIS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I recently become a cosponsor of H.R. 6042, offered by my colleague Mrs. Emerson. This bill prohibits the federal government from implementing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). It also provides some privacy protections for framers and ranchers who choose to participate in a voluntary identification system. I hope all of my colleagues join me in supporting this bill.

NAIS is a proposal to force all farmers and ranchers to "tag" their livestock with a radio frequency identification device tag (RFID) or a similar item so information on the animals' locations can be stored in a federal database. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently implementing the program through state premise registration plans. Participation in the NAIS is currently voluntary, but my office has been informed that the USDA will likely make NAIS mandatory by 2009.

Small, family farmers and ranchers will be forced to spend thousands of dollars, as well as comply with new paperwork and monitoring regulations, to implement and operate NAIS. These farmers and ranchers will be paying for a massive assault on their property and privacy rights as NAIS forces farmers and ranchers to provide detailed information about their private property to the government. In addition, the NAIS system empowers the Federal government to enter and seize property from farmers and ranchers without a warrant. Mr. Speaker, this is a blatant violation of the Fourth Amendment-protected right to be free of arbitrary searches and seizures.

NAIS is unnecessary since most states already have identification systems to identify and track animals and virtually all stockyards issue a health certification for each animal that is sold. Furthermore, the NAIS "trace back" procedures only begin after an incident has been reported, which could be days, weeks, or even months after the harm has occurred. Since most contamination happens after the animal has left the farm or ranch and entered the food chain, tracing animals back to the farm will not help identify the source of the problem—although farmers and ranchers could be held legally liable if any of their animals becomes diseased after leaving their possession. According to a 1998 Harvard study, preventive measures already in place can protect the American people from dangers such as mad cow disease.

Bell Bellingier, vice-chairman of the Australian Beef Association, said of Australia's National Livestock Identification System that "Financial costs like the NLIS . . . are seriously eroding our competitive advantage supplying an increasing contested world beef market."

Dairy Farmer and Rancher Bob Parker best stated the case against NAIS: "We currently have the systems in place to track animals, as has just happened with the recent 'mad cow' in Alabama. Sacrificing our freedoms for security is not a good trade off, in my opinion. Our Founding Fathers knew the dangers of Government becoming too big. This plan is too intrusive, too costly, and will be devastating to