

battered woman was forced to suffer the cuts and bruises and the terror and tears in silence. In my parents' generation, many folks whispered and had suspicions about what was going on next door. Seeing bruised children or watching a wife cower when her husband spoke to her caused speculation on what was taking place in the home. Unfortunately, no one intervened because that was a family matter and none of their business.

Domestic violence rarely made the headlines then and rarely makes the headlines now, primarily because most of the abuse occurs behind closed doors. In most instances, the victim knows the attacker. More than 50 percent of victims are battered by a boyfriend or girlfriend. More than 30 percent are assaulted by spouses, while 15 percent are attacked by ex-spouses. Many victims are reluctant to report these incidents to anyone because they fear this will only make things worse.

Society tends to misplace the blame for continued abuse, focusing on the victim and criticizing him or her for not leaving the abuser. In many cases victims simply do not have the physical or financial resources to get out of the relationship. They often stay until things hit rock bottom.

Every year, domestic violence results in approximately 100,000 days of hospitalization and more than 28,000 visits to emergency rooms. In these cases, major medical treatment is often required. Furthermore, the possibility of being murdered by an abuser increases to 75 percent if the woman attempts to leave on her own.

Today, domestic violence is still causing terror and tears. But the story and its ending isn't quite the same. Thankfully, many of the calls for help are now answered. I would like to commend those who work every day to help victims of domestic violence, especially those who work in the nine service areas of my 69 county district—Dodge City, Emporia, Garden City, Great Bend, Hays, Hutchinson, Liberal, Salina, and Ulysses. They are the unsung heroes battling the culture of darkness that domestic violence victims are caught up in.

Proximity to a safe facility can mean the difference between life and death. Though progress has been made in accessing services, many victims in central and western Kansas and other rural areas remain hundreds of miles away from the closest shelter. Ensuring safe havens for victims who leave abusive environments must continue to be a priority.

Most domestic violence centers rely primarily on grants and local donations. Federal grants made under the Violence Against Women Act provided essential funds for shelter operations and support services. That program has been credited with substantially reducing the levels of violence committed against women and children. We must continue to ensure that our shelters and crisis centers receive adequate funding.

As National Domestic Violence Awareness Month begins, we are reminded that domestic violence is an issue that must be addressed all year long. Only through funding, education and support can America hope to end this terrible crime.

TRIBUTE TO ST. LEO THE GREAT'S CHURCH

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to St. Leo the Great's Church on its 125th anniversary of service to Baltimore City's Little Italy neighborhood.

Located at Stiles and Exeter Streets, the heart of Baltimore's Italian-American community, St. Leo's served as the first worship and community center for Italian immigrants arriving in Baltimore. One of the many immigrant families to worship at St. Leo's was the D'Alesandro family, whose members would serve as mayors, members of Congress and as the first woman Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Over the years, St. Leo's provided spiritual renewal as well as community social activities and education. During the Great Baltimore Fire in 1904, the congregation at St. Leo's prayed for the fire to spare their homes and their church. Their prayers to St. Anthony were answered when, after raging for 31 hours and destroying most of downtown Baltimore, the fire stopped just short of Little Italy. Each year, the St. Anthony Society holds a festival to celebrate their good fortune and the power of faith.

After World War II, as many Italian-American families of Little Italy moved to the suburbs, St. Leo's was forced to close its school and fell on hard times, as did many of the City's older neighborhoods. But the congregation at St. Leo's was loyal and inventive and today St. Leo's and the surrounding neighborhood have been rejuvenated.

In Italy, the church was the locus of the village. St. Leo the Great's Church in Little Italy has enabled the Baltimore Italian-American community to continue that tradition. Today, St. Leo's primary school has been transformed into the The Rev. Oreste Pandola Cultural Learning Center. Thanks to the efforts of congregant Rosalie Ranieri, the Center offers classes and clubs to neighbors and former residents now scattered across the region.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting the contributions of St. Leo the Great's Church to the Italian-American community of Baltimore as well as to our Nation. I also ask that they join me in sending best wishes for many more years of service to the community. *Congratulazioni.*

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO
END THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for the three bills under consideration this week relating to the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. These bills, H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 conference report, H. Res. 723, which call on the President to take immediate steps

to improve the security situation in Darfur, and H. Res. 992, which urges the President to appoint a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, all take concrete steps towards ending the genocide in Darfur.

The situation in Darfur, Sudan is increasingly concerning. Nearly three million Sudanese citizens will require emergency assistance in the next year. Sudanese government forces support Janjaweed Arab militias that commit crimes against humanity, including genocide. More than one million people were driven from their homes since February 2003, while over 150,000 people took refuge in neighboring Chad. The hundreds of thousands of displaced people who remain in the Darfur region are confined to government controlled camps. Using Sudanese government resources, the Janjaweed militias rape, attack and prey upon these helpless victims.

We must hold the Sudanese government accountable. I commend Representative HENRY HYDE (R-IL) for introducing the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005. I am a cosponsor of this important bill that intensifies sanctions on the Government of Sudan, particularly targeting those responsible for genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity.

The United States should do more to end the brutal killing and ethnic cleansing of civilians. We must bring war criminals to justice. I was glad to see H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act conference report pass the House of Representatives yesterday by voice vote. I urge President Bush to sign this important bill which takes significant measures to bring a lasting peace to this war-stricken region.

I am also a firm supporter and cosponsor of House Resolution 992, which urges President Bush to appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan. I joined Representative FRANK WOLF (R-VA) in sending a letter to the President requesting he appoint a Special Envoy earlier this summer. I was pleased to hear President Bush declare in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly that he is appointing former USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios to be the new Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan. Earlier in my career I worked closely with Mr. Natsios to tackle one of the worst humanitarian crises of the 1990's. Natsios coordinated food aid during the North Korea famine which saved tens of thousands of lives. Mr. Natsios is an experienced diplomat, and I am confident in his ability to coordinate American policy in the region to resolve this conflict.

Despite the sincere efforts of our government, which has led the international community in providing nearly \$440 million in emergency supplemental aid this year, millions of victims continue to live in camps under horrible conditions. Murderous militias continue to slaughter innocent civilians. We have a duty to bring an end to this humanitarian crisis. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these bills that demonstrate America's leadership in defense of those who need our help the most.

ROUNDING UP MEXICO'S MOST
WANTED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it's a big day in the U.S. when we catch someone on our Most

Wanted List. Shouldn't it be an even bigger day when we catch someone on Mexico's Most Wanted List?

In Ohio, that's right Ohio. It's a long way from our southern border with Mexico.

Julio Ernesto Cobian-Ariaza is just 27 and this Mexican citizen is already a career criminal alien. This illegal is wanted back home in Mexico for his connection to two murders and two more attempted murders.

But his list of offenses here in the U.S. is much longer. He's been convicted of attempted murders, assault with a firearm and street terrorism, in plain english—gang activity.

We've caught him twice before and sent him home. First in 1999 when he was just 20. And again in September of 2001. This time as an aggravated felon at the tender age of 22.

Just sneaking back into the country from Mexico once is a felony punishable by 20 years in prison. So his laundry list of crimes in the U.S. alone should have him locked up in the penitentiary for decades.

But an even more disturbing part of this story is Ariaza isn't alone. His arrest is just one of more than 3 thousand gang members in just a few years.

A crackdown on gangs with foreign born and illegal members.

He's among many alien gang members representing almost 400 different gangs across the United States.

People mock our country and say we are the world's police. But the truth is our open borders make us just that.

We can't clear our own top ten most wanted list but we're making a dent in some others.

These international outlaws are targeting Americans on our own streets and we'll keep rounding up these murderous illegals until we shut down our borders.

If we could do that we would have a good shot at clearing at least one name of our own most wanted list.

Jorge Alberto Lopez-Orozco is number 2 on the infamous FBI lineup. Born in Mexico he's just 30 and he's already accused of brutally murdering his girlfriend and her 2 young sons. Friends suspect she found out he was already married with his own children and tried to break it off. The family went missing for days. Until a few fishing buddies riding ATVs stumbled on their burned out car and what looked like a charred body. The police ruled it was actually three bodies. Orozco's girlfriend and her two young sons ages 2 and 4 were all

gunned down. Shot in the head or chest and their bodies set ablaze.

Jorge Alberto Lopez-Orozco is still out there and thanks to our virtually open borders he could be living on any American street as we speak.

And that American street may have been made much more dangerous by Diego Leon Montoya Sanchez from Colombia also topping our 10 Most Wanted. He's one of the leaders of the most powerful and violent drug cartels in Colombia and he's accused of pumping tons of cocaine into the U.S.—tons of cocaine that could be sold to the same foreign-born gang that Mexico's Most Wanted Julio Ernesto Cobian-Ariaza was running in when he got caught in Ohio.

The moral of this story is maybe we should stop accepting the world's most dangerous criminals so we can get back to ours.

Seal the borders protect Americans and let the rest of the world deal with their own criminals on their own soil. That's just the way it is.

THE BELLS OF BALANGIGA MUST RING AGAIN!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H. Con. Res. 481, legislation that I have just introduced, which urges the President to authorize the return of two church bells, currently on display at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, to the people of the Philippines.

The New York City Council is expected to pass a resolution in support of this legislation on September 28th, 2006, the anniversary of a 1901 battle between Filipino and American soldiers in the town of Balangiga on the island of Samar, Philippines.

As a result of this conflict between Filipino and American troops, the bells in the church were taken to the United States as war trophies and have been on display ever since at F.E. Warren Air Force Base. I am introducing as a result of a vote by the Wyoming Veterans Commission to return the bells to the church in Balangiga.

The citizens of Balangiga have erected a memorial that includes the names of the Fili-

pino and American soldiers who lost their lives in the 1901 incident, and the town honors these war dead on September 28th each year. The Filipino people have requested the return of the bells to the original setting in the Balangiga Parish where they could ring again, after 105 years of muteness, as a symbol of this bond.

The acts of conflict that surrounded the bells of Balangiga are not consistent with the friendship that is an integral part of the relationship between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States. Filipino soldiers have fought side by side with American troops in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and the bells should more properly serve as a symbol of friendship and not of conflict.

I urge support of this resolution.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 29

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226