

on Religious Freedom, as certain provisions of the draft regarding the granting of legal personality need additional refinement. I similarly call on Serbian officials to amend their current law and ensure all groups seeking registration receive legal status. Meanwhile, there is a need to step up efforts to respect the sanctity and ensure the safety of places of worship that have in the past been the targets of ethnically based violence in Kosovo, Bosnia, Serbia and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, concerted efforts by courageous leaders in the Balkans and elsewhere have helped move the region from the edge of the abyss to the threshold for a brighter and more prosperous future. I congratulate the countries of southeastern Europe on the progress achieved thus far and encourage them to make further progress to ensure that all of the people of the region benefit.

TRIBUTE TO WESTERVELT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Westervelt Christian Church on the occasion of its induction into the National Register of Historic Places in February 2006. Westervelt Christian Church celebrated this special occasion with a ceremony on October 8, 2006.

The church was formed in 1921 after the Antioch Church families, living in Westervelt, felt they were traveling too far for services and desired that a new Christian church be built in Westervelt. It is believed that charter members of the First Christian Church were accepted on October 31, 1921 and that a list of these members was placed in the cornerstone of the church.

The church, built in classical revival style, was built during the years of 1921, 1922 and 1923. The lots for the church were donated by E.D. and Alpharetta Kerr and Charles and Minnie Donnel. The architect was Charles Harris and he designed the interior of the church to have outstanding acoustics while the outside of the building was designed to resemble a Greek temple. The building was dedicated on May 6, 1923. To this day, the church still uses the original theater seats, an original serving table in the basement as well as the original hanging lights.

In 1968, the congregation of First Christian Church decided to remove themselves from the Disciples of Christians Churches. The church formed new articles of incorporation and changed the name to Westervelt Christian Church, a now independent Christian church. Today, the church has the following mission statement, "The mission of the Westervelt Christian Church is to exalt and worship Almighty God by living, teaching and preaching the gospel of His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ as revealed to us by His holy word, the Bible."

I am pleased to congratulate Westervelt Christian Church on this special occasion. My prayers are with the church during this special time. May God bless the congregation of Westervelt Christian Church.

GAMBLING EXPLOSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, gambling is exploding throughout our country. I am deeply concerned about the impact this is having on our society. Gambling destroys families and preys on the poor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some comments from a recent speech delivered by Rev. Tom Grey, national spokesman and field director for the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion. Rev. Grey gave these remarks to the Seventh Annual Commercial Real Estate Deal Maker Forum on October 24, 2006, in Cleveland, Ohio, as Ohio voters were considering the question on the Ohio ballot to legalize casino gambling. The proposal, which included money allocated for education, was dubbed the "Earn and Learn" initiative. Voters defeated the initiative 57-43 percent on election day, November 7.

Tom has worked to bring attention to the harm gambling can bring to families and communities. Excerpts of Tom Grey's speech follow:

Gambling is like a fungus. If it gets started in one region, it tends to spread. We saw this happening, and in 1994 we formed, from the bottom up, a national organization to fight it. We gathered local and state activists and formed the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. We started sharing information and we challenged the spread of gambling at the ballot box. We did that in the peak of hard times for states. State budgets were upside down all across the country, and the casinos were pitching gambling as 'the force of history, the wave of the future.' In the beginning there were bands playing while governors cut ribbons and welcomed the riverboats as economic salvation. The promoters declared that gambling was 'inevitable,' but a decade later we now know it isn't even desirable.

The wave of gambling hit a wall when we started exposing the product. Key votes in Ohio, Rhode Island, Missouri, and Florida surprised the gambling promoters. Voters turned it down. They burst the balloon of inevitability. The promoters lost. Ordinary citizens were successful. It's at the ballot box where we have our best results. They can buy legislators with their threats and big campaign contributions, but they can't buy elections.

Gambling is and always has been an 'other side of the tracks business.' Do you really believe that valued lakeside museums and gateway sports complexes are enhanced by having a casino next to them? In addition, there are terrible side effects with this product. Read the label. 'May Cause'—no—WILL cause addiction, bankruptcy, crime and corruption.'

Well, most of you are here this morning because you are business people whose businesses rise with the tide of a flourishing Cleveland, the community where you live and do business. Let me use an example from one of America's most admired businessmen from the past named Herb Taylor.

For Taylor, a deal wasn't a good deal unless it was a good deal for everyone. Every deal, and every major business decision, had to pass these four questions, or tests:

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build good will and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

IS IT THE TRUTH?

The casino crowd has made billions turning teachers, school kids and PTA parents into gambling lobbyists. They do this by promising money for education, and that's exactly what they're doing in Ohio. Gambling promoters need to pick education or some other worthy community cause to buy their way into our communities or states. They want us to overlook the fact that the lion's share of the money goes to them. In Ohio, it's 55 percent. They want us to think the money's not going to the gambling promoters; they want you to think it's going to the schools.

Gambling isn't new money. It's re-directed money. It's trading dollars. Gambling came to New Mexico in 1994, and by 1998 the state's Secretary of Taxation and Revenue reported roughly \$1 to \$1.2 billion per year in other taxable sales had fallen off the balance sheet. Entertainment, retail, restaurants, and services took huge hits from the casinos, and as a result, paid far less in taxes. The best the economists could say was the economy was playing a 'zero sum game.' The casinos were winning and the other businesses were losing.

Is the gambling sales pitch the truth? NO! No state has gambled itself rich, including Nevada—a state that should serve as a model for what a state can produce with gambling. Nevada recently passed the largest tax increase in that state's history. Republican Governor Kenny Guinn told his legislature in his inaugural address, 'Our revenue system is broken because it has relied on regressive and unstable taxes.' (Guinn understands that when you take money from the citizens to run the government, it's still taxes, even if you do it with a slot machine.) Guinn told his legislature, 'Implicit in this (gambling) tax strategy was a belief that the revenues from gaming and tourism could keep pace with our growing and diverse population. Unfortunately, this strategy has failed.'

Nevada ranks near the bottom in per pupil spending on education, and spends less per capita on Medicaid than any other state. If those two areas don't concern you, take a look at where Nevada ranks in high school dropout rates, teen pregnancy, and children living in poverty. If the epicenter of gambling can't gamble itself rich—if the poster-child of casino-gunned government can't balance the budget, and if the model of slot machine largesse fails its kids so miserably, why would Ohio want to follow Nevada on its downward path?

IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?

The simple truth is that 30 to 50 percent of casino gambling money comes from problem and pathological gamblers. Can anyone think of anything more cynical than funding education on the backs of sick and troubled people?

There are about 400 of you here this morning. If casinos come to town, you can expect about 12 of you will become this kind of addicted gambler. You might not steal, but the addiction will likely cost you your home, your savings, your family, and your self respect. It could be you, your spouse, your siblings, your children. In the end, this addiction humiliates formerly great citizens to the point of desperation and even suicide. Gambling addicts think about suicide more than any other addictive group, and they act on those thoughts.

Inviting a casino to town is playing Russian roulette with your friends and neighbors; employees and business partners. At 3 percent, which is conservative in a casino town, it would be like giving you a handgun with 400 chambers, and 12 of them are loaded. Are you sure you want to pass that around

the tables? Are you willing to pull that trigger?

New addicted gamblers cost more than \$11,000 each—MINIMUM in 'externalities.' That's extra costs the society pays for law enforcement, incarcerations, lost worker productivity, divorce, health care and the like. Gambling isn't entertainment like shopping or the movies. It always brings with it a tide of what we call the ABCs of Gambling: Addiction, Bankruptcy, Crime and Corruption. These cost the state, and the taxpayers, and you, the businesses, money. That's why gambling is a net loss to the economy.

So what's your share? Let's do the math. Park a casino in your town, and the addiction rate will hit 3 percent or higher. Each new addict costs the economy more than \$11,000. That's about \$33,000 for each hundred people, or \$330 a year for each of you. And that's using the most conservative numbers available!

WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Well, I doubt it. Making slots promoters rich by turning citizens into losers isn't a friendly relationship. It's adversarial, predatory and parasitic. It doesn't build friendship. It builds cynicism and despair. Good will means the customer goes home and says I got a good deal.

Why does gambling have to keep expanding? Why do the casinos need to be open at 3 in the morning? Because that's what it takes to suck the addicted people dry. You just don't see many church-going college graduates that pay their credit cards on time yanking on slot machines at 3 in the morning. Did you notice this proposal has already set the stage for the conversion of slots parlors into full-blown casinos?

Corruption is government trying to make losers of its citizens by legalizing something that damages the very health of its citizens, all under the guise of a painless revenue stream. Take another look. The revenue stream is running backwards, and the pain is intense. History has proven this—over and over again. Gambling does not build friendships. It builds dependencies. It breeds corruption.

WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

Beneficial to all means everyone should be better off, not worse off. John Kennedy once said a rising tide lifts all boats. If gambling made all winners, it would be beneficial to all concerned. Of course, gambling makes losers and the citizens are worse off because of that. Even the people who never gamble lose money: the citizens and taxpayers. They get stuck with additional costs that they didn't have before: those public health and crime costs that ALWAYS follow gambling.

In order to enrich themselves, these slots promoters are asking you to divert money from legitimate businesses, move jobs from real commerce to casinos, and give the taxpayers the bill for the social costs. Remember, the promoters openly admit they expect Ohio to sacrifice the health and lives of 109,000 of its citizens. They propose to make those people very sick, and then spend another \$28 million to treat them. And even that sum isn't going to cover the bill. Not by a long shot. Do the math.

Multiply that 109,000 new addicts the promoters ADMIT they will cause, times the \$11,000 each for social costs. That comes to \$1,199,000,000 loss for the economy of Ohio. Why would we accept making 109,000 people sick, and then losing more than a billion dollars from the economy to boot?

The Pew Research Center just this year found three important changes in Americans' thoughts about gambling. First, they found that 7 in 10 Americans say that legal-

ized gambling encourages people to gamble more than they can afford. That's up about 10 percent in the past 10 years. Second, a plurality, 42 percent of adults say casinos have a negative impact on their communities, while only about a third, 34 percent, say casinos have a positive impact. Third, and most revealing, the study found that only 23 percent of Americans actually enjoy gambling. That's down from 34 percent just 10 years ago. Think about that. If your product drops 11 percent in the people who enjoy it, you're in trouble.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM FELICE,
FLORIDA PROFESSOR OF THE
YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. William F. Felice, a professor of Political Science at Eckerd College, who has been named the 2006 Florida Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Felice was honored here in Washington on November 16th along with professors of the year from 43 states.

It is my privilege to represent Eckerd College, a St. Petersburg, Florida college led by its President Donald R. Eastman III, which emphasizes quality undergraduate education. Dr. Felice is one of many outstanding members of the Eckerd faculty.

Motivating students in his international relations classes is Dr. Felice's principal goal as a professor. He is highly successful as since 1995 when he joined the Eckerd faculty, he has been awarded some of the college's highest honors by his students and his peers. He received the John M. Bevan Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award in 2005. The students voted him the Professor of the Year in 2003 and the faculty voted him the Robert A. Staub Distinguished Teacher of the Year in 1999.

This latest honor though is not his first national recognition, as he earned the 1999 American Political Science Association (APSA) Outstanding Teacher in Political Science Award from APSA and Phi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, following my remarks I would like to include for the benefit of my colleagues a profile of Dr. Felice published by Eckerd College. Clearly he has found a way to inspire his students to study more about the world around them and I commend him for this great honor and for the personal energy and enthusiasm he brings to the classroom.

"My primary pedagogical method is to teach international relations in a Socratic style, constantly questioning and interacting with the students in the class. I strive to motivate students to understand the importance of international relations by my example. With conviction and passion, I try to show students how central these issues are, both to my own personal intellectual journey and to world affairs."—William F. Felice

William F. Felice, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science at Eckerd College, has been named the 2006 Florida Professor of the Year by the prestigious Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The U.S. Professors of the Year Program, administered by

the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

Professor Felice was recognized on November 16, 2006 in a Washington, D.C. awards ceremony along with professors from 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam. The following day, also in Washington, Florida Congressman C.W. Bill Young extended personal congratulations to Professor Felice.

"It is a fitting tribute to Professor Felice to be recognized as the 2006 Florida Professor of the Year," said Eckerd College President Donald R. Eastman III. "Professor Felice epitomizes what is one of Eckerd College's greatest strengths in the academic program: the mentoring relationship between the professor and student. Professor Felice, who exudes passion in his teaching about human rights and social justice, motivates students to find the courage to address issues of poverty and despair with a sense of hope that their efforts will make a difference in this world."

"Not only has Prof. Felice distinguished himself as a truly outstanding teacher whose impact on students is profound," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Lloyd W. Chapin. "He has contributed substantially to building an extraordinary undergraduate International Relation and Global Affairs Program that offers students unique opportunities to study both here and abroad. They study at the United Nations in New York City and in Geneva, Switzerland, and complete domestic and international service learning projects. Highly respected also for his curricular leadership, he coordinated our capstone senior course, Quest for Meaning, from 2004-2006 earning rave reviews from the interdisciplinary team of twenty faculty who participate in the course.

"Repeatedly, students tell me stories of the transformative effect that Professor Felice has had on their intellectual and ethical lives."

HOW TWO FORMER STUDENTS REMEMBER
PROFESSOR FELICE

Professor Felice's courses have included Ethics and International Relations, Introduction to International Relations, Quest for Meaning, International Political Economy, Geneva and International Cooperation, Human Rights and International Law.

"Dr. Felice inspires and motivates his students in many ways, but one of his greatest gifts as a teacher is his ability to teach about empathy toward the poverty-stricken and oppressed in our local community and on a global scale."

—Kathleen Deegan, B.A., Eckerd College, 2003

"One professor in particular sticks out in my mind as a humble hero whose passion and enthusiasm for life and education infuse his teaching with boundless energy, encourage his colleagues to aspire to higher levels of learning and teaching and inspire his students in ways admired by many and replicated by few. Though I honestly believe that Professor Felice could easily have led a life of fame, world travel and excitement as a politician or an international affairs consultant, I am selfishly grateful that he chose to dedicate so much of his time to teaching and I hope that he realizes just how great an impact he has made in that role."

—Taryn Fielder, B.A., summa cum laude, Eckerd College, 1999; J.D., Harvard Law School, 2002

TEACHING AWARDS

Professor Felice joined the Eckerd College faculty in 1995. Since then Professor Felice has received Eckerd College's John M. Bevan