

July 1, 1999

MR. JOHN TOPOLEWSKI AWARDED FRANCE'S KNIGHT'S CROSS OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to honor a 104 year old veteran in my district. John Topolewski was awarded France's Knight Cross of the French Legion of Honor on Wednesday, June 16, 1999 in Toledo, Ohio. The Knight's Cross is the highest award given by France to citizens of other countries. The award was presented to Mr. Topolewski by France's Consul General Alain de Keghel, the second ranking French official in the U.S., in front of a replica of the troop train which transported U.S. troops to France in World War I. Mr. Topolewski was one of those "Doughboys" and a member of the 82nd Infantry Division. The nation of France has bestowed the Knight's Cross upon John Topolewski for uncommon valor in the trenches as he fought in the United States Army during World War I.

The Greek historian Thucydides wrote "remember that this greatness was won by men with courage, with knowledge of their duty, and with a sense of honor in action . . . but the bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding go out to meet it." As a young man at the dawn of his adulthood, John Topolewski embodied these words. He acted because he thought it his duty to his comrades, his country, and the world, not out of a desire for recognition, glory or awards. Consul General Keghel told him as he gave him the medal "More than two million American soldiers were sent across the Atlantic Ocean. The French have not forgot their bravery more than eighty years later. Today it is your turn, Mr. John Topolewski, to be honored. You served in dangerous conditions. You belong for sure among the veterans here."

John Topolewski stands today as a symbol of thousands of nameless heroes of that first great world wide conflict, and the ones which followed. He is a reminder of the humanness in war, of sacrifices made to preserve liberty and regain freedoms withheld. Although I was unable to personally be with him as he received this belated honor, I salute John Topolewski, and thank him on behalf of the people of our nation and freedom lovers world-wide.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NEED FOR RECONCILIATION AND HEALING AND RECOMMENDING A CALL FOR DAYS OF PRAYER

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, last week the House failed to suspend the rules and agree

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

to a resolution that would have recommended that our nation's leaders call for a day of prayer, fasting, and humiliation before God. The Wichita Eagle, a leading Kansas newspaper, asked the Kansas U.S. Representatives to provide a statement explaining their votes on this proposal. I want to take this opportunity to include my response letter in the RECORD.

CATHY WILFONG,
Wichita Eagle.

DEAR MS. WILFONG: On June 29, 1999, I was asked to vote on House Concurrent Resolution 94, a resolution asking that Congress "... call the people they serve to observe, a day of solemn prayer, fasting, and humiliation before God." I voted against the resolution. Here's why:

As a citizen, I value my own religious freedom so very much that I would be insulted if Congress told me how to pray, or how to honor and how to reconcile my relationship with God. In fact, our country was formed by people who came here seeking religious freedom and seeking to escape the tyranny of a king in England who told them how to pray and what kind of religion they would practice. One of the wonderful things about our country is that every person has an opportunity to practice (or not practice) religion exactly as he/she wishes.

For me, religion is an intensely personal thing. I would never presume to tell somebody else how to pray or practice religion. And I would not appreciate anybody doing that to me.

I was struck by the language in the House Resolution which stated that "... it is the necessary duty of the people of this Nation not to only to humbly offer up our prayers and needs to Almighty God, but also in a solemn and public manner to confess our shortcomings . . ."

I invite the authors of this resolution to read Matthew 6:5-6. According to my Bible, Jesus said: "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Just maybe our founding fathers had it right. In matters of faith, perhaps it is best that people have the freedom to practice religion as they wish without instruction from their government or from Congress.

Very truly yours,

DENNIS MOORE,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING MR. EDWARD "ED" RENFROW, STATE CONTROLLER OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress to State Controller of North Carolina Edward "Ed" Renfrow of Smithfield, NC.

On March 19, 1999, the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) presented Mr. Renfrow with the distinguished 1998 Donald L. Scantlebury Memorial Award for Distinguished Leadership in Financial Man-

agement Improvement at their 28th Annual Financial Management Conference in Washington, DC. The JFMIP is a cooperative initiative of the General Accounting Office (GAO), the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Treasury, and the Office of Personnel Management to improve financial management practices and policies in the public sector.

The Scantlebury awards were named for the former Chief Accountant of the GAO, and were established to give the highest recognition to government executives who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and improvement in financial management in the public sector. The award was presented to Mr. Renfrow by David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States.

Governor James B. Hunt of North Carolina nominated Mr. Renfrow for the award stating, "Throughout his distinguished career, Ed Renfrow has served the citizens of North Carolina by providing sustained, high quality leadership in financial management at both the state and national levels. Ed has been a strong voice for fiscal accountability and responsibility within government and has been instrumental in reducing costs and promoting the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of government operations. The awards committee could not have recognized a more accomplished leader in the area of financial management and I congratulate him on this prestigious award."

Mr. Renfrow has distinguished himself through a lengthy career of public service to the people of North Carolina. I am proud to say that I share personal and professional paths with Mr. Renfrow, both of us having grown up in Johnston County and serving together on the North Carolina Council of State from 1989 to 1993. Mr. Renfrow began his career of elective public service in 1974 when he was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly, serving three 2-year Senate terms. In 1980, Mr. Renfrow began his first of three 4-year terms as North Carolina's State Auditor. Mr. Renfrow's current position as North Carolina's State Controller began in 1993 with his appointment by Governor Hunt and subsequent confirmation by the General Assembly. His current term as State Controller ends on June 30, 2001.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Edward "Ed" Renfrow on this most recent award, continuing recognition of his long career of public service.

"THAT'S WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME"

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I have been fortunate enough to hear from American citizens from all walks of life. I have heard the many voices throughout this nation about what this country means to them. They have expressed their appreciation, love, gratitude and pride for America. I have heard from the veteran who has voiced strong convictions about the value

of military service and the sacrifice of men and women who made this country free. I have listened to the educators and students share their dreams and aspirations for the future. And I have learned from citizens who speak from their hearts about our moral obligation to help the poor, the homeless, and destitute. But, possibly, louder than anyone, I have heard from the silent majority; those who never wave banners, or hold protest rallies, but faithfully take their privilege to vote seriously and always find their ways to the polls. These expressions of pride, deep commitment to principles, and faith in God and Country tell about the greatness of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I have incorporated all of these important ideals in this song I wrote several years ago about my love for this Country. Tomorrow is the Fourth of July, a day that has a very special meaning to me, the Nation, and all the Members of this body. I hope we can all enjoy this song and I am honored to have this opportunity to put it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

"That's What America Means to Me"

Verse

A place where you can speak your mind and firmly disagree.

If you believe in what you say just say what you believe.

Where you can choose to work and live or where you want to pray.

The Land of opportunity; you can do it your own way.

Chorus

That's what America means to me

Where dreams come true;

It's up to you to be what you want to be.

Though silent your voice will be heard

That's what America means to me.

Verse

Your rights are guaranteed; they're written down in history.

We help the poor and weary;

we feed the hungry.

Protecting our honor, defend it we must.

We still do pledge allegiance

and still in God We Trust.

RESEARCH DEBATE DESERVES OUR ATTENTION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, John Kass, a columnist with the Chicago Tribune has written another important article on a sensitive subject, fetal research. I urge my colleagues to read it carefully.

[From the Chicago Tribune, July 1, 1999]

RESEARCH DEBATE TACKLES NEW WORLD
SOME DARE NOT BRAVE

(By John Kass)

A discussion begins in Washington on Thursday. It's not about sex or money. It's not about scandals or interest rates or war. So it might not get the media coverage it deserves.

But it could be the most important debate of our generation. It will determine whether we're going to make it easy on ourselves to make a bargain with science and the future.

Depending on how it comes out and what we settle for, it will determine what kind of human beings we will become, as science moves quicker than our ability to understand its consequences, in areas from human cloning to fetal stem cell research.

And it will answer a question:

Is it right to take human beings and process them as resources to benefit other human beings?

About 100 doctors and scientists have signed a statement from the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity to oppose something horrible—embryonic and fetal stem cell research, which uses aborted children and viable fertilized embryos to develop cures for some diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

At the news conference, the doctors are being joined by U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, the joined by U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, the Republican from Kansas, who is expected to lead a fight against changes in federal policy that now allows the research.

The National Institutes of Health already supports and finances the research using fetuses. Now, the NIH wants to use embryos too.

Among those opposing the research is former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop.

Some scientists argue that they need the human "material," as they call it, to study how the mind works, in order to attack the horrible diseases.

But doctors who have signed the document say that's wrong. Stem cell research on brain diseases is in its early stages, and there are other means to grow the cells to attack brain diseases.

Sen. Brownback said it is important to realize that the ethical line of using human life for stem cell research need not be crossed.

"For those who say there are moral and ethical issues on the other side, who say we have the moral responsibility to solve diseases like Parkinson's, I say, look at the other possibilities that we have," Brownback said Wednesday in an interview.

"We don't have to give up on solving Parkinson's. We have other ways of doing it. And that seems to be a prudent way to proceed," he said. "It's almost every week that another study comes out about advances in adult stem cell research. Let's not get into the situation where you go into all these legal and ethical issues—you'd have enormous ethical and moral issues here, and you shouldn't jump into it."

The debate over the use of fetal brain tissue in experiments was touched on in this space Monday. And I could hear the angry howling.

I'm not opposing science, or research, or organ donation, or any other reasonable practice. Organ donors offer their consent to have their bodies used by science.

But aborted children don't have that opportunity. They're not asked to give their consent. And they are used in stem cell research to help adults fight brain diseases.

Fifty years ago, the Nuremberg war crimes trials led the world to promise never to use human life in scientific experiments without consent. But now we're changing our minds, in order to win a scientific benefit.

And we cannot make a political deal on this issue without publicly and fully discussing the consequences of such selfish thinking.

Some people argue that to oppose this research is to condemn people with Parkinson's to death.

U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) thinks so. Though we disagree on this issue, he should be heard too.

"I think this is valuable research," Durbin said. "We have to set up safeguards that will keep it from becoming commercialized. The important thing about these (fetal) neural cells is that they may be able to help in cases that we can do nothing about now, conditions like that which keep Christopher Reeve in a wheelchair."

But there are other ways to obtain stem cells, according to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity. And even if there weren't other ways, using human babies and embryos should not be allowed.

Stem cells can be obtained from the living human nerve tissues of consenting adults and from adult cadavers, according to researchers. Like the fetal stem cell research, all of this is experimental.

Here's one reason why the fetuses and embryos are used. It's easier. They're available.

And that's the problem.

Because it is easy, and because there is promise in the research, we might be willing—through small steps we don't even notice at the time—to barter something away. Our humanity.

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEDDLING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS—YET AGAIN

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, can you believe that the Clinton-Gore Administration may be working with the United Nations to override a decision by the sovereign, duly-elected government of Australia regarding an internal land-use issue in that country?

On July 12th the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) will meet in Paris, France for the purpose of stopping the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine near the Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory of Australia. Mine opponents were unable to persuade the Australian people and their government to stop the mine, so they have appealed to the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of the United Nations. Since Kakadu National Park is a U.N. World Heritage Site, environmental and anti-nuclear activists want the WHC to have Kakadu declared "In Danger," thus making mine construction very difficult.

The United States is a Member of the 21 nation World Heritage Committee, and the Clinton Administration is being lobbied by U.S. environmental and anti-nuclear activists to oppose Australia and vote in favor of the "In Danger" designation. The important issue here is protection of the rights of people in the democratic process of a sovereign nation from interference by international bureaucrats with no accountability whatsoever. The Jabiluka mine decision fundamentally affects citizens of Australia and a global organization should not be ceded that role and its associated powers to in which affected Australians have no representation. If the United States does not oppose this interference of the WHC in Australia's internal affairs, then we will hardly be