

was a look of disbelief, pain and yet inspiration because Ricky Byrdsong was truly inspiring. I never wish to attend another funeral of a victim of such hatred. Ricky Byrdsong has made our mission clearer than ever. The culture of hate has no place among us. We must educate and use the truth to counter the lies being spread by hatemongers, groups and so-called churches in our communities, schools, places of worship, neighborhoods and especially on the Internet to our youth.

As a society, we must not be intimidated by the few who refuse to live peacefully among us. We must stand firm and never ever be afraid. That is why I was so proud to join the Jewish Family and Community Services, Jewish Children's Bureau and the Anti Defamation League, the rabbis and other leaders of the Jewish community in Chicago, particularly Mr. Michael Kotzin of the Jewish United Fund and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago who showed such leadership, to join with them on the day after six Jewish men were shot to say that an attack on even one is an attack on all of us.

I wish to recognize the Jewish United Fund for opening a special fund to aid families affected by bigotry-related violence. The initial goal of the JUF Fund for Hate Crime Victims and Families will offer assistance to the family of Ricky Byrdsong for the children's higher education.

As the Sabbath came to a close last Saturday evening, we walked the streets of the Rogers Park neighborhood in solidarity. Rogers Park is the kind of community that haters hate the most. It is diverse, integrated, independent, peaceful and all-American. But in a perverse sense of Americanism during the 4th of July weekend a crazy person attempted to take that away, and he failed.

Our community is stronger than ever. We stood together at a time of great anxiety and grave danger. Now is the time for Congress to respond to the tragedies that took place on the 4th of July weekend and pass sensible gun safety legislation. Congress must act now to make it more difficult for individuals to obtain weapons in order to convert their hatred into terror and death.

Guns used by the assailant were bought from an illegal gun dealer. He recently purchased more than 60 guns for the sole purpose of selling them for a profit. Unfortunately, two of these guns were sold to a murderer, with complete disregard for the sanctity of life. We have a responsibility to protect the lives of our constituents. Congress must pass and the President must sign bills to limit the purchase of handguns to one per month and to require the registration of every handgun sold in the United States. Our constituents

demand it, and our children deserve it, and we should also pass stronger hate crimes legislation so all of us will be safe in our communities.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
HAILED AS LEADER IN ELECTRONIC
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, critics often hasten to draw attention to government agencies' failures, while ignoring successes if they notice them at all. Today I want to draw the House's attention to two prestigious awards and other accolades recently received by the Government Printing Office (GPO) for its leading role in electronic information dissemination through GPO Access, its acclaimed Internet information service (www.access.gpo.gov).

First, the Vice-President's National Partnership for Reinventing Government has honored the GPO and the Energy Department (DOE) jointly with a "Hammer Award" for the "Information Bridge," a project which makes available thousands of unclassified DOE scientific and technical reports in electronic format.

Using the World Wide Web, users enter the DOE electronic dissemination system through GPO Access, where they can view over 30,000 DOE reports already on-line, with more becoming available every day. The Information Bridge eliminates the need to disseminate these reports to depository libraries in printed form, thereby saving production and distribution costs to the government, and processing and storage costs to the libraries.

This is GPO's second "Hammer Award" for GPO Access; the first came in 1997 for re-engineering the Commerce Business Daily with the Commerce Department. In 1998 Vice-President GORE and Government Executive magazine named GPO Access one of the 15 "Best Feds on the Web."

In addition, the legal community has recently lauded GPO Access. Law Office Computing magazine's April/May issue named GPO Access one of the top 50 legal-research web sites for 1999. The magazine's top 50 web sites, which included only seven federal sites, were chosen as favorites of law librarians, attorneys and paralegals based on experience with the sites and their usability.

Further, the April 1999 issue of Chicago Lawyer magazine reports that the newsletter legal.online has selected GPO Access as both the "best research site for laws" and the "overall best Government site." Finally, the GPO just received the first American Association of Law Libraries' "Public Access to Government Information Award" as the "official, no-fee, one-stop public access point for the growing universe of web-based electronic Government information." These accolades follow GPO's selection in February by In-Plant Graphics magazine as the top in-plant operation in the country, and in March as a top technology innovator by PC Week magazine.

Public- and private-sector entities alike appreciate the leading role GPO is playing as we advance into the information age. Let's join in

the applause for the dedicated professionals of the GPO.

COSTS THAT ILLEGAL NARCOTICS
IMPOSE ON OUR SOCIETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor again tonight to discuss the issue of illegal narcotics and the tremendous cost to our Nation. Over and over again it is important that I think we repeat the message that I have with me here today, and that is a simple one, that drugs destroy lives. And I believe if every Member of Congress takes a few minutes to look at the impact of illegal narcotics they will be absolutely startled as to the damage that it does to our society, the cost to countless families across this Nation and also the tremendous responsibility cast upon the Congress to finance the social, the judicial and other costs that illegal narcotics impose upon our society.

Tonight I want to talk for a few minutes about some of those costs and tell the Congress and the American people that there are some very specific and direct costs to illegal narcotics and what they have done to this Nation and to, again, families and young people. In fact, during the past year over 14,000 Americans lost their lives as a direct result of the misuse or abuse of illegal narcotics in this Nation.

I come from a beautiful area in central Florida. My district is between Orlando and Daytona Beach, a very peaceful, affluent, high employment, high income area. Even my area has been plagued with countless deaths. In fact, a recent headline in Orlando Sentinel newspaper blasted out that in fact the number of drug-related deaths had now exceeded the number of homicides. Drug overdose deaths now exceed homicides in central Florida.

So the statistics are not only bad in my area but across the Nation, with more than 14,000, and again we do not count in all of those that are in traffic accidents or in suicides or other unreported deaths that may have some other report of the demise of the individual which is not included in this 14,000 figure.

In 1995, we had almost 532,000 drug-related emergencies which occurred across this Nation, and that figure has been on the upswing particularly among our young people, which should be of concern again to every Member of Congress. In 1995 we also have a figure that is reported of a retail value of the illicit drug business being over \$49 billion.

The cost goes on and on again to our society. Across the land tonight there