

point average of 3.79 at Northville High School, where he has assumed numerous leadership positions. In addition, Adam has volunteered his time to work on several political campaigns in Oakland and Wayne Counties and has been active in his church.

I am honored that I had the opportunity to nominate Adam for the Republican page program. He capitalized on this wonderful opportunity to work and learn in our nation's capital and enhanced his understanding of politics and the legislative process.

I have the utmost confidence that Adam will continue to achieve success in the endeavors he pursues, and I wish him the very best during his senior year at Northville High.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 1999*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen airline delay enroute to Washington, I was not present to vote on rollcall vote No. 335, the Hoeffel amendment to H.R. 1074. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment. I was also unable to vote on rollcall vote No. 336 on passage of H.R. 1074. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this recorded vote.

#### CONGRATULATING PAT CAMPANILE'S STUDENTS AT SHADY LANE ELEMENTARY

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 1999*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a great day, on which 30 sixth grade students from the Shady Lane Elementary School reached all of the appropriate levels on their Terra Nova test. Ms. Pat Campanile's sixth grade class is an outstanding group of young people. I wish the best of luck to the following group of sixth graders who shared this special day with me at the Shady Lane School: Courtney Callahan, Nicholas Battee, Jaimie Beeker, Destiny Bingham, Brian Buck, John Childress, Robert Kilcourse, Kody McMichael, Marisa Peters, Matthew Raively, Deborah Robinson, Karen Sabater, Donald Smith, Richard Smith, Marcus Smith, Ayana Thomas, Jessica Welch, George Williams, and Nylan Wolcott.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 1999*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, last week I was not able to be present for rollcall votes 308-334. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: 308—

"yea"; 309—"yea"; 310—"yea"; 311—"yea"; 312—"yea"; 313—"no"; 314—"no"; 315—"no"; 316—"yea"; 317—"yea"; 318—"yea"; 319—"yea"; 320—"no"; 321—"yea"; 322—"yea"; 323—"yea"; 324—"no"; 325—"yea"; 326—"yea"; 327—"yea"; 328—"yea"; 329—"yea"; 330—"no"; 331—"yea"; 332—"yea"; 333—"no"; 334—"yea."

#### RECOGNIZING BISHOP MACRAM MAX GASSIS

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 1999*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the RECORD an article from the recent Washington Watch by the Family Research Council about Bishop Macram Max Gassis, a Roman Catholic bishop from Sudan. Over the years, Bishop Macram has tirelessly fought for justice for his people—the people of Southern Sudan and the Nuba Mountains who have suffered and died in great numbers during the war that has plagued the country for the past fifteen years.

Over 2 million people have died in Sudan—more than in Rwanda, Kosovo, Somalia and Bosnia combined. They often feel they are forgotten by the world.

Bishop Macram reminds us that these men, women and children must not be forgotten. He reminds us of their brave spirit, their hope in the midst of suffering and their quest for justice. He reminds us of our responsibility to speak out, take action and do what we can to help the people of Sudan.

I have been privileged to know Bishop Macram over the years.

#### A GENTLE GIANT OF FAITH

(By Bill Saunders)

In Sudan, just south of Egypt, where the church traces its roots to Apostolic times, a radical Islamic government is waging war on its own citizens—torturing and murdering Christians. In this war, the government regularly bombs innocent civilians, destroys their food supplies, poisons their only sources of clean water, desecrates their churches, supports the taking of their children as slaves, and forces non-Arab, non-Muslim people into refugee camps where they must convert to Islam or starve.

For years, the world has done little to help. The U.N. has allowed the Sudanese government to dictate where it can provide relief (thus, the most needy people starve). Until recently, the U.S. focused little diplomatic effort on the problem, despite Sudan's strategic position as a bridge between black Africa and the Middle East, and despite the Sudanese government's avowed aim of exporting radical Islam throughout the world. Only recently, the House of Representatives passed a stinging resolution, finally and fairly condemning these practices by the Sudanese government. Senator Sam Brownback has introduced a similar resolution in the Senate but it remains to be seen whether the House will vote to take substantive action.

In the midst of this man-made hell on earth, one man stands out as he fights for justice. That man is Catholic Bishop Macram Max Gassis. Born in Sudan of ethnically mixed parents and educated in England,

Italy, and the United States, the Bishop is an articulate modern-day prophet. The only Sudanese bishop born in the northern (Arab) part of the country, he is fluent in the Arabic language and understands those in the North who see all blacks as "slaves" and all Christians as "infidels".

Unlike so many others, he refuses to pretend the horror does not exist. He has spoken out before the European Parliament, the U.S. Congress, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission. He travels regularly to the West, particularly to the United States, to expose the evil in his country. His witness has inspired many, from Senator Brownback to Congressman Frank Wolf. He, like St. Paul, has spoken the truth to kings and governors.

In Sudan, the people revere Bishop Gassis for his courage. The government, angry that he has called it to account, has branded him a criminal. Whenever he travels back to his country, he risks being captured and possibly executed.

Undaunted, he returns to his diocese because his people need him. His presence inspires them. Every time he returns, he smuggles desperately needed supplies through enemy lines. In many areas, he is the only one providing assistance.

Despite his tribulations, the Bishop remains a gentle man, firmly committed to Christ. He has a special affection for children, particularly those children who were formerly enslaved, and is raising several hundred of them, orphaned by the raiders who abducted them. These children need food, clothing, shelter, education, and counseling, and he provides it. Because of this expression of Christian love, the children are joyful and, like Bishop Gassis, full of hope.

Christianity in Sudan, its ancestral home, is alive and growing. The church, through heroes like Bishop Gassis, refuses to be silenced. As he says, "though we in Sudan are being crucified, after every crucifixion, there comes a resurrection."

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Chairman, the House Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for FY00 provides an extremely important allocation of resources in a serious effort to improve critical shortcomings affecting the readiness of our armed forces. This bill meets the budget authority and outlay limits set in the Committee's 302(b) allocation, provides a critical \$15.5 billion increase over appropriations in FY99, and provides \$2.8 billion above the President's request. This legislation goes a long way to address critical readiness, recruitment, retention, operational maintenance, and quality of life needs that are so important for our military. However, I am concerned about one aspect of the legislation's strategy, cutting