OBITUARY OF MRS. ADDIE THOMASON
OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Addie Pressley Thomason was born in York County, South Carolina to the late John and Katie Wilson Pressley on October 9, 1896. She was called to her reward on Monday, July 12, 1999 at Gaston Memorial Hospital, Gastonia, North Carolina.

A lifelong resident of the Gastonia metropolitan area, Addie Thomason was the daughter and wife of farmers. She was a witness to more than a century of change and progress in the area; from mule-drawn transportation to space flight, and from rigid segregation to a society more representative of the needs and aspirations of all its citizens. Through it all, "Mother Addie" was a source of support, stability, courage, and comfort to her family, friends, and community at large. She was passionately committed to education and, despite being denied access to a formal education during her formative years, she persevered in pursuing her own goal of learning to read and write by attending school at the age of 85—an achievement recognized by the then Governor of the State of North Carolina.

During her life, "Mother Addie" was an avid gardener and active member of several area church congregations; including New Home AME Zion in York, South Carolina, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, and St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Gastonia, North Carolina. She often credited her faith in God as the source of her strength, determination, and longevity.

Addie Thomason was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Thomason and son Fred, Jr. She leaves six loving children: Rev. John Thomason of Bloomfield, New Jersey; Leroy Thomason of Stanley, North Carolina; and Rev. Mason Thomason, Alice Ross, Lillian Thomason, and Cora Lee Hart, all of Gastonia, North Carolina.

She is also survived by two loving daughters-in-law, sixteen grandchildren, twenty-three great-grandchildren, and sixteen great-great grandchildren, as well as a host of family and friends.

THERE IS A VIRUS LOOSE WITHIN OUR CULTURE: AN HONEST LOOK AT MUSIC'S IMPACT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than three months since the tragic event of Columbine High School occurred a few blocks from my home. As we here in Congress continue to struggle to find ways to prevent this from happening again, I would like to call attention to a report prepared by the Free Congress Foundation which will hopefully broaden our understanding of how cultural factors shape the lives of our youth.

I would like to submit into the record the attached executive summary from the report written by Tom Jipping, Director of the Center for Law and Democracy at the Free Congress Foundation, which details popular music's contribution to youth violence. Mr. Jipping has worked with at-risk youth for a dozen years, and research and written in this area for over a decade. The report surveys, research, and data, and other evidence documenting how some popular music can lead some young people to violence. Many congressional offices have received a hard copy of the entire report already.

The report does not advocate any specific policy proposals but instead provides comprehensive information that will make anyone, no matter what plan of action they pursue, better informed.

The report has been endorsed by hundreds of grassroots organizations and religious leaders from the evangelical, Catholic, Jewish and Orthodox communities. I urge all Members to read the attached executive summary and the full report as we continue to address the problem of youth violence and delinquency.

"THERE IS A VIRUS LOOSE WITHIN OUR CULTURE:" AN HONEST LOOK AT MUSIC'S IMPACT

(By Thomas L. Jipping)

After two teenagers killed twelve of their peers, a teacher, and themselves at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, Governor Bill Owens said that "there is a virus loose within our culture." The effort to identify that virus is properly focusing on visually powerful elements of youth culture such as television, movies, and video games. This report addresses whether non-visual media such as popular music are also part of this cultural virus that can help lead some young people to violence.

Five days after the massacre, on NBC's Meet the Press, host Tim Russert reported that the Littleton killers idolized shock-rocker Marilyn Manson, described by every music press as an "ultra-violent satanic rock monstrosity." They were not alone. Kip Kinkel, who murdered his parents and two students in Springfield, Oregon, consumed Manson's message. Andrew Wurst, who killed a teacher at an eighth-grade dance in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, was nicknamed "Satana" because of his belief in Marilyn Manson and his dark music. Luke Woodham, who murdered his parents and a classmate in Pearl, Mississippi, was a fan of Manson's. "I'm on my way down; I've looked ahead and saw a world that's dead, I guess I am too; I'm on my way down, I'd like to take you with me."

"Mother Addie" was a source of support, stability, courage, and comfort to her family, friends, and community at large. She was passionately committed to education and, despite being denied access to a formal education during her formative years, she persevered in pursuing her own goal of learning to read and write by attending school at the age of 85—an achievement recognized by the then Governor of the State of North Carolina.

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THERE IS A VIRUS LOOSE WITHIN... ONE OF COLORADO

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THERE IS A VIRUS LOOSE WITHIN...
is the only thing I had to enjoy. So I got into heavy metal rock bands. Kiss, Black Sabbath and things like that.

While Marilyn Manson alone is not the problem, his brand of music promotes violence more aggressively than ever. Indeed, Manson’s own response to the Littleton massacre raises the issue to be addressed here. Television or even religion may cause youth violence, he says, but music plays no role whatever. In fact, he claims that he is actually a victim when he asserts that the media “has unfairly scapegoated the music industry. . . .” and has speculated—with what serious advocates of artists like myself are in some way [sic] to blame.

Unfortunately, it appears that the music industry’s only response to this cultural crisis is simply to deny that its products have any effect on anyone. One the June 29, 1999, edition on CNN’s Showbiz Today program, for example, musician Billy Joel dismissed as “absurd” the idea that music influences violent behavior. Elton John put it more bluntly: “It has nothing to do with the musical content or the lyrics whatever. (The idea is) absolute rubbish.”

No one, or course, argues that popular music is the sole cause of youth violence. Something as complex as human behavior does not have a sole cause. The question is not whether popular music excites or encourages violent behaviors (something no one seriously argues), but whether there is any “basis in truth” for the proposition that some popular music makes a real contribution to youth (something only the music industry denies).

The affirmative answer to this question rests on three pillars. First, media such as television and music are very powerful influences on attitudes and behavior. Second, popular music in an even more powerful influence on young people. Third, some of the most popular music today promotes destructive behavior such as violence and drug use.

Effective prescriptions require accurate diagnoses. Whether the solution involves parental involvement, public policy, pressure on record companies or retailers to change their practices, or all of these and more, the effort must be informed by a comprehensive understanding of the problem.

TONI PARKS, GUEST LECTURER FOR THE RC HICKMAN YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS WORKSHOP
HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the constituents of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the residents of Dallas and my colleagues in the House of Representatives in taking great pleasure to proclaim July 31st, 1999 as “Toni Parks Day.”

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Toni Parks is an internationally acclaimed photographer whose works have appeared in prominent magazines and newspapers throughout the U.S. and Europe. Her pictures have appeared in Stagebill, American Visions, USA, Life and Arts, to name a few. Toni Parks has been featured in numerous exhibitions including the Lish Gallery, Tony Green Gallery in England, Columbia University, and the Martin Luther King Gallery. Her photos consist of fashion and beauty as only Toni Parks can vision. In her years as a photographer, she has received critical acclaim for her works of art. Toni Parks will be on podium to share her experiences with the students and enthusiasts of the RC Hickman Young Photographers Workshop at the South Dallas Cultural Center, located on the corner of Robert B. Cullum and Fitzhugh. The program is presented each year by the Artist and Elaine Thornton Foundation For the Arts, Inc., a non-profit organization established to educate, promote and embrace the arts of all disciplines including drama, dance, visual, and music. Its mission is to bring about positive social awareness to the inner city community, using art as a tool for positive social change.

We salute you Toni Parks.

Therefore, I ask that all citizens of Dallas join in celebrating July 31st, 1999 as “Toni Parks Day.”

RECOGNIZING JACQUE CORTEZ
HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jacque Cortez upon her selection by Visalia-area schools as a “Good Kid.” Jacque was chosen based on her academic achievements, classroom leadership, and efforts in literature and music.

The “Good Kid” program was formed in an effort to provide students with positive reinforcement. The program allows Visalia teachers to nominate students, who have excelled in academics and demonstrated a good work ethic, for recognition in the Visalia Times Delta newspaper. Those individuals selected are mentioned in a piece featured daily in the Times Delta.

Jacque Cortez, who was nominated by her fifth grade teacher, currently attends sixth grade at Willow Glen Elementary in Visalia, California. Throughout Jacque’s years at Willow Glen, faculty and classmates alike have considered her a student who is eager to learn and always willing to assist others.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Jacque Cortez for being selected as a “Good Kid.” I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jacque continued success in her academic and extracurricular pursuits.

INSIGHTS ON THE PEACE PROCESS
HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to enter into the record an opinion piece from the May 30th Washington Times by former Illinois Senator Chuck Percy. In this article, Senator Percy concisely points out the present status of the peace process and those steps that must occur next for progress to continue. This is a timely and insightful piece that I commend to the attention of all members.

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Since then, much progress has been made in communications between Arabs and Israelis. From Camp David to Oslo, the peace process became viable and promising. But always there were interruptions in the dialogue due to fears aroused on one side or the other, often by terrorist acts or unwise unilateral moves by leaders.