

September 23, 1999

gentleman for all of his admirable accomplishments and societal contributions.

IN HONOR OF MS. SUSAN CORRIGAN, RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED WAY'S CONGRESSWOMAN MARY T. NORTON MEMORIAL AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Susan Corrigan for winning the United Way's Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award.

Initiated by the United Way of Hudson County in 1990, this award recognizes individuals who exhibit a deep commitment to community service as exemplified by Congresswoman Mary T. Norton during her 13 terms in the House of Representatives (1925-1950). A leader who championed thinking outside of the box, Congresswoman Norton advocated government action in areas, such as day care, fair employment practices, health care for veterans, and the inclusion of women in high levels of government service.

Ms. Corrigan, one of this year's award recipients, is the founder and President/CEO of Gifts In-Kind International, the world's leading charity in product philanthropy. Under her guidance, Gifts In-Kind International is now the 13th largest charity in the United States. And, as the organization has continued to have a very positive impact on the nonprofit sector, Ms. Corrigan has twice been named in The NonProfit Times' list of the Top 50 Most Influential Leaders in Philanthropy.

Because of her commitment to community service, Ms. Corrigan received the 1991 Cantor Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management from the Pacific Graduate School in Stanford, California, and the Samaritan Foundation's 1996 Humanitarian Partnership Award. In addition, she is a member of The Washington Center's Independent Sector Program Initiative Honorary Advisory Committee.

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Ms. Corrigan has served as Assistant to the President at United Way of America and is the author of several publications, including Establishing an In-Kind Program, The Business Sense of In-Kind Giving, and Employment Generating Services.

A well deserving award recipient who embodies the life work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton, Ms. Corrigan has dedicated her life to community service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Corrigan for all of her outstanding service to the community and for carrying on the work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of H. Res. 286. The purpose of this legislation is to recognize the week of September 19-25, as Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week.

This resolution is important to any person who has children, and to any family that has lost loved ones through suicide. The bill recognizes that there is a need to increase awareness about youth suicide and make it a national priority.

I would like to recognize the Light for Family Foundation of America and their founders, the Emme family, who tragically lost their teenage son, Michael, to suicide in 1994. It was through the vision of the Emme family that the Yellow Ribbon Program, which has helped save countless lives, has become an integral part of the fight against youth suicide.

Mr. Speaker, teenage suicide is extremely tragic. I hope and pray that this resolution can increase awareness and hopefully prevent the loss of more of our Nation's children.

MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL K. WYRICK GIVES 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our nation's finest military leaders. General Michael K. Wyrick proudly has given 30 years of uniformed service to our country, and now begins his retirement. Capping his stellar career by serving as Deputy Surgeon General of the United States Air Force, he is the only healthcare administrator in the Air Force to ever attain this position. It is both fitting and appropriate to take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of this decorated officer.

General Wyrick, a young West Texas gentleman, entered the military in 1969 as a graduate of the Texas Christian University Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps. General Wyrick displayed his natural leadership abilities in successful early, military assignments at Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina and Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. General Wyrick then earned a Master's Degree in Health Service Administration from Baylor University. His vast knowledge of administrative strategy and leadership was complemented by additional, highly competitive academic endeavors. Graduation from Air War College and participation in select leadership development programs at Duke University and Cornell University are included among his most recent academic accomplishments. Baylor University has since recognized General Wyrick with the Distinguished Alumni

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Award from the Graduate Program in Health Care Administration. Many additional honors have also been bestowed upon the General for his administrative excellence, including the Outstanding Federal Services Administrator Award from the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States and the Healthcare Administration Award from the American Academy of Medical Administrators.

General Wyrick has held numerous key domestic and overseas assignments in the Air Force Medical Service. In addition to being named the Chief Administrator of four Air Force hospitals, he directed the medical programs and resources in the headquarters of the Office of the Surgeon General prior to being named the Deputy Surgeon General of the Air Force. As Chief of the Air Force Medical Service Corps, General Wyrick's vital task was coordinating and executing the health care mission of the United States Air Force. The finesse with which he shoulders every responsibility has helped General Wyrick become such a highly decorated leader. Today, he proudly wears the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and the prestigious Legion of Merit.

Major General Wyrick's wife, Carol, and children, Brian and Lauri, and his hometown of Amarillo, Texas look to General Wyrick as a source of great pride. He has brought honor to the distinguished uniform of the United States Air Force that he has proudly worn for the past 30 years. His unmatched leadership ability and strength of character set him apart as one of our nation's finest citizens and most valued military officers. It is my pleasure to recognize General Michael K. Wyrick's outstanding career of exemplary service.

SIKHS SHOULD NOT BE HARASSED FOR CARRYING A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL, THE KIRPAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, America is a country where everyone enjoys religious freedom. There are about 500,000 Sikhs in this country and they have every right to practice their religion in this country. Sikhs have contributed to America in many walks of life, from agriculture to medicine to law, among others. Sikhs participated in World War I and World War II, and a Sikh even served as a Member of Congress in the 1960s. His name was Dalip Singh Saund and he was from California.

When a Sikh is baptized, he or she is required to have five symbols called the five Ks. They are unshorn hair (Kes), a comb (Kanga), a tracelet (Kara), a kind of shorts (Kachha), and a ceremonial sword (Kirpan). Sometimes law enforcement officers in this country consider a Kirpan a concealed weapon and arrest the Sikh carrying a Kirpan.

Earlier this week, Gurbachan Singh Bhatia, a 69-year-old Sikh, was arrested in the suburbs of Cleveland for carrying a concealed weapon. He is to appear at a pretrial hearing on October 4. I hope that the case against Mr. Bhatia will be dismissed.

A similar case happened in Cincinnati in 1996. The First Ohio District Court of Appeals overturned a municipal court conviction of a Sikh man for carrying a concealed weapon. Judge Mark Painter of that court wrote that "to be a Sikh is to wear a kirpan—it is that simple. It is a religious symbol and in no way a weapon."

Like Christianity, the Sikh religion is a monotheistic, divinely revealed and independent religion which believes in the equality of the whole human race, including gender equality. They pray, work hard to earn an honest living, and share their earnings with the needy.

I know many Sikhs in my district who are baptized and carry this symbol Kirpan. I would not like any of my constituents to be harassed for practicing their religion. We must educate our law-enforcement agencies regarding this religious symbol of the Sikhs.

Our Constitution grants religious freedom to all. We want Sikh Americans to practice their religion without any interference, even if we have to pass special legislation allowing the Sikhs to carry Kirpans.

I would like to put the Detroit News article on the Bhatia case into the RECORD.

[From the Detroit News, Sept. 23, 1999]

CAN A WEAPON BE A RELIGIOUS ICON?

MENTOR, OHIO—When he was baptized a Sikh in India, Gurbachan Singh Bhatia, now 69, vowed to always wear a kirpan, a 6-inch knife symbolizing his willingness to defend the faith.

But during investigation of a minor traffic mishap in this Cleveland suburb, Bhatia was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. At the time, he was returning home from a religious ceremony blessing the new home of a Sikh family.

Police Chief Richard Amiotte said his officers acted properly in enforcing the law banning concealed weapons. "How can you describe for me the difference between a ceremonial knife and any knife?" he asked.

Bhatia must appear for a pretrial hearing Oct. 4. If convicted, he could face up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. But Ron Graham, city prosecutor, said he may be willing to drop the charges if the Sikh priest can demonstrate that he is required by his religion to carry the kirpan.

Although state law does not allow for exceptions, Graham said, "We don't want to prosecute anyone for exercising religious freedom."

In a similar case in Cincinnati in 1996, the 1st Ohio District Court of Appeals overturned a municipal court conviction of a Sikh man for carrying a concealed weapon.

"To be a Sikh is to wear a kirpan—it is that simple. It is a religious symbol and in no way a weapon," Judge Mark Painter wrote.

RECOGNIZING OF JOANNA LUBKIN AND THE STUDENT HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention an event in which I participated

celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to bring recognition to the remarkable young girl I met and the group to which she belongs.

On July 22, 1999, I joined civic and conservation leaders on a bicycle tour of Mine Falls Park in Nashua, New Hampshire, which has received four separate state-side grants totaling \$684,496. During the tour, we stopped at a gatehouse built in 1886. Fairgrounds Junior High School student Joanna Lubkin told us about her involvement with the Student Historic Preservation Team (SHPT) and their efforts to restore the building.

The team's restoration efforts began last May with the removal of graffiti from the building's exterior. Once the removal is complete, the students plan to landscape the area surrounding the building and create inside a museum. The museum would highlight the gates that regulated the flow of water into a canal that runs from Mine falls to Nashua's millyard, providing power to the textile mills that were a vital part of Nashua's development as a manufacturing center in the 19th century.

This project is important, not only because of the gatehouse's historic value to the community, but also because of the impact participating in its restoration has had on Joanna Lubkin. I hope that Joanna's experience will encourage other young people to get involved in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you a copy of Joanna Lubkin's remarks for the RECORD:

My name is Joanna Lubkin and I have been an active part of the Student Historic Preservation Team for about a year. I hope to see this project out to the end and beyond. Being in SHPT has really changed my outlook on life and the world around me. I have met many new friends and have been able to meet with city officials and have conversations with them about our generations vision for the future. For once I felt that I could really make a difference in our community.

When Ms. Coe told my class about the Gatehouse and its role in the making of our city and its sad story of neglect, I felt compelled to join the club, if nothing else to learn some more about the history of Nashua. Over that school year, I learned about more than just my city's past, I realized that we cannot hope to achieve a new future without maintaining the links to our past. I accomplished things that I didn't think I'd ever be able to do, (or want to do for that matter—but I had a blast!) such as editing the first issue of our newsletter.

I also spent many hours fundraising and planning with the group. During that time, I often found myself thinking about what a monumental task it was that we were trying to accomplish, but the more I thought about it, the more I felt proud to be a part of such a group of people.

I'll never forget how nervous I was at the first Charrette that we held at City Hall. Other older members in the group had meetings with big professionals like this before, but for me, I had never even been in City Hall except once on a tour. The feeling I had when I saw the other adults in the room nodding in agreement with our plans was almost indescribable. Until then, I had this tiny voice in the back of my head saying, "What are you nuts? You're a kid! No one's going to listen to you." But they did listen. And for once someone thought of kids not as a bunch of little gremlins to keep control of, but as real people who could be just as serious as any adult.

I look at things now from a point of view where if there is something that I see as unjust I can do something to make a difference. I find myself sticking up for other kids more often now and voicing my opinions about what is going on in the world. I realize that I can no longer be a passive person who sits and watches the news and says, "Wow. Wish I could do something like that." I have the chance to actually be the person making the news, and that I can really do things to help other people.

JOANNA LUBKIN,
SHPT Member.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 21, 1999 I was in my district assisting my constituents with the devastation of Hurricane Floyd.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted: Rollcall No. 427 (H.R. 2116) "aye"—Veterans' Millennium Health Care Act; rollcall No. 428 (H.R. 1431) "aye"—Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization; and rollcall No. 429 (H.R. 468) "aye"—Saint Helena Island National Scenic Area Act.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Dollars to the Classroom Resolution, to benefit schoolchildren and teachers all across this country, by calling on education agencies at all levels to get 95 percent of federal education dollars into the classrooms of this country. A similar resolution passed the House 310-99 in the 105th Congress.

Further, the Dollars to the Classroom Act language to codify the principles in the resolution also passed the House in the 105th Congress.

I have been working on this legislation because I believe in the importance of doing all that we can to improve the academic achievement of our public school children. How is this accomplished? We believe that empowering the teachers and bolstering the classroom resources of our kids directly improves their learning process.

When we think of our children's efforts to learn, we often think of the tools that go into forming and shaping their young minds: tools like books, globes, computers . . . and things like flash cards, spelling tests, and calculators. We do not think of bureaucratic programs and stacks of paperwork. Yet, many of our federal dollars that go to elementary and secondary education do not reach our kids. That's why Dollars to the Classroom is so important. This is a simple concept. Instead of keeping education dollars here in Washington, let's ensure that 95 cents on every federal dollar is sent directly to parents, teachers, and