

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS

## HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 1999*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the millions of veterans who have sacrificed in order to protect the freedoms that are enjoyed by all Americans. Last week, we celebrated a very important day in America—Veteran's Day. At a ceremony honoring veterans at Jupiter Christian School in my congressional district, several students shared their thoughts on Veteran's Day through poetry.

Despite their youth, these students wrote stirring reminders of the respect and awe we feel for our veterans. These young poets displayed a tremendous understanding of why we honor our veterans and a remarkable sensitivity for the courage of the men and women who fought to preserve the liberty of our country. I believe that the entire Congress should hear these poems and reflect on their meaning and I submit them for the RECORD.

## DID YOU EVER WONDER?

(By Kevin Maida, 10th grade)

Did you ever wonder how it could be  
To live in a country where no one is free?  
Where decisions never are your own,  
And you are told what to do, even at home?  
Freedom merely just a word . . .  
Never spoken, never heard.

Did you ever wonder about fighters on the  
foreign sand

Risking their lives to protect our land?  
How courageous and brave they must be,  
To leave their loved ones and live at sea!  
Fathers, sons, daughters, and brothers  
Making a sacrifice for the freedom of others.  
Giving all they had and so much more,  
Awaiting the day they returned to shore.  
Do you take for granted the life that you  
live?

Or are you truly grateful for what they did?  
Think of these words; let them sink in,  
"How would our world be, if not for these  
men?"

## VETERAN'S DAY

(By Jennifer VanNest, 10th grade)

We honor the men dead and alive  
That fought to make sure freedom survived.  
We must never forget the sacrifice made  
To protect our country, with their lives,  
they paid.

We need to remember the families that  
grieve,  
The sons and daughters and wives these men  
leave.

We seek to praise the Vets this day  
And give homage to their bravery in some  
kind way.

So break out the flag and start the parade  
November 11th  
Is Veteran's Day!

## FREEDOM THROUGH THE AGES

(By Pam DeSanctis, 12th grade)

You are a hero for today,

For this I give thanks and pray.  
Through your continuous bravery  
You have given us history and Liberty.  
For this I give you thanks and pray.  
Nothing compares to the courage you've  
known

Or the bravery that you've shown.  
We recognize the veteran's today,  
And for this I give thanks and pray.  
Like guardian angels sent to protect  
The rights of your generation and those of  
the next,

You made us proud of the U.S.A.,  
And for this I give thanks and pray.  
May God hold you in His hand,  
With this I give you one last command;  
Obey the Lord in every way.  
Honor Him, give thanks, and pray.

TRIBUTE TO SCHMIDT, VALENTINE,  
WHITTEMORE & COMPANY  
PC

## HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Schmidt, Valentine, Whittemore & Company PC. This firm practices general auditing, public accounting, and tax preparation in Pueblo, Colorado. This firm has gone far beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Bernard Schmidt has been with the agency since 1946. In 1966, Virginia Whittemore joined the firm and in 1980, Dan Valentine also became a partner. Throughout the years, the firm has been through some changes in management and accounting styles, however they still remain loyal to auditors. It is their service to the community that is deserving of recognition and praise.

I applaud your generosity and kind efforts in donating time and services for the South-eastern Colorado Chapter of the Red Cross. Your firm is to be commended and admired. So it is with this that I say thank you to this group of dedicated individuals. They set out to make a difference and they have.

CHRISTIAN GATHERING ATTACKED  
BY BJP-INSPIRED MOB—NO RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM IN INDIA

## HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was very distressed to see that the Indian rulers are fomenting religious violence again. According to the November 14 issue of The Times of India, "a group of about 40 persons attacked a Christian gathering outside an Independent Church (neither Catholic nor Protestant) in

West Delhi's Khyala area on Saturday evening [the 13th.]" The newspaper reported that the attack, which injured 12 people, was "master-minded" by 'suspected Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) activists,' according to the police."

The BJP is the party that advocates "Hindu, Hindi, Hindutva, Hindu Rashtra," which translates as "Hindu religion, Hindi language, Hindu culture, Hindu rule." A BJP spokesman said that everyone in India should either be Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism. Now, these statements might be insignificant except for the fact that the BJP heads India's governing coalition.

So far no one has been arrested in connection with this attack. According to the article, the Christians were conducting an open-air Bible reading in a tent when the tent was stormed by the Hindu militants. The attackers shouted anti-Christian slogans while they tore and burned Christian pamphlets with religious speakers.

Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that the party ruling "the world's largest democracy" condones and indeed organizes these kinds of attacks on people who are simply practicing their religion. But it is part of a pattern of repression which has been going on for quite some time. In 1997, police broke up a Christian festival with gunfire merely because they were presenting the theme that "Jesus is the Answer" and people were allegedly converting.

Just a little while ago, a nun was picked up, stripped naked, and threatened by her captors that they would rape her if she did not drink their body wastes. Sister Ruby was frightened by these threats because four nuns have been raped in 1998 and four priests were killed.

A BJP affiliate called the Bajrang Dal, a sister organization in the Fascist RSS, organized and carried out the murder by burning of missionary Graham Staines and his two sons who were just 8 and 10 years old. The killers chanted "Victory to Lord Ram" while they carried out this grisly murder. They surrounded the jeep where Staines and his sons slept and prevented anyone from helping the family.

There has also been a wave of violence against churches, prayer halls, and Christian schools since Christmas. But it is not just the Christians who are being persecuted.

In Kashmir, the BJP and its allies destroyed the most revered mosque in the state. In Punjab, Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, the Indian government continues to hold thousands of political prisoners and continues to carry out rapes, extrajudicial killings, and other offenses against their basic human rights.

Mr. Speaker, America is the beacon of freedom. We must do whatever we can to bring freedom to everyone. When President Clinton visits India, I urge him to bring up the issues of human rights for the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and all the other minorities living under Indian rule. It is time to tell India that they must respect human rights or we will stop their

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

aid from the United States. We should also put the U.S. congress on record for self-determination by calling for a free and fair plebiscite on independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the other countries now under India's artificial rule. It is only by taking these measures that we can spread the blessings of freedom throughout South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the article from The Times of India into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Times of India, Nov. 14, 1999]

#### MOB ATTACKS CHRISTIAN GATHERING

NEW DELHI.—In the first incident of its kind in Delhi, a group of about 40 persons attacked a Christian gathering outside an Independent Church (meaning neither Catholic nor Protestant) in west Delhi's Khyala area on Saturday evening. At least 12 persons were injured in the attack, allegedly masterminded by "suspected Bhartiya Janata Party activists," according to the police.

Though four persons—Radhey Shyam Gupta, Kapila, Charan and Ashok Sharma—have been named in the police FIR, no arrests have been made so far.

Area sources said the incident took place at about 8:30 pm in the C-block of a JJ colony in Khyala, near Tilak Nagar, where the group (including some women) stormed a tent where a group of Christians were conducting an open air Bible reading session. A small of group of Christians live in the colony.

Sources said the attackers raised anti-Christians slogans, tore and burnt pamphlets with religious scriptures. A couple of Bibles and a Holy Cross were also reportedly damaged in the attack. The group then had a scuffle with scores of people present in the tent which led to the injuries, the sources said. Senior Delhi Police officers confirmed the attack but denied any Bible was torn or burnt by the mob. They also denied that a Holy Cross was damaged. "Initial investigations have revealed that the mob, which may have had some BJP activists, disrupted the Bible reading session and then attacked the gathering. But all the injuries sustained in the attack are minor," joint police commissioner (southern range) Amod Kanth said.

He also said the attackers tore and burnt several pamphlets which contained passages in praise of Jesus. "But I have personally spoken to the pastor who was conducting the proceedings and he has denied any cross being damaged or Bible being burnt by the attackers," Mr. Kanth added.

Local sources said the Bible reading sessions were being conducted at this Independent church for several years, and as a continuation, a pastor, Father S. John had arrived in the area on Friday from Hosangipur in southwest Delhi.

Mr. Kanth also said the police had established that the attackers did not belong to the Tilak Nagar area and had come from some other areas. "It was clearly an unprovoked attack and all of them would be arrested," Mr. Kanth said.

He said the police had registered a case of rioting and of disturbing religious assembly in this connection but no arrests had been made so far. Officers said the west district police had rushed in reinforcements in the Khyala area to prevent any "further untoward" incidents, even though there was no tension in the area.

IN HONOR OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN, COAST GUARD CAPT. EARL FOX

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11 and was present to hear President Clinton single out a World War II veteran who is the last veteran of that war to still be on active duty.

He is 80-year-old Capt. Earl Fox, a Coast Guard doctor, who spent his last Veterans Day in uniform last week. He is retiring from active duty this week. I want to submit an article from the November 11, 1999, Washington Post, which is a tribute to Capt. Fox and his years of dedicated service to his nation. He is a patriot and hero and we salute him.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 11, 1999]

WORLD WAR II VETERAN SOLDIERS ON, ALONE—ACTIVE-DUTY DOCTOR; 80, SALUTES HIS GENERATION

(By Roberto Suro)

Two weeks ago, Capt. Earl R. Fox learned that he is the last World War II veteran still on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. Since then he has dwelled in memories, wondering whether he will be worthy of the fallen when he walks among Arlington's serried tombstones this afternoon.

"I have felt a weight on me to expend every effort to make it honorable for them," said the 80-year-old Coast Guard physician.

Fox will have breakfast at the White House today and then speak at a wreath-laying ceremony at the national cemetery. This will be his final Veterans Day in uniform—he is retiring next week—and he describes himself as "the last direct physical link" between today's military and the warriors of Midway, Normandy and Iwo Jima.

"One generation forms the backbone for the next to build on," says the text he has prepared for the commemoration. "As my generation fades into the mist of collective memory called tradition, you will continue the process for the next generation of your sons and daughters. In this way, those who have given the last full measure of devotion will live forever . . ."

As the Virginia native rehearsed his brief speech for a visitor to his office at Coast Guard headquarters yesterday, his voice cracked. He stopped in mid-sentence, reached for a handkerchief and apologized for the show of emotion.

"I had classmates who did not come home," he said. "I had shipmates who did not make it. I knew these men well. I knew what they thought and what they thought about. And I am filled with humility and faith in God, because I feel like I am here today because of their courage and bravery."

After five years of service on patrol-torpedo boats and submarines, Fox left the Navy in 1947 to attend medical school and then to prosper as a physician in St. Petersburg, Fla. In 1974, he retired at the age of 55 to enjoy his 43-foot yacht and life as a yacht club commodore who made a practice of entertaining officers from the local Coast Guard air station. He was at the club one day when an emergency call came in.

A man aboard a pleasure boat was suffering a heart attack. With the Coast

Guard's doctor away, Fox was asked to help. Within minutes, he was being lowered from a helicopter at sea.

Fox enjoyed the experience so much that he agreed to join up when the local commanding officer suggested he could get a commission under a program that waived age limits for physicians. He made only one demand: He wanted to go to flight school. Eventually, he learned to fly helicopters as well as airplanes.

For 16 years, until 1990, Fox served as a flight surgeon at Coast Guard stations up and down the East Coast, making more than a dozen helicopter rescues. For the past nine years, he has worked as the senior medical officer in the personnel department at Coast Guard headquarters.

Combining his Navy and Coast Guard service, Fox has now spent 30 years in the military, the point at which most officers must retire. But he said his decision to leave uniform is driven primarily by a desire to spend more time with his wife of 56 years, Reba.

It might be mere serendipity that this genial octogenarian is the last of 16 million World War II veterans to don his ribbons and decorations every working day. But Fox seems the perfect representative of a generation that, in his words, "experienced both great times and times of desperation."

Thinking back to nighttime battles fought in tropical waters, Fox said, "when things get tough you need more to fall back on than yourself and the present." He had the heritage of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, all military officers. But he also had shipmates. "We were bound together by common purpose," he recalled. "The trust we had in each other made us strong."

Fox has a small photograph, now fading to sepia, that shows 10 sailors in jaunty poses at the bow of a PT boat, one of the mahogany-hulled speedsters dispatched on hit-and-run missions against enemy fleets. Seated on stools before them are two officers. It's the summer of 1943 and Fox is already a decorated combat veteran and boat commander at the age of 23. To his right sits an even younger man Al Haywood, just out of Yale and assigned as the boat's executive officer.

A few weeks after the picture was taken, they were on patrol off the coast of New Guinea when a single Japanese airplane appeared out of nowhere. It strafed the boat. A sailor fell wounded. Haywood rushed to his side. As the fighter wheeled and dove for another run at the boat, Haywood threw himself over the injured man.

The airplane's gunfire "stitched him from head to toe," recalled Fox, who buried Haywood at sea. The wounded crewman survived.

"Remembering people like Haywood and the many, many others like him is important," said Fox. "because those memories of honor and sacrifice are the fabric our country is made of."

#### ZERO-TOLERANCE AND COMMON SENSE

### HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the following editorial from the November 12, 1999 St. Louis Post-Dispatch in order to make a statement in opposition to so-called "zero-tolerance" discipline policies in our Nation's schools.