

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.