towards our region. You see, I have a vision. You are not to hear it, but the important thing is that every town in our community college district will become engaged in this educational challenge and that every town will decide that every child in their town that has the skills they need to become self-sufficient—whatever the age. Does that sound plausible to you? Do you think it could be done? The next challenge of learning that may have been neglected when they were children. Well, you guessed it. Here comes challenge number three. Why not encourage more local employers to prepare for global competition by upgrading the skills of their workforce?

4. Read to a child today.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS
November 17, 1999

THE JESUIT MARTYRS OF EL SALVADOR
HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN OF MASSACHSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from three days in El Salvador where, at the invitation of the Jesuit-run University of Central America (UCA) in San Salvador and the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, I participated in events surrounding the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the murder of the Jesuit leadership of the UCA. While this horrific event stunned that small nation and the international community, the unrationing of that case and the identification of who within the Salvadoran armed forces committed this crime contributed to a negotiated settlement of the 12-year civil war in which over 70,000 Salvadoran civilians lost their lives.

Along with Congressman MOAKLEY, I delivered an address at the University of Central America on November 12th. I walked to the site behind the Jesuits’ campus residence, the very ground where ten years ago the bodies of my beloved friends were discovered. This hallowed ground is now a beautiful rose garden. Each day people from all over come to the garden to nourish their hope and renew their commitment, and it is used by faculty and students alike for meditation and repose. There is now a chapel where the six priests are buried. The university has also installed a small and emotionally compelling museum dedicated to the lives and deaths of the six

4th: Children who feel failure is beginning to decide that if they can’t have total support, they will have total failure. They see incompetence as an advantage because it reduces expectations.

5th, and most importantly our children have no one to read to them. Remember your parents reading to you? Remember the times you climbed in bed and mom or dad picked up your favorite book? Can you recall the magic of those moments? And now imagine what your life would have been like without those moments. Not a pleasant thought, is it? So share with you—my final challenge—read to a child today.

I close with a quote from the report, A Nation at Risk:

"It is . . . the America of all of us that is at risk . . . it is by our willingness to take up the challenge, and our resolve to see it through, that America’s place in the world will be either secured or fortified."

Please read to a child today—it will bring joy to the child and to you. That one small act can begin to change the future of our country, which lies in the hands of all of our children. Yes, learning begins at home, but all of us must help. Here are my challenges to you—once again:

1. Become a tutor and help an adult improve reading, writing, or math skills.
2. Identify your community’s literacy and self-sufficiency needs and partner with HCC to find resources to address.
3. Encourage more local employers to prepare for global competition by upgrading the skills of their workforce.

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Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, who as witnesses were also mur-

dered that night.

Mr. Speaker, the lives and deaths of these priests had a profound effect on my own life. I

knew them in life, and I helped investigate and uncover who ordered and carried out their

murders. I have remained involved and com-

mitted to peace, democracy, and development in El Salvador; I have never forgotten my

friends—Ignacio Ellacuria, Segundo Montes, Madeira and Francisco Soares, who were pro-

ponents of El Salvador; to help El Salvador confront the problems where these agencies have performed ad-

verse changes with Indonesia in September. But we

We also must change the culture of secrecy and denial within our military and intel-

lectual institutions. And you have made changes in El Salvador—in your military,

Armed Forces, including many who serve in the Salvadoran military of the 1980s, is

must change in order to protect the freedoms and national interests of the United States. As a Member of the U.S. Congress, I

believe it is my responsibility to fight for more resources to aid in the development of El Salvador; to help El Salvador confront the challenges of poverty and inequality that

limit the futures of so many Salvadoran families; and to aid the people of this great
country in pursuing their dreams and aspira-

tions. I'm proud of our current programs in El

Salvador. I know our Ambassador and USAID director have made it a priority to reach out to the Salvadoran people, to encourage participation in the planning of United States development projects, and to forge a working relationship with commu-
nities throughout El Salvador—and I commend them for their fine work.

As a citizen of the United States, I want to do more to be, in the words of my good

friend and mentor, George McGovern, “a witness to the world for what is just and noble in human affairs.” This will require the citi-

genz of our military and other agencies to embrace human rights law, making it clear that no one, no matter how high their office, who commits crimes against humanity, can escape the consequences of their actions.

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I have pushed my government hard to dis-

close all documents in its possession related to the case of the four U.S. churchwomen

murder in El Salvador. I have urged you to make institutional changes in El Salvador—in your military, political, judicial, and your polit-

ical institutions. And you have made changes, and you have made great progress in these areas.

To be frank, however, they and I have rarely

rally talked about the institutional changes we need to make in the United States. But the fact is, we in the U.S. have a responsibility to change the culture and mindset of many of our own institutions.

I fear that we in the U.S. have institu-
tions—namely our military and intelligence agencies—that have not fully learned the les-
sions of El Salvador. While there are exam-

ples where these agencies have performed ad-
mirably, we continue to make of the many good men and women who serve in the U.S. Congress who must fulfill its responsibility and demand account-
ability of our military programs. All too often, Members of Congress simply don’t want to know what our military and other

programs abroad are doing.

I would like to enter into the RECORD the ad-

dress I made at the University of Central America and an article about the 10th Anniver-

sary by Father Leo Donovan, the President of

Georgetown University.

In particular, our leaders might be here celebrating with us.

It is my hope that the United States will be in the position of training and

The problem with the Indonesian military, like the Salvadoran military of the 1980s, is not a problem of a “few bad apples.” It is an institutional problem. And the U.S. approach to military aid, training and arms sales reflects an institutional problem within the United States. Never again should the United States be in the position of training and equipping military personnel who cannot distinguish between civilian actors and armed combatants.

The U.S. has yet to sign the international treaty to ban antipersonnel landmines—a treaty the Government of El Salvador to its great credit has already signed. The devastation of land mines—the tragedy of a young child missing a leg or an arm and maybe even missing a future. But why hasn’t the United States ratified that treaty? And the institutional culture of the Pentagon rejects giving up any kind of weapon currently in its arsenal, no matter how deadly to innocent civilians. This must change.

Our military institutions should care as much about the lives and security of ordi-

nary citizens as they do about strategic ad-

vantage and military relations. I have met

many good men and women who serve in the Armed Forces, including many who serve in El Salvador. It is important that our institu-
tions, like these individuals, realize that re-

specting human rights and safeguarding the lives of ordinary people is in the strategic and national interests of the United States.

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Georgetown University.
and purpose. I hope my life will be such a life. And if it is, it will be due to my long association with the Jesuits, the UCA, and the people of El Salvador. And for that, I thank you—all of you—who are here tonight, and those who are with us every day in spirit. You are truly “presente” in my life.

(From the Washington Post, Nov. 16, 1999)

MARTYRS IN EL SALVADOR

(By Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J.)

Ten years ago in the early morning darkness of Nov. 16, army soldiers burst into the Jesuit residence at the University of Central America (UCA), killing six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her young daughter. It was not the first assassination of church leaders: 18 Catholic priests, including Father Rutilio Grande and Archbishop Oscar Romero, and four North American churchwomen have been killed in El Salvador since the late 1970s—more than in any other nation in the world. And the murder of priests and nuns continues to scar the history of other countries, including India, Guatemala and most recently East Timor.

While we still grieve their loss the 10th anniversary of the Jesuit assassinations offers an important opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacy of the martyrs.

Far from silencing those dedicated to promoting justice, peace and the alleviation of misery for all in the human family, the Jesuit martyrs spurred the people of El Salvador—and the world—to witness a higher truth. Such was the effort of the murderers, the U.N. Truth Commission was formed to investigate the killings. Although the government initially claimed that FMLN guerrillas had committed the murders, the Truth Commission determined that the government had in fact ordered the killings.

In an appalling step five days after the report was released, the Salvadoran National Assembly gave amnesty to those convicted. But through the U.N. Truth Commission, an essential truth about state violence in El Salvador was uncovered, as well as the deeply root causes of the war. The murders, the U.S. funded and armed soldiers involved in the slayings had been trained at the U.S. Army School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga.

The murders unfolded truth about who committed them—helped significantly undermine the power and prestige of the armed forces and provided impetus for the peace process. Signed on Jan. 16, 1992, the peace accords ended a war that had cost the lives of 75,000 citizens and represent the triumph of another of the Jesuits’ essential goals—peace through dialogue.

While still fragile, the peace in El Salvador has enabled some political and judicial reform and provides the critical foundation for future advances. Since the end of the civil war, there have been two open, democratic elections, featuring candidates from both the National Republican Alliance Party (ARENA) and the opposing National Liberation Party (FMLN).

The macroeconomic indicators show that inflation is at its lowest level in nearly three decades. Newly elected President Francisco Flores of the ARENA Party has promised continued economic improvement and a vitally needed reduction of poverty. But many grave challenges face him and the people of El Salvador.

Approximately 40 percent of Salvadorans live in dire poverty. More than a third of citizens lack safe drinking water and adequate housing. And more than half the population lacks adequate health care. Education for all, a fundamental goal shared by the slain Jesuits, also continues to elude the country—more than 30 percent of Salvadorans are illiterate.

Violence continues to be a national scourge. A joint U.N. commission in 1994 reported that while military death squads had ceased to operate after the peace accords, criminal gangs or illegal armed groups were committing summary executions, posing death threats and carrying out other acts of intimidation for political motives. The Washington Post and the U.N. Human Rights Watch and the U.N. Human Rights Commission have reported that violent crime continues to threaten the still tender democratic political order. Unless the government can address the problem of citizen security, while respecting human and civil rights, the country may slip back into a state of war. Continuing the work of the martyred Jesuits is more important than ever.

As we look ahead, the Jesuit martyrs offer us a lasting model of courageous service to humanity. At a time when torture, intimidation and death-squad executions of civilians were daily events, our brothers and sisters regularly endured threats to their safety and well-being. During the civil war, the UCA campus and the Jesuit residence were bombed at least 16 times. But the Jesuit’s teaching and research, their pastoral work, and their advocacy of social reform continued despite all challenge. They knew and accepted the great personal risk their work entailed—the risk of their lives.

In the days prior to his death Father Ignacio Ellacuria, president of UCA, had refused the opportunity to remain in his home country. Spain, and wait out the period of unrest in El Salvador. Father Ignacio Martin-Baro, academic vice president was asked, “Why don’t you leave here, Father? It is dangerous.’ He responded: “Because we have much to do; there is much work.” The spirit and conviction of these men endures through the efforts of those who bravely stepped forward to take their places, including Father Charles U. Johnson, who took over Martin-Baro’s position in the aftermath of the assassinations and Father Chema Tojieria, S.J., who now serves as Father Ellacuria’s successor. Their example has inspired the human rights volunteers from around the world—people from organizations such as Catholic Relief Services, Amnesty International and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights—active in El Salvador.

It lives in the Salvadoran people. And the spirit of the Jesuit martyrs endures as we in distant countries around the globe learn from the example of their steadfast commitment to the poor, to education and to a future built on freedom and justice, not opposition and bloodshed.

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and to congratulate the outstanding accomplishments of ten distinguished teachers from New Jersey. These great individuals have dedicated over twenty years each to educating and uplifting New Jersey’s brightest little stars: our youth. They have truly demonstrated a solid commitment to building strong foundations for their students, and in and outside of the schoolrooms.

As a result of their diligent work towards promoting leadership in our children, these teachers will be honored by the Phi Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. on November 20. Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, a national business women’s sorority, is dedicated to projecting the philosophy of the pursuit of excellence in all worthy endeavors among youth.

The teachers being honored during the Apple for the Teacher program, part of the National Education Week celebration, are: Carolyn Banks; Gloria J. Bartee; Henry B. Clark; Phyllis K. Donoghue; Victoria Gong; Mary Jo Grimm; Gail D. Lane; Robin C. Lewis; Simone Wilson; Kathleen Witche.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in congratulating these superb teachers on their efforts to improve the community.

When our teachers demonstrate such initiative, we as a nation prosper.

MIAMI CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to a place where children are second to none: Miami Children’s Hospital, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary on March 21, 2000.

This world class children’s hospital had its humble beginnings with a vision by our former Ambassador to the Vatican, David Walters. After his granddaughter’s sorrowful death from Leukemia, Ambassador Walters decided to vow to create a facility where South Florida’s children could receive the best possible care, and where no child would lack excellent medical care. With his bold leadership, he worked tirelessly to raise funds through the Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation, and what began as a humble idea twenty years ago is now commonly referred to as the Pinnacle of Pediatrics.

Today, under the exceptional steering and superb guidance of its current President, Tom Rozek, Miami Children’s Hospital continues to administer superior care to scores of infirm children not only in South Florida, but throughout the entire United States and, indeed, the world.

Essential to the achievement of excellence has been the dedication of a talented medical staff administered with tender, loving care and the support of a caring South Florida community.

Our future can only be as good as our children, and with the strong commitment to their health and future that is permeated at Miami Children’s Hospital, it is evident that our future will be blazing brightly.