

district. Bowling Green Mayor Wes Hoffman retires from public office at the end of this year. A native of Philadelphia, Mayor Hoffman served first his country and then his community.

Wes' pursuit of a college degree at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School was interrupted by World War II, when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943. After his heroic service in the war ended, Wes decided to pursue a career with the Army Air Corps, retiring from the United States Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1969. Throughout his military service, both during World War II and as a career officer, Wes served our nation with honor and distinction, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with five Battle Stars, the Air Medal and Air Force Commendation Medal both with Oak Leaf Cluster.

After retiring from the Air Force, Wes decided to pursue additional higher education at Bowling Green State University, where he obtained a Masters Degree in 1971. In 1972, he began his public service with the City of Bowling Green as the Safety Service Director and later, in 1974, as the city's first Municipal Administrator. He retired in 1988. His retirement was short-lived, however, as he was approached by local leaders and urged to run for Mayor in 1991. He was elected in 1992, re-elected in 1995, and now retires from official business. Of his tenure, Mayor Hoffman noted, "It has indeed been a privilege for me to have been a part of the deliberations and decision-making processes that have contributed to civic betterment and community well-being." Truly, the city of Bowling Green has grown, prospered and flourished under Wes' tutelage.

Visionary, patriotic, mindful of the needs of others, Wes Hoffman is a true community leader. His good deeds have not gone unnoticed, and he has been honored with awards and recognitions too numerous to mention from local, state, and national organizations. He is also a proud member of several veterans organizations, civic groups, educational and humanitarian organizations, and government consortiums. I know that even though Wes is retiring from "active" public life, he will remain very much in the thick of life in Bowling Green and Northwest Ohio. We wish him an enjoyable retirement, spent with family and friends, and doing all those things he put off until tomorrow. For people in our community, Wes Hoffman embodies the finest tradition of service before self that lies at the heart of America's nationhood.

AMERICA IS CONCERNED

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, when Iran's supreme leader, the Ayatollah Aki Khamenei, leads thousands of his countrymen in violent protests against the United States and Israel, chanting "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel," America is concerned. When the Russian Foreign Ministry says as a matter of official policy that Russia will overcome an Amer-

ican missile defense by launching more missiles, America is concerned. When North Korea flaunts agreements with the United States by continuing to develop long range missiles to attack the U.S., America is concerned.

Every American should be concerned with our lack of missile defense. Our cities are vulnerable to destruction. Our military has no defense against long range ballistic missiles in spite of the common mis-perception about Patriot which is only for intercepting short range missiles, not ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles). The truth is we cannot stop a single ICBM, whether launched by Russia, China, North Korea, or even Iran, which is developing long range ballistic missiles to threaten us.

Iran has demonstrated its desire to threaten the U.S. and Israel. Iran is matching its religious zeal with its ballistic missile program. Iran's missiles threaten Israel and peace in the Middle East. Iran's missiles will also eventually threaten American cities. Other countries also threaten us. Russia still has over a thousand long range ballistic missiles. China is building three new types of long range ballistic missiles. North Korea tested last year a three-stage missile capable of reaching the U.S.

These protestors in Iran burnt the American and Israeli flags. They climbed on top of buildings opposite the old U.S. embassy compound, setting fire to the Stars and Stripes, the blue-and-white Star of David flag of Israel, and the Union Jack of Great Britain. America is not alone in its need to deploy an effective ballistic missile defense system. Ballistic missiles threaten Israel, Europe, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, as well as the U.S. Ballistic missiles are a global problem requiring a global solution.

Congress has recognized the growing threat from long range ballistic missiles. Earlier this year, Congress energetically passed legislation making it the policy of the United States to deploy a ballistic missile defense. This legislation came in the face of North Korea's August 31, 1998 ballistic missile test, the warnings of the Rumsfeld Commission on the ballistic missile threat to the U.S., and the theft by China of advanced U.S. missile and nuclear weapons technology.

But despite the growing threat posed by ballistic missiles, President Clinton and his administration have consistently opposed the deployment of an effective ballistic missile defense. President Clinton especially opposes a missile defense using space. Yet, a space-based missile defense could provide the global coverage the U.S. needs to defend its armed forces overseas, and its friends and allies such as Israel. A space-based ballistic missile defense is technologically feasible, using a combination of miniature interceptors, high energy lasers, and other technologies.

We need a President who will be concerned about our defense, and the defense of our allies such as Israel. All the legislation passed by Congress cannot take effect without a President, a Commander-in-Chief, who is willing to work toward, not obstruct, the natural desire of the American people to defend themselves from ballistic missile attack. Flashy policy statements are no substitute for a real defense. By the year 2000, after eight years of office, President Clinton will not have deployed

a ballistic missile defense, leaving us vulnerable to destruction.

I recently addressed our need to deploy an effective missile defense in a series of letters to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the CIA, and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. I have addressed our need to deploy an effective missile defense in past letters, and in speeches on the floor of the House. I will continue to speak out on our need to deploy an effective missile defense, especially a defense using space.

I am encouraged by the policies of countries such as Israel which recognize the need for ballistic missile defense. In 1988, Israel and the United States began collaboration on the Arrow ballistic missile interceptor, linked to President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as Star Wars. Today, Israel's Arrow missile defense program completed its seventh test launch, successfully hitting its target. I believe America should continue to support Israel in its ballistic missile defense program.

America needs to be concerned with its vulnerability to ballistic missile attack. The ballistic missile threat posed by Iran and other countries is real and growing. The threat of ballistic missile attack is also faced by our friends and allies. Deploying a ballistic missile defense in space will be our best response. It will provide us the most effective defense possible, capable of giving global coverage, able to assist our friends and allies such as Israel.

REGARDING MY VOTE ON THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, when I returned to Congress for my second term last January, I came with the hope that I could believe the House leadership when it said things would be different in the 106th Congress from the experience of my first term in the 105th. We were told that the appropriations process would follow the rules; 13 separate spending bills brought to the floor for consideration with reasonable time and access for debate. We were told that the bills would be straight-forward, without tricks or gimmicks. We were misled. The House leadership has continued to play tricks with the budget process. This fall, it did so at the expense of the men and women in our armed forces.

I have the utmost respect and admiration for the American men and women who serve in uniform. My brother is currently serving a tour with his Reserve unit in Europe, and I have made two trips to the Balkans to visit our troops there. The young soldiers with whom I spoke were bursting with pride and confidence, and universally voiced their commitment to peace, freedom and their duty.

With those men and women in mind, I was pleased to see my colleagues on the defense authorization and appropriations committees provide funding our military personnel with long overdue raises and improved benefits. I