

I am submitting for the record a letter from Paul Weyrich, National Chairman of the Coalition for Americans, supporting our efforts to unlock the Aviation Trust Fund and make much-needed investment in our airports and air traffic control system.

Let it not be under our watch that the nation's aviation system falls into such disrepair that Americans are imperiled when they take to the skies. I urge my conservative colleagues to support protecting the Aviation Trust Fund by cosponsoring H.R. 111, the "Truth in Budgeting Act," and supporting a Budget Resolution that reflects this critical priority.

COALITIONS FOR AMERICA,  
Washington, DC, March 8, 1999.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: I am writing to congratulate you for introducing AIR-21, a bill to ensure adequate funding for the national air transportation system. Your proposal to require that federal aviation user taxes be used for their intended purposes—particularly development of airports and the air traffic system—is commendable. The needs of the aviation system are so massive that all available funds must be spent. The health of our economy depends to a very significant extent on a vibrant air transportation system.

I also applaud your inclusion in AIR-21 of a provision to lift the federally imposed restriction on the local airport funding option known as the passenger facility charge (PFC). As I stated in my letter of February 8, whenever there is an opportunity for the federal government to provide more autonomy to local governments, it should do so. Your bill does that. While it would be preferable to remove the PFC cap entirely, easing the federal restriction on local government funding prerogatives by doubling the amount of funds that airports can raise through this means is a constructive step. I urge you to continue to pursue the goal of eliminating the federal cap on PFC's, but in the meantime, I support the provision in your bill. I urge your colleagues in the House and Senate to support it as well.

It is also critical to ensure that airports have the ability to spend the PFC to meet the needs that exist at their particular facilities. For some airports, the needs are greatest on the airside—runways, taxiways, and aprons. At other airports, gates and related facilities throughout the terminal are needed to expand capacity or enhance competition. At still other airports, groundside access is the biggest problem. Given that PFCs are collected from the passenger, any project that makes the passenger's trip to or through the airport more efficient and less susceptible to congestion and delays—whether airside, in the terminal, or groundside—should be allowed.

I know that you are particularly concerned about protecting the interests of passengers. Ensuring that airports have the flexibility to use PFCs to fund projects that ease the burdens encountered by the traveling public any where at the airport will certainly be in the passengers' interest.

Again, I applaud your commitment to promote the development of the national air transportation system, for the benefit of our national and regional economies and the passengers and shippers who use the system.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. WEYRICH,  
National Chairman.

SUNRAYCE 99

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sponsor the House version of the resolution that will permit the organizers of Sunrayce 99 to sponsor a public event, with solar-powered cars, on the Capitol Grounds on June 20, 1999, or on such other dates as the speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, to conduct opening ceremonies for Sunrayce 99. Senator ALLARD has introduced the Senate version (S. Con. Res. 13).

As the Chairman and co-founder of the House Renewable Energy Caucus I appreciate the innovation necessary to identify and utilize alternative forms of energy. As we move into the 20th Century, one of the critical environmental challenges facing us is the need to discover the possibilities of sustainable energy development, so that our children, and their families will be able to enjoy the clean air and environment that is so important to the health of our nation.

From June 20 to 29, 1999, the world will watch as up to 40 teams participate in Sunrayce 99 and demonstrate good-spirited competition and innovation at its best. The teams will race through five states, from the start in Washington, DC, to the finish at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, FL in the nation's premier solar powered vehicle event.

Sunrayce 99 showcases the imagination, ingenuity and teamwork of graduate and undergraduate teams from North America in the development of highly efficient vehicles powered solely by a viable, renewable and sustainable energy source—the sun. I am proud to note that the University of Arizona has registered a team. General Motors, Electronic Data Systems along with the U.S. Department of Energy are the sponsors of this biennial intercollegiate competition.

The top three finishing teams will receive trophies and cash awards. Scholarship achievement awards will also be granted for technical innovation, engineering excellence, artistic talents, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Sunrayce 99 not only demonstrates the possibilities of sustainable energy development, but also the importance of public/private partnerships. This approach will allow companies to work hand in hand with government in successfully tackling the environmental challenges ahead. I applaud the participants of Sunrayce 99—sponsors, applicants, universities, and administrators—for making innovation a reality.

THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the

Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade & Cultural Committee's 24th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York State.

This parade is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us in New York City to celebrate and pay tribute to Irish culture.

This year's honorees represent the best of what our City's political, educational and religious leaders have to offer.

Grand Marshal Geraldine D. Chapey is a member of the New York State Board of Regents and is the past President of Community School Board 27. Fellow Grand Marshal Chief Bernard (Buddy) Sullivan is the founder of the "New York Sanitation, Emerald Society, Pipe and Drum Band" and an active member of the New York City Department of Sanitation Emerald Society.

Honorary Grand Marshal Monsignor Martin T. Geraghty has served as the pastor of St. Francis de Sales parish since 1988. Fellow Honorary Grand Marshal Janet Timlin Fash is the president of the Rockaway Action Committee and works as a media teacher for Community School District 27.

The Parade's seven Deputy Grand Marshals, Harold Rochelle, J.P. Farrell, Frances Sheehan, William W. Whelan, Margaret Clarke Keating, Ann Barbera and Senator A. Waldon, Jr. have each devoted themselves to making the Rockaways a better place to live by helping their friends and neighbors regardless of the circumstances.

Parade Founder and Chairman James Conway Sullivan and Vice Chairman Michael A. Benn have consistently been recognized for their efforts at bringing together New York's Irish-American community. Through their dedicated efforts, they have helped to improve my constituents quality of life.

Each of today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those they come into contact with. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade & Cultural Committee.

WTOP RADIO'S 30 YEARS OF NEWS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 30th anniversary for WTOP Radio as an all-news station in Washington.

Since 1969, WTOP has been a prime source of information on major news events. From Watergate to the House impeachment and Senate trial of President Clinton, WTOP has led the way in providing up-to-the-minute news to area residents.

From the turmoil of the late Vietnam era through the continuing disruption in the Middle East, WTOP has presented comprehensive, accurate, and timely news coverage.

Traffic, weather, and sports are part of the news cycle as well, and all are featured in WTOP's extensive reporting.

Congressional activity is a major source of news on WTOP, and Congressional Correspondent Dave McConnell is a well-known

and well-respected presence who reports daily on his Today on the Hill broadcasts, often talking directly to members about issues and developments. His is clearly the most professional and reliable source of Capitol Hill news available to the Washington area—even for us members.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing WTOP's valuable contribution to the greater Washington area over the last 30 years, and in my hope that the station will continue to provide us with around-the-clock news for many years to come.

#### SPEECH OF RON RANKIN

#### HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, it is clear through the writings of our Founding Fathers that the freedom of religion and a belief in God was essential to the prosperity of this great nation.

The Declaration of Independence framed our country's political and legal systems and a strong reliance and recognition of God because it acknowledged that we "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights . . .". Furthermore, Article VI of the Constitution states, ". . . but no religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." Additionally, the First Amendment prohibits the federal government from the "establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Ron Rankin, a Kootenai County Commissioner from Ceour d' Alene, Idaho delivered a powerful speech embodying these principles on November 28, 1998. I urge all my colleagues to read Mr. Rankin's words to see how much we need God's guidance in today's world:

Our prisons are full. Our jails are full. Crime is rampant in our streets. Our children's minds are corrupted by the media and their bodies by drugs. The cost of criminal justice is sapping our tax dollars to the extent that we are using funds better spent on education just to maintain our detention and correction facilities to protect our families from criminals.

In spite of these indisputable facts, 26 states and numerous counties and cities that have passed resolutions supporting "Read Your Bible Week" in an effort to encourage people to return to the moral absolutes contained therein, are now being challenged in court.

The American Civil Liberties Union and their liberal supporters are determined to protect us—not from criminals but from "God", claiming a separation of church and state clause that does not exist in the Constitution—that glorious standard written by men raised up by God unto that very purpose.

On July 4th, 1776, there was, signed in the city of Philadelphia, one of America's historic documents which preceded the divinely inspired Constitution—The Declaration of Independence. It marked the birth of this nation, which, under God, was destined to be the cradle of freedom.

We often forget that in declaring independence from an earthly power, our forefathers made a forthright Declaration of Dependence upon Almighty God. The closing words of this great document solemnly declare "With a firm reliance on the protection of providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives—our fortunes—and our sacred honor".

The fifty-six courageous men who signed that document knew this was not just high-sounding rhetoric—and that if they succeeded, the best they could expect would be years of struggle in a new nation. If they lost, they would face the hangman's noose as traitors.

Of the fifty-six, few were long to survive. Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes sacked, looted, occupied by the enemy or burned.

Two lost their sons in the army. One had sons captured. Fifty-six died in war from its hardships—or its bullets.

John Quincy Adams penned these words: "Posterity—you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

For years we flourished as a Christian nation. The Supreme Court, in an 1892 decision, declared: "Our laws and our institutions must be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of Mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and to this extent, civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian!" "This in a religious people!"

"This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation—we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth—that *this is a Christian nation.*" *This from the Supreme Court: 1892.*

In this century, our great nation began to crumble morally.

In June of 1962 the Supreme Court, which once ruled that America was a Christian Nation, declared prayer in public schools to be unconstitutional. The Bible and God Himself, were expelled. This in spite of the fact that America's greatest leaders have shown no doubt about God's proper place in the American government!

Every session of the House and Senate begins with prayer—each house has its own Chaplain.

The Eighty-third Congress set aside a small room in the capital, just off the rotunda, for the private prayer and meditation of members of Congress. The room's focal point is a stained glass window showing George Washington kneeling in prayer. Behind him is etched these words from Psalms 16:1 "Preserve me, O God for in thee do I put my trust."

Inside the rotunda is a picture of the Pilgrims about to embark on the sister ship of the Mayflower—the Speedwell. The ship's revered chaplain, Brewster, who later join the Mayflower, has open on his lap, the Bible.

Very clear are the words, "The New Testament, according to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." On the sail is the motto of the Pilgrims—IN GOD WE TRUST, GOD BE WITH US."

The phrase, "In God We Trust" appears opposite the President of the Senate, who is the Vice President of the United States. The same phrase, in large words inscribed in marble, backdrops the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Above the head of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments, with the Great American eagle protecting

them. Moses is included among the great lawgivers in a marble sculpture on the east front. The crier who opens each session, closes with these words; "God save the United States and the Honorable Court."

Engraved on the metal cap on top of the Washington Monument are the words: "Praise Be To God." Lining the walls of the stairwell are such biblical phrases as, "Search the Scriptures", "Holiness to the Lord", "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Numerous quotations from the scriptures can be found within the walls of the Library of Congress. One reminds each American of this responsibility to his Maker. "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8) Another preserves the psalmists acknowledgement that all nature reflects the order and beauty of the Creator: "The Heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handwork." (psalm 19:1) And still another reference: "The Light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not." (John 1:5)

I, like millions of others, have stood in the Lincoln Memorial and gazed up at the statue of the great Abraham Lincoln. The sculptor who chiseled the features of Lincoln in granite seems to make Lincoln speak his own words inscribed into the walls: " \* \* \* that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." At the opposite end, on the north wall, his second inaugural address alludes to "God", "the Bible", "Providence", "The Almighty" and "divine attributes." And then continues: "As was said three thousand years ago, and so it still must be said, 'The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

At the Jefferson Memorial on the south banks of Washington's tidal basin, Jefferson still speaks: "God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever." This is indeed an explicit warning to us. Especially to us in this day that, to allow God to be removed from this country, will surely destroy it.

A result of our lack of resolve—the once Great American Dream is turning into a spiritual nightmare. *America has rejected God in dealing with the issues of life.* When God fades from a nation's conscience, one can justify almost anything. For example:

God says: "Thou shalt not kill."

Americans have given murder a new name and now abort one and one half million babies a year. Many try to camouflage sin with new age terminology.

God calls it "Drunkness."

We call it alcoholism—a social disease.

God calls it "Sodomy."

We call it homosexuality—gay rights—an "Alternative Lifestyle."

God calls it "Perversion."

We call it pornography—"Adult" entertainment.

God calls it "Immorality."

We call it the "New" morality.

God calls it "Cheating."

We call it abnormal social development.

With the erosion of moral absolutes Jefferson's warning should make us all shudder as each succeeding generation drifts further from the moral absolutes of the Lord.

As revealed in the scriptures and banned by the courts from our schools, the words of