

creating a government that works better, costs less, and gets the results Americans desire.

I first met Bob during the 1980s when he was a deputy assistant secretary in the Defense Department. He helped resolve a complex situation that ended up benefiting both the Defense Department and Northeastern Pennsylvania. Although I had dealt with hundreds of federal employees, Bob stood out as a creative and thoughtful public servant who was absolutely committed to making government work. His dedication to improving the functioning of the Defense Department during Republican Administrations was brought to the attention of Vice President GORE, who deserves a great deal of credit for recognizing Bob's talents and allowing him to run the National Performance Review in a competent and non-partisan manner.

In leading hundreds of career civil servants in the reinventing government initiative, Bob has helped produce some remarkable results: more than \$136 billion in savings, a workforce that is smaller than when John F. Kennedy was President, 640,000 fewer pages of internal rules, and the creation of more than 3,000 customer service standards that citizens can use to judge how well agencies are serving their customers. I was struck by Bob's undying belief that government can work if front-line employees are empowered with the ability to exercise common sense. Bob's inspirational mantra was, "Federal workers know what's not working in government and—if empowered—can make government work better and cost less."

Beyond creating a government that was smaller and worked better, Bob wanted to create a movement. As Vice President GORE said at Bob's retirement ceremony, "Bob's goal was to 'fan the flames of reinvention' among front line employees, to empower them to reinvent their workplaces and how they deal with their customers—to bring common sense to government. He did this, and more."

Bob Stone is the epitome of the hard-working, unrecognized public servant who is dedicated to doing whatever it takes to accomplish his mission in a thoughtful and creative way. I speak for many in this Congress when I express my gratitude to Bob for the key role he has played in restoring Americans' belief that government can do the right thing. I wish him and his wife, Roxanne, a happy retirement when they join their children and grandchildren in California. We will miss you, Mr. REGO, but hope your spirit of service and reinvention will live long in the federal government.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATION OF
CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to a high school in my district that has its eye on the future and its students on the road to success. Center High School in the Center Unified School District will be dedicated on May 22 after undergoing extensive remodeling of its facilities to accom-

modate, among other things the continuing emergence of high technology in the classroom, and the growing demand for improved mathematics and science education.

The dramatic changes at Center High School come at a time when this school district faces tremendous challenges in coping with a significant loss of student enrollment due to the imminent closure of McClellan Air Force Base. Despite such a daunting obstacle, forward-thinking trustees, administrators, faculty members, school staff, parents and others in the community moved ahead with plans to give students at Center High School their best possible chance to succeed in a rapidly changing world. It should come as no surprise that this particular school district took such a leadership role. Even as the Gold Rush swept through California and well before the Pony Express began to link my state to the rest of the nation, one of the area's very first schools opened its doors to students in what is now the Center Unified School District. For almost a century and a half, this community has focused on future generations.

At its dedication ceremony, Center High will show off its state-of-the-art science complex and adjoining computer lab, a new mathematics wing with adjoining computer lab, a new library with multiple computer research stations, a new 500 seat performing arts theatre and music building, a special education wing, and a technology-based curriculum integrated in the school's Media Communications and Business Academies.

It also should be noted that student achievements at Center High School are truly remarkable. Most recently, both the student newspaper and yearbook received the Gold Crown Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association—their equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. It is the only school in the nation to win top honors for both publications. In addition, Center High freshman William John was recently selected to represent California in People to People International at a United Nations conference in Switzerland this summer.

It is refreshing and hopeful for all of us to witness the rebirth of Center High School and to honor the tremendous success of its students. I urge you to join me in congratulating all those involved for a job well done.

STATEMENT ON KOSOVO

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the House debated several resolutions regarding the current situation in Kosovo. I take this opportunity to address that situation and each of those resolutions.

The current situation in Kosovo is indeed a tragedy. People are being forced from their homes, families are being destroyed, people are being murdered because of their ethnic identity. If I may, let me recount some sobering facts. To date, over 603,000 Kosovar-Albanian refugees have been forced from their homes, an estimated 3,700 people have been murdered, and approximately 400,000 people are roaming the Kosovo countryside.

Unfortunately, we have seen this type of activity far too often. Many of us have taken to this very floor and condemned the actions of the Nazis in World War II, the Ottoman Empire during the Armenian Genocide, the Chinese at Tiananmen Square, the treatment of the East Timorese by the Indonesian Government, and the murder of over a million Rwandans. All of us also condemn the actions of Slobodan Milosevic in his efforts to "cleanse" the former Yugoslavia of ethnic minorities.

In my view, the United States is the world leader in the efforts to promote democracy and basic human rights. As that world leader, not a police force but a leader, the United States must take its responsibility seriously. Therefore, we must play a role in stopping ongoing genocides, preventing future genocides, and promoting freedom and democracy around the world. Unfortunately, this sometimes requires the use of United States military force.

There is a great deal of debate over whether this operation in Kosovo is in our interests. I believe it is. As part of our role in the world, the United States needs to take action to preserve and in some instances expand alliances that will encourage the establishment of the democratic principles we all cherish. As such, we must remain an active leader in the NATO alliance.

The NATO alliance was formed to provide a strong measure of security to Europe, which in turn provides a measure of security for the United States. Political, military, and economic instability threatens U.S. national security and economic interests. This is a region where two world wars began and the threat that this conflict could spread to neighboring countries is real. It is without a doubt that preventing the spread of this conflict is in our security interest.

During the debate, the first bill the House considered was H.R. 1569, introduced by Representatives FOWLER and GOODLING. This bill would prohibit the President from using any funds for the deployment of "ground elements" without congressional authorization. This legislation is far too broad in its scope. It would prevent using U.S. "ground elements" to rescue U.S. military personnel or civilians should that be necessary, it would restrict U.S. participation in a peacekeeping operation, it would handcuff the President from responding with "ground elements" to a direct threat to U.S. personnel, and it would have even prohibited the rescue of the three U.S. POW's.

Passage of this bill, in my view, gives President Milosevic permission to act without fear that the United States will respond with the swiftest and most forceful action if necessary. Many have argued that we cannot tell our enemies what we will do or how we will act, but this bill tells Milosevic exactly what Congress will allow President Clinton to do.

While at this time I do not think the use of "ground elements" is necessary, I do not believe that we should take any option off the table for any period of time. I do not believe that we should handcuff the President or our military leaders from taking whatever action they need to in responding to a developing situation. This bill would do exactly that. For the reasons outlined above I voted against this bill.