

Kurdish people living in Northern Iraq and Eastern Turkey. They have been victims of some of the most egregious human rights abuses in recent years including brutal military attack, random murder, and forced exile from their homes. While American efforts in Northern Iraq have greatly improved the plight of the Kurds, there is certainly much room for improvement both there and in Turkey.

In 1988, the world was stunned by the horrific pictures of the bodies of innocent Kurds disfigured by the effects of a poison gas attack by Saddam Hussein. We may never know exactly how many people died in that particular attack due to Saddam Hussein's efforts to cover up his culpability. The number of victims, however, is most likely in the thousands.

This was certainly not Iraq's first deplorable attack on the Kurds and, sadly, it was not destined to be the last. Yet, this attack continues to represent a stark milestone in the long list of deplorable deeds Saddam Hussein has perpetrated against his own people.

In recent years, however, the United States has come to the aid of the Kurds of Northern Iraq. At the conclusion of the Gulf War, the United States and our allies established "no-fly" zones over Northern and Southern Iraq. These zones, plus the damage the Iraqi military sustained during Operation Desert Storm, have mercifully curtailed Saddam Hussein's ability to attack the Kurds in Northern Iraq. Mr. President, the men and women of the United States Air Force who risk Iraqi anti-aircraft fire over Iraq each day in order to enforce these no-fly zones deserve our support and commendation. Not only do their efforts protect nations throughout the region and around the world from Saddam Hussein's aggression, but their daily flights serve as sentries against human rights abuses.

Mr. President, the United States has taken other, more direct actions to help the Kurds of Northern Iraq. Following the Gulf War, the United States Agency for International Development worked to provide important humanitarian assistance to Iraqi Kurds. When Iraqi incursions into the region once again threatened the lives of thousands of innocent civilians, the United States worked to evacuate more than 6,500 people to the safety of Guam. Many were later granted asylum in the United States.

Our relationship with the Kurdish people of Northern Iraq is not a one-way street. More than 2,000 of the Kurds who the United States evacuated in 1996 were either employees of American relief agencies or family members of those employees. Others have provided invaluable intelligence information to the United States.

As I mentioned earlier, many Kurds also live in Eastern Turkey. A minor-

ity of Turkish Kurds have taken up arms against the democratically elected Turkish government in a bid for independence. Unfortunately, both sides in this internal conflict are guilty of human rights abuses against innocent Kurdish civilians.

The Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, has devolved into a terrorist organization targeting not only Turkish military and police forces but innocent Kurdish civilians as well. While reliable estimates of the number of victims are extremely hard to come by, it is clear that thousands, probably tens of thousands, have died at the hands of the PKK.

As is often the case, neither side in the dispute holds a monopoly on human rights abuses. The PKK's actions unquestionably demand a response from the Turkish government. Rather than a measured and targeted response, however, Turkey has declared a state of emergency in a large portion of Eastern Turkey, directly affecting more than 4 million of its citizens.

Under the state of emergency, Turkey has severely rationed food, leading to great hardship amongst innocent civilians. In addition, Turkey has forced hundreds of thousands of people out of their homes, leaving more than 2,600 towns and villages mere ghost towns.

These actions are all aimed at suppressing the PKK's terrorism. Yet, the government has actively targeted not only known terrorists but those believed to agree with the PKK's goal of independence—although perhaps not their methods—as well. Even those who support neither the PKK's goals nor their means suffer at the hands of the Turkish military and police forces. Thus, Turkey's Kurdish population is under attack from both sides without any place to hide.

Turkey is both a democracy and an important ally of the United States. In Kosovo and Bosnia, Turkey has stood firmly with other NATO members against human rights abuses. In recent weeks, Turkey has opened its borders to tens of thousands of innocent Kosovars desperate to escape Slobodan Milosevic's murderous rampage. Turkey, along with our other NATO allies, deserves a great deal of credit for its principled stand in the Balkans. In fact, Turkey has allowed the United States to enforce the no-fly zone over Northern Iraq from our air force base on Turkish soil.

Yet, it would be inappropriate for us to overlook Turkey's human rights abuses against its own people simply because of its commendable actions elsewhere. Mr. President, the intentional murder of innocent non-combatants is an anathema to the United States regardless of where it occurs or who the perpetrator is. Thus, the PKK's efforts to intimidate others by random murder, certainly not indicative of all Kurds, deserves our con-

demnation as does Turkey's abuse of its own innocent citizens in the pursuit of terrorists.

Mr. President, we must never let our nation's commitment to the protection of human rights lapse. As we sit here today, the human rights of an entire race of people in Turkey and Iraq are under assault. I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning these abuses.●

TRIBUTE TO COGGESHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Coggeshall Elementary School of Newport, Rhode Island, which this year celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Coggeshall has seen much since it opened to students in 1899. It has seen the rise of the automobile, the invention of the airplane, and the emergence of the Internet. It has weathered the great hurricanes of 1938 and 1954. It was around for 5 Boston Red Sox World Series wins and all the summers and autumns of bitter defeat since the last in 1918. Coggeshall has seen its graduates serve in two World Wars. It has seen its female students earn the right to vote.

Since Coggeshall opened its doors, the sound barrier and the four minute mile were broken, Charles Lindburg traversed the Atlantic, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, and Rosa Parks ignited the Civil Rights movement.

Mr. President, Coggeshall Elementary has not only experienced history, it has shaped it. Coggeshall and its teachers have had an impact on generations of Newport's students. The school's influence is certain to reach far into the future.

I want to take this opportunity to commend Coggeshall Elementary for its continuing legacy to Rhode Island—its students.

Recently, Jessica Perry, a fifth grade student at Coggeshall, penned a history of the school. I ask unanimous consent that her paper be printed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coggeshall Elementary on its 100th anniversary.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HISTORY OF COGGESHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (By Jessica Perry, Grade 5)

Coggeshall Elementary School was built beginning 1898. It opened to students in 1899. This year Coggeshall will be celebrating its 100th anniversary.

When Coggeshall was first opened there was a boys and girls entrance, boys had to go in one door and the girls had to go in the other door. Boys and girls almost always rode their bicycles so they had a bike room. Where the library is now is where the boys bike room was located. Where the kitchen is now was the girls bike room. There was no office. There were only four classrooms each on the 1st and 2nd floor.

The school had been open for a short period of time in the spring of 1899. June 24, 1899

was the formal dedication. The keys were given to mayor Boyle and Superintendent of Schools Baker. At the same time there was a graduation of Miss Gilpan's class. The girls wore white dresses and the stage was decorated with flowers. Lots of important people were there. Children sang and read their essays they had written, the newspaper said the school was the best constructed building of its kind they had ever seen. They said it had "tinted walls, high ceilings and pleasant prospects." Mr. Denniston and Mr. Belle donated the flag and flag pole.

From 1936-1971 there was a half-day kindergarten class as well as grades one to six. In the fall of 1976 grade six was moved to the Sullivan School. Now the sixth grade is located at the Thompson Middle School. Coggeshall has always had a kindergarten class until 1981. There was no kindergarten that year. In 1982 the kindergarten came back. It left again in 1990 for one year. In 1996 an all day kindergarten was begun at the school.

Throughout the years changes have been made to the school. There are new chimneys, we added a fire escape, new school sign, parking lot, new windows and shrubs. There are also telephone poles, electric wires and cars that were not here in 1899!

Since 1936 there have been 12 principals, the principal that was here the longest is Mary Ryan. She stayed for 14 years! The principal that stayed the shortest is Dr. Mary Koring. She worked here for only one year. In the early years the principals Charles Carter, Irvin Henshaw, and Leo Connerton was the principal of Sheffield School and Coggeshall School. After the 1950's the principal was only in charge of Coggeshall School. Mr. Borgueta is the Superintendent of Schools now and Mr. Frizelle is the principal.●

"NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to America's small businesses—the backbone of our nation's vibrant economy. As my colleagues may know, this week is recognized as "National Small Business Week."

As a former small businessman, I believe small businesses have always been one of the leading providers of jobs throughout our communities. Today, there are over 24 million small businesses that serve as the principal source of new jobs, employing more than 52 percent of the private workforce.

In particular, I am very proud of the tremendous growth in women-owned businesses over the last several years. According to the National Foundation for Women Business Owners, there are more than 166,000 women-owned businesses in my home state of Minnesota, employing 349,800 people and generating \$42.3 billion in sales. Between 1987 and 1996 the number of women-owned businesses increased dramatically, by over 73 percent.

Mr. President, one of the unique aspects of Minnesota's small business community is the large number of high-tech companies throughout our state. I certainly envision an impor-

tant role for small, high-technology businesses in meeting the nation's science and technology in the years ahead. Small businesses account for 28 percent of jobs in high-technology sectors and represent 96 percent of all exporters, underscoring the important role the small business community will have toward developing a 21st century economy that is globally and technologically driven.

During "National Small Business Week," I am proud to share with my colleagues the special recognition recently granted by the Small Business Administration to two dedicated Minnesotans: Comfrey Mayor Linda Wallin and Ms. Supenn Harrison, a restaurateur in Minneapolis.

Mr. President, in 1997 several communities in Minnesota were threatened by terrible tornadoes and floods. Almost immediately, Mayor Wallin provided courageous leadership to protect the community of Comfrey from this dangerous natural disaster. In addition to establishing a command center to coordinate efforts to rebuild and provide relief to residents, Mayor Wallin secured assistance from the SBA to rebuild a civic center, a new library, and an elementary school. This year, the SBA has honored her with the "Phoenix Award" for those who have displayed confidence, optimism, and love of community while surmounting near disaster.

Ms. Supenn Harrison, a successful CEO of Sawatdee, a Thai restaurant in Minneapolis, represents the finest of Minnesota's small business owners. Ms. Harrison is Minnesota's 1999 honoree as one of the fifty finalists to be considered for the National Small Business Person of the Year. Ms. Harrison's investment in her company and employees through constant efforts to update equipment, implement new marketing strategies, and encourage high employee morale underscores her commitment to a strong economy.

Mr. President, I am honored to recognize the contributions of Minnesota's small business community during "National Small Business Week." I look forward to working with my colleagues to promote an economic climate where small businesses can succeed through federal regulatory relief, tax reduction, a skilled workforce, and free trade policies.●

POLICE OFFICER PERRIN LOVE

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the heroism of Officer Perrin Love, a private in the Charleston Police Department. Officer Love died a tragic death last Saturday morning, when he was accidentally shot by his partner while pursuing an armed suspect.

Hard-working, dedicated, and courageous, Police Officer Perrin Love was a credit to the Force and the City of

Charleston. All who knew him liked and respected him, and though he was only a rookie, everyone on the Charleston Police Force believed he had a bright future as a law enforcement officer. Officer Love graduated first in his class from the Police Academy in Portland, Oregon, and had earned high marks for his performance on the Charleston Force. He earned his first stripe earlier than most new officers on the Charleston Force.

Public service and devotion to duty were the hallmarks of Perrin Love's life. Before becoming a police officer, he served with distinction in the United States Navy. As the Charleston Post and Courier wrote in its memorial to Officer Love: "Officer Perrin 'Ricky' Love was doing exactly what he wanted when he died Friday. He was wearing a uniform, serving the public, and enforcing laws he believed in."

Mr. President, men and women like Officer Love are a credit to their families, to their uniforms, and to this nation. Law officers like Perrin Love always give me hope for our future. These brave souls continue to patrol our cities, enforce our laws, and protect our lives and property at great risk, asking nothing in return except the privilege to wear their uniforms and the knowledge that they have the hard-won respect of their neighbors and their peers.

According to his fellow officers, Officer Love embodied all the qualities one wants in an officer of the law: he was brave and dedicated to serving his fellow citizens and the law, but he also loved his community and worked hard to establish good relations with everyone on his beat. His tragic death is a blow to his family, to his fellow officers, and to the City of Charleston.

I join all the people of Charleston in mourning his passing and expressing my most sincere condolences to his sister, Jennifer Love, and his parents, Joshua and Nancy Love. I hope the knowledge that the entire community laments the loss of such an honorable and admirable man as Officer Love will be of some small comfort to them in their time of grief.●

TRIBUTE TO TEN YEARS OF SERVING THE SOUTH'S FINEST BARBEQUE

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Mr. Oscar Poole, affectionately known as "Colonel" in the north Georgia town of Ellijay, who on June 4th will be celebrating his tenth year of business as one of our great state's foremost authorities on barbecue. Throughout his ten years of service in this little town resting in the scenic foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Colonel Poole has served customers both far and wide, from nearly every state in the Union, and more than several countries.