

June 16, 1999

THE BUILDER GENERATION TO  
LEAD THE BRIDGER GENERA-  
TION TO TRUST THE LORD

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House an address that was presented by my constituent, Dr. Al Lutz, to The Veterans' Club in Sun City Hilton Head, South Carolina. I believe that his remarks about the role of chaplains in our military, as well as about the importance of our faith in God, and our duty to train our younger generations of Americans deserve our careful consideration.

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 31, 1999

THE BUILDER GENERATION TO LEAD THE  
BRIDGER GENERATION TO TRUST THE LORD  
MESSAGE GIVEN AT THE VETERANS' CLUB MEMO-  
RIAL DAY CELEBRATION—SUN CITY HILTON  
HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA

I appreciate this opportunity to speak today in regard to honoring The Four Immortal Chaplains, because an Army chaplain was very helpful to me. While I was on active duty in Ft. Huachuca, AR, 1955-1957, I came under the ministry of Chaplain John MacGregor, who had been an infantry officer, was converted to Christ, and entered the chaplaincy. He was a man who believed the Bible, preached it and lived it. Seeing his Christ-like character prompted me to enter the Christian ministry forty years ago. The other special help that this chaplain gave was to introduce me to Julie. This year we will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary.

My wife and I are nearing our one year anniversary residency here in Sun City and enjoying every minute of it. I also have the privilege of being a part of the Veterans' Club.

The Veterans' Club of Sun City has chosen to honor The Four Immortal Chaplains whose brave sacrifice is an inspiring story of personal honor and patriotism. Their heroism of 56 years ago stands today as an eloquent and enduring example of service, fellowship and love.

Chaplains are a very vital part of the United States armed forces. Just as the United States was founded by those who believed in the God of the Bible as the true and living God, so our country has continued in that belief, especially in our military forces.

It is very heartwarming to know that our government considers the ministry of chaplains so vital, that our government pays the salaries of all military chaplains who receive church or synagogue endorsement.

It is also important to know that our government has ordered that each military chaplain is free to practice and teach his own faith as he ministers to the men and women in the military.

Before Desert Storm was initiated, the President of the United States called the nation to prayer, as General Schwartzkopf was preparing the strategy for war. When American troops landed in Saudi Arabia and the General met with the Saudi officials, he was told that Jewish and Christian chaplains would not be allowed on Saudi soil. The General's response to that was basically this, "We will engage in this war only if we have our full chaplain force to go with us." As I mentioned when I spoke for the Veterans' Day program last November, I told of the

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

General calling in his head chaplain, Col. David Peterson, and giving him the orders to work it out so that the chaplains, of all faiths, would be allowed to go with the troops. That was accomplished quickly. Not only that but the General knew that the success depended on the blessing of Almighty God.

He may have been reminded of Proverbs 21:31 which states, "The horse is prepared for the day of battle, BUT deliverance comes from the Lord."

Or Psalm 20:7 "some trust in chariots, and some in horses, BUT we will trust in the name of the Lord our God."

In the early hours before Desert Storm was launched, the General with his command staff present, asked Chaplain Peterson, to lead in prayer for the blessing of Almighty God. Chaplains have been, and I trust always will be, a vital part of our military.

What was it that prompted the Four Immortal Chaplains and what is it that prompts our present day chaplains to volunteer for military duty?

It is obviously a love for country and a desire to serve.

It is also a love for people who need spiritual guidance in peace time, but especially in the time of war. Probably the underlying motivation was and is a sense of God's love for them and their love for God that prompts them to put their lives on the line to minister to the troops. So we honor them!

We can also honor those Chaplains by learning from their motivation and applying it to our lives. Somehow there must be a return to a reverential fear of the true and living God. The Bible states that one of the greatest sins of mankind is this: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Let me share with you some sobering statistics about those in America, who claim to be Christians:

Among the Builder Generation (Born 1910 to 1946) 61% of them claim to be Christians,

Among the Boomer Generation (Born 1946 to 1964) 39% of them claim to be Christians,

Among the Buster Generation (Born 1965 to 1976) 25% of them claim to be Christians.

But what about the generation Born 1977 to 1995?

Some are calling this generation, the Bridger Generation. They will take us into the 21st Century.

It is estimated that ONLY 4% of them claim that they are Christians.

If those figures are anywhere close to being correct, do we see what lies before us, unless a mighty spiritual awakening takes place?

Somehow a sense of \* \* \* who the true and living God of the universe is, who should be the true and living God of our nation, and who should the Bridger Generation have as its God, must be again instilled in people of our nation.

Somehow we must see that the disrespect for God, the disregard for human authority, and the devaluation of humanity, brought about to a large extent by the Supreme Court officially ruling that God, the Bible and prayer are no longer allowed in the public schools, must be counteracted.

No one can be neutral about his or her religious beliefs. If the true and living God is left out, other false gods of self and pleasure and power, which are often pushed on us by Hollywood and others, will take God's rightful place.

A father of one the murdered teenagers in Littleton, CO was testifying before the government in Washington last Thursday about gun control. What I heard him say was something to this effect, "Returning prayer to

the classroom is far more important." We must deal with the root cause and give the root answer rather than just talking about the symptoms or superficial answers. Senator John McCain stated it clearly what is needed: "Faith in God."

It is sad to say that even our country as a whole is feeling the effect of trying to remove God from society by the fact that not nearly enough men and women sense the proper fear of the Lord and a love for country to prompt them to answer the call for military service. It will become harder and harder to find four chaplains who will set the example that they set.

Here is a plea to the Builder Generation: use your retirement years to work with your grandchildren and great grandchildren to help instill within them a genuine love for God, a reverential fear of God, and a solid trust in God, for the glory of God, for their personal good and for the good of our country.

May God help us!! Al Lutz

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN  
WILSON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Father John Wilson.

Father Wilson was a former diocesan director of the deaf Apostolate, a longtime pastor of St. Timothy Church in Garfield Heights and was a chaplain for ten years at St. Edward Home in Fairlawn. He was a greatly loved man who was dedicated to helping the deaf community. He began working with the deaf community at his first assignment as assistant pastor at St. Collumbille Church in Cleveland. When this parish closed, he continued his work with the deaf community as diocesan director of the deaf Apostolate. During his tenure as diocesan director of the deaf Apostolate, Father Wilson built up one of the largest communities in the country.

Father Wilson was a very devoted man who, even when his own health was a risk forcing him to retire as pastor, continued to help the people in his community. This selfless dedication is something that should be recognized, praised and encouraged in our communities today.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring this great man, Father Wilson. He will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM TURNER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 52, I was absent because of my participation in a congressional delegation trip to Russia with members of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Research and Development for the purpose of discussing with the Russian Duma pending anti-missile defense legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H. Con. Res. 24.