

ELIAN GONZALEZ AND FAITH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, weak and thirsty, Elizabeth spent the last hours of her life praying to God to protect her son, Elian; to guide him to safety in the land of liberty. She shaded Elian with her own body, gave him bottled water so he would not dehydrate, did everything humanly possible so that he would live.

As darkness enveloped her frail body and before she disappeared into the depths of the Atlantic, she turned to Elian and said to him, "My child, remember that prayer I taught you? Pray to your guardian angel. Ask him to watch over you, for you are in God's hands now."

Elizabeth succumbed to the power of the sea, but Elian continued to pray and on Thanksgiving Day, he would be saved under what one of his rescuers has classified as miraculous circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, one cannot help but wonder if there was divine intervention. As former President Ronald Reagan has said: without God, there is no prompting of the conscience.

So I ask my colleagues to search their conscience and consider what is right and just before making a decision on Elian's case. We can still hear his mother's last wishes from the depths of the sea.

IRS INVESTIGATED

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after destroying lives and ruining families for years, reports now say that the IRS is being investigated for targeting political opponents. Being one, I find it amusing that all of the sudden files are missing, agents have amnesia, and evidence just cannot be found.

Truth is, the IRS has been lying through their teeth for so long, they need braces. Think about it. Little Punxsutawney Phil can find his shadow, but the big bad IRS cannot find their laptops.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

It is time to abolish both the income tax and the IRS. Replace it with a national retail sales tax.

Mr. Speaker, one last thing. I yield back the lies, crimes, dental needs, and amnesia of the "Internal Rectal Service."

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR RONALD AND NANCY REAGAN

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, Ronald Reagan will be celebrating his 89th birthday. To commemorate this occasion, I will be joining my colleague, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), in introducing legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Together with his devoted First Lady, Ronald Reagan believed in the promise of the American dream. In an era of growing cynicism, the Reagans worked in their own optimistic, upbeat way to make America a place where everyone can rise as high and as far as her ability will take her.

In 1989, I had an opportunity personally to thank Ronald Reagan for his contributions to America. This was shortly after the Berlin Wall was taken down and the land he once declared an "evil empire" began to be dissolved. Now is the time to broaden this "thank you" so that it comes from all the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we can begin this process here in the Congress in a bipartisan way by awarding him and his First Lady the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. and Mrs. Reagan, this "thank you" is long overdue.

GOOD POLICY MAKES GOOD POLITICS

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners in the New Hampshire primary yesterday: Vice President AL GORE and Senator JOHN MCCAIN. Let us be truthful, there are consistencies in their message that the voters are obviously responding to, one of which is the need to clean up the campaign finance mess that exists here in Washington, D.C. The other is their fiscally responsible message that I believe both of these individuals are delivering to sustain economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, it is a message that says before we get carried away with these projected budget surpluses, we still have existing obligations that we need to take care of. Obligations such as shoring up Social Security, Medicare, paying down the \$5.7 trillion national debt, before we embark on large new tax cuts or large new spending programs.

In short, good policy is making good politics in these campaigns. Perhaps it would be wise for us Members in this chamber to wake up and realize what the American people are responding to and embracing, and work in a bipartisan fashion to address these very crucial issues before we embark on irresponsible fiscal policy in the coming year.

CIVILIANS MURDERED IN INDONESIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about what is happening to the people of Ambon in Indonesia. Over 2,000 people have been killed in the past few months; hundreds have been severely wounded; dozens of churches have been burned, all as a result of fighting in Ambon and approximately 1,000 extremists having traveled to the area to wage jihad on the inhabitants.

Unfortunately, the Indonesian military has played a role in the death and terrorizing of civilians. In one report, a church was being guarded by its congregation when soldiers arrived. The military went into the church, started shooting, killed 24 men, dragged the bodies outside and burned them beyond recognition. The soldiers apparently belonged to the elite strategic reserve command and the paramilitary police.

Observers in local hospitals have heard numerous stories of people shot by soldiers of the Indonesian army.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Wahid for his efforts to end this violence and I urge him to take the needed steps to bring the military under control and to bring to justice those responsible for brutally murdering innocent civilians.

OAK CREEK, WISCONSIN, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WANT TO SEE CHANGE

(Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, at a time when many adults question the seriousness and maturity of high school students, it is important for us to take a moment to pause to commend the group of high school students in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, who not only are doing something to improve our democracy, but I think challenge this very chamber to act in a responsible way.

A group of students in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, have formed their own political action committee entitled the Oak Creek High School FECA Fighters, for the Federal Election Campaign Act. They are collecting dollars and coins in a 5-gallon drum and will contribute it to presidential candidates who are supporting ways to change the way elections are financed. They do not like the law and want to see it changed.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these young students for getting involved in the democratic process, because this democracy only works as well as we make it work. It is the ultimate participatory sport, and these young people recognize that for this sport to continue, for this democracy to continue, they have to be involved. They