

together in recent years under President Clinton's leadership to embrace some of our best values by enacting new laws and programs that help the poor by reforming welfare, that protect the innocent by combating crime, and that restore responsibility by balancing our budget.

In communities across America, people of faith are working to repair some of the worst effects of our damaged moral and cultural life, like teenage pregnancy, family disintegration, drug dependency, and homelessness. Charitable giving is up, more of the young are turning to community service, and because our economy is booming, or perhaps in spite of it, people are finding they need more than material wealth to achieve happiness. They want spiritual fulfillment, cultural elevation, more time with their families, and more confidence that they are making a difference for the better.

So there is reason in this millennial year to go forward from this 48th National Prayer Breakfast with hope, ready to serve God with gladness by transforming these good beginnings into America's next Great Spiritual Awakening—one that will secure the moral future of our nation and raise up the quality of life of all our people.

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus said, "so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

If we do, then in time, as Isaiah prophesied: "Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough places smooth. For the earth will be full of the glory of the Lord."

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. EARL
SMITH, U.S. ARMY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we carry out the business of the American people here in Washington, we are occasionally fortunate enough to get to know some truly outstanding individual Americans. Today, I would like to mention one such person, who has become a good friend to many of us.

It is a great pleasure to rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Earl Smith, who is retiring from the U.S. Army on April 1st of this year after 22 years of service to our nation.

Along with many other Members, I came to know Lt. Col. Smith in his capacity as Congressional Liaison Officer to the House of Representatives. Lt. Col. Smith and I have traveled to many places together, where I have always found him to define the Army's values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

The American diplomat George Kennan wrote that "only he is capable of exercising leadership over others who is capable of some real degree of mastery over himself." Lt. Col. Smith is a living example of the truth of that statement.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. Smith distinguished himself in numerous command and staff positions overseas, as well as in the continental United States. His career began as an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader in West Berlin, Germany,

during the final decade of the Cold War. As recently as 1996, he served in Bosnia as an Operations Officer on the Joint/Combined Staff for the military headquarters responsible for implementing the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The American position in the world—that of lone superpower—is due to the sacrifices made by Lt. Col. Smith and men and women like him. Without their selfless dedication, America would not enjoy the peace and prosperity it is blessed with today.

We all should congratulate Lt. Col. Smith on a career marked by the finest personal qualities and professional excellence. We wish Earl and his wife, Arnette, our best on this important milestone and good luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAMPION LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Ludlow girls soccer team won the program's third Western Massachusetts title last year by defeating defending state champion Cathedral High School. The Lions defeated Central Massachusetts Champion Shrewsbury en route to the state final match, where they fell just short of their goal.

The Ludlow girls soccer team finished the year with a record of 19–2–1. Ludlow was able to dominate a tough league in Western Massachusetts in 1999 by employing a highly skillful style of play. A team that was tough when it needed to be, Ludlow was capable of outclassing most of its opponents. As a result of their high class style, the Lions enjoyed the fervent support of the residents of the Town of Ludlow throughout the season.

Head Coach Jim Calheno has built a very successful program at Ludlow High School. Coach Calheno is well-respected in the coaching community and his team is duly feared. The Ludlow talent pool runs very deep, and the Lions are certain to be the team to beat in 2000. Two All-America selections, Liz Dyjak and Stephanie Santos, are among a group of talented Juniors who will be looking to claim the state title next season.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Seniors are: Melissa Dominique, Sandy Salvador, Angela Goncalves, Jen Crespo, Marcy Bousquet, Lynsey Calheno, Jenn Genovevo, and Leana Alves. The Juniors are: Nicole Gebo, Lindsay Robillard, Lindsay Haluch, Kara Williamson, Sarah Davis, Liz Dyjak, Stephanie Santos, Tina Santos, and Jessica Vital. The Sophomores are: Michele Goncalves, Lindsey Palatino, and Kristine Goncalves. The Freshmen are: Natalie Gebo, Lauren Pereira, Beth Cochenour, Darcie Rickson, and Amy Rodrigues. The Head Coach is Jim Calheno, and he is assisted by Saul Chelo, Nuno Pereira, Melanie Pszeniczny, and Mario

Monsalve. The managers are Melissa Santos and Elizabeth Barrow.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to congratulate the Ludlow High School girls soccer team on a season well played. I wish them the best of luck for the 2000 season.

TRIBUTE TO LEWANDA DENISE
MILLER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lewanda Denise Miller, a woman described by those who know her as a Christian, a family person, an educator, a community helper, a mentor, and a friend.

As the daughter of Roy Lee and Mildred Miller, and as a lifelong member of St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Lewanda credits her southern, Christian upbringing and family, as sources of strength that have helped to teach her ways to help others.

In 1993, Lewanda received her Bachelor's Degree with SUNY College at Old Westbury. While studying Accounting and Business, Lewanda quietly yearned to teach. In her last year of undergraduate study, she applied for a teaching license. Immediately after graduation, she obtained her temporary license in Business. She taught many programs at Boys and Girls High School. Two years later, Lewanda enrolled in Brooklyn College's graduate program to become an English teacher. After studying on an undergraduate and graduate level, she successfully completed her studies in 1999. Lewanda graduates this millennium with her Masters of Arts in Secondary Education-English. During this time, she obtained provisional certification in English and Business. Lewanda still mentors and tutors students daily at Boys and Girls High School.

Professionally, Ms. Miller has worked on several committees to improve the academic experience for her students. She worked on the Curriculum Interdisciplinary Team, staff developer of ELA Regents Curriculum, and taught one of the Saturday School programs at Boys and Girls High School for the last five years.

Since 1998, Lewanda has been a member of The Women's Caucus, a volunteer organization of women who work closely with me on community activities, and the Interfaith Medical Auxiliary.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing positive young role models, like Lewanda Denise Miller.

IN CELEBRATION OF LUNAR NEW
YEAR 4698, THE YEAR OF THE
DRAGON

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join members of the Asian

American Business Development Center in celebration of the Lunar New Year, the largest and most festive of all celebrations in most of Asia. The Lunar New Year is a time when families and friends congregate, when social bonds are strengthened, and life celebrated.

The celebration of the Lunar New Year, Mr. Speaker, underscores many commonalities throughout our diverse cultures, like an appreciation for the cyclical nature of life and the need for reunion and renewal. I wish everyone in America and throughout Asia who celebrates this occasion a very happy New Year full of good fortune and good health.

This Lunar New Year 4698, which falls on February 5, is a special one marking the Year of the Dragon. In Chinese mythology, the Dragon is a symbol of supreme power, controlling the wind and rain to benefit the earth or, sometimes, unleashing a destructive typhoon.

Dragons, as we know, are found in Western mythology as well, carved on the helm of Viking ships and woven into children's stories about European Princesses and gallant knights. The Dragon, then, is very much a part of our world culture as is the celebration of the annual renewal of life.

Mr. Speaker, today in New York City, I joined the Asian American Business Development Center in celebrating the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is a triumphant occasion for millions of people throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me and the Asian American Business Development Center in celebration of this special holiday.

THE FOUR YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, on the fourth anniversary of the passage of the Telecommunications Act, the benefits of deregulation are plainly evident. Consumers are paying the lowest prices in history for telecommunications services and enjoying new technologies that were unimaginable just 4 years ago. The deregulation that resulted from the act has provided tremendous stimulation to the telecommunications industry and the American economy.

Unfortunately, future progress is being held hostage by a Federal agency resistant to change. The telecommunications industry now moves on Internet time but is regulated by an FCC that relies on Depression-era rules and regulations. The FCC is too big, too powerful, and too unresponsive to the mandates of the law, congressional intent, and the needs of the American consumer.

Congress thought it deregulated the telecommunications industry 4 years ago, and to a large extent we did. What we didn't know was the extent to which the FCC would subvert congressional intent and implement its own agenda. The prologue of the 1996 act states that its goal is to reduce regulation.

What we now know is that the only way to do so is to sharply curtail the power of the FCC.

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING DEMOCRACY IN MONTENEGRO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week I chaired a hearing before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe on promoting and protecting democracy in Montenegro. Montenegro is a small republic with only about 700,000 inhabitants, and yet it is among the strongest proponents of democratic change in the Balkans. As a result, Montenegro has the potential of being the target of the next phase of the Yugoslav conflict which began in 1991.

Montenegro, with a south Slavic population of Eastern Orthodox heritage, is the Only other former Yugoslav republic to have maintained ties in a federation with Serbia. Since 1997, Montenegro has moved toward democratic reform, and its leaders have distanced themselves from earlier involvement in the ethnic intolerance and violence which devastated neighboring Croatia, Bosnia, and Kosovo. In contrast, the Belgrade regime of Slobodan Milosevic has become more entrenched in power and more determined to bring ruin to Serbia, if necessary to maintain this power. The divergence of paths has made the existing federation almost untenable, especially in the aftermath of last year's conflict in Kosovo. We now hear reports of a confrontation with Milosevic and possible conflict in Montenegro as a result.

One witness Janusz Bugajski of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, presented the conflict scenarios. He said: "Other than surrendering Montenegro altogether, Belgrade has three options: a military coup and occupation; the promotion of regional and ethnic conflicts; or the provocation of civil war. More likely Milosevic will engage in various provocations, intimidations and even assassinations to unbalance the Montenegrin leadership. He will endeavor to sow conflict between the parties in the governing coalition, heat up tensions in the Sandjak region of Montenegro by pitting Muslims against Christian Orthodox, and threaten to partition northern Montenegro if Podgorica [the capital of Montenegro] pushes toward statehood. The political environment will continue to heat up before the planned referendum" on independence.

In addition to the ongoing operations to keep the peace and provide justice and democratic governance in Bosnia and Kosovo, Mr. Speaker, the United States and the rest of the international community will face the challenge this year of promoting and protecting democracy in Montenegro. Srdjan Darmanovic, head of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights in Montenegro, said it is logical and understandable that the international community encourages the Montenegrin authorities to follow a policy of ambiguity on the republic's future. On the one hand, the international com-

munity already has the burden of two peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslav region and doesn't want another, yet it does not want Milosevic to seize Montenegro and stop the democratic development taking place there. Darmonovic concluded, however, that this situation "creates a very narrow space in which the Montenegrin Government has to play a dangerous chess game with the Milosevic regime in which the price of failure or miscalculation could be very high. . . . The 'politics of ambiguity' has very dangerous limits. It cannot last forever."

Veselin Vukotic, head of the Center for Entrepreneurship in Montenegro, described the economic steps which Montenegro has taken to distance itself from Serbia. He said that Montenegrin citizens cannot wait for the day when Milosevic resigns, which may never come. Economic change must begin now. The introduction of the Deutsche mark as a second currency has allowed the Montenegrin economy to move away from that of Yugoslavia as a whole. This has led to a decrease in Serbian-Montenegrin commerce and permits Montenegro to receive outside assistance even as Serbia remains under international sanctions. Still, he noted that the Montenegrin economy needs to be transformed into a market economy. This will require transparency to deter the continuing problem of corruption, as well as the development of a more open society.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, Montenegro is no longer alone in seeking to base its future on multi-ethnic accord, democracy and openness, rather than the nationalism of the 1990s. Beginning in late 1998, a similar trend began in Macedonia, and now in Croatia, new government leaders were elected who will reverse the nationalist authoritarianism of the Tudjman years. Hopefully, this will resonate in Serbia itself, where change is needed. The bottom line, as the Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Marc Grossman said in a conversation, is that there must be change in Serbia itself. As long as Milosevic is in power, there will be regional instability.

In testimony before the Senate Committee on Armed Services last week, Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet made clear: "Of the many threats to peace and stability in the year ahead, the greatest remains Slobodan Milosevic—the world's only sitting president indicted for crimes against humanity. . . . He retains control of the security forces, military commands, and an effective media machine."

With good judgment and resolve, Mr. Speaker, conflict can be avoided in Montenegro, and those seeking conflict deterred. As democracy is strengthened in Montenegro, the international community can also give those in Serbia struggling to bring democracy to their republic a chance to succeed. The people of Serbia deserve support. Democracy-building is vital for Serbs, Montenegrins and others living in the entire southeastern region of Europe.

Mr. Speaker, in the past decade, those of us who follow world affairs have had an in-depth lesson in the history, geography and demography of southeastern Europe. Places like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo were little known and little understood. Unfortunately, too many policymakers became aware of them only as the news reports of ethnic cleansing began to pour in.