

But little Elian will soon be reunited with his father and with his grandparents in that paradise island and we should be happy about that. No, maybe we're not acting out of concern over Elian and what his life is going to be like when he goes back "home". Maybe we're acting out of the pain that's in every one of these acclimated, prosperous, hard-working Cuban-Americans who cannot forget.

How can I forget the eight months I had to work in the fields shoveling dirt and pulling weeds as punishment because I had requested a visa to leave the country? How can I forget that my friends and I were kicked out of the University of Havana, even though we had the highest scores in our class, just because we had not joined the Communist Party's Cuban Youth group? How can I forget the long year my godmother spent in jail for suspicion of counter-revolutionary activities and was never the same woman again? How can I forget Eddy who died of suffocation when they packed them like sardines in a truck after being captured in Bay of Pigs... He was a handsome young man in his early twenties. How can I forget the months my cousin Ramon spent in the dungeons of La Cabana Castle right after the BoP invasions (just for being a young man and not belonging to the communist militia), where they almost starved him to death and where he heard the shots every night of those who were being executed. How can my friend Marta forget the ten years she waited in Castro's Cuba while her husband, a young poet, wasted away most of the time in solitary confinement, surrounded by rats and roaches, and the ten more years she spent in the States struggling to get him out? This poet is the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Armando Valladares. Do you know that due to the terrible tortures and malnutrition he suffered when they finally got together after 20 years, he could not give her the children she had longed for and they had to adopt? Or Emilita, who sent her children to live with her parents in the States to keep them safe while she stayed behind with her husband who was serving 20 years in political prison? When she saw her children again, they were no longer children.

The stories are endless, my friends, every Cuban in this country has a story, and it is those stories that are crying out today. The story of a people who felt betrayed after the Missile Crisis when President Kennedy signed a pact with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev never to allow Cubans to plot another invasion to free their land . . . The story of a people who are feeling betrayed again because one of our own who was saved from the sharks is now being sent back to the biggest shark of all . . . Fidel Castro, who will indoctrinate him and turn him into an icon of his propaganda or, if he doesn't succeed, will destroy his spirit by turning him into a frustrated youngster with no way out.

My friends, I apologize for this "speech" but I thought it was time for this formerly not very outspoken Cuban to speak out. I know you will understand.

CARMEN SABRIA,
Miami, Florida.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. JOE N.
BALLARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lt. Gen. Joe N. Ballard, 49th Chief of Engineers and Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who is retiring from his post after 35 commendable years of service to our Nation.

Lt. Gen. Ballard assumed command of the Corps of Engineers on October 1, 1996, and has been responsible for an annual budget of over \$12 billion and a leadership of a workforce of more than 35,000 civilian and military personnel worldwide.

During his tenure as Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Ballard led the Corps of Engineers in a number of significant accomplishments. Among them were restructuring all levels of the organization, streamlining major changes in business practices, reemphasizing the Corps' missions in support of the Army and Department of Defense, and strengthening the organization's commitment to serve the nation and its vital interests.

Lt. Gen. Ballard has managed Army Corps of Engineers missions—including the nation's vast Civil Works Program, environmental restoration, and construction on military installations. His leadership has guided the Corps in assisting with recovery from natural disasters as well as regulating work in the Nation's waterways and wetlands, conducting research and development, serving as the Army and Air Force real estate agent, and providing engineering services to 60 other Federal agencies and more than 80 other nations. Earlier, he served as Commander of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, with great distinction.

In addition to the military honors that he has achieved, the Council of Deans of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Career Communications Group recognized Lt. Gen. Ballard as the 1998 Black Engineer of the Year. He has also been the 1998–1999 president of the Society of American Military Engineers and a member of the National Engineering Honor society, Tau Beta Pi.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Gen. Ballard has had an outstanding career in the Corps of Engineers and with the Army. He will surely be missed by everyone at those organizations. As he retires, I wish Joe and his wife Tessie all the best. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE
VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am rising today to honor five of my constituents who have been named to the Honor Roll of Volunteers by the Appalachian Trail Conference [ATC].

July 27, 2000

Phyllis Henry, Jim Botts, Lionel Edney, Bill Kerr, and Dick Kettle are among the 75 people who received this award because of their hard work which symbolizes the efforts and dedication of thousands of volunteers who help manage and protect the Appalachian Trail.

The Volunteer Honor Roll was established to celebrate ATC's 75th anniversary this year. Founded in 1925 to promote, build, and protect the Appalachian Trail, ATC is one of the most successful volunteer-based conservation and outdoor recreation organizations in the United States.

As you know, the Appalachian Trail is one of America's premier hiking trails and the world's longest footpath. Located within a day's drive of two-thirds of the U.S. population, it is used each year by up to four million individuals from around the world.

It is only through the great work and leadership of individuals like these five people and organizations like the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, to which they all belong, that we are able to protect and maintain this great national treasure.

Each of these individuals has dedicated thousands of hours over the years so that we could enjoy the Appalachian Trail. I would like to take the time to personally thank them for all of their work and to honor their great volunteer spirit for which Tennessee has been recognized for hundreds of years.

LORI BERENSON

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I support the recent letter signed by a majority of members of the House of Representatives urging the President to work for the release of Lori Berenson, an American Citizen illegally detained in a military prison in Peru.

It is ridiculous that I must bring up this issue yet again after four years. How many letters must we send to the President of Peru on Ms. Berenson's behalf. How many times must Mark and Rhoda Berenson appeal to members of their own government before they are reunited with their child?

Ms. Berenson was convicted four years ago of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment in Peru. The details of her case read like the script of a movie, secret Peruvian military tribunal, conviction in violation of international law, maximum security isolation, and now reports that her health is seriously threatened.

Ms. Berenson was convicted by a judicial system which has been characterized by the U.S. State Department as "inefficient, often subject to corruption, and easily controlled by the executive branch." The state department further states that " * * * proceedings in the military courts—and those for terrorism in civilian court—do not meet internationally accepted standard of openness, fairness, and due process." Ms. Berenson's conviction has been condemned by the Organization of American States and the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights.