

at this very moment, I would not have to be working to make ends meet and would be at the hospital, helping to morally support my parents during this very trying time. . . .

In closing, thank-you, Jack, for all that you have done for our community, our state and our nation—and for how you present yourself—as an Honest, God-fearing, Christian, Family, Moral Man with Values. If there is ever anything that I can do to help support your mission, your campaign, your office, please do not hesitate to call upon me, sir!

Anything that you can do positively relative to the above shared situations would be greatly appreciated and would not go unnoticed. Thank-You, again, Jack, and May God Continue To Richly Bless You In All That You Undertake For His Glory and For The Betterment of Mankind, Our Country, Our Community, and Your Family!!!

Looking forward to hearing from you in the near future in a most positive manner concerning these matters, I am most humbly and sincerely,

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 575 on October 29, 2000 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

IN HONOR OF PETER AKINYELE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable man, one who genuinely exemplifies what it means to be a loving, peaceful person, even under the most adverse circumstances.

On Thursday, September 14, around 11:00 pm, Peter Akinyele's 16-year-old neighbor asked to use his phone. He did, only to return with a friend—and a gun. The young boys demanded money while holding the weapon to Peter's head, and yet the 67-year-old maintained a calm, collected composure, asking them simply to "put the gun down."

Peter Akinyele also maintained his composure as the boys proceeded to slash his throat open, beat him and bound his hands and feet with an electrical cord. Near unconscious, the boys threw him in the basement, ignoring his last request: "Please don't set the house on fire," as he collapsed from pain and fatigue. Peter awoke to the smell of gasoline and smoke, and the sound of firefighters extinguishing the blaze. Peter broke through a basement window with his bare hand, and, shouting for help, was eventually heard amidst the chaos. Finally, his ordeal was over and he was brought to safety.

To this day, Peter Akinyele has no trace of anger toward his young and ruthless attackers. Throughout the entire fiasco, he says, his main concern was not only that he

would live to see the next day, but that the boys would have a future themselves. Realizing the potential danger if he struggled for control of the gun, he simply talked to the young boys, saying "Please don't shoot me. Don't do this. This is not the right thing to do." Even when someone was attempting to brutally end his life, Peter Akinyele remained strong-willed, and yet empathetic. He would not give up this own life, but he would not even attempt to harm theirs for the sake of his own survival. Certainly, this is a man who does not believe in fighting violence with more violence.

My fellow colleagues, Peter Akinyele is a man who deserves the highest respects for his noble suffering. Many people can look to him as an example of the peaceful nature and genuinely loving heart that all should aim to cultivate in their lives. I commend him for his courage, bravery, and loving heart.

RECOGNITION OF U.S. WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM—MICHAEL COHEN, HEAD COACH; CHERYL HAWORTH; CARA HEADS-LANE; SUZANNE LEATHERS; MICHAEL MARTIN; AND OSCAR CHAPLIN III

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Michael Cohen, head coach; Cheryl Haworth; Cara Heads-Lane; Suzanne Leathers; Michael Martin; and Oscar Chaplin III as members of the United States 2000 Summer Olympic Weightlifting Team. All of these amazing individuals live in my Savannah, GA., part of my congressional district. They have worked hard and represented our country well. We should be proud of the way they represented our country.

Michael Cohen the head coach of the U.S. Women's Olympic Team was an alternate for the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team that was boycotted so he did not get to participate. In 1984 Cohen did not get the chance to compete again because he was an alternate. In 1988, he injured his back and was unable to compete. It was then that he realized that the only way he would make it into the Olympics was to be a coach and it was then he founded the Paul Anderson/Howard Cohen Weightlifting Center. He is a great coach and an inspiration to all of the people that come into his gym.

Cohen had to wait some 20 years to experience his dream of participating in the Olympic Games. He was allowed to walk in the open ceremonies with all of the athletes. This was a treat because some countries do not allow the coaches to walk in the open ceremonies. Cohen's father started him lifting weights at the age of 5.

Cheryl Haworth of Savannah, Georgia became the youngest U.S. athlete ever to win an Olympic medal in weightlifting when she earned a bronze medal in the women's plus 75kg with a total of 270.0kg. On her way to winning the bronze medal, Haworth set four American records—two in the snatch and two in the total.

Haworth began lifting only three and a half years ago. She is the exception to the rule of training for many years equals success. She walked in the gym some three years ago in order to increase her strength for playing softball. As soon as she walked into the Paul Anderson/Howard Cohen Weightlifting Center the coaches at the gym immediately realized her amazing natural talent and began her training.

Haworth is a three time national champion and holds every American record in her weight class. Haworth won America's only medal at the 1900 Worlds, a bronze in the snatch.

Cara Heads-Lane moved to Savannah, Georgia four years ago from Costa Mesa, California in order to train. She has been training since the age of 8 and has worked a long time in order to make it to the Olympics. Cara placed 7th in the Women's Heavyweight in the 2000 Olympic Games.

Oscar Chaplin III was the first American in history to win Junior World Championship. Chaplin finished 12th in the men's Middle Weight in the 2000 Olympic Games. Chaplin has been lifting weights since the age of 9 and is ranked in the top 15. He holds the National Junior and Senior records for the last three years.

Suzanne Leathers was an alternate for the 2000 Olympic Weightlifting Team. She moved to Savannah, GA. with her coach Donald McCauley to be in the weightlifting capitol. She and Donald decided that they would get married if she made the Olympic Team. So, on September 14, 2000 they tied the knot in Australia. I wish them a happy and joyful life together.

Michael Martin was the youngest person to ever make it on to an Olympic weightlifting team. He was picked as an alternate for the 2000 Olympic Team. His sights are set for the 2004 Olympics.

Please join me in applauding all of these fine young men and women. They have worked extremely hard to reach this momentous goal. Let us all look up to them and strive to work as hard as they have to reach a goal. Our society needs more people like them that work extremely hard to represent our country. These young people proved that our American youth are indeed the best.

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IN HONOR OF OHIO PTA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ohio PTA on its 100th Anniversary, on May 21, 2001.