

Whereas a number of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals are targeted and tortured or killed by paramilitary groups in Colombia and El Salvador, which operate in collusion with the military, police, and other government officials;

Whereas articles 2 and 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 2, 14, and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantee all individuals freedom from arbitrary discrimination and equal protection before the law;

Whereas in many countries arbitrary detention or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or conditions in detention directly result from the application of penal laws criminalizing same sex behavior between consenting adults, such as a 5-year sentence for private same sex behavior between consenting adults in Romania, and some of those individuals who have been convicted in Romania report torture, including rape, in prison, and all are unable to seek redress for abuses in detention;

Whereas in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia the sentence for same sex behavior between consenting adults includes "flogging" and in Singapore and Uganda the sentence for same sex behavior between consenting adults can extend to life in prison;

Whereas many governments, on the basis of vague laws, may target and persecute lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals: in the People's Republic of China individuals in these groups are imprisoned under laws against "hooliganism", in Argentina, individuals in these groups are imprisoned under the laws against "vagrants and crooks", and the vagueness of these laws makes it difficult to monitor governmental persecution;

Whereas articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 19 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantee all individuals freedom of expression and freedom of association;

Whereas the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and association are violated when governments deny the right of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals to form organizations or advocate for rights, such as in Zimbabwe where members of Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) have been threatened and brutally assaulted;

Whereas in some countries agents of the government are directing or are complicitous in abuses committed on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and investigations and prosecution of those agents for violations often do not occur;

Whereas due to failure by governments to investigate and prosecute human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, private individuals feel encouraged to violently attack lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals with impunity, contributing to the atmosphere of fear and intimidation;

Whereas lesbians and bisexual women who suffer human rights violations are often abused because of their sexual orientation while their gender often incites, compounds, and aggravates this abuse, and, moreover, since their gender is not recognized as a factor, their abuse often goes unrecorded;

Whereas violations of internationally recognized human rights norms are to be considered crimes regardless of the status of the victims and are to be punished without discrimination;

Whereas fundamental access to legal protection from violations of internationally recognized human rights norms is often unavailable to the victims;

Whereas lesbians and bisexual women face additional obstacles in these countries when seeking assistance from police, judges, and other officials due to pervasive gender bias;

Whereas the preceding clauses constitute only a few examples of the violations suffered by lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered individuals, the full range and extent of such violations are not known because governments create an atmosphere of immunity for those perpetrating such human rights violations and prevent victims from seeking effective protection and just redress and thus their suffering remains undocumented and unremedied; and

Whereas many nongovernmental human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, as well as the United States Department of State and the United Nations, have documented, and are continuing to document, the ongoing violations of the human rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns all violations of internationally recognized human rights norms based on the real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of an individual, and commends nongovernmental human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, as well as the United States Department of State and the United Nations, for documenting the ongoing abuse of human rights on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; and

(2)(A) recognizes that human rights violations abroad based on sexual orientation and gender identity should be equally punished without discrimination and equally classified as crimes, regardless of the status of the victims and that such violations should be given the same consideration and concern as human rights violations based on other grounds in the formulation of policies to protect and promote human rights globally; and

(B) further recognizes that the protection of sexual orientation and gender identity is not a special category of human rights, but it is fully embedded in the overall human rights norms defined in international conventions.

**REGIONAL PARTIES WIN IN INDIA;
INDIA'S DISINTEGRATION AP-
PEARS CLOSER**

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, recently regional parties won elections in two states in India. Neither the ruling BJP nor the opposition Congress Party was able to pull off a complete victory.

These results only increase the instability that already plagues India. To retain control of the government, the BJP had to assemble a coalition of 24 parties. Clearly, the days when a national party could dominate India's government are gone.

While the political instability increases, there are 17 independence movements within India's borders. Many experts on the situation in South Asia have predicted the disintegration of India. From these results it looks like that disintegration is closer.

America is a country founded on the idea of freedom. I urge President Clinton to raise the issue of freeing the political prisoners during his upcoming visit to India. I also urge him to bring up the question of self-determination. It is time to speak out for freedom.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN SKERKER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor and congratulate a good friend as she marks the end of her journey with Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan.

Twenty-seven years ago, Susan Skerker embarked upon a career in the auto industry that would lead her down many paths and face-to-face with many challenges, not least of which was helping to steer Ford through an ever-changing global market place.

Susan has distinguished herself as a leader in the auto industry and as such has led one of Ford's major corporate headquarters staffs. She has served as the Director of the Worldwide Government Affairs Public Policy office and worked closely with those of us in Michigan who know why Detroit is called Motor City.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Michigan Congressional delegation, I am pleased to recognize Susan and acknowledge that her efforts on behalf of the company and the industry are thought of most highly. Susan has been a true friend, one I could trust to give me good advice about everything from air bags to global warming. Her knowledge and insight have been invaluable to me in representing the 16th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, as Susan's family and friends gather to celebrate her many accomplishments and the closing of this chapter of her life, I wanted to share with my colleagues just how much Susan's service and friendship have meant to me.

One leg of Susan's journey has come to an end, but around the bend a new one awaits. I wish Susan every happiness and continued success in all she does.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PARISI, SR.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a person I am proud to call my friend, Joseph Parisi, Sr., of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, who is being feted today because of his many years of service and leadership. It is only fitting that we

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gathered here in his honor, for he epitomizes a strong spirit of caring and generosity.

Joe Parisi is a graduate of Memorial High School in North Bergen. Joe also attended Fork Union Military Academy and studied at the Panzer College of Physical Education and Hygiene.

Joe has always been an active and involved leader in his community. He was the co-founder and chairman of the Witte Scholarship Fund, a scholarship designed to benefit the children of law enforcement officers throughout the Bergen County. Furthering his belief in civic participation, Joe is also a past trustee of the Bergen Community College Foundation, which helps provide private funding for the development of college facilities.

Joe's career took off in 1948 when he became an apprentice insurance agent with Fred Otterstedt. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him the leader he is today. By 1955, Joe has become the owner and CEO of the Otterstedt Insurance Agency in Englewood Cliffs.

As a leader in the business community, Joseph Parisi is the Director of the IFA Insurance Company and a past member or president of many other councils and associations. He is a past member of the Producer Council of the Maryland Casualty Insurance Group, the Jonathan Trumbull Association of the Hartford Insurance Company, the New Jersey Independent Insurance Agents Legislative Committee, the Council of Circle Agents of the Continental Insurance Companies and the Crum and Forster Insurance Company's Agency Council. Mr. Parisi is also the past President of the Hudson County Insurance Agents Association.

Joseph Parisi has continually touched the lives of the people around him. Former New Jersey Governor Jim Florio appointed him as a commissioner of the New Jersey Quincentennial Columbus Day Celebration. Joe is a past trustee of the Bergen County 200 Club. He is also the Second Vice President of the Bergen County League of Municipalities. In addition, Joe is a past president of the Bergen County Democratic Mayor's Association and served as chair of the Bergen County Democratic Organization for five years. He is also a member of the Lions Club, VFW, UNICO, Knights of Columbus and UNITI.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Joseph Parisi was elected Mayor of the Borough of Englewood Cliffs in 1976. For the four years prior, Joe served as a member of the Englewood Cliffs Borough Council. In addition to these roles, Joe also served as Police Commissioner while on the Council. As a former mayor in New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, I can say that I can think of no elected official who works harder or cares more about his constituents. Perhaps the greatest tribute to Joe Parisi is the unwavering faith of voters of Englewood Cliffs. They have demonstrated this by electing him time and again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Joe's family, friends and the State of New Jersey in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Joseph Parisi, Sr.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. HOOVER

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, last month the security of the United States Congress' legislative web site, Thomas, was breached by individuals commonly known as computer "hackers." Although little harm was done, the cyberattack illustrates the vulnerability of our nation's computer systems.

The simple fact is, computer viruses have attacked business and government information systems, as well as personal home computers. To complicate matters even further, innocent individuals continue to be exploited when their web-based credit card and account information are used for illegal purposes.

To combat cyberattacks, the Republican-led Congress is working diligently to explore ways to enhance computer security. Additionally, the Clinton administration has created a panel to review American cyberspace security.

In fact, one of the experts selected to serve on the panel as an advisor to President Clinton is Dr. Bob Hoover, President of the University of Idaho. Mr. Speaker, it is a true honor to congratulate Bob today on such a well-deserved accomplishment. I must say, Bob is well qualified for this position, and I know he will represent the State of Idaho, and the nation very, very well.

When Bob became the 15th president of the University of Idaho in July 1996, he brought with him 25 years of experience as teacher, researcher and administrator in higher education. His nearly four years of experience at the University of Idaho have seen a period of unparalleled accomplishment.

Perhaps his greatest successes, however, have been in the areas of collaboration with various colleges and universities and with the private sector. In northern Idaho, for instance, Bob has been instrumental in the formation of the North Idaho Center for Higher Education, a partnership between the University of Idaho, North Idaho College, Lewis Clark State College, and Idaho State University. Additionally, he is working with the College of Southern Idaho, Idaho State University and Boise State University to expand and strengthen higher education. Even further, in southwestern Idaho he has worked with the University of Idaho Foundation to purchase land in Boise for the construction of a major facility that will allow the university to expand its efforts with Boise State University and Idaho State University.

In addition to these efforts, Bob has developed and implemented the University of Idaho Strategic Plan to help guide the school in meeting new goals in teaching, research and outreach. Also, he has been instrumental in the creation of the Inland Northwest Research Alliance, which is now a partner with Bechtel B&W Idaho in the management of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

Without a doubt, Bob's efforts to develop research strength at the University of Idaho has elevated the institution to one of the leading centers of teaching and research, especially in the critical area of computer network security.

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In fact, in recognition of University of Idaho's expertise in this field, the National Security Agency has designated it as one of the seven national centers of excellence in information security.

Just as important, though, I'm pleased to call Bob a friend, and I look forward to working with him in the future to enhance the quality of life in Idaho. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Bob Hoover for his long-standing commitment to the State of Idaho and the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JACK P. KOSZDIN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. WAXMAN, and I rise today to pay tribute to Jack P. Koszdin, who will be honored on March 26, 2000, by the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV). Because of his public service and outstanding achievements he will be recognized on the occasion of DPSFV's annual Greenberg Memorial Award Luncheon.

Jack Koszdin has been a stalwart member of the Democratic Party for over thirty years. As chairman of the DPSFV Leadership Council he has proven himself to be a savvy strategist and a potent rainmaker. Because of his love of politics and representational democracy, he has worked tirelessly on behalf of numerous local, state, and federal candidates and made a real difference in many of their contests.

Like us, Jack has been a long-time active supporter of labor. As a currently practicing attorney he fights daily in the trenches for workers and other litigants on a case by case basis. Since 1995, he has been a senior partner with Koszdin, Fields & Sherry, in Van Nuys. Prior to this he was a sole practitioner for eighteen years. One of us, HOWARD BERMAN, had the privilege of practicing law with him for nearly six years. Jack is one of the most skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in the field of workers' compensation in the entire country. He is a great teacher with a huge heart and wonderful sense of humor.

He began his prodigious law career in 1956 as a senior partner with Levy, Koszdin and Woods after he graduated from the UCLA school of law. He distinguished himself in law school by being elected class president in 1954. He now counts teaching at UCLA and serving as a Law Professor at the University of West Los Angeles among his many accomplishments.

Jack has held numerous prestigious judicial positions including Judge Pro Tem for the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, Municipal Judge Pro Tem for the San Fernando Valley and Vice Chairman of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board. He now participates in the State Insurance Commissioner