

avoid the temptation to give in to the protectionist forces inside our country and instead support free trade and progress in China.

HONORING MERITORIOUS SERVICE OF VIETNAM VETERANS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the Vietnam conflict began from 1964 and ended 25 years ago on April 30, 1975. During that time, over 3.4 million U.S. American military personnel served in southeastern Asia.

□ 1030

Our veterans served in the rice paddies of the Delta, in the jungle of the Central Highlands, on river patrols of the Mekong River, and from air bases in the Pacific. Brave Americans went halfway around the world to help an embattled country and to perform the duty that we asked of them.

Many Vietnam veterans were not sufficiently acknowledged for their service to the country in those contentious times. For some, the war is still not over; some of our veterans have not recovered from their wounds, and families will not forget their loss. The war ended 25 years ago, but the event of those days remain deep in our collective memory.

It is never too late to express our appreciation. Recently, Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution 228 honoring members of the armed forces and Federal civilian employees who served during the Vietnam era. This resolution acknowledges the significance of the fall of South Vietnam and the importance of the events of April 30, 1975, as a benchmark in American history and an indelible memory for those who so honorably served.

I am pleased that Congress has so recognized and commended the meritorious service of our Vietnam veterans. Let there be no doubt that this country does indeed respect, appreciate, and honor the personal commitment and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans for their service to this Nation.

ELIAN AND RELIGIOUS VALUES

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, for those persons who say that Elian must be returned to his biological father at all cost, I submit these other arguments.

Let us point out that his real father, if he goes back to Cuba, will be Castro. In a Communist state, the government controls the state and controls the lives of the people. Those are the facts.

Returning Elian to Cuba after so long in America will doom him to psychological abuse by the Communist regime.

Ancient religious tradition from the Talmud, back 5,000 years, cites examples that, under Jewish law, a child must honor a person who teaches his moral and religious values above, above, a parent who does not.

Since there are no religious values in Cuba, it follows that Elian could just as well honor his relatives in the United States, here, where they will teach him moral and religious values.

EDUCATION

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for Congress to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. With this act we have the opportunity to make significant progress towards repairing and modernizing schools, reducing class size, and ensuring that our classrooms are healthy and safe learning environments.

Too many schools are stressed by population growth and crumbling infrastructure. Our average school is 42 years old. While money cannot solve problems in all of our schools, I believe matching our talk about the importance of education with an appropriate level of funding would go a long way towards improving classroom resources, reducing class size, and giving kids the space and tools they need to learn well.

Yesterday, the House passed the IDEA Full Funding Act. This bill is an important step towards honoring the commitment that we have made at the Federal level to share an important part of the resources needed at the local level.

Mr. Speaker, time is running short for Congress to complete its work. The stage is set for Congress to make meaningful improvements in the area of class size reduction and school facilities repair and modernization. We should not let this opportunity pass us by. We need to act soon.

HIGH TECH'S QUIET REVOLUTION EMPOWERING CHINA'S CITIZENS

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the growth of high tech and the openness of the Internet are spreading democratic ideals throughout China, enlightening their people with ideas of freedom and opportunity.

In Nanjing, young Chinese men and women are being exposed to a quiet

revolution led by the growth of the Internet. A Times of London article, entitled "China Embraces Its Last Revolution," underscores high tech's role in opening up Chinese society. The article says China's older generation now recognizes that the economic development on which China's future depends requires a new openness to the world, the encouragement of the Internet, entry into the World Trade Organization, and concentration on education and globalization. They know this will change the political and social balance of China.

We can encourage this change. PNTR for China will maintain America's technological leadership in the world and provide high-tech jobs for Americans. It will also provide the Chinese people with access to Western influence and ideas. The open technology of the Internet will force China to open their society to bring about positive economic and social changes.

Mr. Speaker, China PNTR is in the best interest of both the American and the Chinese people.

CARDINAL JOHN O'CONNOR

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, after 16 years as the head of the New York Archdiocese and a life of devotion, faith, and of love for the Catholic Church and all of its parishioners, Cardinal John O'Connor passed on last night. And as we say in the Catholic faith, entered eternal life. He was the voice of all of God's people. He never forgot those in need.

Soon after the Cardinal was ordained, he began an illustrious career in the Navy. Entering the Navy as a chaplain, he rose to the rank of a rear admiral after 27 years of service. He traveled the globe celebrating mass in foxholes and on aircraft carriers, spreading the word of God.

He was a passionate defender of the rights of all workers. In fact, his father was a skilled interior painter and a union man. His father passed these views on to his son. And at a Catholic charities event not too long ago, the cardinal, who was a man of great humor, said jokingly, I told the Pope that there was only two requirements for the guy who replaces me. One is that he be Catholic and the other that he be a union guy. Cardinal O'Connor's working-class roots remained with him throughout his career until the very end.

His relations with people of all faiths were strengthened. He was a champion of the Jewish faith and helped the Vatican as it began to recognize Israel. His lifelong devotion to all those less fortunate and sick will not be forgotten. We will miss him terribly.