

States. To begin, the legitimacy of these charges is highly questionable. The Iranian government, run by the Ayatollah and his Islamic fundamentalist regime, has historically garnered domestic support for their anti-Israel policies by making similar dubious accusations against members of their own Jewish population. The judgments handed down from these "trials" over the past 20 years has meant the execution of 17 Iranian Jews. Such atrocities are reminiscent of Nazi Germany and it is America's duty as a leader of the free world to condemn such acts and ensure the fair treatment of these individuals.

The evidence provided thus far has proven to me the impossibility for these individuals to receive a fair trial in their home country. Aside from the charges being apparently baseless (it seems as though they were singled out for teaching classes on Judaism and the practice of Jewish rituals), there have been pre-trial events that have effectively denied these suspects the right to counsel, the right to a speedy and fair trial, and the right against self-incrimination. Last month, the accused were brought before a judge in a closed-door session. It was then announced that the trial would be postponed with no explanation. In spite of reports to the contrary, 10 of the 13 are still being denied the right to select their own lawyers. Several of the attorneys have allegedly stated that their clients have confessed while the families consistently state this is not so. The denials of the families of the victims have led most to believe that these confessions were either coerced or never happened. To further illustrate the prejudicial nature of this legal process, it should be mentioned that one court appointed lawyer reportedly has objected to being forced to represent a Jew.

The international human rights community has advocated the release of these individuals in order to protect their most basic liberties, and I give my utmost support of this effort. Iran is struggling in the face of revolution and will continue violating the basic rights of their people in order to gag the voice of democracy that is spreading throughout the nation. The West must utterly condemn such guerrilla tactics. We must send the message that the newfound relationship between Iran and the United States will not compromise our values. Such a message is not only significant out of concern for these 13 men, but is vital to our own national security. What kind of message does it send to the Ayatollah that we are willing to bend some of our core democratic beliefs in order to placate the Iranian government? Such weakness is not what has made us a world leader. Blatant human rights violations must have a zero-tolerance level and must be confronted head on. Therefore, I strongly urge Secretary Madeline Albright and the Department of State to do all they can in order to save these innocent men.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, due to a speaking engagement outside the Capitol I was unable

to cast a vote today on H. Res. 488, the rule to waive the two-thirds requirement for same day consideration of H.R. 434.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I share the concern of America's workers that the Caribbean Basin Initiative contained in H.R. 434 will jeopardize American jobs.

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL TO COMPETE IN WE THE PEOPLE . . . NATIONAL COMPETITION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the more than 1,200 students from across the United States in Washington, DC, May 6-8, 2000, to compete in the national finals of We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. It gives me great honor to announce that a fine class of young people from my alma mater, Hillsboro High School in Nashville, will represent the state of Tennessee in this national event. These young scholars have distinguished themselves, their school, their teachers and the city of Nashville. Their knowledge, diligence and hard work have taught them the fundamental tenets of our constitutional democracy. For this they deserve both our commendation and encouragement.

The names of the students are: Chris Adams, Chira Bamarni, Aleshia Beene, Kristin Bird, Richard Brannon, Allen Brooks, Ashley Brown, Matt Burch, Vanessa Caruso, Andy Dimond, Hillary Gilmore, Alex Guth, Sarah Hatridge, Libby Herbert, Clark Herndon, Laurie Hibbett, Mary High, Kate Hilbert, Lindsey Hill, Seth Hillis, Zoe Jarman, Rachel Lee, Sam Lingo, Heather Oakley, Ben Palmquist, Stuart Parlier, Hernin Qazi, Sam Schulz, Jessica Self, Mariem Shohadaee, Hannah Skelly, Tommy Sterritt, Jessica Summers, Lauren Taub, Rebecca Tylor, Thomas Upchurch, Deborah Weinberger, and Lauren Woods.

I would also like to recognize their dedicated teacher, Mary Catherine Bradshaw, who is deserving of much of the credit for the class' achievement.

Having studied the legislative process and congressional procedure, these young people now have the opportunity to visit our nation's capitol and see for themselves the work of the people's representatives. These young scholars will now have the opportunity to carry their observations of government at work back to their homes in Nashville.

Mr. Speaker, these students deserve our support and encouragement to continue their pursuit of knowledge. I applaud their commitment to excellence and encourage them to enjoy themselves and celebrate their accomplishments. I look forward to meeting with them and encouraging them in the national competition.

FATHER JOHN TERRY CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Father John Terry, V.F., of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this week.

Father Terry currently serves two parishes, St. Charles Borromeo and Holy Family, located in the Sugar Notch area of my district.

He was born in Scranton and raised in Jessup. After being ordained a deacon in 1974, he served for a time at St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception in Wilkes-Barre, and he returned there upon his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Terry's career is notable for his interest in youth and youth programs. His passion for sports has helped him to connect with young people. In 1979, he took on the difficult assignment of serving as director of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre. At that time, several factors worked against the center, including a dependence on government and outside funding, a facility that needed expansion and development, and the loss of staff for budget reasons.

With goals established—and hard work day by day, week by week, year by year—the center was reborn under the leadership of Father Terry and Tony English, the executive director, to face the challenges of service to the needs of the youth in the community.

Father Terry thrived on that assignment, which introduced him to high school sports at G.A.R. High School and working with teenage youth. At one football championship game, the students hung up a huge banner portraying Father Terry with wings, and it read, "Our Angel in the Backfield."

At the same he directed the youth center, Father Terry served as an assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in Wilkes-Barre, and was later assigned to Holy Savior and St. Christopher's Churches, followed by the parishes of Sugar Notch, where he has been for more than nine years now.

The two churches where he now serves have been completely restored and updated. The emergence of a pastoral council, with representatives from both churches, began to develop more ministries, such as a pastoral outreach to shut-ins, youth ministries, liturgy—especially addressing children, adult education and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, involvement of Eucharistic ministers, readers, altar servers and ministers of hospitality. Father Terry has worked with Deacon Phil Harris to make these things possible.

Mr. Speaker, Father Terry has given his life in devotion to God and the people of the Wyoming Valley, and I am proud to join in honoring him on the 25th anniversary of his ordination. I send him my very best wishes for continued success.