

REFORM IN IRAN

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Secretary Madeleine K. Albright for articulating the United States' willingness to engage Iran after Majlis (parliamentary) victories for Iranian reformers. Her effort to expand cultural and economic ties with Iran is wise and appropriate. While I do not condone the egregious violations of human rights and international law that routinely take place in Iran, we must make it clear to reformers there that the U.S. is eager to reciprocate moves toward a friendlier relationship.

Through the election of Mohammad Khatemi and his pro-reform allies in the Iranian parliament, the Iranian people have expressed a desire to moderate their nation's conservative Islamic government. Ali Khamene'i and Iran's other religious leaders, who hold ultimate control over virtually all Iranian policy, have, for the most part, allowed Iran's new elected leadership to take their places in the Majlis. However, the Washington Post recently reported that the Council of Guardians has overturned several electoral victories for reformers at the provincial level, in addition to manipulating Iran's electoral institutions to favor conservatives in parliamentary runoffs. I believe that while the electoral victories represent an important victory for democracy in Iran, the tenuousness of those victories highlights the degree to which Iran's major institutions are still controlled by a handful of oligarchs. There is much work to be done on these issues.

I would also like to recognize the work of Iranian-American citizens who have worked hard to open up economic ties between the U.S. and Iran. I hope that the lifting of luxury imports and increase in travel visas that Secretary Albright announced in her speech will create some improvement in the quality of life for ordinary Iranians. Further, I hope that improvements in Iran's economy will amplify the cries for democracy.

Once again, I want to reiterate my support for Secretary Albright's attempt to engage and bolster Iranian reformers.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS W. FOX ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincerest congratulations to Louis W. Fox Academic and Technical High School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student

focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Fox Tech High School is among eight schools in San Antonio and 198 schools nationally, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for America Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Fox Tech High School will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

THE HONORABLE GARY
MCPHERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, Colorado Representative, Gary McPherson. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative McPherson's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House of Representatives in 1992, he served on the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees. He dealt with legislation regarding minors and smoking. He has also worked very aggressively on education, crime and welfare reform. Gary was also the vice chairman and the board member of the Arapahoe County Recreation District.

Representative McPherson received many honors. He was named CACI Legislator of the Year and received the Aurora Public Schools' Superintendents' award.

2000 marked the end of Representative McPherson's tenure in the State House of Representatives. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative McPherson a debt of gratitude and I wish him well.

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR DAVID IVRY AT THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 4, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials and hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the Days of Remembrance in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. The theme of this year's commemoration was "The Holocaust and the New Century: The Imperative to Remember."

After more than half a century, Mr. Speaker, we must still commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust in order to honor the memory of those victims of Hitler's twisted tyranny. At the same time, we must mark this catastrophe because mankind still has not learned the lessons of this horror, as evidenced most recently by the mass killings in Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, David Ivry, Israeli Ambassador to the United States delivered a moving address at this year's Day of Remembrance ceremony. I ask that Ambassador Ivry's remarks at the Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Capitol be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give them thoughtful consideration.

David Ivry was appointed Israeli Ambassador to the United States in January 2000. From 1977 to 1982, he held the rank of Major General and Commander of the Israel Air Force. Ambassador Ivry is a graduate of Technion University, where he earned a Bachelor's of Science in Aeronautical Engineering. He has held many governmental posts, most recently serving as Israel's National Security Advisor and Head of the National Security Council. He and his wife Ofra have three children and two grandchildren.

REMARKS OF DAVID IVRY, ISRAELI
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

His Excellency, Goran Persson Prime, Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Chairman, honored Members of Congress, diplomatic colleagues and friends: "Yizkor—remember." The act of remembering has always been a basic principle for the Jewish people. In order to remember, the Jewish people have a traditional prayer called the Yizkor, which is recited around the world today. The word Yizkor is in the future tense. It teaches us that the act of remembering the past goes beyond the present and pushes humankind into the future.

My father left Czechoslovakia when Hitler came to power. He reached Israel in 1934 and that is where I was born. Our house contains an album with photos of many members of my family who perished in the Shoah. Few understood the danger. Few believed that such a tragedy could take place. Few imagined that the human mind could conceive such a twisted path. Even today it is difficult to understand. There were brave individuals who provided shelter to Jews. My father's sister was given shelter and hidden by a Christian family in Bratislava, and at the end of the war she made Aliya to Israel. We must also remember those who extended a hand while endangering themselves.