

all be proud of and look to as an example of doing what is right.

IN HONOR OF MONUMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH, CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monumental Baptist Church. For 100 years, Monumental has been a sanctuary for fostering Christian ideals and values.

Monumental Baptist Church was established in 1900, in a store front in New Jersey. From its humble beginnings as a small congregation, Monumental has experienced significant growth, establishing a foundation for a prosperous future.

Reverend William Edwards was Monumental's first pastor, followed by Reverend C.H. Garelick, and Reverend William S. Smith, who, in 1905, was able to secure a new site for the church, at 116 Lafayette Street.

Reverend Smith served his church and community with dedication. After forty years as pastor and community leader, he passed away. Under Monumental's next pastor, Reverend William Fitzgerald, a mortgage was liquidated and the church received a new roof.

On the first Sunday of December 1944, Reverend Ercel F. Webb came to serve as pastor of Monumental Baptist Church. For 42 years, Reverend Webb dedicated himself to providing his congregation with spiritual guidance as well as strong leadership. During Reverend Webb's service, financial support to local and national organizations increased significantly. The United Negro College fund received substantial contributions, allowing the church to realize its goal of helping to provide young African-Americans access to a quality education.

Following Reverend Webb's retirement in 1986, Reverend Willard W.C. Ashley served until 1996. The current pastor is Reverend Joseph L. Jones.

Today, Monumental Baptist Church is 100 years old. I ask my colleagues to honor the church and its congregation for their century of dedication to God.

### ELIMINATE THE DEATH TAX

### HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today I express my strong support for the elimination of the death tax. When a person dies in this country, an outrageous tax of 37 to 55 percent is levied against the deceased's estate. The last thing that a family in mourning should have to worry about is losing the family business or farm—a life's work—to satisfy the IRS.

Only in America can one be given a certificate at birth, a license at marriage, and a bill

at death. This tax is contrary to the freedom and free-market principles on which this nation was founded.

There is no question that Americans deserve to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. It is our duty to provide responsible, targeted tax relief in this time of budgetary surplus. Since my first day in Congress, we have debated what to do with the surplus. Some said tax cuts. I have strongly supported paying down the debt by 2013 or earlier. But if we pass responsible, targeted tax cuts, we can accomplish both. It is essential for Congress to repeal the unfair death tax so that family businesses and family farms can be passed down from generation to generation.

Owning a family business is the culmination of the American Dream. Let's restore the dream and repeal the death tax. We owe it to America's families, small business owners and farmers.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

### HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. This legislation has placed great emphasis on expanding quality of life initiatives, addressing readiness shortfalls, and enhancing modernization programs. I am particularly supportive of the procurement budget in this legislation for the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) or Hummer.

The Congress and especially the Appropriations Committee have strongly supported sustained Hummer production. The hard-working people of Indiana's Third Congressional district have responded by providing a vehicle that has met, and in many cases, exceeded the needs of our brave troops in the field. The Hummer's superior quality allowed three U.S. Army soldiers to walk away unharmed from their vehicle after it drove over and exploded an antitank mine in Bosnia.

Moreover, both the Army and the Marine Corps have identified the Hummer among their unfunded modernization priorities. This defense appropriations bill meets those priorities by increasing the budget by \$40 million, thereby allowing the Army and the Marines to buy 3,400 Hummers to replace their aging fleet and provide technology insertion. This will go a long way toward protecting our brave men and women in uniform deployed in Kosovo and Bosnia.

I am enthused by the growing capabilities of the Hummer. Earlier this year, I visited the Hummer plant and saw a prototype of the commercial "Hummer 11" which is being developed by a joint effort between AM General and General Motors. The Hummer's expansion

into the commercial marketplace will result in the sharing of leading technologies for commercial and military vehicles while maintaining a highly skilled technological workforce in Indiana who I am very proud to represent.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the Appropriations Committee who have reported a defense appropriations bill that will ensure continued Hummer production. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

### AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4444, the PNTR (Permanent Normal Trade Relations) for China Bill, which will open up new markets for our businesses here in the United States. This bill is about breaking down trade barriers abroad and expanding opportunities for American workers. This legislation recognizes the reality of today's global economy and equips our country with the tools necessary to maintain America's leadership throughout the world.

International trade is critical to our nation's continued economic expansion. Over 11 million jobs in the United States can be attributed to exports. The simple fact that 96% of the world's consumers live outside of our borders is irrefutable evidence that in order to grow our economy, we must grow our exports.

In the WTO agreement, the U.S. has won unprecedented concessions from the Chinese that break down barriers to our goods, services, technology products, automobiles and financial services. Our farmers, who have been economically hurting, will be able to sell their agricultural products in China like never before. In Florida, our citrus and fertilizer industry will benefit immensely.

In terms of forcing changes in China, this is also a matter of national security. Once China is admitted into the WTO, they will be subject to the rule of law, which will be enforced by more than 130 countries. As we enter the 21st Century, China is on the verge of expanding its regional dominance. I believe it is apparent that the world's most populous nation is simply too influential to ignore. Thus, I believe that our engagement, rather than disengagement, is essential. I think we have a better chance of encouraging reforms with more U.S. citizens bringing our culture, ideas, and freedoms to China rather than isolating them from the rest of the world.

With regard to China's cross straits relations, the Taiwan question continues to heighten tensions in the region. Passage of PNTR would allow our country to continue to play a constructive role in diffusing that potentially destabilizing situation. Even Taiwan's leaders recognize the importance of passing PNTR and China's accession to the WTO. Recently,