

## TRIBUTE TO CONNIE MOORE

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend Connie Moore of Bonnie, IL. On March 7, 2000, Connie was awarded the Illinois Women of Achievement award. Lt. Governor Corrine Wood and Mayor Jim Dycus of Bonnie presented Connie with the award at a ceremony and reception held in the rotunda of the State Capitol in Springfield.

Connie was honored for demonstrating excellence in her professional and volunteer work and committing herself to enhancing her community. She was recognized for founding the Housing Rehabilitation Program and for serving as the secretary/treasurer of Bonnie for many years.

I want to thank Connie for her commitment to serve her community. She is an example for all of us to follow.

**SALUTING KELLY AND JOHN  
THOMAS: TODAY'S STUDENTS,  
TOMORROW'S LEADERS**

**HON. JAMES E. ROGAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, too often, we in Congress take to heart the negativity so often seen in the news, on television, and in popular culture. It is refreshing however, to return home to our districts and see stories that inspire, motivate and remind us that this is not the case. Indeed, as I have recently seen, today's students are tomorrow's leaders.

In my home district, two local students, John and Kelly Thomas have taken their compassion for older Americans and united it with some technological know-how. Their efforts are proving that they are indeed shining examples of tomorrow's leaders. In honor of their recent accomplishments, and in recognition of their commitment to older Americans, I ask my colleagues here today to join me in saluting John and Kelly Thomas.

Kelly is a senior at Flintridge Preparatory School in La Canada Flintridge, California. As part of her community service requirement at school, she began playing the piano in area senior centers. And, as the Glendale News-Press recently reported, Kelly with the help of her younger brother John harnessed the power of a new home computer and began to reach out to seniors all across the country.

The brother and sister team had noticed that seniors throughout the community were often isolated and alone living in retirement homes. John and Kelly's new Internet site became a launching pad uniting seniors who are too often lonely with concerned neighbors online and in person. Their web site <http://come.to/writeseniors.com>, has brought people together and proved that John and Kelly, while still in high school are successful not just as businesspeople, but as concerned citizens as well.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

In recognition of their accomplishments and with gratitude for their commitment to others in the community, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Kelly and John Thomas: Today's students, tomorrow's leaders.

**MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE  
ATTEMPTS BY CHILDREN**

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article which appeared in the Houston Chronicle into the RECORD.

[From the Houston Chronicle, June 3, 2000]  
PANEL TOLD OF MENTAL HEALTH ILLS/SUICIDE  
ATTEMPTS BY CHILDREN CITED

(By Janette Rodrigues)

Alma Cobb trembled with nervous tension Thursday as she told a roomful of strangers the ways her 14-year-old son, David, has tried to commit suicide since his first attempt at age 5.

But her voice was surprisingly firm.

"He tried to hang himself, stab himself and electrocute himself," Cobb testified during a hearing Thursday on children's mental health needs called by U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-Houston.

A transcript of the hearing will go into the congressional record. Jackson-Lee and Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., who also attended the hearing, hope to use the transcript in getting Congress to pass legislation improving children's mental health services.

Studies estimate that 13.7 million American school children suffer from mental health, emotional or behavioral problems. In the Houston area alone, more than 178,000 will need mental health care during their school years.

Suicide and entry into the juvenile criminal justice system are by-products, advocates say, of a society that shuns the issue and hasn't exerted the political will to address preventable problems.

Cobb's story and that of other such parents, services providers and mental health professionals was compelling, and sometimes moving.

But what Cobb has experienced is startling.

Her daughter, Clara, 14, also suffers from emotional and behavioral disorders. She first tried to kill herself at age 7. She and her brother have been absent from school because of their diagnosed mental illness and numerous hospitalizations related to suicide attempts.

Despite documentation of that fact, Cobb said later, the district where her children attend school considered her children truants, not sick, and fined her more than \$3,000 and took her to court.

"Sometimes, my children can't attend school because of their mental illness and suicide attempts, but schools don't understand it," Cobb said. "They just understand their regulations."

Regenia Hicks, deputy director of child and adolescent services for the Harris County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority, is familiar with the Cobb family's story. The children receive services through the agency.

Hicks said their struggle with the school district is unusual but, unfortunately, not unheard of in cases involving children.

Studies show that at least one in five children and teens in America has a mental illness that may lead to school failure, substance abuse, violence or suicide.

Most such schoolchildren don't receive adequate help because of the stigma attached to their condition, the lack of early intervention and scarce resources, mental health care professionals and service providers told the hearing.

Speaker after speaker voiced the need for increased funding.

"In Texas, we must be particularly concerned that the state budget for children's mental health services has remained virtually flat since 1993, despite growth in both population and need," said Betty Schwartz, executive director of the Mental Health Association of Greater Houston.

"Current budget discussions offer little hope for improvement in the coming legislative session."

Harris County Juvenile Court Associate Judge Veronica Mogan-Price said the piece of MHMRA's budgetary pie for juveniles is small.

She and others spoke of their frustration that the juvenile justice system has become a surrogate for mental health facilities.

Many said it's the norm in Harris County for mentally ill juveniles to get adequate help only after they commit an act that ends with them in a detention facility.

**TRIBUTE TO THE CREWS OF SUB-  
MARINES "DARTER" AND  
"DACE" AND ALL NAVY SUBMA-  
RINERS**

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, on May 27 in Marquette, Michigan, a community in my congressional district a special ceremony was held to honor the officers and crew members of the submarines *Darter* and *Dace*, SS227 and SS247. These two submarines played a decisive role in what has been called the greatest naval battle of all time, the Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1943.

The opening shots of that battle were fired by Marquette native Cdr. David McClintock, skipper of the *Darter*, who had positioned his sub to penetrate a powerful Japanese fleet, one that included the famous Japanese super-battleship *Yamato*.

As commander of the two-sub squadron, Captain McClintock had also helped position the *Dace* to make an independent attack on the 31-ship Japanese battle fleet.

Firing torpedoes from both his forward and stern tubes, Captain McClintock sank the heavy cruiser *Atago*, flagship of the Japanese Navy's Second Fleet, and he disabled another heavy cruiser. The *Dace* also sank one heavy cruiser. Two Japanese destroyers were forced to leave the battle fleet to guard the disabled cruiser, bringing to five the number of ships impacted by the *Darter-Dace* attack.

The daring combat actions of these two submarine crews and the essential naval intelligence they provided, were pivotal in helping to prevent a crushing blow to American forces that had just returned a few days earlier to the Philippines under the command of General Douglas MacArthur.

Mr. Speaker, this ceremony included a dedication of a new submarine exhibit at the Marquette Maritime Museum. This exhibit, which includes a submarine conning tower, is intended to honor not only the *Darter* and *Dace* crews but all U.S. Navy submariners, that special group of young heroes who have chosen to go "in harm's way" in dangerous and solitary service beneath the waves. A diorama of the battle, a three-foot scale model of the *Darter*, and a working periscope are also part of the exhibit.

Captain McClintock, who completed a career in the Navy before returning to Marquette after retirement, attended Saturday's service. His classmate at the Naval Academy, Captain B.D. Claggett, who commanded the companion submarine, the *Dace*, also attended the ceremony.

This was an extremely fitting way to commemorate Memorial Day, because it honored this special group of Americans, both living and dead. Perhaps one day, Mr. Speaker, you and our colleagues may have an opportunity to visit Marquette, Michigan and see this special permanent tribute to the unique individuals who have given so much on behalf of our country.

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#### TRIBUTE TO RAY WOLFE

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Ray Wolfe of Edwardsville, IL. Ray is a veteran of World War II, whose army unit liberated the notorious Buchenwald death camp in Germany.

Ray is speaking out about the Holocaust. He has been interviewed by many as a witness to the Holocaust and its horrific events. Ray was invited back to Germany five years ago for the 50th anniversary of the Buchenwald liberation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ray for his service to his country. His willingness to bring light to the Holocaust and to teach us about its horrors makes us eternally grateful.

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#### SALUTING THE PASADENA PLAYHOUSE: CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF LOCAL COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS

### HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important and active centers for the arts in Southern California is the Pasadena Playhouse. Later this month, this distinguished theatre company will celebrate its 75th anniversary. In recognition of this achievement, and in gratitude for the center's contributions to the arts in Pasadena, Los Angeles County, and to the state of California, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Pasadena Playhouse.

The Pasadena Playhouse began as nothing but a dream. After a group of dedicated Pasadena area residents united to promote the arts, the center opened its doors in May 1925. Since then, it has grown from a small community theater company into a national arts leader, taking musicals, dramas and other stage performances from concept planning to opening day.

In the years since its opening, the Pasadena Playhouse has revolutionized theater arts in Southern California. To many in the industry, the playhouse has put Southern California stage productions on the map. Numerous productions have moved on from Pasadena to Broadway, were made into feature films or continued on as national touring shows. In 1996, the production, *Sisterella* broke local house records receiving eight NAACP Theatre Awards, including Best Play. This is just one of the many successful shows to open in Pasadena every year.

In addition, the theatre has become the center of a large community-based arts program. The Pasadena Playhouse is home to a half-dozen original plays each year, with 300 annual performances. The artists who produce, write, direct and star in these plays have also played a vital role in the community, leading lecture series, arts programs, classes and open houses for residents young and old.

On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, the theatre has been recognized as the state theatre of California. To help the city and the state commemorate this significant occasion, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the men and women who have brought the arts to our community for nearly a century, and helped to put Pasadena and Southern California on the map in the theatre world: Congratulations to the Pasadena Playhouse for 75 successful years.

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#### REMEMBERING JAMES BYRD JUNIOR

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I express my grief and shame that after 2 years from the date of James Byrd Junior's vicious murder on a paved road in Jasper County, TX, that the Bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999 has not become law.

Only recently have men been indicted to face trial in the nearly 40-year-old murders of three African-American children who were killed one Sunday morning by a bomb while they participated in services at the 16th Street Baptist Church. This terrible act galvanized the civil rights movement and began a shout for justice, which may at last be answered in a court of law as two Ku Klux Klansmen in Alabama's Jefferson County are finally being brought to justice for the 1963 bombing.

As the years passed from the time of the bombing, it was felt that America had made great strides until the night of June 7, 1998 when this Nation's deepest sin was revealed by the murder of James Byrd Jr.

There is no case, which more graphically reminds this Nation that the submerged intoler-

ance caused by racism that the steeps throughout the fabric of our society can erupt into gangrenous crimes of hate violence like the murder of James Byrd in Jasper, TX.

We mark the second anniversary of his killing today with 1-minute speeches so that we can impress upon our fellow Members of the House the importance of passing strengthened hate crimes legislation.

The lynching of James Byrd struck at the consciousness of our Nation, but we have let complacency take the place of unity in the face of unspeakable evil. It was difficult to imagine how in this day and age that two white supremacists beat Byrd senseless, chained him by the ankles to a pickup truck and then dragged him to his death over 3 miles of country back roads.

I regret to inform this body that the Chief Executive of Texas did not attend Mr. Byrd's funeral and was active in opposing the passage of stronger hate crime legislation for the State of Texas. This level of passivity on the part of leadership in response to this terrible crime has left this Nation without the critical leadership it needs to face the truth regarding hate crime in American society.

Since James Byrd Jr's death our Nation has experienced an alarming increase in hate violence directed at men, women and even children of all races, creeds and colors.

Ronald Taylor traveled to the eastside of Pittsburgh, in what has been characterized, as an act of hate violence to kill three and wound two in a fast food restaurant. Eight weeks later, in Pittsburgh, Richard Baumhammers, armed with a .357-caliber pistol, traveled 20 miles across the west side of Pittsburgh which now leaves him charged with killing five. His shooting victims included a Jewish woman, an Indian, "Vietnamese," Chinese, and several black men.

The decade of the 1990's saw an unprecedented rise in the number of hate groups preaching violence and intolerance, with more than 50,000 hate crimes reported during the years 1991 through 1997. The summer of 1999 was dubbed "The Summer of Hate" as each month brought forth another appalling incident, commencing with a 3-day shooting spree aimed at minorities in the Midwest and culminating with an attack on mere children in California. From 1995 through 1999, there has been 206 different arson or bomb attacks on churches and synagogues throughout the United States—an average of one house of worship attacked every week.

Like the rest of the nation, some in Congress have been tempted to dismiss these atrocities as the anomalous acts of lunatics, but news accounts of this homicidal fringe are merely the tip of the iceberg. The beliefs they act on are held by a far larger, though less visible, segment of our society. These atrocities, like the wave of church burnings across the South, illustrate the need for continued vigilance and the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

This legislation will make it easier for Federal authorities to assist in the prosecution of racial, religious and ethnic violence, in the same way that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 helped Federal prosecutors combat church arson: By loosening the unduly rigid jurisdictional requirements under federal