CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

June 13, 2000

CONDEMNING IRAN OVER THE DETENTION AND TRIAL OF 13 JEWS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to condemn the actions of Iran in accusing and now trying 13 Jews for allegedly spying for Israel and the United States.

All 13 have been jailed and isolated for more than a year without being formally charged with anything. They are now being formally tried, again without formal charges having been brought.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a group of people aged 17 to 48 who are among the least likely to ever be involved in espionage. We are talking about a rabbi, a student, three Hebrew teachers, a shoe store clerk, and a kosher butcher.

They are now confronting a judge who has it in his power to execute them on grounds that are unsupported and without evidence.

All 13 were arrested by the authorities of the Islamic Republic on the eve of Passover in 1999. They have had little access since then to either family or legal counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I think this Congress should rise as one voice repeatedly and repeatedly to condemn this trial and to demand that Iran release these people back to their families and to freedom.

This trial is a sham, and it should be treated as one by the world.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS ARE NEW JERSEY’S ANGELS

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to honor the New Jersey Devils as the 2000 Stanley Cup champions.

The Devils play a brand of hockey that typifies New Jersey. They are tough competitors led by their captain and playoff MVP, Scott Stevens, whose hard-nosed play shut down the best offensive players in the game. In the finals, they were the underdogs against the defending champions, and we in New Jersey love an underdog.

With a stone wall for a goal tender in Martin Brodeur, the offensive firepower of Jason Arnott, Patrick Elias and Peter Sykora, and a quartet of rookies, including the first Hispanic American player drafted in the first round, Scott Gomez, the Devils fought late into the night in sudden-death double overtime on Saturday. In the end, it was the sweet passing from Stevens to Elias to Gomez, the Devils fought late into the night in sudden death double overtime.

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It was the awe-inspiring and inspirational play of Captain Scott Stevens, which earned him the coveted Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff most valuable player.

It is a great happy day for New Jersey, for the Devils, and again, after last night, a point of relaxation for the Congress. We deserve it.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND MONSIGNOR THOMAS WELLS

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Monsignor Thomas Wells, 56, of Germantown, Maryland, pastor of Mother Seton Catholic Parish in Germantown, died Thursday, June 8, in the parish rectory. He was the victim of an apparent break-in and killed after a violent and bloody struggle with the intruder.

This morning, at 11 o’clock, a funeral mass will be celebrated by Cardinal James A. Hickey at the Sacred Heart Church, which is one of the churches that Monsignor Wells served.

What can I say about a man who was in his prime, who was a shepherd to a community, whether they belonged to his faith or not.

I talked to some of the congregants who made statements, such as, “He was only the pastor at Mother Seton for about a year and a half, but he touched so many people in the 2,000-member congregation, just as he touched those in other parishes that he served.”

He had served in 5 parishes within the last 30 years in the State of Maryland. The churches where he served over the past 30 years were filled in recent years with people who loved the priest for whom they now pray. They are overwhelmed by grief.

He encouraged a lot of the young people. He inspired all who knew him. He was warm, friendly. He had a tremendous sense of humor. He always gave very exciting sermons, motivating people to be the best and to do the most for others.

One can see that the light of God was within him. He was a very holy man, not just by his position in the church as monsignor, but by the way he helped people.

Articles in the paper pointed out story after story of how he reached out and helped the community. The community grieves for him. He preached a lot about love. He remembered that Thornton Wilder wrote, “there is a land of the living and a land of the dead, and the bridge is love, the only survival and the only meaning.”

Monsignor Wells will live on in love.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ASLEEP ON THE JOB WHEN IT COMES TO HIGH-TECH JOB CREATION

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House...