

before traveling to Ft. Hood, Ft. Devens, Korea and finally Redstone Arsenal as an infantry officer.

Major Stutts' bravery was put to the test in May of 1963 when his helicopter on a routine mission along the Korean Demilitarized Zone inadvertently landed in North Korea. Held captive for a year in North Korea, Major (then Captain) Stutts courageously endured his situation and held onto his faith, his patriotism and his love of his family.

While his family met with the Army and their representatives in Congress and his fate was uncertain, Major Stutts' perseverance served as inspiration for his family and friends anxiously awaiting his home-coming. Stutts' widow Mary and his sons Gregory, Michael and Bruce deserve our recognition for the sacrifices they have endured these many years. As his family accepts this Purple Heart today in honor of their beloved husband and father, I would like to express my appreciation for Major Stutts' actions to keep this country the home of the free.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I would like to pay tribute to Major Stutts and his loving family. We can never afford to forget the victories and sacrifices of our veterans like Major Stutts lest we take for granted the precious freedoms we enjoy every minute of every day.

PELTIER'S PARDON

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask his colleagues to consider carefully the following editorial from the December 27, 2000, edition of the Norfolk Daily News, entitled "Peltier Pardon Would Be Wrong."

PELTIER PARDON WOULD BE WRONG—PINE RIDGE MURDERER OF TWO FBI AGENTS NOT DESERVING OF CLEMENCY

Not since Gerald Ford ascended to the presidency and promptly pardoned former President Richard Nixon for any Watergate crimes has an American president been faced with as important a test of the unique constitutional powers of clemency. The U.S. Constitution makes it possible for a president to forgive otherwise unpardonable acts. The power is absolute with the exception of impeachment: "He shall have the power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States."

That makes it possible for President Clinton to follow his pardoning decisions in 62 cases announced recently and provide clemency for Leonard Peltier, 56. Peltier is serving two life sentences in federal prison in Leavenworth, Kan., for the murder of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1975. The agents, Ron Williams and Jack Coler, were attempting to arrest robbery suspects on the Pine Ridge reservation. The agents were injured, then shot in the head repeatedly, at point blank range. The guilty verdict, rendered in 1977 after Peltier had been returned from Canada where he fled after the crime, has withstood multiple appeals.

His time in prison has found him playing the role of a victim, innocent not by reason

of having no association with the crime but because of the injustice done American Indians. Injustices of the past, however, should not be allowed to excuse vicious crimes of the present.

There is now the possibility that President Clinton might agree to the demand of today's activists. They claim (1) that Peltier was a victim of overzealous agents of the federal government, (2) that if he, in fact, committed the crimes for which he was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt, mistreatment of American Indians justified the slayings and (3) that he has become a changed man in prison, and written useful books about the plight of reservation Indians.

There is no question that for many, and especially on the Pine Ridge, conditions were harsh and still are. Murder is still not justified, however, and that must apply especially to those responsible for law enforcement.

While we do not believe in the propriety of demonstration—either against Peltier's incarceration as have taken place repeatedly over the years, or against clemency as the FBI agents did in an orderly way in Washington several days ago—they have served to highlight this unusual and tragic case.

In reaching his last-minute decision, Mr. Clinton needs to look especially at what are the incontrovertible facts of a vicious crime, and the importance to the American system of justice of not treating lightly the cold-blooded murder of federal agents acting to uphold the law.

HONORING TERRY MEEHAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry Meehan for being named "Realtor of the Year" by the Fresno Association of Realtors for the year 2000. The "Realtor of the Year" is awarded to an individual who promotes the professionalism of the Fresno Association of Realtors and has made available the programs and services that allow members to conduct their business with integrity and competency.

Ms. Meehan led the Fresno Association of Realtors and Fresno Multiple Listing Service into the future with an Internet based M.L.S. system allowing realtors to use the latest technology for their clients.

Terry is a graduate of Cal State Fullerton and holds the two highest real estate designations: Graduate of the Realtor Institute and Certified Residential Specialist.

Terry has been a full-time real estate broker for over 20 years in Fresno and Clovis, CA. She specializes in residential real estate sales and serves as relocation director at Realty Concepts.

She is currently the Fresno Association of Realtors M.L.S. chairperson and serves as a State Director for the California Association of Realtors.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Terry Meehan for being named "Realtor of the Year" by the Fresno Association of Realtors. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Meehan many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCING THE NATURAL GAS RESERVE ACT OF 2001

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation titled the Natural Gas Reserve Act of 2001, to create a natural gas reserve to help stabilize the supply and price of natural gas. This reserve will be modeled after the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.

Natural gas prices have risen sharply this winter because of low supplies and increased demand. This in turn has caused hardship for many families in the Dayton area and across the country who are receiving significantly increased utility bills.

A natural gas reserve is part of the long-term solution to the current low supplies and high prices of natural gas. A reserve would enable the federal government to buy when supplies are cheap and plentiful, and make it available during times of shortages. I believe if the United States had such a reserve today, natural gas prices would be lower.

Supplies are at a historic low, in part because of the new gas-fired electric power generators which many utilities are now using, and because of the unexpected cold weather. The Energy Information Administration projects that in March 2001, U.S. natural gas in storage will be 40 percent below the last 5-year average.

The national gas reserve could be drawn down when there is a supply shortage such as one we are now experiencing. This release of additional natural gas into the market will help keep prices down.

Under this legislation, the Secretary of Energy would determine the size of the natural gas reserve. The Secretary would be authorized to sell oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to cover the administration and acquisition costs of the reserve, and Congress could appropriate additional funds as well.

The Natural Gas Reserve Act of 2001 is an insurance policy for American consumers because it will provide relief during national shortages. I would urge my colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 13, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. McDERMOTT Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the recent earthquake in the Indian state of Gujarat.

It is with a heavy heart that my colleagues and India Caucus co-chairman, ED ROYCE, and I have introduced this bill. Early on India's Republic Day, January 26th, a strong earthquake, registering 7.9 on the Richter scale,