

low income, underserved populations in rural communities and densely-populated urban areas. This information can then be used to help prepare for disasters such as tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, and storms involving heavy rains, high winds and ice and snow, and thus lessen their impact.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), minorities are impacted by emergencies two and a half times more than others in the country, and this is unacceptable. We must do more to help those who need it, so that they will not be impacted as much at times of disaster.

It is my hope that all people in high risk circumstances will benefit from this program, which will document and make available information about the dangers that are present in different locations as well as provide practical guidance on how to protect against disasters. I ask my colleagues to join with me in supporting this legislation, and lessen the harsh effects that disasters have on our communities in the states and regions most impacted by them.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JENNIE
TERPSTRA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Jennie Terpstra in honor of her 100th birthday. Ms. Terpstra was born on July 23, 1901 in Eastmanville, Michigan and has spent most of her life on a farm in Lamont, Michi-

gan. It was on the farm where she acquired a love for flowers, gardening, and reading.

On June 21, 1923, at the age of 21, Jennie was married to George Terpstra at Tallmadge Church. George was her elder by one year and one day. Later in life, Ms. Terpstra found her spiritual home at the Lamont Christian Reformed Church.

To date, Ms. Terpstra has five children, nineteen grandchildren, over forty great-grandchildren, and six great-great grandchildren.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Jennie Terpstra for turning 100 years young. Eric Butterworth once said "Don't go through life, grow through life;" Ms. Terpstra certainly has.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION
OF THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and my late father, Dutch Platts, an army veteran who felt very strongly about protecting the American flag from desecration, I rise in support of this proposal.

House Joint Resolution 36 is important for many reasons. The American flag is of great importance not only to the men and women of the United States of America but also to the citizens of the world. Every time we raise or lower the many flags flown all over the world,

we have given thanks and shown appreciation not only to the veterans who fought and gave their lives to ensure the freedoms we know today, but to the many citizens who work daily to preserve those freedoms. Desecration of this commanding symbol, whether it is by burning, tearing or other mutilation, undermines the powerful sense of patriotism Americans feel whenever they see the red, white and blue. To many, desecrating the American flag not only destroys a cloth, it also destroys the memories and devotion thousands of veterans and others carry with them throughout their daily lives.

In this day of world conflict, we must remember that the Stars and Stripes has been a force that holds communities together. I agree with the gentleman from California, Mr. Cunningham, that, "The American flag is a national treasure. It is the ultimate symbol of freedom, equal opportunity and religious tolerance. Amending our Constitution to protect the flag is a necessity."

In looking to whether our Founding Fathers intended the First Amendment right to freedom of speech to include burning of the American flag, I look to how our Founding Fathers treated the flag: When the Founding Fathers would go into battle, one soldier would carry the flag. If that individual fell in battle, another soldier would give up his weapon to pick up the flag. Those actions tell us pretty clearly how much our Founding Fathers respected and were willing to sacrifice themselves for the flag and how they did not intend the First Amendment right to freedom of speech to include desecration of the American Flag.

I am hopeful that this bill will pass with broad bipartisan support.