

better time to take this step than now, while Romania holds the Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Public authorities, of course, should be protected from slander and libel, just like every one else. Clearly, civil codes are more than adequate to achieve this goal. Accordingly, in order to bring Romanian law into line with Romania's international obligations and commitments, penal sanctions for defamation or insult of public authorities in Romania should be altogether ended. It is time—and past time—for these simple steps to be taken.

As Chairman-in-Office, Minister Geoana has repeatedly expressed his concern about the

Domestically, Romania is also in a position to lead by example in combating trafficking. Notwithstanding that the State Department's first annual Trafficking in Persons report characterizes Romania as a "Tier 3" country in the fight against human trafficking—that is, a country which does not meet minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with those standards—it is clear the Government of Romania is moving in a positive direction to address the trafficking of human beings from and through its territory. For example, the Ministry of Justice is actively working on a new anti-trafficking law. The government is also cooperating closely with the Regional Center for Combating Trans-Border Crime, created under the auspices of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative and located in Bucharest, and in particular, with the Center's anti-human trafficking task force.

I encourage the Government of Romania to continue with these efforts and to undertake additional initiatives. For example, law enforcement officers in Romania, as in many other OSCE States, are still in need of thorough training on how to investigate and prosecute cases of suspected human trafficking. Training which reinforces the principle that trafficked persons deserve a compassionate response from law enforcement—as they are victims of crime themselves, not criminals—is necessary. When such training leads to more arrests of traffickers and more compassion toward trafficking victims, Romania will be a regional leader in the fight against this modern slavery.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about the Romani minority in Romania. Romania may have as many as 2 million Roma, and certainly has the largest number of Roma of any OSCE country. Like elsewhere in the region, they face discrimination in labor, public places, education, and housing. I am especially concerned about persistent and credible reports that Roma are subjected to police abuse, such as the raids at the Zabrauti housing development, near Bucharest, on January 12, and in Brasov on February 1 and 9 of this year. I commend Romani CRISS and other groups that have worked to document these problems. I urge the Romanian Government to intensify its efforts to prevent abusive practices on the part of the police and to hold individual police officers accountable when they violate the law.

In the coming months, the OSCE will conduct the Human Dimension Implementation Review meeting in Warsaw, a Conference on Roma and Sinti Affairs in Bucharest, and the

Ministerial Council meeting also in Bucharest, among other meetings and seminars. The legacy of the Romanian Chairmanship will entail not only the leadership demonstrated in these venues but also progress made at home through further compliance with OSCE commitments.

JOSEPH "RED" JONES HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the long history of service to the community by my good friend, Joseph "Red" Jones of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Red will be honored with a tribute on August 17, 2001, the 50th anniversary of his calling square dances, which he has done exclusively for charity for the past 20 years.

Red first started calling square dances at the age of 13, and is considered to be among the best callers in eastern Pennsylvania. As befits his spirit of service, the event being held to honor him will raise money for several local charities supported by the Volunteers of America, including the Caring Alternatives Pantry, The Hartman Home and Dial-A-Driver.

Red has used this talent to benefit countless community organizations, school groups and booster clubs, church organizations, volunteer fire companies, little leagues and youth clubs, Habitat for Humanity, Valley Santa and terminally ill individuals. He has donated numerous hours of his time so that these organizations and good causes could generate more revenue and build their capacity to serve others.

In addition to helping countless community causes by calling square dances for them, Red has been a weekly volunteer for the past 17 years at Mercy Center, a Sisters of Mercy sponsored nursing home in Dallas, Pennsylvania, where he spends a great deal of time comforting and helping the residents.

Red's charitable works are only part of his long history of service to the community. He has served the nation as a Marine in the late 1950s and for most of the 1960s. He also served his neighbors for four years as a Luzerne County Commissioner and for 14 years as a member of the Lake-Lehman School Board. He served twice as president of the school board, and during his tenure the district showed tremendous improvement in academic performance and participation in athletic and extracurricular programs.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you from personal experience that he worked well as a county commissioner with citizens and community leaders from both parties. His nonpartisan approach to government was instrumental in improving flood protection throughout the Wyoming Valley, expanding Luzerne County Community College, paving the way for the Luzerne County Arena, creating a countywide 911 emergency response system and boosting key initiatives for economic development.

Last but certainly not least, under Red's leadership as basketball coach at St. Vincent's High School in Pittston, the school was hon-

ored with four consecutive Wyoming Valley Basketball Officials Sportsmanship awards for sportsmanship, conduct and respect of the game, the officials and opposing teams.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the long and distinguished service of Joseph "Red" Jones to his neighbors and the nation, and I wish him all the best.

26 OF JULY MOVEMENT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked another anniversary of the tragic events of July 26, 1953, when Fidel Castro, along with a band of supporters, attacked a military barracks in eastern Cuba in order to make a name for himself, causing the deaths of dozens of Cubans in what will doubtless be considered as a national day of mourning in Cuban history.

An acute observer of 20th century Cuban history, long-time journalist and writer Jack Skelly, has written a very interesting account of some of the tragic circumstances surrounding the 26th of July, 1953, and the so called "26 of July Movement". It was published in yesterday's Miami Herald and I submit it for the record for the benefit of my colleagues and the American people.

THE MEN WHO LEFT THE 26TH OF JULY MOVEMENT

(by Jack Skelly)

One more 26th of July—count them. It has been 48 years since Fidel Castro, his brother Raúl, 17 men and two women attacked Moncada, the Cuban army barracks in Santiago de Cuba.

Twenty soldiers were killed. Fidel Castro and five others escaped to the nearby hills, where they soon were captured, tried and sentenced to 15 years each.

However, in May 1955, they were freed in a general amnesty by the Cuban Congress. Castro then went to Mexico to prepare for the Dec. 2, 1956, invasion of Cuba with 81 men.

Now once more Castro will be in the center where he will recount in a three- or four-hour speech (if he can endure that long) the glories of that 26th of July and the events that led up to the great victory on Jan. 1, 1959, when the revolution took over from the Batista regime.

Sadly, Castro will not be able to tell his audience that most of the leaders of the 26th of July movement "are at my side today."

The original 26th of July movement disappeared almost immediately after Castro sold out to the Soviet Union and the Cuban Communist Party.

The democratic members of the movement who fought side by side with him in the Sierra Maestra mountains and were in the underground in the cities and towns are dead, in jail or in exile.

BETRAYED COMRADES

The following are some of the original members who were double-crossed by Castro:

*Maj. Sorí Marin, author of the original agrarian-reform program, who fought alongside Castro in the mountains, was caught conspiring with other rebel army officers

who had fought to restore democracy and freedom to Cuba. He was executed on specific orders of Castro himself several days before the Bay of Pigs invasion, April 17, 1961.

*Maj. Victor Mora saved Fidel, Raúl, Che Guevara and other survivors when they landed from Mexico on Dec. 2, 1956. A Sierra Maestra native, Mora led them around the Cuban Army to a safe haven high up in the mountains.

After the victory, it didn't take Mora long to realize that he and others had been sold out by Castro. Caught conspiring, Mora was sentenced to 10 years. Once released, he escaped to the United States, where he lived modestly in Little Havana.

*Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz flew weapons from Venezuela and Costa Rica to Castro's "eagle's nest" in the mountains. After victory, he was named Castro's personal pilot. But soon he complained to Castro that Raúl and Guevara were indoctrinating his air force men in Marxism.

Tipped that Castro had ordered his arrest, Díaz Lanz and his wife, Tania, and brother barely escaped to Miami in a sailboat in June 1959. Weeks later, Díaz Lanz became the first "26-er" to testify before a U.S. Senate committee, accusing Castro of selling out the revolution to the Soviet Union.

*Maj. Húber Matos, a school teacher turned guerrilla fighter, was one of the genuine heroes in the fight against the Cuban army. In October 1959, 10 months after the revolution came to power, Matos sent a letter of resignation to Castro, complaining that communists, who had not lifted a finger to oust the Batista regime, were taking over the revolution.

Castro ordered a court martial in which Matos was accused of being a "counterrevolutionary." After serving a 20-year sentence, Matos came to Miami, where he has been one of the leaders of the Cuban Forum.

*Jesús Yánes Pelletier was a sergeant in the Cuban Army assigned to Boniato Prison, where Castro was sent after being sentenced for attacking the Moncada barracks. Yánes Pelletier was ordered to poison Castro's food. He refused, was given a dishonorable discharge and then joined the 26th of July movement.

When the revolution arrived, Castro made Yánes Pelletier a captain in charge of his personal guard. Soon Yánes Pelletier became disenchanted with the communists and began conspiring. He was caught and in 1977 was sentenced to 15 years. He refused to leave Cuba and was the vice president of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights before his death last year.

*Among the saddest cases—and there are hundreds in every city, town and village in Cuba—is that of Mario Chanes de Armas. He had impeccable credentials as a founder of the revolutionary movement with Castro before the attack on the Moncada barracks.

Chanes de Armas survived the Moncada attack, trained in Mexico, came over on the yacht Gramma and lived to greet Castro in Havana when the conquering heroes arrived on Jan. 9, 1959, on top of a U.S. Sherman tank. The movement disappeared after Castro sold out to the Soviet Union and the Communist Party.

Chanes de Armas could have had any position he wanted in the revolutionary government, but he opted to return to his work in a brewery. For two years he watched his former leader betray their movement. Finally, he spoke against the communists. He was tried as a "counterrevolutionary," and on July 17, 1961, was sentenced to 30 years.

After spending six years in solitary, he was released exactly 30 years to the date of his imprisonment. In 1993 he was united with his four sisters in Miami.

Although he doesn't belong to any exile political group, he forms part of a group of former prisoners who travel throughout Latin America talking to heads of states about the reality of Castro's Cuba.

HONORING SEN. PAUL COVERDELL OF GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on August 10, 2001 a building will be dedicated honoring the late Senator Paul Coverdell at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), near Brunswick, Georgia. I would like to recognize Mr. Coverdell's commitment to our nation's education and America's criminal justice system.

Senator Coverdell was always an ardent supporter of the law enforcement community, not just in Georgia but nationwide. It is a honor to the Coverdell family and Georgia to have a part of the nation's premier interagency law enforcement training center named for Senator Coverdell.

As recent as June, 2000 Senator Coverdell was opposing attempts of other politicians to move part of the FLETC's training program elsewhere. Senator Coverdell and Representative JACK KINGSTON, in whose district the facility is located, were successful in maintaining FLETC's premier training role. It is evident Senator Coverdell had a personal interest in this absolutely essential federal facility.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the dedication ceremony. I would like to pass on to the Coverdell family and to former President George H.W. Bush and Mrs. Bush that this dedication makes me, Georgia, and the nation proud. We are forever indebted to Senator Coverdell for his untiring work for Georgia and the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE NEWARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, the exemplary work of the Newark Fire Department has earned them the recognition of the Congressional Fire Service Institute for outstanding work in providing protection to their community; and,

Whereas, the partnership between the Fire Department and the city is a strong and essential component for serving the community effectively; and

Whereas, the relationship that has been cultivated between the Newark Fire Department and the city that it serves has proven

to be an effective element for fire prevention;

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of the Newark Fire Department that has brought honor, pride, and security to their community.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH RESOURCES ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am introducing the "Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Health Resources Access Improvement Act of 2001" on behalf of myself and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. EVERETT of Alabama, Mr. SIMMONS of Connecticut, Mr. GIBBONS of Nevada, Mr. WAMP of Tennessee, Mr. KIRK of Illinois, Mr. BUYER of Indiana, and Mr. BILIRAKIS of Florida.

America's servicemen and women, their families, and our veterans who have served in uniform deserve the best health care we can offer them as a Nation. My bill addresses the urgent need for the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to improve their programs of health resource sharing as originally authorized by Public Law 97-174, the "Veterans' Administration and Department of Defense Health Resources Sharing and Emergency Operations Act of 1982." This authority was originally intended to provide opportunities to make it easier for the two Departments—whose combined health care budgets this year total over \$35 billion—to increase the variety and amount of their health resource sharing for the benefit of their veteran and military beneficiaries, while helping hold down costs in Federal health care for the benefit of taxpayers.

Currently, the Secretaries of each Department have at their discretion the option not to share. With this bill, we take a new approach: it would make sharing the order of the day. Sharing must be an important priority of both Departments, and we should create strong incentives for the Secretaries to work together to achieve common ends. The bill's proposed findings are indicative of our disappointment with the current state of VA-DoD sharing. We believe that neither department has taken full advantage of sharing opportunities and that the intended results of the 1982 sharing authority have not been achieved. We know VA-DoD sharing could be greatly increased, and with this bill we want to get sharing moving again.

Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to establish a health care facilities sharing demonstration project in keeping with the intent of the original legislation for VA-DoD sharing. Under the bill, five qualifying sites across the country would be selected for participation in a demonstration project. The purpose of the demonstration