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CRIMINAL ALIEN VISA DENIAL
ACT OF 2001

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Criminal Alien Visa Denial Act of 2001 to ensure the State Department and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) have access to U.S. criminal databases before they let aliens into the country.

The State Department and INS currently lack the ability to access the FBI's National Criminal Information Center's Interstate Identification Index (NCIC-III) database. That means an alien can come into our country, commit a crime, leave, and get a reentry visa from our State Department or cross the border without being stopped.

There is evidence this has already happened. Between 1998 and 1999, serial killer Angel Maturino Resendiz, the "Texas Railroad Killer," a Mexican with a lengthy criminal record in the United States, was allowed to cross the border because the INS didn't know he had a record. And when he got here, he killed at least six people before his capture. And just last week, we heard unconfirmed reports one of the terrorist hijackers may have been allowed to cross the Canadian border even though he too had a criminal record in the United States.

Strengthening national security, particularly border security, against dispersed but deadly criminals and terrorists requires interagency cooperation and coordination on an unprecedented scale. Data matches between federal agencies today are often the product of good luck and the happenstance of personal relationships. The modern threat demands a more systematic collection and dissemination of the information needed to identify suspects or prevent known criminals from entering the United States.

The gap in data-sharing between Departments is no longer simply a matter of bureaucratic inertia, but a threat to national security.

In 1996, the FBI and State Department issued a joint report recommending the State Department receive limited access to the NCIC-III database so the State Department could better identify aliens with a criminal background in our country and prevent their entry. Nevertheless, for four years this report lay dormant while the Departments could not find a mutually agreeable way to institute their recommendations. The language in this bill should meet with the approval of both the Justice and State Departments.

Last year the House Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations, began a series of meetings and briefings to discuss data-sharing. On July 24th of this year, the Subcommittee held a hearing on Federal Interagency Data Sharing and National Security. That hearing taught us effective border security begins with our embassies, where U.S. visas are issued.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF CANE CREEK
FRIENDS MEETING

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2001, the Sixth District of North Carolina will be celebrating with Cane Creek Friends Meeting its 250th anniversary. The Cane Creek Friends Meeting opened its doors for worship for the first time in 1751, when George Washington was just 19 years old.

The Cane Creek Friends Meeting is a Quaker Church that opened to serve 30 families. These families desired a place to worship near to their homes. It was two women, Abigail Pike and Rachel Wright, with some others, who traveled some 200 miles to the governing body of the Friends in Perquimans, North Carolina, to secure permission for the establishment of the Cane Creek Meeting. As you may have realized, this all happened before our great country had a Constitution or even its first President. Cane Creek Friends Meeting has witnessed every event in our proud history.

During the first 13 years of the Meeting's existence, it was located on a parcel of land, which was a part of the original grant of John Stanfield. Since 1764, Cane Creek Friends Meeting has been located on a 26-acre site donated by William Marshall.

The Meeting's Sesquicentennial Committee, has planned and carried out several projects to celebrate this remarkable anniversary. Some of these projects include the publication of a pictorial history book, the design and stitching of a heritage quilt, and the construction of a memorial garden at the Meeting-house.

Cane Creek Friends Meeting places a strong emphasis and takes great pride in its belief regarding the equality of women. Over the years there have been several female ministers, beginning with Abigail Pike in 1751. Furthermore, the Meeting prides itself on the fact that it has conducted many educational programs for children in the area.

Through the years, Quakers have had a very important input into the development of this country. Many elected officials have been Quakers. Indeed, despite the fact that I am a Presbyterian, I went to school at Guilford College in North Carolina, which is a Quaker institution, so Quakers have affected my upbringing and education as well.

On behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I would like to wish Cane Creek Friends Meeting our congratulations on reaching this historic and momentous anniversary. Only a very small number of organizations in this country can claim to have been operating for 250 years. It is a truly remarkable achievement.

September 25, 2001

HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE
OPERA OF MICHIGAN ON THE OC-
CASION OF THE INAUGURAL
OPERA PERFORMANCE AT THE
FORD COMMUNITY AND PER-
FORMING ARTS CENTER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Friends of the Opera of Michigan as they celebrate the opening of the city of Dearborn's wonderful new Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. The Friends of the Opera will christen this impressive new facility with its first opera on September 22, 2001. A performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* has been chosen for this inaugural event. An impressive cast of international artists directed by the Friends of the Opera's own Quinto Milito will showcase their talents to an appreciative audience in Dearborn.

Additionally, a statue of Verdi will be unveiled at the opening. Verdi stands as a monumental figure in Italian opera and his compositions are greatly admired by the large Italian-American population in Dearborn, the communities of Downriver and throughout metropolitan Detroit. We are blessed to have such a fine facility and such extraordinary talent available to us here in Dearborn.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to the Friends of the Opera of Michigan and to the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center for many years of beautiful performances.

SERMON BY PASTOR CAROL
CUSTEAD

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring this great chamber's attention to a sermon I recently heard at Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. I fully believe that there is a message in the sermon for all of us to learn. There are many people across the United States of American who are continuing to deal with the effects of the recent deadly terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. I believe this sermon may help those people deal with this tragedy.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

(By Pastor Carol Custead)

The scene is etched in our minds. It entered over our television screens in the safety and comfort of our homes, schools, and places of work; and it left us feeling vulnerable and shaken. The scene seemed surreal: a beautiful blue September sky over Manhattan, those magnificent human-made towers of the World Trade Center gleaming in the sunshine, with a jet airliner in the background—and then, suddenly we realized that

that airplane was headed right for the towers at full speed. It struck with explosive force which ultimately toppled the tower with its thousands of innocent people in a cloud of dust on the floor of lower Manhattan. At first it looked like Hollywood's special effects at work on our screens. But soon the reality of this horrific scene sunk deeply into the American collective consciousness—indeed into the world's: America was under attack!

Those headlines Tuesday morning were so unbelievable. For those who lived through Pearl Harbor the headlines, and the feelings that accompanied them, brought back memories of December 7, 1941. For those younger who have never experienced an attack on our great and powerful nation, it left us feeling helpless, frightened and confused like never before.

What do we make of these things? So much has been said and written these past few days in an attempt to answer that question. I add my preacher's words in these short minutes to suggest a few spiritual things to keep in mind in the aftermath, and as we bravely face an uncertain future together.

First, God is still good. These terrible acts of terrorism are in no way a part of God's plan. They are not God's will. What we have seen in the acts is that radical evil exists. Let me quote a basic definition of evil, which I have found to be helpful. "Evil is anything that twists, blurs or destroys the goodness of God in His creation". I repeat: Evil is anything that twists, blurs or destroys the goodness of God in His creation. God is good, and God's good will is ultimately accomplished, but that does not mean that everything that happens in this world is God's will. Evil runs its course in opposition to God's will.

We can illustrate this in this way. Picture a stream running its course down the mountain and into the ocean. Someone could try to stop that stream from coming down the mountain. They might take some large rocks and build a dam across the course of the stream. But we know what would happen. The water would simply be diverted and find another way down the mountain. It will get to the ocean one way or another. So it is with God's will. We human beings can obstruct God's plan, intentionally or unknowingly, but it will ultimately reach its goal.

We saw the face of evil on Tuesday. There are evil people in this world. The hijackers were trained to be killer pilots and indoctrinated with fanaticism—with an extremely twisted understanding of God's will which made them embrace mass murder and suicide, believing it to be a part of God's plan. Make no mistake: this is not what traditional Islam teaches. The Islamic or Muslim faith does not condone violence or suicide. These Islamic extremists are very sick people who have twisted their religion—we should keep in mind that the strong majority of Muslims are good people who seek to do God's will within a moral code shared by Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike.

Yes, we have seen radical evil at work this week, but goodness exists even more strongly. God is still good, and the goodness of God will ultimately prevail.

Second, God is still in control. Part of what is so frightening in all this is that sense of helplessness, that sense that we have lost control. While evil seems to have struck a huge blow we need to keep in mind that God is at work healing and restoring

goodness and order to our world. This can be seen through the many actions of good people following the attacks. Even though the scenes of horror have been etched into our minds, so have the countless scenes of heroism, bravery, mercy, kindness, compassion and goodness as the American people and people across the world have come to the aid of those directly affected. We must keep these scenes before us and remember them. We must dwell on the goodness and not on the evil so that evil will not win the day. Look at all the good things that God is still working even in the midst of this enormous tragedy. The world community is coming together in a common bond against the evil. The people of this huge nation are coming together like a close knit family to face the task of grieving and healing and getting on with our lives, knowing that if we stop living because this happened then we give the terrorists what they wanted. The words of encouragement from the people of Oklahoma City to the people of New York and Washington D.C. were well stated: "Have hope. Life and goodness will return." Yes, God is still in control.

Third, God is still our God. God is not some remote force out there that leaves us on our own in this desperate and broken world. He calls and gathers us into communities of faith where we can seek mutual comfort, assurance, and guidance. This week more than ever we can see why religion is not a private matter. We need these communities of faith. We need each other especially at times like this and God has not left us alone. We have the good resources of our faith—the faith that has been passed down by countless generations that have faced adversity. As the psalmist has written long ago, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble . . . The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold." (Psalm 46)

Finally, let me shift gears to answer a question that has been asked of both Pastor Scott and me this week. "Would it be the Christian response to retaliate?" While pacifistic Christians may answer "no"; our answer is deeply steeped in the theology of Martin Luther—and St. Augustine and others before him. It is the God-given vocation of good government to maintain order, peace, and safety so that civilization can function. Civilized society is based upon the free movement and gathering of people for work, for school, and for the basic production and exchange of goods and services. Terrorism undermines the basic function of civilization—the free and safe movement and gathering of people for these purposes. The nations of this world do need to hold accountable and responsible those governments that allow these terrorists to function.

A look back in history makes this clear. When the Roman Empire fell, and when the Empire was no longer able to provide for the safe movement and gathering of people; the economy, education, and culture collapsed. Then, what we now call the "Dark Ages" began—that period when Barbarians ruled the forests and no one was safe to leave their homes.

Another example: What if some one was wandering the streets of this town and randomly shooting and killing innocent people? Would we not need the police to act to put an end to that so that we could safely leave our homes and go about our business again?

The situation we face in our world today is much the same only on a much larger scale.

More than ever, today we exist in a global community or a global society. This means that all governments must participate in fulfilling the basic function of government—that is to maintain the peace and order needed for civilization to function for the common good of all people. That is their God-given calling.

The nations of this world will need to come together to take action as best we can against this new illusive enemy of terrorism that has attacked not only America but all of the civilized world. We must act not for the sake of vengeance or retribution, but for the sake of restoring safety, order and peace to our world. The very core of civilization has been threatened this week. The Christian response is not one of vengeance and retribution but one that will best restore order to our world—and that may only be possible in this broken world through military action. It is time for us to band together to pray earnestly for clarity in this matter by our nation's leaders, by all responsible and civilized national leaders of this world, and by the military. God help us! Amen.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2586) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes:

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Chairman, on September 20, 2001, during debate on the Defense Authorization bill for fiscal year 2002, H.R. 2586, I entered into a colloquy with Representative SKELTON regarding the Marine Corps Air Station Tustin. I have attached related correspondence between myself and the Department of the Navy which was inadvertently left out of the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2001.

Hon. DUNCAN HOLIDAY,
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Installations and Facilities, Department of the Navy, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY HOLIDAY: When you met with me and representatives of the Santa Ana Unified School District in my office on March 20, 2001 to discuss the Base Reuse Plan for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Tustin, we discussed the local resolution of the City of Tustin's failure to include public benefit conveyances to Santa Ana Unified and Rancho Santiago Community College District in its Base Reuse Plan. You assured me then, and in your follow-up letter dated March 26, 2001, that the Department of Navy would not convey MCAS property until the parties concerned come to an agreement on the allocation of land.

We also discussed the possibility that, in implementing any such agreement, the