

convoluted. The two step process of registering religious groups appears to be more an exercise for government involvement rather than a well outlined procedure for recognizing religious communities. The vague requirement of "record-keeping" registration is especially problematic, as it could serve as a major obstacle for successful registration that the government can utilize to block an application. Clear and transparent guidelines would be a superior way to prevent arbitrary tampering by government officials in the process of registration.

In closing, I hope both the Kazakh and Kyrgyz Governments will be mindful of 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, (para 16.3), which states that governments are obligated to "grant upon their request to communities of believers, practicing or prepared to practice their faith within the constitutional framework of their states, recognition of the status provided for them in their respective countries."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, this last Wednesday, on rollcall vote No. 375, I want it to be in the RECORD that I was present on the House floor, and I did vote in favor of that bill. Unfortunately, there was a malfunction with the House voting machine, and it did not record my vote.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERIC BENNETT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences and sympathies to the family of Eric Bennett. On September 11, Eric Bennett was in a business conference on the 102nd floor of tower one in the World Trade Center when American Airlines flight 11 crashed into the 89th floor.

Eric Bennett, 29 years old, grew up in Genesee Township and moved to New York City after college to pursue a successful career in computer programming. According to his parents and those fortunate enough to know him, Eric possessed a determination to succeed and a passion for life.

Shortly after learning that Eric was missing, Elizabeth and Terry Bennett traveled to New York City to search the hospitals for their son. Unfortunately, Eric's parents were unable to find him and they have now accepted the fact that he did not survive the attack.

On behalf of the people in the Ninth District of Michigan, I would like to extend my thoughts and prayers to Eric's family and friends. A memorial service celebrating Eric Bennett's life will be held at the Elks Club in Grand Blanc Township on October 14 from 2-5 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE CNMI NATIONAL GUARD ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation authorizing the establishment of a National Guard unit for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). As my colleagues may know, Guam shares geographic proximity and ancestral ties with the Northern Marianas. Therefore, it is only proper that this bill is introduced for our Pacific neighbors. I have other legislation pending that would afford the CNMI a Delegate to this House, but until such a proposal becomes a reality I believe it is my obligation to help their cause in Washington, DC.

This legislation is timely and needed. In the weeks following the tragic events and terrorist attacks of September 11, our Nation has been focused on strengthening our homeland security. As we continue to reevaluate and reassess our preparedness capability, I hope that we take the opportunity to pass this legislation for the benefit of our national security and for equal protection for all jurisdictions under the U.S. flag. The events of the past month have illustrated the detriments to communities without National Guard units. While the Federal Aviation Administration has established new and more stringent aviation security requirements, the task of providing security for the CNMI's three principal airports has been borne solely by civilians from the Northern Marianas. While other governors across the nation were able to activate their guard units, the CNMI was not afforded this option. This legislation would correct this oversight and extend to the CNMI the centuries old American tradition of having its citizenry contribute towards the defense and security of their homeland.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Resident Representative of the CNMI, Juan Babauta, for bringing this issue to my attention and for his diligence in working on behalf of his people. He had the foresight to raise this issue with the National Guard Bureau long before recent events. He has long maintained an interest in establishing a National Guard unit trained and equipped to protect the life and property of CNMI citizens, while providing to the Nation a force ready to defend the United States and its interests.

IN HONOR OF THE HIGH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the staff of the High School of Economics and Finance for their outstanding response to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Situated just one block south of the World Trade Center, the High School of Economics and Finance was the closest school to the epicenter of the horrifying disaster of September 11th.

October 12, 2001

The administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, school safety and support staff of the school took immediate, efficient, and lifesaving action to protect all 750 students in their care.

Their praiseworthy efficiency in evacuating all 750 students from their building deserves an enormous debt of gratitude from our community. The staff members mobilized immediately to protect the safety, welfare and well-being of all students in the most professional fashion possible. So closely situated near "ground zero," there is no question that the staff's organized evacuation saved countless lives.

The building housing the High School of Economics and Finance was heavily damaged by the disastrous acts of September 11, 2001. On September 20, 2001, the staff and students relocated to Norman Thomas High School, on 33rd Street in midtown Manhattan. It is a demonstration of the high level of professionalism of all staff members that students have returned to school and are currently progressing with their studies while receiving counseling and care from their dedicated teachers and staff members.

The courage, vigilance, valor, and bravery shown by the staff of the High School of Economics and Finance in their attentive supervision of the students are admirable. Similarly, the swift return to school and the teaching, mentoring and guiding of the students through this terrible time is deeply commendable.

I heartily commemorate and congratulate the staff of the High School of Economics and Finance for all that they have done on behalf of their students, city and country. I thank them all for their truly courageous leadership.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD F. SPRINGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Leonard F. Springs II, a native of South Carolina who will be honored this evening during the annual meeting of the South Carolina State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Tonight's Leadership Tribute is a component of the 2001 Civil Rights Conference, which commemorates the 60th annual Convention of the South Carolina State NAACP. I am pleased to join the South Carolina State NAACP in honoring my good friend and "soulmate", "Lenny" Springs.

Leonard Springs, II—Senior Vice-President of Corporate Relations at First Union Corporation—is a graduate of Voorhees College, Denmark, South Carolina and the University of South Carolina. He has dedicated more than 25 years of his life to developing and managing community reinvestment programs in the banking industry and non-profits sector. Dollars and Sense Magazine affirms that he is "one of America's top corporate officers." In 1988, Mr. Springs became Vice President, Corporate Affairs Relations at First Union National Bank of Georgia and held that position until 1990. During his service in Atlanta and with his energetic leadership, Mr. Springs