

began to fail, Andy and his family embarked on a race against time to find another kidney donor.

Everyone in Andy's family was tested, but no one was a suitable donor. As Andy's name languished on a transplant list for a year and a half, his mother summed up her despair when she said, "How do you turn to somebody else and say, 'Will you give up part of yourself and your life for my son?'"

And then one day two years ago, Andy met Lisa Cooney through his sister-in-law. After they met, Lisa felt compelled to get tested to see if she might be a suitable donor—and miraculously, she was. Two months after their surgery, I am pleased to say that both Lisa Cooney and Andy Thelen are doing well. Andy returned to work on March 5th and reports that he is feeling great.

As a news anchor for WLWT Eyewitness News 5 in Cincinnati, Lisa has a unique opportunity to raise the public's awareness of the urgent need for organ donors. In addition, Lisa and Andy's experience serves to highlight the advances in transplant technology that enabled Andy to receive a kidney from a living donor.

I rise today to commend Lisa Cooney. Her courage and compassion should serve as an inspiration to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing both Lisa Cooney and Andy Thelen a long and healthy life.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 911, A BILL TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JOHN WALSH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce, along with 17 of my colleagues, a bill that will recognize John Walsh, a true American hero, for his efforts in fighting crime, reuniting families, and bringing criminals to justice.

In February of 1988, "America's Most Wanted" premiered on seven local television stations across the United States. Since then, the show has profiled more than 1,500 fugitives, leading to the capture of over 1,000 of them. His weekly profiles of missing children on "America's Most Wanted" have led to the reunion of thirty missing children and their families.

Leading this aggressive attack on crime has been John Walsh, a man who has taken his own personal tragedy—the abduction and murder of his six-year-old son Adam—and used it as the inspiration to rededicate his life to helping children and to making America a safer place.

When six of the seven recent Texas prison escapees were apprehended (with the seventh committing suicide before being caught) in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains this past January, authorities were as quick to give credit as they were in making the capture. El Paso County (Colorado) Sheriff John Anderson noted that a "couple who had become acquainted with some of the escapees saw a segment on them on 'America's Most Wanted'

on Saturday night and wondered whether their new friends were some of the escapees." The couple subsequently tipped off the authorities and the captures were made soon thereafter.

The drama that played out was something that most of the people of Woodland Park, Colorado had never seen before, but one that people who are familiar with "America's Most Wanted" and host John Walsh's commitment to law enforcement have seen time and time again. And though best known for his work on "America's Most Wanted," John Walsh's work with law enforcement agencies throughout the nation is equally notable. In 1988 he was named the U.S. Marshals "Man Of The Year," and two years later received the FBI's highest civilian award. He is the only private citizen to receive a Special Recognition Award by a U.S. Attorney General. And he has been honored in the Rose Garden four times by three different presidents. John Walsh has sacrificed his personal safety for the safety and security of all Americans.

In addition, his hard work aided the passage of the Missing Children Act of 1982 and the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984, the latter of which founded the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Mr. Speaker, John Walsh's tireless efforts have helped to raise a level of awareness of crime and victims here in the United States, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and commending John Walsh for his enduring contributions to law enforcement and the safety and well-being of our nation's children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 26–27 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

DR. SHAWN CASEY RECEIVES 12TH SWINGLE AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Shawn M.J. Casey, who will be honored with this year's W. Francis Swingle Award by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick on March 17.

Frank Swingle was a well-known and respected figure in academia, in many charitable and fraternal organizations and in the arena of public oratory. Dr. Casey will be the twelfth recipient of this award, which is given each year to the individual who best honors the memory of the late Professor Swingle by his career, communal and personal achievements.

Dr. Casey was born and raised in Pittston Township, graduated from Wyoming Area High School in 1987, and received his bach-

elor's of science degree in biology and chemistry from Wilkes College in 1990. He served as vice president of the student government at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine from 1990 to 1994 and earned his doctorate there in 1994.

For the past six years, Dr. Casey has served the families of the area at his office in Pittston Township. During that time, he has also worked to promote good health in the area by presenting lectures on various dental products and helping to establish the Colgate Smile of the Game at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins home games.

His community involvement also extends to his service as past president of the Pittston Township Lions Club, a member of the executive board of the Pittston Area Family Center, a member of the Avoca Ancient Order of Hibernians and a third-degree member of the John F. Kennedy Knights of Columbus in Pittston. He is also a member of St. John the Evangelist Church in Pittston.

As a member of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Dr. Casey was named Grand Marshal in 1997 and in 1992 was a golden donor for the Jack Brennan Scholarship Fund in memory of his father.

Dr. Casey is the son of the late George T. Casey and Suzanne Walker Malloy. His maternal grandparents are Anna Walker and the late Frank Walker, and his paternal grandparents are the late Marion Newcomb Casey and the late Thomas Casey.

He currently resides in Hughestown with his wife, the former Michele Wysokinski, and their 3-year-old son, George.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the good works of Dr. Shawn Casey and the honor he will soon receive, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 26, on H.R. 724, I was detained in route to Washington by air traffic delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CHRISTIAN PRIESTS ABDUCTED AND BEATEN IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to recently hear that two priests were abducted and beaten in India. On January 4, according to a report in India-West, the priests, known as Simon and David, were abducted from the village of Zer in Rajasthan and taken to the neighboring state of Gujarat, where they were beaten.

Unfortunately, this is just the latest in a series of attacks on Christians in the so-called