

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF  
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM ACT**

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 3, 2001*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to better coordinate the Federal Government's response to terrorism. Each year, hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens work and travel overseas, including a growing number of U.S. employees who work on behalf of the energy industry. Regrettably, as we have seen in recent years, U.S. citizens are increasingly at risk by terrorist organizations who hope to exact revenge for U.S. policies, or in the name of greed. Because of a confusing maze of differing of diplomatic and law enforcement concerns, the U.S. victims of such acts are often unable to attain justice, even when the whereabouts of the perpetrators are known by federal authorities.

While the Department of State and the Justice Department can work effectively with nations sharing an extradition treaty with the U.S., too often the lack of such treaties or diplomatic barriers have allowed terrorists to hide from justice behind layers of bureaucracy. Worse still, there is little effective coordination between State and Justice to provide updated information to victims and their families, and neither agency compiles a complete report accounting the federal government's efforts to bring terrorists to justice.

Under this legislation, the Secretary of State would be required to designate an existing Assistant Secretary of State to monitor efforts to bring justice to U.S. victims of terrorism abroad. I believe this provision provides the Department of State with the necessary flexibility to designate the tasks required under this bill without dictating the creation of a new post, or elevating the Office of Counterterrorism with duties most appropriately performed at the level of the Assistant Secretary.

Under this bill, the Assistant Secretary would be required to work directly with the Justice Department and other applicable Federal agencies to identify and track terrorists living abroad who have killed Americans, or engaged in acts of terrorism that have directly affected American citizens. In addition, the Assistant Secretary would provide an annual report to Congress on the number of Americans kidnapped, killed or otherwise directly affected by the actions of international terrorists. Also included in the Annual Report to Congress would be a thorough detailing of what actions State and Justice are undertaking to obtain justice for U.S. victims of international terrorism, and a current list of terrorists living abroad.

One of the most important components of this legislation is the direct assistance of State and Justice in defining outdated or ineffective

laws that prevent the aggressive pursuit of international terrorist by the Federal Government. To that end, as part of the Annual Report, the Assistant Secretary would work with the Justice Department to make specific recommendations to Congress on legal remedies needed to bring individual terrorists to justice in the U.S. Should enforcement problems exist, the Assistant Secretary would provide Congress with proposed changes to U.S. law that would allow Justice and State to bring terrorists to justice in the U.S. Further, the Annual Report would work with State to detail known international terrorists, and make recommendations to Congress on best methods of pressuring host governments—such as cutting off of aid, or imposing sanctions. To maintain adequate safeguards, the President would be provided with a national security interest waiver, which must be accompanied with an explanation to Congress when executed.

As Members of Congress, we have a profound duty to provide an effective response when our constituents have been the victims of international terrorists while traveling or working abroad. Through passage of this legislation, we can take important steps in coordinating the Federal Government's response, and ensuring that we have the information necessary to address our laws or diplomatic policies to provide for the aggressive pursuit of terrorists. We can not stand back while our citizens are victimized, or let the lack of coordination between agencies dictate a denial of justice.

I urge my colleagues to better safeguard our citizens by supporting this legislation.

**TRIBUTE TO SUSAN TRESKY  
TOERGE**

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 3, 2001*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the American Mothers, Inc., 2001 Maryland Mother of the Year, Susan Tresky Toerge. A resident of Potomac, MD, Mrs. Toerge is an example of a truly altruistic individual as shown through her efforts to her family and to her students.

As an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, Mrs. Toerge has impacted the lives of many children across the country educating them on the ways of our country during a point in time when many of these children are most likely frightened and uncertain of their new surroundings. Through her comforting and valuable life lessons, Mrs. Toerge helps these children overcome the challenges faced with being in a new country. In her work and home life, Mrs. Toerge demonstrates that it is possible for women to balance the role of a devoted parent with a full time job and still

participate actively in her community. She is truly a role model for women everywhere.

The Maryland Mother of The Year program is sponsored by American Mothers, Inc. (AMI) which was founded on the objective to "develop and strengthen the moral and spiritual foundation of the home, the community, the nation and the world." AMI is also the official sponsor of Mother's Day and has developed outreach programs that include parenting workshops, tutoring and literacy programs.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Susan Tresky Toerge, whose contributions to her family, state and community have made her truly deserving of the title of Maryland Mother of the Year.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO YOKUM  
CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 3, 2001*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Yokum Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, of Malta Bend, Missouri, which will be celebrating its 120th anniversary on May 20, 2001.

Yokum Chapel Church may not have the largest membership but it has continued to serve the people of Malta Bend for the last twelve decades. Malta Bend is a small town with an African-American population of less than five percent. This church and its dedicated congregation have become an integral part of the community that it calls home.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the congregation of Yokum Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church for their outstanding accomplishment. It is with great pride that I honor their achievement on their one hundred and twentieth anniversary.

**CAPITAL GAINS TAX RATE  
REDUCTION ACT**

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 3, 2001*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Capital Gains Tax Rate Reduction Act. If enacted, this legislation will reduce the top capital gains tax rate from 20% to 10%. Additionally, the lower rate of 10% would be reduced to 5%. The measure would also repeal the 5-year holding rule.

This legislation is needed to spur today's ailing economy. From past rate reductions, we know that the economy responds to the lowering of rates. The impact of reducing the tax

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