China after their surveillance plane made an emergency landing in Chinese territory when they collided with a Chinese fighter jet. Our hearts and our prayers go out to these young men and women and their families.

One of those crew members is a young man from the district I represent. His name is Josef Edmunds and he is from Long Beach. Perhaps China does not realize how profoundly concerned all Americans are about the well-being of their service men and women. On behalf of Josef Edmunds and his family, I submit this article that appeared in today’s edition of the Long Beach Press-Telegram expressing the personal concern and uncertainty that the family and all the others—is experiencing as a result of this incident.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Members of Congress and I urge the Chinese government to immediately release our service men and women so that they may return home safely.

L.B. FAMILY OF CREW MEMBER FULL OF HOPE

(By Wendy Thomas Russell)

Long Beach, Monday — Josef Edmunds, one of 24 Navy crew members being held in China since their surveillance plane made an emergency landing Sunday, was described by his Long Beach mother, Amanda De Jesus, as a "very courageous young man" captivated by "the idea of putting on a uniform and standing up for his country.

"I think," Amanda De Jesus said Tuesday, "he's always had a little streak of heroism.

De Jesus and her husband, Alfredo, said they were waiting anxiously but patiently for contact from Edmunds, a 30-year-old cryptographer and Chinese interpreter.

"It's just a waiting game," said Alfredo De Jesus, a teacher at La Estrella Argentino Tango and Dance School in Long Beach. "We have high hopes that it's going to be over soon without any duress to him at least that's what we hope.

Edmunds and his cremates have been kept at a military base on China's Hainan Island since Sunday, when their surveillance plane was forced to land after colliding mid-air with a Chinese jet fighter. The plane was safe, but U.S. officials have expressed concern that the Chinese may have gained insight into classified surveillance systems by tampering with the plane's equipment.

"I really don't worry that much" about the safety of crew members, Alfredo De Jesus said, "because I know that they're not going to be abused, and it's just a waiting game. It's just politics."

Amanda De Jesus said she moved to Long Beach about five years ago, after her daughter Sierra, 7, was transferred to several bases before landing in Japan.

Edmunds' girlfriend in Texas, Amanda De Jesus said she knows her son is acting courageously.

"He's always been gutsy," she said.

Once, while stationed in Texas, Edmunds was among a group of military men who volunteered hours and hours of their time to help people rebuild their tornado-torn houses after their military shifts had ended. He was even awarded an award for his work, his mother said.

Edmunds told his friends that his mother would be "upset to know that he was working for no money.

"But no," she said softly, "I was proud of him."

ON H. RES. 91 AND H. RES. 56

HON. FRANK R. WOLF
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to speak on the floor yesterday when the resolutions on the human rights situation in China and Tibet and in Cuba were debated. I was attending a funeral in my district and on an official trip to Japan.

I am an original co-sponsor of both of these resolutions and I am pleased that both were considered by the House.

Given the events in China this past week, it is important that the House adopted H. Res. 56 which expresses the sense of the House urging the appropriate representative of the U.S. to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce at the annual meeting in Geneva of the commission a resolution calling upon the People’s Republic of China (PRC) to end its human rights violations in China and Tibet.

Mr. Speaker, we can look to the China section of the 2000 State Department’s Annual Report on Human Rights to see the deplorable human rights record of the PRC: “The Government’s poor human rights record worsened, and it committed serious abuses.”

This same human rights report says that the “PRC is an authoritative state . . . that frequently interferes in judicial processes, and the Party and the Government’s direct verdicts in many high-profile cases.”

It is appropriate that the U.S. introduce this resolution at the U.N. because it is the right thing to do in face of China’s alarming human rights record as described further in the State Department human rights report:...
I am proud to co-sponsor both of these resolutions because the U.S. needs to be on the side of pursuing justice and speaking truth to power. I am hopeful that the U.S. will lead in the efforts in Geneva to speak truth to the authoritarian regimes of Cuba and China.

**MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001**

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, March 29, 2001**

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, Getting married shouldn’t mean saying ‘I do;’ to higher taxes. In my state of New York over one and a half million couples are burdened by the marriage penalty, nearly $60,000 in my district alone. This occurs when married couples pay more than an unmarried couple with the same income.

For example two individuals, living together, but not married, each with incomes of $30,000—their combined standard deduction would be $9,100 and their tax rate would be 15%. If that same couple got married, their standard deduction would drop to $7,189 and they would move into the 28% tax rate. The only difference is that they got married.

We should eliminate this inequality by widening the 15% tax bracket to allow joint filers to have two times the income of individuals and still remain taxed at 15%. We should also double the standard deduction for joint filers to twice that of singles. We’re talking about people who work hard and play by the rules. At a time when parents are working harder for less money, we need to encourage families, not punish them. Ending the marriage penalty is particularly urgent for the middle-class. This is a wrong that should have been righted a long time ago—making the tax code more fair while providing families with meaningful tax relief for the things that matter—buying a home, ensuring quality family medical care, and sending kids to college.

**NAVY EP–3 AIRCRAFT IN CHINA**

**HON. SUSAN DAVIS**

**OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2001**

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the emergency landing of the Navy EP–3 aircraft in China demonstrates the nature of the risk that our service members endure each day. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, brave men and women put themselves in the face of danger.

My heart goes out to those on the ground in China and to their families who anxiously await their return. I call on President Bush and President Jiang to engage in a dialogue that results in the quickest possible reunion of our Navy personnel and their families.

As we all wait, let us remember the dangers abroad and the sacrifices endured by our service members. Let us also remember the demands that military service places on their families.

I recently spoke with a young woman who had just recently married a young sailor. Until now, she had always expected her husband to return home each night. Now the impact of being a Navy wife hits home. There is always the possibility that “he may not come home.”