

involving leaders from Israel and Palestine, the purpose has not changed: to emphasize the principles and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as the best means of achieving reconciliation and peace in a troubled world.

Our Nation is challenged as never before to deal with religious extremism and the increasing militarism of certain faiths occurring in many countries around the world. That is why I appreciate the example of Kazakhstan, whose president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, is making a considerable effort to deal with religious diversity in his country and in the region. In fact, all of the world's great religions—Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism, are present and thriving in Kazakhstan, thanks to a climate of tolerance and openness in that country.

Kazakhstan today is a model of religious diversity. One half of the country's 15 million people are Muslim and roughly one-half are Orthodox Christian, with 40 other religions and 100 ethnic minorities among its citizens. Leaders of the major religious sects, including Russian Orthodox and other Christian as well as Jewish leaders, all say there is full freedom of religion in Kazakhstan.

Pope John Paul II, on a visit to Kazakhstan, called it an "example of harmony between men and women of different origins and beliefs." Kazakhstan is emerging as an example of regional stability given its positive atmosphere regarding religious expression and lack of interethnic and inter-religious conflicts.

In September 2003, Kazakhstan hosted the first ever congress of leaders of world and traditional religions. Upon conclusion of the congress, 120 religious leaders from 18 different religions unanimously adopted a declaration renouncing terrorism and promoting the true values of all religions—tolerance, truth, justice and love of one another as the basic tenets of all religious teachings. The delegates pledged to combat violence by propagating the peaceful values of their different faiths.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to learn that Mr. Nurtai Abikayev, who is Speaker of the Upper House and chairman of Kazakhstan's National Security Council, will be attending this year's National Prayer Breakfast and a featured speaker at the International Luncheon. It demonstrates not only President Nazarbayev and Speaker Abikayev's personal commitment to the idea of religious tolerance in their country and throughout Central Asia, but to also learn more about our country's tradition and beliefs and how America's religious and ethnic diversity has also become a source of strength in our Nation.

As one who sits on the House International Relations Committee, I have come to appreciate the difficulty and challenge these countries face in making the transition to Western-style democracies where freedom and free markets are new experiences. It has been uneven, to be sure, and there is plenty of room for criticism. But I do applaud Kazakhstan's leadership and example in insuring that religious freedom will be a cornerstone of building a freer society in that country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by inserting into the RECORD the Declaration of the Participants of the First Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

ARTHRITIS PREVENTION, CONTROL AND CURE ACT OF 2005

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to join my colleague Representative PICKERING in introducing the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2005, which authorizes programs and funding that will allow the Federal Government to better coordinate and increase our investment in efforts to prevent, treat, and care for persons with arthritis and related diseases. The bill represents the most significant Federal effort to address arthritis since the passage of the National Arthritis Act a generation ago. The Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2005 addresses this important issue by:

Enhancing the National Arthritis Action Plan by providing additional support to federal, state, and private efforts to prevent and manage arthritis;

Developing a National Arthritis Education and Outreach Campaign to educate the healthcare profession and the public on successful self-management strategies for controlling arthritis;

Organizing a National Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Summit to look at challenges and opportunities related to basic, clinical and translational research and development efforts;

Providing greater attention to the area of juvenile arthritis research through the creation of planning grants for innovative research specific to juvenile arthritis, as well as the prioritization of epidemiological activities focused on better understanding the prevalence, incidence, and outcomes associated with juvenile arthritis; and

Creating incentives to encourage health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology through the establishment of an education loan repayment and career development award programs.

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States with 70 million Americans living with a form of the disease. With the aging of the baby boomers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, predicts the number of people over 65 with arthritis or chronic joint symptoms will double by 2030. Nearly 300,000 children in the United States are living with a form of juvenile arthritis. Arthritis is a painful and debilitating chronic disease affecting men, women and children alike.

Currently, the Federal investment in juvenile arthritis research is only \$23 per affected child. The CDC estimates that the annual cost of medical care for arthritis is \$51 billion, and the annual total costs, including lost productivity, exceed \$86 billion. Early diagnosis, treatment, and appropriate management of arthritis are critical in controlling symptoms and improving quality of life.

In 1975, nearly 30 years ago, Senator Alan Cranston of California introduced the last major piece of arthritis legislation. It was signed into law by President Gerald Ford. The bill, the National Arthritis Act, set our Nation

on an important path in the fight against arthritis. It led to the creation of an institute at NIH focused on arthritis, and laid the foundation for a national arthritis public health strategy.

Today, arthritis is still claiming the lives of millions of Americans and we must reinvigorate our research and education efforts to offer individuals with arthritis more hope for a better life and eventually a cure. I believe the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2005 will do just that.

TRIBUTE TO CARMINE CARRO

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, when residents of Marine Park were being threatened by the New York City Department of Transportation because Parks Department trees were tearing up their sidewalks, Carmine Carro confronted city hall.

When two women from Marine Park broke the gender barrier by competing in a Citywide bocce tournament, Carmine Carro cheered them on.

When vandals sprayed racist graffiti on PS 207 in Marine Park, Carmine Carro donated all the paint and supplies the students needed to whitewash the wall.

When Carmine passed away earlier this week, New York lost a classic. Carmine was an old school New Yorker, devoted to his community, Marine Park, and a dogged advocate for his neighbors.

Carmine moved to Marine Park in the 1960s, and rose to become president of the Marine Park Civic Association—one of the oldest civic associations in New York City. Under Carmine, the MPCA built on its long tradition of making Marine Park one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

Carmine worked every year to organize a Halloween walk attended by as many as 20,000 community members. He served as Park Warden for Marine Park for five years. He was a member of the local school board and vice-chairman of Community Board 18.

Carmine Carro was the Mayor of Marine Park. He represented the best of what New York can be. He will be sorely missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL DANISH

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Danish for his decades of exemplary public service to Colorado. Paul is one of Boulder's outstanding political and journalistic figures, and I want to thank him on behalf of all Boulder's citizens for his fine service as County Commissioner for the past twelve years. He has shared his skills, experience, humor, and passions with us, and he is much treasured in turn by his community.

Born in Chicago, Paul moved with his family to Colorado in the 1940s and attended the

University of Colorado in 1960. He received a bachelor's degree in history from CU and did graduate work in political science. To put his student period in perspective, he was instrumental during his years at CU in the transformation of the University Memorial Center cafeteria from the Indian Grill to the interim Roaring Fork to the lasting Alfred Packer Grill.

Paul Danish's journalism career began with the student newspaper, Silver and Gold, which later changed its name to the Colorado Daily. He has been a reporter for the United Press International, the San Francisco Chronicle, and Boulder's Town and Country Review. He was technical editor for the Joint Institute of Astrophysics in Boulder and the Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research in Beer Sheva, Israel. His work experience includes being a special assistant to the late University of Colorado President Roland Rautenstrauss and editor for Talmey-Drake Research in Boulder.

He served as a Boulder City Council member from 1976 to 1982. In the early 1970s, Boulder residents were seriously concerned about the adverse impact of unplanned growth on the area's environment. Paul authored Boulder's original growth management plan which was passed by the voters in 1976. The Danish Plan limited population growth by restricting the number of building permits that could be issued each year for residential subdivisions. After the expiration of the Danish Plan in 1982, Boulder has continued to successfully manage growth based on his original strategies.

Paul has never hesitated before political rough and tumbles, and in 1995, he won a well-fought four-way campaign to fill the vacancy for Boulder County Commissioner. Who among the 300-some vacancy committee members will ever forget the speech-of-a-lifetime he gave the day of that vote? He has never been 'short' on the free give and take of ideas, or on his irresistible tendency to be honest and forthright, or on time for coffee with a friend.

As a county commissioner, Paul has been very involved in the cleanup and future use of the Rocky Flats site. He has been an effective advocate for an aggressive cleanup, protecting worker safety, and ensuring that former workers are compensated for any adverse health effects they may have encountered while working there. He has also worked tirelessly for sound land-use and sensible growth throughout the county. Citizens of Boulder will miss his tenacious commitment to policies that serve the environment and the education and health of people.

For many years, Paul wrote columns for the Colorado Daily after it became privately owned, and he was a contributing editor to the Soldier of Fortune magazine. His writings are always alive and kicking with subjects ranging from prairie dogs and Greek agoras to national politics and international issues. In person, he combines a distinguished intellect with a genial sense of fun. A volunteer on the way to work for his early campaigns could always find his headquarters by the peals of laughter emanating from his gardens and front door. And he continues to throw great celebration parties in Boulder's finest tradition.

Paul Danish has made important contributions to the protection and preservation of the

quality of life in Boulder County, as well as to the diversity of views in our communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Paul Danish for the courageous stands he has taken for the people of Boulder and his unswerving dedication to principles of free expression. I wish him congratulations on his accomplishments and good health and happiness to him and his family in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRETT ALEXANDER SISTO UPON HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Brett Alexander Sisto of Eagle Scout troop No. 204 in Lafayette, California, as he receives the distinguished honor of the Eagle Scout rank.

The honor of Eagle Scout is given only to those young men who have demonstrated that they have fulfilled its rigorous requirements, including living by the Scout Oath and Law, rising through the Boy Scout ranks, earning 21 merit badges, serving as a leader, and planning and leading a service project for their community. This is not an honor given out lightly: this young man is becoming an Eagle Scout because he is intelligent, dedicated, and principled.

I am proud to call Brett Alexander Sisto my constituent, for he is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. Indeed, he represents the best of the young people in our country. I extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family, on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYEE CHANGING ROOM PRIVACY ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, with my colleague, Congressman ROB ANDREWS, I am introducing the Employee Changing Room Privacy Act.

This legislation would prohibit the video or audio monitoring of an employee in any area on an employer's premises where an employee changes clothing.

Unfortunately, there have been a number of cases where employers have been caught engaging in secret surveillance via video or audio equipment of their employees in these situations on the job site.

For example, the Wall Street Journal reported that 19 locomotive engineers sued their employer in Oakland County (Michigan) Circuit Court, charging that their employer had hidden a camera in a locker-room exit sign. A worker at a State college was shocked to discover that her employer had secretly videotaped her changing her clothes in her office after work.

A waitress at a restaurant was spied on in the employee changing room when she got dressed for work.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few examples of the conduct that the legislation Congressman ANDREWS and I are introducing today is intended to prevent. The Employee Changing Room Privacy Act would help ensure that workers can go to work without wondering whether their employer has hidden a video camera in the bathroom or a microphone in the office ceiling.

Under the Employee Changing Room Privacy Act, an employer who violates the prohibition against video or audio monitoring of any area on an employer's premises where workers change clothing would be liable to the U.S. Government for a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary of Labor to seek injunctive relief against an employer so as to stop future violations of the prohibitions contained in the legislation.

Enactment of the Employee Changing Room Privacy Act would strengthen the right to privacy at a time when the growing use of surveillance technologies at the workplace has endangered this most fundamental of American values.

CONGRATULATING THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE SCHOOL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Page Board, it gives me great pleasure and pride to rise to congratulate our own House Page School for ranking first in the Nation among small-size schools in Advanced Placement U.S. History, based upon 2004 AP test scores.

The school of 72 students, all enrolled in a junior-year high school curriculum, had the highest percentage in its category of its total student population scoring three or higher out of a total five on the AP U.S. History examination, as reported in the College Board's 2005 Advanced Placement Report to the Nation.

This is a notable achievement for our Page Program. Because of the high demands of the Pages' work schedule, traditional AP courses are not offered at the school and Pages must therefore prepare for the AP exam on their own, assisted by an enhanced honors program with an emphasis on AP exam preparation. We should be justifiably proud of our House Pages who rise to attend classes at 6:45 a.m., after which they report to the House floor for a day's work helping the House of Representatives. For most all of them, this experience is their first long excursion away from home, family, and friends. That they have brought distinction to themselves and to their school is testament to their scholarly abilities, hard work, and dedication of their teachers.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the Page School principal, Linda Miranda, our Government/U.S. History instructor, Ron Weitzel, the other school faculty, the Page