

I have also been pleased to see that discussions between the Dalai Lama's envoys and Chinese officials have resumed and that a third round of meetings took place last September in Beijing.

It is my hope that both sides will build upon these meetings and that President Hu, with his knowledge and understanding of the Tibetan people, will come to appreciate the international goodwill that would be fostered by his willingness to meet with the Dalai Lama and pursue a reasonable solution to the Tibet issue.

Despite the slow pace of progress over the years, I remain confident that if the Chinese leadership will only sit down with the Dalai Lama and listen openly to his views, that a sustainable solution providing for the preservation of the distinctive identity, religious and cultural heritage for the Tibetan people can be found.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION'S SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a group of Americans who are constantly seeking to improve upon their skills and pursue excellence in their passion and vocation.

Beginning today, chefs, cooks, students and foodservice professionals from Southeastern America will gather in Roanoke, VA for a 4-day conference hosted by the American Culinary Federation's Southwestern Virginia Chapter. The event serves as an invaluable opportunity for these culinarians to share their immense skill and knowledge with others in their profession. It provides a chance for these culinary artists to create new relationships and foster old ones, and for senior and master chefs to inspire the aspiring junior chefs.

The conference will honor a number of individuals for excellence in their trade, with the following distinctions being awarded: chef of the year award, pastry chef of the year award, and student member of the year award. These individuals will then compete at the national conference of the American Culinary Federation to receive the national award in each division.

In addition to the work the American Culinary Federation does to promote the art of cooking and to enhance the dining experience for those who indulge in a meal prepared by these talented individuals, the ACF also works hard to fight childhood hunger across the nation by providing nutrition-based education programs to children in preschool through grade five. Chefs work to increase the awareness of childhood hunger and poverty, and help to train food-relief agencies.

I am pleased that the Southwestern Virginia Chapter of the American Culinary Federation will host such a talented and compassionate group of Americans in the great town of Roanoke. I wish them continued success in their culinary endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, MO, on its 150th anniversary.

The First Baptist Church has had a long and proud history, coinciding with the history of Kansas City. The church was organized on April 21, 1855, by a group of 10 men and women in the small settlement along the Missouri River incorporated as the City of Kansas. The first pastor was the Reverend R.S. Thomas. In 1859 the congregation completed its first building at Eighth and May Streets in downtown Kansas City.

In 1880, a new church building was completed on the southwest corner of Twelfth and Baltimore, later the side of the Hotel Muehlebach. The growth of the congregation and the city dictated relocation of the church in the early 1900s. A new site was chosen at Linwood Boulevard and Park Avenue while a West Side Branch of the church was established at Thirteenth and Broadway to serve the needs of downtown residents. Both buildings were dedicated in 1909. From 1909 and 1942, First Baptist Church ministered in two very different locations. After our country's entry in World War II, changing conditions and needs brought the decision to end the West Side ministry. The property was sold to the Salvation Army.

In 1960, the congregation voted to establish a branch church in the southern part of Kansas City. The new colonial-style church building was completed in 1963 at the northwest corner of Wornall Road and Red Bridge Road. There have since been two additions to the original structure. The First Baptist Church of Kansas City was once again ministering at two locations within the city. In 1982, the Linwood Boulevard building was sold to the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. Since that time, the church's single location has been at Red Bridge and Wornall.

Throughout its 150 years, First Baptist Church of Kansas City, MO, has striven to maintain its concern for and involvement in the entire Kansas City community. Its pastors and members have often assumed leadership positions in civic affairs, especially during a time when Kansas City was fighting to end political corruption within the local government and later when Kan-

sas City worked to bring an end to discrimination in public facilities and housing.

The First Baptist Church of Kansas City has strongly supported the home mission and foreign mission programs of their denomination. Many of their members have served in foreign mission fields, including two who are presently working in Hong Kong. The church has always been involved in ecumenical relationships with other churches, other denominations and other faiths in their community, in our nation, and throughout the world by their membership in the Baptist World Alliance.

I commend the congregation of First Baptist Church of Kansas City on their commitment to maintain high standards of worship, music, and fellowship. I am pleased to join with the Kansas City community and the State of Missouri in congratulating the congregation and wishing them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.●

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—PM 9

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2005, to the Federal Register for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the Federal Register on March 12, 2004 (69 FR 12051).

The crisis between the United States and Iran constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine Middle East peace, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy