

Areas of human rights and religious tolerance are slowly progressing although much more could be done. About one fourth of Egypt's 65 million population lives in Cairo and huge numbers live in abject poverty. We visited one of five "garbage cities" in Cairo. These are huge garbage dumps where hordes of the poorest live and eke out an existence by sorting, selling and using garbage under indescribably horrific conditions.

Under Egyptian law, a church cannot be built without approval of the president. Until recently, this restriction also applied to existing churches being allowed to make even the most minor repairs. Although the law remains unchanged, authority to allow repairs has now been delegated to the presidentially appointed governors. It is uncertain how successful this new delegation of authority will be.

President Mubarak said that the concept of discriminating against people is not the policy of Egypt. Many Copts with whom I spoke agreed that there is little if any systematic government persecution. Still, in the course of daily life, with virtually no important government or other positions filled by Coptic Christians, interpretation of laws and regulations, judgments between Copts and other Egyptians, the meting out of routine rulings and the normal conduct of business imposes hardships and unfairness on Copts. Clearly, there are difficulties being faced by Coptic Christians. Many would agree with the statement in an Australian report on Copts in Egypt that "although the government of Egypt would like to believe that keeping silent about the issues will make them go away, it's clear the government could do more to insure the Coptic minority is treated equally."

I would also like to thank the staff at the American Embassy and particularly Ms. Molly Phee who accompanied us during our stay in Cairo. Our Foreign Service corps does an exceptional job under trying and demanding conditions.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Hilleary Amendment which would cut critical funding for the Housing Opportunities for People with Aids program. While I certainly understand the need to support our veterans, this amendment looks to cut funding from the wrong place. It would result in an approximately ten percent cut in a program that makes housing available to the over 100,000 veterans living with AIDS. The HOPWA program is the only federal housing program designed to address the housing crisis of the AIDS epidemic and it pro-

vides vital assistance to 52,000 individuals in 29 states. HOPWA is cost effective and provides needed care and housing for individuals who would otherwise be without a place to live.

Even with last year's increase in funding, Connecticut and the Hartford and New Haven areas actually saw a decrease of \$480,000 in funding because new areas became eligible for funds. A further cut in funding will make precious HOPWA dollars even more scarce particularly since seven new jurisdictions are expected to qualify for funds in fiscal year 1999.

Connecticut is a leader in AIDS housing, and at one time boasted the only statewide AIDS residence coalition in the nation. But even in a state that runs an effective AIDS housing program, the need for funding is great. In 1997, as many as 400 requests for housing in Connecticut were denied solely on the basis of the lack of space. The alternative for many of those denied housing is homelessness, something none of us should feel comfortable with.

Finally, let me talk about the cost of AIDS housing. The average cost of an acute care hospital bed for an AIDS patient is \$1,085 per day, while the cost of HOPWA community housing is far cheaper at a cost of only between \$55 to \$110 a day. In fact, HOPWA programs save an estimated \$47,000 per person per year on emergency medical expenses. The HOPWA program is cost-effective, while providing quality care for people living with AIDS.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and to support funding for this important housing program.

IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American GI Forum of the United States, a truly outstanding organization that has served our Nation's veterans for fifty years. They are dedicated to addressing critical issues affecting veterans, with special emphasis on Hispanic American veterans and their families.

Hispanic Americans have always been willing to fight for America's freedom and to defend our peace. They know what it means to wear the uniform of our country and to be willing to bear any sacrifice to keep America free. The American GI Forum has helped to resolve problems of discrimination or inequality endured by Hispanic American veterans.

The American GI Forum is a national veterans family organization and was founded on March 26, 1948, in Corpus Christi, Texas by the late Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a medical doctor who was a veteran of World War II, and other Hispanic American veterans.

The American GI Forum has more than 500 chapters in the United States and Puerto Rico. Although the Forum is predominantly Hispanic, it is a fully interracial organization. The American GI Forum is made up of three separate groups—the Veterans Forum, the Women's Forum, and the Youth Forum.

The American GI Forum is the founding organization of the American GI Forum Hispanic Educational Foundation (HEF), a national educational and scholarship program. It was also the founding organization of the American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc. (NVOP), which is the Nation's premier nonprofit community based service provider of employment and training, economic development, housing, and social service programs.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in saluting the members of the American GI Forum. Their hard work and dedication for America's veterans have set an example for all of us, I congratulate the American GI Forum on their fiftieth anniversary and I wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

1998 UNITED STATES SINGLES AND PAIRS LAWN BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring your attention to the 1998 United States Singles and Pairs Lawn Bowls Championship, sponsored by The American Lawn Bowling Association and The American Women's Lawn Bowls Association (ALBA/AWLBA), which will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 17–August 21, 1998.

The sport of lawn bowls, also known as bowling on the green, has been played throughout Europe in various forms since it was introduced by soldiers of the Roman empire. Similar to the games of bocce ball and curling, it was one of the first sports introduced to the New World. Records show that Williamsburg, Virginia had a bowling green as early as 1632, and that another green was built in 1670 at what is now Bowling Green, Virginia. The American Lawn Bowls Association, one of the oldest national sports federations in our country, was founded in 1915, and since 1918 has consistently sponsored a national championship. During the 1930's, the Works Progress Administration built greens at a number of public parks across the country, and the sport experienced a small boom. It declined after World War II, but began to rebound in the mid-1970's, and has gained considerable popularity in California and in areas of Florida, particularly around St. Petersburg.

Although lawn bowls has been thought of as a pastime primarily enjoyed by senior citizens, the game is beginning to attract more young players as a competitive sport and leisure activity. Over eight thousand people, some over 70 years old, are affiliated with ALBA/AWLBA, and compete in numerous lawn bowl clubs in every region of the country. ALBA/AWLBA is committed to promoting the benefits associated with the sport in hopes of expanding participation in lawn bowling. Studies have shown that for a variety of reasons, Americans young and old, are becoming more sedentary. Many health problems can be avoided by the inclusion of a regular regimen of exercise. The inclusion of a physical activity such as the game of lawn bowls, is essential for the maintenance of good health and mental spirits.

In my district, the 7th Congressional District of Washington, the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowls

Club is a leader in the national effort to involve youth in lawn bowling. According to Susan Parker, 1998 U.S. Championship Committee Co-Chair, the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowls Club is working to introduce lawn bowling as a lifetime physical activity to Metropolitan King County young people through schools, the Seattle Parks Department, and such youth organizations as Big Sisters and Boy Scouts. Pacific Northwest clubs also are enlisting senior citizen and retiree organizations in this intergenerational effort to promote lawn bowling.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in commending the efforts of ALBA/AWLBA to encourage a healthy lifestyle through sports such as lawn bowling. Mr. Speaker, I am confident all my colleagues join me in extending best wishes for a successful 1998 U.S. lawn bowling championship tournament in Seattle.

HONORING DAVID C. HUDAK OF
THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE
SERVICE

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, this Friday marks the retirement of a distinguished and dedicated public servant in my home State of Indiana. Mr. David C. Hudak is the Supervisor of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Office in Bloomington. His retirement caps a distinguished and dedicated career in Wildlife Biology spanning more than three decades.

Dave's resume has developed over the years to reflect his continual commitment to nature and the environment through wilderness conservation. He is a man who does not merely support these causes from the sidelines, but has led the effort by setting an example and working passionately to preserve the vulnerable balances of nature.

While Dave has been honored with many awards for his work, talent, and his ability to educate, the true measure of his accomplishments is the impact he has had on both the people he has worked with, and on the environment in the State of Indiana. I believe the real reward for Dave is the knowledge that he has made significant contributions to conservation in our country. His work will have a real and lasting impact, and for that we are grateful. Our state is a better place to live thanks to his efforts.

By being such a strong friend to nature, Dave Hudak has been a strong friend to Hoosiers. His dynamism and devotion will be missed. I ask everyone who has had the privilege to knowing him to join with me in wishing him the best.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM BOYD
OWEN

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America is strong because of its millions of

citizens who work hard and provide futures for themselves and their families. They build professions, businesses, jobs, and they build strong communities through endless hours of service.

It's my privilege today to recognize one of those individuals who has been a leader in his profession, his community, and a respected and revered father and grandfather, William Boyd Owen.

Born in Dellwood, North Carolina on August 16, 1918, W. Boyd Owen was the youngest of three physician brothers in a medical family which spans several generations and includes his son, William B. Owen Jr., a Haywood County, North Carolina orthopedic surgeon.

Boyd attended Canton, North Carolina public schools before entering Wake Forest College in Wake Forest, North Carolina where he displayed many talents. Young Boyd played basketball, and played the saxophone and clarinet with an orchestra while in college. In 1939, he played for Wake Forest in the very first post season NCAA basketball tournament. After graduation, he entered the Wake Forest Medical School, later transferring to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School where he earned his medical degree at the age of twenty-three.

Dr. Owen interned at Philadelphia General Hospital, then entered the United States Army Medical Corps in 1943. He remained in the medical corps until 1946, attaining the rank of major. He served in Hawaii, the United States and the Philippines, and after leaving active duty, he remained in the inactive reserves for six years.

In 1946, he opened a general medical practice in Waynesville. In 1947 he "covered" the Canton practice of his older brother Dr. Charles Owen. Meanwhile his own practice grew until he built the present Owen-Smith Clinic in 1954 after being joined by Dr. A. Heyward Smith. In 1962 he was elected to the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, serving for six years including the last year as president.

Dr. Owen's career has spanned the time period when he could not get a new car because of war-time conditions and he was paid with chickens and wood, to present-day medicine which utilizes computers, lasers and high-tech surgical procedures. He is a member and founding fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice, life member of the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Academy of Family Practitioners.

Dr. Owen has been a member of the Wake Forest Board of Trustees since 1954, longer than any living member. He served on the Trustee Athletic Committee as chairman and was also on the Executive Committee. In 1991, Dr. Owen was made a life trustee. For two decades he belonged to the Wake Forest President's Club, and he worked as class agent for several medical classes. Dr. Owen was president of the Bowman Gray Medical School Alumni and earned a citation for distinguished service. In 1989, he chaired the Medical Center Board which encompasses the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

Active in the First Baptist Church of Waynesville, Dr. Owen has served as deacon, trustee and chaired a variety of committees.

He has been a member and former president of the Lions Club, the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce, the "30 Club" and is now a member of the Rotary Club.

Dr. Owen recently retired after fifty-one years in active practice and resides in Waynesville. His wife of more than 50 years is the former Helen Bryan. Their four children are: Elizabeth Owen Taylor, William Boyd Owen, Jr., James Griffin Owen and Mary Owen Davis. All four children graduated from Wake Forest University as did his wife, Helen. Helen's father, D.B. Bryan, was Dean of Wake Forest College for 26 years. He is the proud grandfather of eleven grandchildren one of whom is now enrolled at Wake Forest University.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 37th Congressional District of California, my family, my staff and the American people, I wish to express our most heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the wives, children and extended families of United States Capitol Police Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut as we pay homage to the nobility of service they rendered and their ultimate sacrifice: their lives. I was deeply saddened to learn of the turn of events that led to this tragedy. Their sacrifice is a terrible reminder of the risk the men and women of the United States Capitol Police and all law enforcement personnel face on a daily basis in order to protect us and our ability to serve the American people.

Words are unable to capture the breadth and depth of the sorrow I and the members of my staff feel.

Yet, Friday's event is a reminder to those of us whose lives are consumed in the work of this building that real bonds of friendship, camaraderie and a sense of family can and do, indeed, develop. And, as in most families, sometimes we take one another for granted. The simple pleasantries we extend to one another can become all too routine and oftentimes, distracted by the burdens of the work we perform. Unfortunately, a tragedy like this one makes us aware of both the significance and the fragility of our relationships, our responsibilities and our friendships. Let their sacrifice not only serve as a reminder of the costs associated with duty, service and commitment, but let it also serve as a reminder of our own mortality and humanity.

I hope the circumstances surrounding the events on Friday, July 24, 1998 will serve as a reflection in our having known these fine officers, who were dedicated and committed, and the reality that much too often their ultimate form of service could be their lives. Their heroism and their duty to the People's House and to all of us is the epitome of patriotism. May God grant the families the strength to endure!