

form of religion. For example, the brother of the woman who was murdered by Carla Fay Tucker is strongly against the death penalty for reasons of religion. He met with his sister's killer while she was on death row. He forgave her and she responded with tears and apologies. We killed this woman anyway. Bud Welch's daughter, Julie, died in the Oklahoma City bombing, and still he does not support the execution of Timothy McVay. He rejects legal murder for reasons of his religion, and also other moral issues such as the sanctity of life.

Another moral point that is important to make is the fact that we are trying to teach people that murder is wrong by committing it. By the logic of our government, we then killed and are wrong, and deserve to be killed as well.

RENA Y THOMPSON: It is interesting to note that the United States is the only developed country that still uses the death penalty. Other countries in the same category with the U.S. on this issue are China, Iraq, India, North Korea, and Cuba, among others.

We would like to see a Federal abolition of capital punishment like the one from 1972 to 1976. As an alternative to the death penalty, we suggest life penalties without parole. These would be less costly, and the millions of dollars per prisoner saved could be reallocated into a fund to build a greater quantity of more secure prisons.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: That is an excellent presentation.

STATEMENT BY ALIA STAVRAND WOOLF  
REGARDING CHARTER SCHOOLS

ALIA STAVRAND WOOLF: For the record, my name is Alia Stavrand Woolf. I am a ninth grader at the Gailer School.

All right. I used to go to the Shelburne Community School, and it wasn't working for me. Classes had no depth, and math was going agonizingly slowly. The only school work I enjoyed was my independent study. Students generally weren't allowed to broaden their studies. So students who already "got it" were asked to help the other students in the class learn the material.

Well, this sounds great in principle, and does work up to a point. But after a while, it got to me. Think about what it would be like if all day, every day, you had to watch Jeopardy reruns and you couldn't turn the TV off because, during the commercials, you were expected to explain the answers to your nextdoor neighbor.

I became a difficult student because I felt like I was wasting my time in school and not learning nearly as much as I could. By the end of fifth grade, my parents and I were pretty tired of trying to work within the system. When we moved to Charlotte that year, we decided it was time to look at what educational options were open. We asked the Charlotte public school if I could skip a grade so I could be more challenged in school. They said no. We considered home schooling, but both my parents work.

After a lot of looking, we found a private school in Middlebury called the Gailer School. It integrates different disciplines and incorporates independent study and community service. We met with the headmaster, and he actually talked with me, not to me, about what I wanted to learn. But private school tuition was not in the budget. I would have to start doing a lot more chores around the house, like all of the laundry, vacuuming, lawn mowing, taking care of my brother, a lot of work, so my mom could work more hours. I would also have to get on the bus at 7:00 a.m. to ride to Middlebury and wouldn't get home until 5:00 at night. This was no easy decision for my parents or for me.

Most public school classes are aimed at the average student. When you think about it, only one percent of students will be perfectly average. There are always special education classes, but not nearly so often are there advanced placement offerings.

All ends of the spectrum need to be addressed. A student should not have to go to private school to have their needs addressed, and it is mainly the elite who can choose an appropriate education for their child. Shouldn't there be the opportunity for all students to be challenged?

Students now come from as far south as Rutland, as far north as Fairfax, and as far east as Rochester to go the Gailer School in Middlebury. This should send a clear message to lawmakers that many students care so deeply about their education that they are willing to make significant sacrifices.

There is simply not enough scholarship money out there so that all students who want to can go to private school. Frequently, students start at private schools, but then have to drop out for financial reasons. While I am fortunate that my family has been able to send me to private school, it should not be only the economically elite who have access to alternative education.

I think a solution to this problem is federal legislation encouraging states to institute charter schools. Options would then open up for disadvantaged students. Because charter schools are still technically public schools, any student could go to the school of their choice. Students, like adults, need options; no school fits all students, just like no company is right for all workers.

In our free-market society, students need the best grade school education they can get, because they will have to compete for good colleges and jobs. I do not understand why our system of public schools is set up like a protectorate. It seems like more effort goes into maintaining the status quo than offering kids like me an excellent education.

Students deserve the opportunity to attend charter schools that are innovative and visionary. I see charter schools as an especially exciting opportunity for all students who are not average to have their talents appreciated and their interests encouraged. I love learning, and I learn best when I love my school.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much for an excellent presentation.

A DEMOCRATIC TAIWAN WILL  
CONTINUE TO FLOURISH

HON. ROBERT SMITH

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, during President Clinton's visit to China, President Clinton mentioned that the United States would not support Taiwan independence, the "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" concepts and ROC's membership in organizations that require statehood.

Congress's reaction to Clinton's statement has been strong. The United States Senate passed a resolution 92-0 on July 10, reaffirming United States commitment to Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act. A similar resolution passed the House by a 390-1 vote on July 21. On the same day, Taiwan Foreign Minister Jason Hu thanked the United States lawmakers for their friendship and support.

In Washington, in a press interview prior to Clinton's Shanghai statement on the three

no's, Taiwan Representative Stephen Chen said, "The Republic of China in 1998 is no longer the ROC of 1949. How many countries in the world can compare with the Republic of China in its development of freedom, democracy, equitable distribution of wealth and human rights? The Republic of China in 1998 will not be sacrificed by anyone." Chen expressed full confidence in Taiwan's future as long as the people in Taiwan rely upon themselves and adhere to the principles of full democratization. He concluded that a democratic Taiwan will continue to flourish.

Meanwhile President Lee Teng-hui has instructed the Foreign Ministry to evaluate the Clinton-Jiang summit's possible impact in the following areas: human rights, democracy, regional peace and stability, and further dialogue with the People's Republic of China on resolution of disputes between the two sides. On July 22, President Lee stated unequivocally that China must become unified. Unification, he said, must be under a system of democracy, freedom and equal prosperity to ensure the well being of the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD C. COLLINS  
AND THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 1998*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the United States Armed Forces, including Richard C. Collins, a World War II veteran of the United States Navy who resides in my congressional district in Yucca Valley, California. Mr. Collins served this nation honorably from October 1941 until the end of the war in 1945. While stationed at the Great Highway Loop Station near Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, he was a sonar man who helped ensure the safety of this Nation during the Pacific Campaign of World War II.

The work of Mr. Collins and the entire Armed Services during the War was admirable. It is my understanding that, while stationed in San Francisco, Mr. Collins was one of the men connected with breaking the Japanese intelligence code for the second time which enabled the Navy to interpret Japanese messages for the remainder of the War. This was a historically significant event as it helped put America on the course toward victory in the Pacific. Breaking the Japanese code helped shorten the War, thus saving thousands of American and Japanese lives. The efforts of the Navy and other services truly were heroic and all Americans are in their debt.

Being a citizen of the United States is a privilege that no one should take for granted. We all owe a great deal of gratitude and respect to the men and women of the Armed Forces who risk their lives every day to uphold the democratic principles of the United States and make this Nation safe. Without the service of men like Richard Collins and our other brave soldiers, America would not be the land of the free and we would not have the liberty that so many people around the world long for. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Richard Collins and the entire Armed

Forces for their admirable service in protecting this great Nation.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA MUST SETTLE CLAIM OF HILL INTERNATIONAL, INC.

### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 1998*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my respect for the claim filed by Hill International, Inc. against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Hill International is a New Jersey-based company located in the district of my friend and colleague, Representative JIM SAXON, and is one of nearly two dozen companies who filed claims against the Saudi government for tens of millions of dollars in uncompensated engineering work conducted in the late 1970's.

After years of trying to settle these claims, Congress was forced to set up a claims resolution process in 1993. Since then, the Kingdom has settled each claim save one—the \$55.1 million debt owed to Hill International.

During the House consideration of the FY98 Defense Authorization Bill, I supported directive report language offered by Representative SAXON to commission a formal report on the status of remaining claims against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Similar language was by included by Representative CHRIS SMITH in the State Department Reauthorization Bill that passed the House and Senate earlier this year. These efforts are intended to illustrate the lengths to which the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Prince Bander, has been willing to go to deny an American company payment for services rendered.

I am also interested in seeing this matter resolved in memory of the late Representative Bill Emerson, a dear friend of mine and someone who worked diligently on the Hill International claim prior to his passing. Bill Emerson successfully negotiated a claim against the Kingdom in his home district and graciously offered to broker a similar compromise on the Hill International matter. Despite six months of hard work by Representative Emerson and repeated assurances from Prince Bandar that Bill's good faith efforts would be honored, the Saudi's have yet to pay Hill International—full three years after Representative Emerson produced a fair settlement figure.

In that time, Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON has tried to help Hill International implement her husband's compromise, yet repeated requests for a face-to-face meeting with Prince Bandar have gone unheeded.

No matter how large or small the debt, this behavior cannot be tolerated from one of our allies. Until Ambassador Bandar decides to play a leadership role in this matter and until the Hill International claim is settled, my House and Senate colleagues will continue to take to the floor and highlight the Kingdom's failure to honor its debts.

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY ON THE DOORSTEP OF THE CAPITOL

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 1998*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, interest in the idea of a Visitor Center at the U.S. Capitol has increased dramatically as a result of the recent tragedy there. The revival of this interest has been linked closely to the need to improve security and manage the large numbers of guests who arrive every day at this shrine of American democracy.

Prior to the recent shooting incident I contacted Congressman JOHN MICA and told him I would like to sponsor his bill to build a Visitor Center at the Capitol. My motivation was not security or visitor management, although these desirable purposes were compatible and complementary to my own interest. My interest was to pursue an idea that originated with my late husband, Congressman Walter Capps, to establish an exhibit and education center to explain, demonstrate, and involve visitors in gaining a better understanding of the "foundations of democracy."

During his short tenure in Congress, Walter became very interested in the fact that thousands of visitors from across the nation and all over the world flood the halls of the Capitol every day. These visitors are thrilled to pay homage to this shrine to the first successful experiment in a representative democratic government. Walter was struck by the fact that a visitor to the Capitol had very limited opportunities to learn about how our democracy works beyond how a bill becomes a law and what has made our own experiment so successful. He was also impressed that there were very few other opportunities in Washington, a city full of wonderful museums and exhibits on art, culture, technology, and history.

Walter and I shared a vision for a new educational center in Washington that would provide an interactive and multimedia exposure to the essential foundations of our American democracy. These foundations are, in fact, essential to any successful democratic society and perhaps taken for granted in our own country. What are these "foundations"? I am describing, among other elements, representative assemblies, individual freedoms, a free market economy, strong labor unions, vigorous political parties, a decentralized government with effective state and local units, and independent institutions such as academia, the judiciary, and the media.

As one crosses the spacious Eastern Plaza in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol in the middle of any day of the year, the dramatic white marble edifice looms over a cacophony of voices from all over the world, and every corner of our nation. Exotic clothing from other lands blends easily with groups sporting the ubiquitous blue jackets of the Future Farmers. I would love to see Walter's dream become a reality, so that these visitors to "the front door of democracy," the defense of which cost officers Chestnut and Gibson their lives, could return home with a better understanding and appreciation for the fundamental Foundations of that Democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 1998*

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, 1998, I missed rollcall votes 367 through 376 on 10 amendments to the Shays-Meehan Substitute to H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, because I attended the funeral services of the slain Capitol Hill Police Officer Jacob J. Chestnut. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 367, 368, 370, 373, 374, 375, 376 and "aye" on votes 369, 371, 372.

IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN ABNER WEISMAN

### HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 1998*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, when Stephen Weisman passed away this week, America lost more than a noted physician. We lost a man of ingenuity and foresight who dedicated his life to the needs of his country and his community. At the time of his death, Stephen was also a loyal resident of Northbrook in my congressional district, and I am very proud to have represented a physician of his caliber.

Stephen first dedicated a significant portion of his life to the United States Navy. His enlistment in August of 1964 was the springboard from which he rose through the ranks of the Navy, eventually reaching the position of Lt. Commander in just two years. His lifelong dedication to medicine was apparent even at this time, as he fulfilled his duties as the Great Lakes Naval Hospital Medical Corp with great pride and vigor.

After his stint in the armed forces, Stephen narrowed his focus in medicine and became Board certified in both the fields of Internal Medicine and Nephrology. He accepted a position at Highland Park Hospital and began a career that would touch the lives of countless patients in need of his expert care. By establishing himself as one of the most motivated and brightest in his field, Stephen's superiors promoted him to Chief of the Dialysis Unit. His peers at the hospital have already noted and honored his many great deeds at Highland Park Hospital.

Still, it seems the most incredible challenge in Stephen's life was yet to come. Ten years ago, Stephen was diagnosed with cancer, a disease that he so often had seen and diagnosed in his own patients. Instead of crumbling in the face of a life-threatening illness, Stephen rose to the challenge again and helped found the Cancer Wellness Center at Highland Park Hospital. He further decided to continue practicing medicine even in his weakened state. After ten years of fighting cancer, he finally had to cease treatment of his patients just one month ago when his cancer had become severe enough to put him in the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Stephen Weisman set standards for all physicians to admire and a legacy of work that will long endure. I know that I speak for many when I say that we will miss him.