

Assad informed Secretary Christopher that all remaining Jewish families were free to leave Syria. The liberal Jewish emigration procedures soon resumed, and the Department of State informs me that all but 118 Jewish individuals have been granted exit visas and left Syria. The majority of these families decided to resettle in the United States, specifically in Brooklyn, where a thriving Syrian Jewish community of about 35,000 exists. The State Department reports none of these remaining Syrian Jews have reported Syrian government persecution, and that many plan to emigrate soon.

I was first made aware of Syria's emigration policy toward its Jewish community when I met with President Assad this past June in Damascus. In discussion, President Assad referenced this emigration policy as an example of Syria's continuing good faith effort to propel forward the Middle-East peace process. He did not, but some in the Syrian government did, observe that no statement of acknowledgment of Syria's following through on its emigration commitment had ever been entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I wish to correct that oversight now.

Emigration is a basic human right that all responsible nations respect and allow. I commend President Assad for joining the community of nations that seek to guarantee this human right. In an attempt to create a conducive atmosphere toward fostering the peace process, President Assad allowed Syrian Jews to emigrate. Six years have passed since this policy began. It is time that recognition and approbation be properly given.

STATE SENATOR J. DOYLE  
CORMAN, A STATESMAN FOR  
THE PEOPLE

### HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the great statesmen from my District. Sir Walter Scott, one of Scotland's great historical authors and poets, wrote in *The Lady of the Lake* of "[t]he will to do, the soul to dare." No phrase is more attributable to Pennsylvania State Senator J. Doyle Corman. For the last 21 years, Doyle Corman has served as State Senator to the 34th District which includes Centre, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. During this time, I have had the distinct pleasure of representing these counties as part of the Ninth Congressional District and working hand-in-hand with Doyle to help improve the lives of our mutual constituents.

After a stellar career in service to his country and his friends and neighbors, Doyle has decided to retire. His resume speaks for itself: Army veteran, Centre County Commissioner, president of SEDA-COG, State Committeeman, president of Corman Associates, Inc., Republican Chairman of the State Senate Transportation Committee, Republican Policy Chairman, Majority Caucus Administrator, member of the State Transportation Commission, PHEAA board member, and member of the Local Government, Games & Fisheries, and Rules and Executive Nominations committees. The recipient of many honors and

awards, Doyle's success as State Senator leaves behind a powerful legacy to everyone who knows him.

For many years Doyle and I have worked on numerous projects to enhance the safety of our constituents and overall improve our region. One such notable example is the PA Rt. 322 "Missing Link" project in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. Responsible for numerous fatalities, this deadly stretch of two-lane highway was a problem that could only be solved by replacing it with a modern four-lane corridor. Doyle tirelessly worked with the Pennsylvania State Legislature and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to secure the necessary state funding while I acted in a similar capacity on the federal level. Today, I am happy to report that, as a result of our combined efforts, the "Missing Link" is under construction and nearing completion. I can honestly say that without the benefit of Doyle's support and diligent guidance this critical project would still be only a concept.

It has been truly a great honor to work with such a distinguished individual as Doyle, and I am sad to see him go. I congratulate him on a magnificent career and hope he enjoys the best retirement has to offer. In the words of Walter Lippmann, a noted journalist, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." I know for a fact that Doyle has accomplished this task. I am one of the "other men" who will work hard to continue Doyle's legacy.

Even though he is retiring, I know that we have not heard the last from Doyle Corman. As his history has proven, I am sure Doyle will continue to offer his knowledge and expertise when needed. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will join me in celebration of State Senator J. Doyle Corman's extraordinary service to the State of Pennsylvania. He is truly a great man, a great leader, a great American, and I wish him well in private life.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF SAN MATEO

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in recognizing the Community Baptist Church of San Mateo, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on October 11, 1998.

The Community Baptist Church was originally dedicated as the San Mateo Chinese Baptist Community Center in 1948. The primary purpose of the church was to bring Christianity into the lives of Chinese Americans throughout the Peninsula. But what has evolved from this mission is a second purpose which is similarly special and valuable—to provide a community cultural center where the heritage, language, and customs of Chinese Americans are preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Baptist Church of San Mateo was the product of a mission program established by Mother Margarita Garton and the First Baptist Church of Bur-

lingame, California. Community Baptist Church spent many years establishing itself in and contributing to the community, growing and thriving to meet the needs of its rapidly expanding membership. The church's increasing significance was evidence in 1963 by the construction of a sanctuary on its current site on South Humboldt Street in San Mateo. Three years later, Sunday School classrooms were added to the building, and during the 1980's a multi-storied Conference Center and Nursery was erected.

The Community Baptist Church has endeavored to meet the needs of the expanding population of Cantonese-speaking Chinese Americans in San Mateo County. In 1990 the Community Baptist Church initiated full dual ministries in both English and Cantonese, with strong pastoral leadership serving both segments of a unified church. Since 1995, the church has provided the community with weekly classes in the Cantonese language, which have awakened interest in and informed students about their Chinese heritage.

As Community Baptist Church was the product of a mission program, it has continuously supported the American Baptist Mission Program, and the church has been recognized numerous times by the American Baptist Churches, USA for its contributions to this cause.

The church has also served for many years as a learning facility for the Minister-in-Training program for graduate seminary students. These students have gone on to serve as pastors of their own churches or as staff members of the American Budget Churches of the West.

Most notable of its numerous achievements, the Community Baptist Church has developed into a close-knit and supportive family. Many of its young members have grown into strong church and community leaders who now serve throughout California and across our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank the Reverend Norman Owyang and his congregation at the Community Baptist Church for their outstanding contributions to the people of San Mateo and the Peninsula. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Reverend Owyang and the Community Church of San Mateo another half century of prosperity and continuing service to our community.

### PROTECTING ISRAEL

### HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I worked with Mr. SAXTON and Mr. SALMON to introduce a resolution calling on the President to clarify American policy with respect to a unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state. I did this because I feel the administration's policy regarding Israel and the Middle East process has been confusing and misleading not only for the American people, but for the international community at large, and especially for the parties to the peace process itself.

The United States has never endorsed the creation of a Palestinian state. After the signing of Oslo accords, the United States made it clear that all questions of sovereignty and statehood were a matter of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. However,

First Lady Hillary Clinton's public statement this May that "it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state . . . and seen on the same footing as any other state" put U.S. policy on this issue in severe and grave doubt.

Despite official denials by the U.S. State Department and numerous other officials in the administration, the First Lady's remarks were interpreted by many around the world including Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, as "a very important and clear signal" regarding the administration's position. He subsequently threatened to unilaterally declare an independent Palestinian state in May of 1999—after the expiration of the scheduled date for completing the final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The United Nations then voted this past July 7th to elevate the Palestinian observer mission at the United Nations to the status of a full observer mission, a status just short of that accorded an independent state. Media reports in the Middle East indicate that the government of French Premier Lionel Jospin may be prepared to recognize an independent Palestinian state immediately after the end of the interim Oslo accords in May 1999. Just last week in speaking to the United Nations, Yasser Arafat called on world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state—though the State Department had to scramble mightily to prevent him from repeating his threat to declare such a state unilaterally.

Mr. Speaker, what has been missing from this debate over the last several months has been a public—and unequivocal—statement from President Clinton himself that the United States will never recognize the unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state. No amount of denials, statements, or clarifications by Secretary of State Madeline Albright and other functionaries down at the State Department can dispel the confusion and uncertainty about U.S. policy occasioned by the First Lady's remarks. Rightly or wrongly, the reception of many around the world and even in this country is that only President Clinton has the clout to override the influence of the First Lady within his Administration.

For the President to pretend otherwise is to hide his head, and America's in the sand. The need for the President to personally act to clarify the U.S. position was brought home when Yasser Arafat stated on July 15, 1998 that "[t]here is a transition period of five years and after five years we have the right to declare an independent Palestine state. We are asking for an accurate implementation, an honest implementation of what has been signed in the White House under the supervision of President Clinton."

We must remember that Yasser Arafat demands the whole West Bank and has declared that there can be no permanent peace as long as the problem of Jerusalem remains "unresolved." The Palestinian Cabinet, on Thursday, September 24, stated that "at the end of the interim period, it (the Palestinian government) shall declare the establishment of a Palestinian state on all Palestinian land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian state."

It is way past time for the President to declare that the United States will never recognize a unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state; and that Israel, and Israel alone, can determine its security needs. This

was made clear back in June, a month after the First Lady's remarks, when Palestinian National Council Speaker Salim al-Za'nun announced that, "If following our declaration of state, Israel renews its occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza strip, the Palestinian people will struggle and resist the occupier with all means possible, including armed struggle."

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to expedite its consideration.

#### RECOGNITION OF TAMMY LYONS, TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

#### HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tammy Lyons, a constituent from my district, who was recently selected as a finalist for the Department of Education's "Teacher of the Year."

Tammy, a resident of Charlestown, Rhode Island, has earned a great deal of respect and honor from her work as a fourth grade teacher at the Ashaway Elementary School. Her status as a Teacher of the Year finalist is a testament to her dedication to the education and development of her students as well as to the improvement of her school and community.

We have spoken a great deal lately of the importance of preparing our nation's students for the coming years and for the new challenges they will face. This goal will be reached through the dedication of our teachers, and Tammy stands out among their number. Not only does she shine as a teacher of the basic skills that students need, she has also brought new ideas to her community. Her day does not end with the afternoon bell; she helps coordinate an after-school program to help students deal with conflict. Such programs are clearly beneficial to our students, for they instruct the skills of understanding and tolerance, key character traits that are essential in a world that contains many ideas and beliefs.

For the last nine years, Tammy has been an asset to her school and her community by bridging the traditional role of teacher with the new expectations asked of modern educators. I thank Tammy for her dedication and commitment and ask colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this notable accomplishment.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT LEO THE GREAT PARISH

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Saint Leo the Great Parish, a parish that builds on tradition, innovation and education.

In October 1948, St. Leo opened its doors. Father Sylvester Lux was appointed as the first pastor. Constructed to serve the growing communities of the South Hills area of Cleveland, Brooklyn Heights, and the northeast area

of Parma, St. Leo drew its original families from Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Francis DeSales parishes in Cleveland and Parma respectively.

In the spring of 1949, realizing that members of the parish didn't enjoy attending Mass at a public school, a temporary building was erected in three days. In January 1950, construction began on both a new school and a new church. The school opened in September 1950, and inaugural Mass was celebrated in the church on December 24, 1950.

Throughout the last fifty years, pastors have benevolently dedicated themselves to spreading the word of God and developing a parish that contributes to the well-being of its community. Both pastors and parishioners have devoted much of their time to sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, fostering the elderly and educating the youth. These same principles are still emulated today under the direction of Fr. Bob Bielek.

As the 50th anniversary approaches, St. Leo and parishioners are seizing the opportunity to make the world a finer place. Among the events marking the anniversary year is the Habitat for Humanity Adopt a House Project. The parish would become the first Catholic Parish within the city of Cleveland to complete such a project. The project is directly linked to St. Leo's 50th anniversary theme; to "Build a House Where Love Can Dwell."

My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating St. Leo's 50th anniversary, a celebration of service and enhancement that began in 1948 and continues today.

#### CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

#### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friends from Florida, Mr. MCCOLLUM and Mr. FOLEY, for working together to bring this legislation to the floor today. Their hard work is sure to provide greater safety to millions of Americans. I want to thank Mr. MCCOLLUM, especially, who, as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime of the Committee on the Judiciary, has given me his assurances that the provisions in the bill which allow for criminal background checks do not open volunteer organizations to greater liability. As the bill allows qualified entities—certain volunteer organizations—to obtain national criminal fingerprint background checks, it avails organizations that make use of the services generously donated by millions of Americans of a privilege heretofore unavailable to them. I am grateful for Chairman MCCOLLUM's recognition that obtaining criminal fingerprint background checks is a costly process from which, at least at present, results may not be available on a timely basis. Charities must balance the cost, burden, and timeliness of the process against the risk that otherwise qualified individuals may be discouraged from volunteering, and that needed programs may have to be reduced or eliminated to pay for such background checks. The committee included section 222 in the bill to provide an