

major accomplishment and pride. Like so many others, I have been privileged to know him and his family over several decades and join all who gather to pay tribute to him on April 1 in wishing him the best of luck in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on the dates of March 25–27, 1998, I missed votes due to official travel with the President's delegation to Africa.

On March 25, 1998, Rollcall No. 68, H.R. 2589, Copyright Term Extension Act—Licensing Fee Exemption, by Mr. MCCOLLUM, R–FL, amendment to Sensenbrenner amendment, I would have voted aye.

On March 25, 1998, Rollcall No. 69, H.R. 2589, Copyright Term Extension Act—Licensing Fee Exemption, by Mr. SENSENBRENNER, R–WI, amendment, I would have voted nay.

On March 25, 1998, Rollcall No. 70, H.R. 2578, Visa Waiver Pilot Program—Refusal Rate, by Mr. POMBO, R–CA, amendment, I would have voted aye.

On March 25, 1998, Rollcall No. 71, H.R. 2578, Visa Waiver Pilot Program—Passage, I would have voted aye.

On March 26, 1998, Rollcall No. 72, H.R. 3310, Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act Amendments—Waiver Policies, by Mr. KUCINICH, D–Ohio, amendment, I would have voted aye.

On March 26, 1998, Rollcall No. 73, H.R. 3310, Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act Amendments—Waiver Policies, by Mr. MCINTOSH, R–Indiana, amendment, I would have voted nay.

On March 26, 1998, Rollcall No. 74, H.R. 3310, Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act Amendments—Passage, I would have voted nay.

On March 26, 1998, Rollcall No. 75, H.Res. 385, waiving points of order against conference report on H.R. 1757 (State Department Authorization)—Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted nay.

On March 26, 1998, Rollcall No. 76, H. Res. 393, providing for the consideration of H.R. 3246 (Fairness for Small Business and Employees Act)—Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted nay.

On March 26, 1998, Rollcall No. 77, H.R. 3246, Fairness for Small Business and Employees Act—Job Applicant Protection, by Mr. GOODLING, R–Penn, amendment, I would have voted aye.

On March 26, 1998, Rollcall No. 78, H.R. 3246, Fairness for Small Business and Employees Act—Passage, I would have voted nay.

On March 27, 1998, Rollcall No. 79, H.R. 2515, Forest Recovery and Protection Act—Roads, by Mr. BOEHLERT, R–NY, amendment, I would have voted aye.

On March 27, 1998, Rollcall No. 80, H.R. 2515, Forest Recovery and Protection Act—Passage, I would have voted nay.

FAMINE IN NORTH KOREA

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring a grave situation to the attention of my colleagues.

As we hurry away to recess, we all have many things on our minds. But by the time we return in a few weeks, millions of people halfway around the world will be facing the worse famine to threaten any people since a million died in Ethiopia a decade ago.

That experience seared all who witnessed that famine's horror. And, as many of our colleagues know, it transformed me in a fundamental way. I went to Ethiopia just before the world learned what was happening there and watched a dozen children die in a single day. Since then, I have seen other famines, and genocides, and humanitarian disasters, and I have committed myself to doing whatever can be done to ease the suffering of the innocent people who always are the first to die.

In North Korea, there are millions of such people—innocent Koreans who don't know anything about their government's international reputation, who don't follow the twists and turns of the peace talks, who simply want to eat. They have been plagued by successive crop failures due to floods and a drought, natural disasters that have compounded the man-made ones that we all know well.

Now, they are out of food. Agriculture experts from the United Nations and seasoned aid workers from dozens of organizations agree that food stocks will not last beyond late April. And people inside North Korea now say that storehouses in a growing number of villages already are empty.

Wherever blame for the famine that threatens the lives of so many Koreans lies, their only hope for survival is with the aid of private individuals and the contributions of governments. Korean-Americans, people of faith, and thousands of others are joining an initiative launched in South Korea to remember the people of North Korea during a world day of fasting and prayer that begins on April 24.

The list of organizations who have joined together in support of this one-day fast is an impressive one. Presbyterians, Methodists, National Council of Churches, Lutherans, Christian Reformed, and other churches are involved. United Way, Bread for the World, Mercy Corps, World Vision, ADRA, the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, Holt International, Food for the Hungry—the list is a long one, and growing. And Korean-Americans have been at the forefront, with the initiative endorsed by the Korean American Sharing Movement, the Korea Society, and others.

I urge my colleagues to join us on April 24. Candlelight vigils are planned in communities around the United States, Canada, and South Korea to help alert the world that this silent famine is claiming many people who are outside the range of TV cameras. The Council on Foreign Relations, one of the most respected organizations in our country, recently estimated that a million people already have died in North Korea, based on its evaluation of the numerous reports of famine deaths.

We can be proud of the United States for what it has done to help the ordinary people

of North Korea. The military, the elites—those people always eat in any crisis. But our country has stood up for the little people, leading the international response to this crisis and insisting that the food is monitored to ensure that it does not end up in the military or government's hands. We have been joined in this by our allies, but there are alarming signs that they are imposing a political agenda on humanitarian aid.

The European Union has just announced that it will not contribute food to North Korea, complaining that reform has not come quickly enough. Most people agree that North Korea must change, but few would starve a nation's citizens to try to change its government's ways.

Japan continues to use food as a weapon, letting millions of people just across the channel starve while it presses for answers about several Japanese people it charges North Korean spies abducted during the past 20 years. Its stinginess is particularly appalling because Japan is now paying \$380 million just to store its surplus rice. To put that sum into perspective, the cost of storage alone is roughly equal to the total amount of humanitarian aid the United Nations has requested.

And China shows no sign that it will change its pattern of donating food to North Korea without any assurance that it will reach the people who are suffering.

I hope that our country will continue to lead the way in providing humanitarian aid, and that our example will spur others to do the right thing. A century ago, Ireland's famine claimed a million people—while just across the channel, the superpower of the 1800s ate well. History judged Britain harshly for its failure to act, and I doubt it will be more forgiving of Japan and others who ignore the clear evidence that ordinary people in North Korea are starving today. It is not enough that we live in a country that is responding more humanely than others. We all have plenty to eat, so much that few of us every feels hunger's pangs. On April 24, I hope that you will join with me in sharing that experience.

I know from firsthand experience that the survivors of any crisis remember those who helped them, and they never forget those who found an excuse to do nothing, or do too little, to save their families and friends. The people of North Korea are beyond the reach of TV cameras, beyond the reach—so far—of democracy, almost beyond hope as they head into six months with no food supply.

But they are not beyond our prayers. On April 24, please join me and thousands of others in praying and fasting for the ordinary people of North Korea.

BROOKLYN YOUNG WOMAN WINS NATIONAL SEVENTEEN/COVER GIRL VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that one of my constituents, La-Kee-A Lowry, a 21-year-old young lady from Brooklyn, New York will be honored tomorrow as one of the six top winners in the first annual Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Awards.

Growing up in a Brooklyn housing project, La-Kee-A found a sanctuary in her public library, heading there after school and remaining until closing time. One day she arrived at the library to find a sign announcing it was being shut down due to budget cuts. Horrified, La-Kee-A moved immediately to action. She started a local petition, collected over 1500 signatures, and organized her classmates to write letters to the White House. She appealed to elected officials in her area and at one point even staged a sit-in in front of the library. Local gang members threatened La-Kee-A and her grandmother, who largely raised her, begged her to just "let it go". But La-Kee-A prevailed and the library remained open. Today, La-Kee-A helps others reap the benefits of her work by, among other endeavors, working with children to spread the pleasures of reading.

La-Kee-A is a young woman who demonstrated through pride and courage that young people can make a difference. I am proud that Seventeen and Cover Girl have recognized her important contributions to the Brooklyn community. Their efforts to reward the positive actions of young women are highly commendable and should be replicated by others. La-Kee-A is truly an example for young

people everywhere that volunteerism can make a difference in their communities. Congratulations, La-Kee-A for your courage and for showing the world that young people can make important contributions if they are simply willing to stand up for their beliefs.

IN HONOR OF TONY GEORGE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American. Tony George is an entrepreneur, a civic leader and a family man who has, over his lifetime, made a deep impression on Cleveland, Ohio.

Tony is known around Cleveland for his chain of sports bars, Slam Jams, and his new restaurant, the Harry Buffalo opening on April 6, 1998. All of Cleveland flocks to Tony's restaurants, and he has served host to some of America's luminaries. His fine establishment has been patronized by the Honorable William J. Clinton and Donna Shalala, Sec-

retary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Born in Cleveland in 1957 to Arab-American immigrant parents, Tony George is a hard-working, innovative and personable man. His sweet demeanor and generosity spring from deep within him. He is a man who has known adversity and has overcome it.

When he was just seventeen, Tony's father passed away, leaving Tony, his five sisters and mother. Tony grew up quickly. He assumed the responsibility of maintaining his father's business. He continued where his father left off to provide for the family. Tony also handled all of the family's finances. He even managed to finish school, graduating from St. Edward's High School. Tony's ability to put family values into effective action made it possible for his sisters to grow up and mature into fine individuals.

Tony is raising his own family in Fairview Park, Ohio with his wife, Christine. Their five children are fine young people: Joseph, Bobby, Justin, Krystle, and Jonathon.

Tony George is a man who does so much for so many people. Cleveland and all those who know him around the country are fortunate to have such a man among us.