

somehow the two parties should sit down and negotiate and work their way back to autonomy for Kosova, in my opinion, does not work. The only thing that will work, Mr. Speaker, and I think we should say it loudly and clearly, is self-determination for the people of Kosova. They have a right, the right that we want for ourselves, the right that our country had 222 years ago, of self-determination, and that we say we want for all peoples. The Albanians in Kosova have the same right of self-determination.

If they want to be a free and independent nation, the Republic of Kosova, they ought to be allowed to do that. I support that. If they want to have union with Albania or stay within a federation with Serbia, that is the Kosovars' way. That is what they should decide. Nobody else should decide that for them. And it is ludicrous to pretend that autonomy will continue to work. Why would people who are being oppressed want to continue in a situation where their oppressors have the upper hand? It just does not work.

There has been a disturbing trend in the past couple of weeks to somehow, in some quarters, equate the people who are being oppressed with the oppressors; to somehow say that everybody ought to lay down their arms; everybody ought to sit and talk. The only way to get rid of ethnic cleansing and the only way to end the oppression in Kosova is to get Milosevic, the Serbs, to back off; get their police and everybody else out of Kosova; impose a no-fly zone over Kosova, the way we have one over Iraq; and use air strikes, if need be, against Serbian positions who are terrorizing and killing innocent Albanian civilians.

Ethnic cleansing and genocide is rearing its head once again on the continent of Europe, and the world is standing by and wringing its hands because nobody knows what to do. The only thing Milosevic understands is tough talk, and we need to have self-determination for the people of Kosova.

SUCCESS IN LIFE REQUIRES THE HEART, THE MIND AND THE SOUL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a minute today to focus on what it takes to be successful in life, because I believe that building a great nation and maintaining its status requires at least three elements of success from its citizens. Those elements include the heart, the mind and the soul.

I believe that success, in part, is determined by what WE have in OUR heart. I know a man today who is successful. He has a promising career in developing computer programs. He has four sons, a lovely wife and he owns a couple of acres on God's green earth.

He lives within the clause that is in our Declaration of Independence that says pursuit of happiness, which can be stated as living the American dream.

But his desire started early in life. He grew up the second son, in a family where his older brother got a lot of attention, sort of in his shadow, but he chose to make his own mark early in life, and he felt it in his heart. He chose football to stand in his own light, though he was not physically big. The choice was probably because his brother had some recognition in playing football.

In his senior year, as I recall, he was only about 160 pounds. But even though he was not big, he chose to play in a tough position, nose guard, right in the middle of the line, in the middle of the defensive line where all the big boys like to play. He played hard, he gave it his all. All season. He played with heart. He felt it inside, and size did not matter. He played so well that he was named to an all-State team. And I was very proud of that young man. His name is Tom Tiaht, my younger brother.

I believe success has to come from the heart. It also has to come from the mind. In the mid-1980s, a young man from the Midwest had a good idea. It was captured in his mind, and he was working out the details, thinking of a new way, and he wanted it to escape his mind and market desktop computers. But in order to do that, he needed some money, some capital to get this idea off the ground. So he went to the bank and he was told no. But that idea just kept stirring in his mind, and he went to another bank and then to another and another. And the message was the same. No, no, no.

Finally, he was able to get some capital from those who had faith in him, his family. His grandmother had a CD that was maturing. But instead of buying another CD, she loaned him the \$10,000. He obtained another \$5,000 from his brother and started a company that today is a billion-dollar business. The company is called Gateway 2000, and the owner is called Ted Waite, a true success story. He had a good idea in his mind, and he made that idea successful.

I think we must temper our drive for success. If we have it in our mind and we hold it in our hearts, we still must temper it. The good book, God's holy words, say, and I will paraphrase, that if we gain the whole world, in other words, if we are successful, even tremendously successful, if we gain the whole world, and it goes on to say, and lose our own soul, then what have we achieved?

Success is not truly success if we lose our own soul. If we turn our back on God, if we forget our family, if we deny those values and virtues that built this great Nation, honesty, integrity, hard work, commitment to our faith, our family, our country, our God, then we deny true success.

Mr. Speaker, success, or pursuit of happiness, living the American dream,

means not only success with our heart and our mind, but also it has to include our soul.

CIA ADMITS TIES TO CONTRA DRUG DEALERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Today I renew my call on CIA Director George Tenet to immediately release the CIA Inspector General's classified report on the allegations of CIA involvement with Contra drug trafficking. I also call, once again, on the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PORTER GOSS), chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, to hold prompt public hearings on the findings of these reports.

Today's New York Times, front page, put it bluntly. "CIA says it used Nicaraguan rebels accused of drug tie." The times reported that, and I quote again, "The Central Intelligence Agency continued to work with about two dozen Nicaraguan rebels and their supporters during the 1980s despite allegations that they were trafficking in drugs."

The Times finally reported the explosive truth that the Senate investigators and investigative journalists alike have been telling the American people for nearly 15 years.

This front page confirmation of CIA involvement with Contra drug traffickers evidently came from a leak of the still classified CIA review of the allegations stemming from Gary Webb's 1996 Dark Alliance series. Webb's series and his recent book details the CIA's involvement with Contra drug trafficking, including ties to south central Los Angeles' largest crack cocaine network. Until today, the CIA has vehemently denied the charges. But, apparently, even the CIA is having trouble hiding the truth from the American people.

The leaked CIA report remains classified, sitting at the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, because the CIA refuses to declassify a report full of what are being described as devastating revelations of CIA involvement with known Contra drug traffickers.

I have repeatedly called for the public release of these CIA reports, and I applaud Senator KERRY in calling for the immediate public release of the CIA Inspector General's reports. Senator KERRY has worked for 15 years to bring truth, having chaired the Senate investigation that first uncovered the sordid details of Contra drug trafficking in the 1980s.

There is no conceivable reason to keep this report classified. It is tantamount to protecting drug dealers. This administration should call on the CIA to immediately release the report of the Contra drug network. The Contras were a creation of the Reagan-Bush administration and run by Reagan's CIA

and Oliver North. This administration can and should reveal the truth and put an end to this terrible affair. I cannot understand why a CIA report which details the illegal efforts of Reagan-Bush administration officials to protect the involvement of top-level Contras in drug trafficking should continue to be protected.

Although today's New York Times story is somewhat confusing to follow, the story includes some explosive details. Perhaps the most amazing revelation from these leaks is the admission that the CIA knew of drug trafficking allegations against the infamous Legion of September 15 Contra organization.

This group included the key Contra military commanders, including the Contra's top military commander Enrique Bermudez, and was the core of the most famous of the Contra armies, the FDN. They were comprised of a group of violent ex-bodyguards of Nicaraguan dictator Somoza. And they had proven themselves among the worst human rights violators in the entire Contra-era war.

The Times somewhat inaccurately reported this organization was disbanded, they said, in 1982. Of course, the Legion of September 15 had, by then, been merged into the FDN. That is the Contra army. So we now know that the CIA knowingly worked with Contra rebels involved in drug dealing, including the core of the FDN.

We also know that the CIA and Attorney General had a secret Memorandum of Understanding that allowed drug trafficking by CIA assets to go unreported to law enforcement. This, of course, was confirmed in documents I submitted for the RECORD in May. And we know that CIA officials at the highest levels knew of the Contra drug trafficking activities. What we do not know yet are the many damaging details of the 500-plus-page CIA report. The American people must be able to see this report for themselves.

We forced these investigations. A lot of people said, oh, there was nothing to it. The first half of the CIA reports were unleashed, and that is when we determined the Memorandum of Understanding existed that they did not have to report drug trafficking.

FLORIDA GIVES HEARTFELT THANKS TO FIREFIGHTERS THROUGHOUT THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to share with Americans all over that for the past month and a half, as many people are aware, Florida has been besieged by wildfires, which have consumed almost half a million acres. The fires have badly strained the resources of local and State fire officials, who have had to respond to more than 2,200 individual fires throughout the State.

Given the widespread devastation, which includes the destruction or damage of more than 400 homes and businesses, firefighters from towns throughout Florida have had to travel to wherever they are needed. But even with this kind of statewide teamwork, the magnitude of the disaster has required help from beyond our borders, and the response across America has been overwhelming: 5,100 firefighters, from almost every State in the Union, as well as Puerto Rico, have uprooted themselves, leaving their families behind, to help Florida in its time of need.

On behalf of all Florida residents and the congressional delegation, I want to give my heartfelt thanks to each and every firefighter, to their family throughout the Nation, who have risked their lives to put an end to the devastation which has so profoundly affected my State.

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Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues some of the developments in Congress that I am very pleased with.

An amendment to the Higher Education Amendment's Act of 1998 passed the Senate recently after successfully passing the House of Representatives. The amendment requires colleges to distribute voter registration forms to students while enrolled in an institution that receives financial assistance from the Federal Government.

I am excited about this legislation because it provides more opportunities for college students ages 18 through 24 to register to vote.

This group, one of the most mobile groups in this country, has the lowest voter participation rate of all Americans eligible to vote. Colleges would be required to distribute a mail voter registration form to each student enrolled in a degree or certification program. This amendment encourages students to exercise one of the most fundamental rights, the right to vote.

I also want to applaud the action by the Senate in passing an amendment as a part of the Fiscal Year 1999 agriculture appropriations to restore credit to small farmers. The 1996 Farm Bill changed the eligibility criteria for the USDA farm loans.

Anyone who had ever received any kind of debt forgiveness, including restructuring and rescheduling, is now ineligible. Many of these farmers suffered disasters due to flood or drought.

Both the Civil Rights Task Force report and the National Commission on Small Farms cited this change as unduly harsh and recommended that it be modified. In the light of those findings, I introduced the Agriculture Credit Restoration Act of 1998. It would modify the debt forgiveness limitation enacted by the 1996 Farm Bill.

The bill, H.R. 3513, would allow creditworthy USDA borrowers a second chance to receive a loan from USDA after having received debt forgiveness

on a previous loan. A companion piece of legislation in the Senate, S. 1118, was introduced by Senator ROBB.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that the long-term economic health of rural America depends on a broad and diverse economic base which requires investment in agriculture, rural businesses, infrastructure, housing stock and community facilities.

The Senate amendment, like my bill, would allow farmers and ranchers to remain eligible for USDA credit through two experiences requiring debt forgiveness, including a loan write-down or net recovery buy-out.

The Senate amendment and my bill now will allow one exception to borrowers who experience financial difficulties because of a natural disaster, family medical crisis, or as a part of a settlement of a civil rights case.

The Senate has done a great service for small farmers. They deserve our applause.

Finally, the Senate yesterday inserted another very important language into the agriculture appropriation. The Senate version of the 1999 agriculture appropriation, like the House, contains provisions for lifting the statute of limitations contained in the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, thus allowing black farmers who have complained of discrimination against the Department of Agriculture to have a hearing either before the Department or before the courts.

Where relief is merited, it will now be granted. Cases back as far as 1983 can now be heard. This is indeed historic. Black farmers in America have struggled for more than 4 decades, and the very department designed to help them has over the years hurt them.

I am delighted that, after much effort, we can claim a significant victory. There has been more than a 64-percent decline in black farmers just over the last 15 years, from 6,996 farms in 1978 to 2,498 farms in 1992.

The Department of Justice ruled earlier this year that legal and technical arguments should prevent these farmers from receiving recovery from the damage done to them. The Department's position was taken even in cases where discrimination has been proven, documented and demonstrated recovery was not possible. Yet, the Department continued to receive complaints and, in fact, in its literature encouraged farmers to submit their complaints to them, knowing full well that the Reagan and Bush administrations eliminated the unit to investigate their complaints.

Black farmers' relied on this empty process to their detriment. Mr. Speaker, it is a good thing that we have now come to this point to move this dark history from the chapter.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.