

receiving the "Power of One" award. Keira Bresnahan of KREX-TV selected Terri for this honor, and it is a well-deserved testament to her dedication to the youth in Mesa County and the State of Colorado. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

COMMENDING KRISTIN KLENK

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, proudly rise today to congratulate Kristin Klenk, a science teacher from South Kingstown High School in the second Congressional District of Rhode Island. Ms. Klenk, a resident of Hope Valley, has been awarded the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Since 1983, the National Science Foundation has administered this award to exemplary math and science teachers, nominated from all 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions. Recipients are selected and recognized for leadership in the field of mathematics and science and serve as role models for their colleagues. Ms. Klenk, known for her hands-on teaching of science and active engagement of her South Kingstown High School students, has now been recognized as one of the best teachers in this country. For her dedication to teaching science to America's children and her service to Rhode Island, I thank Kristin Klenk and congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

THE CHILD HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to help working Americans provide for their children's health care needs by introducing the Child Health Care Affordability Act. The Child Health Care Affordability Act provides parents with a tax credit of up to \$500 for health care expenses of dependent children. Parents caring for a child with a disability, terminal disease, cancer, or any other health condition requiring specialized care would receive a tax credit of up to \$3,000 to help cover their child's health care expenses.

The tax credit would be available to all citizens, regardless of whether or not they itemize their deductions. The credit applies against both income and payroll tax liability. The tax credits provided in this bill will be especially helpful to those Americans whose employers cannot afford to provide health insurance for their employees. These workers must struggle to meet the medical bills of themselves and their families. This burden is especially heavy on parents whose children have a medical condition; such as cancer or a physical disability that requires long-term or specialized health care.

As an OB-GYN who has had the privilege of delivering more than four thousand babies, I know how important it is that parents have

the resources to provide adequate health care for their children. The inability of many working Americans to provide health care for their children is rooted in one of the great inequities of the tax code—Congress' failure to allow individuals the same ability to deduct health care costs that it grants to businesses. As a direct result of Congress' refusal to provide individuals with health care related tax credits, parents whose employers do not provide health insurance have to struggle to provide health care for their children. Many of these parents work in low-income jobs; oftentimes, their only recourse for health care is the local emergency room.

Sometimes parents are forced to delay seeking care for their children until minor health concerns that could have been easily treated become serious problems requiring expensive treatment! If these parents had access to the type of tax credits provided in the Child Health Care Affordability Act, they would be better able to provide care for their children, and our nation's already overcrowded emergency rooms would be relieved of the burden of having to provide routine care for people who otherwise cannot afford it.

According to research on the effects of this bill done by my staff and legislative counsel, the benefit of these tax credits would begin to be felt by joint filers with incomes slightly above \$18,000 per year, or single income filers with incomes slightly above \$15,000 per year. Clearly, this bill will be of the most benefit to low-income Americans balancing the demands of taxation with the needs of their children.

Under the Child Health Care Affordability Act, a struggling single mother with an asthmatic child would at last be able to provide for her child's needs, while a working-class family will not have to worry about how they will pay the bills if one of their children requires lengthy hospitalization or some other form of specialized care.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has a moral responsibility to provide tax relief so that low-income parents struggling to care for a sick child can better meet their child's medical expenses. Some may say that we cannot enact the Child Health Care Affordability Act because it would cause the government to lose revenue. But, who is more deserving of this money, Congress or the working parents of a sick child?

The Child Health Care Affordability Act takes a major step toward helping working Americans meet their health care needs by providing them with generous health care related tax cuts and tax credits. I urge my colleagues to support the pro-family, pro-health care tax cuts contained in the Child Health Care Affordability Act.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KIM TUCKER PFENNIGS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate Kim Pfennigs of Colorado Springs, Colorado on receiving the "Power of One" award at the 2004 Colorado Woman Conference for raising

awareness for childhood cancer. The conference recognizes individual women, selected by Colorado newswomen, who have made an extraordinary difference in their community. It is my privilege to acknowledge Kim and her efforts before this body of Congress and this nation today.

When her son Jonah was diagnosed with cancer, it became Kim's mission to raise awareness for childhood cancer throughout Colorado. Whether she raised awareness on radio, television, or even the local grocery store, Kim wanted to let as many people as possible know about childhood cancer, and the organizations that help families fight this disease. For Kim, helping with organizations like Make A Wish, Ronald McDonald, Starlight Foundation, and the National Childhood Cancer Foundation is a modest way to give back to the people who diligently work to get her son healthy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Kim Pfennigs before this body of Congress and this nation and congratulate her on receiving the "Power of One" award. KOAA-TV's Jennifer Baker selected Kim for this award, and I am happy to say Jonah's cancer is now in remission. I would like to thank Kim for her efforts in raising awareness for childhood cancer, and wish her and her family all the best.

RESOLUTION ON THE RECENT VIOLENCE IN KOSOVO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution which expresses the sense of the House regarding the recent violence in Kosovo. Supporting the resolution as original co-sponsors are my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission: Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PITTS and Mr. HASTINGS.

Last week, close to 30 people were killed, hundreds were wounded and over 3,000 persons were displaced by renewed ethnic violence in Kosovo. In addition, considerable property was damaged or destroyed, in particular Orthodox Churches. In retaliation, protesters in Serbia damaged or destroyed several mosques.

This violence was noteworthy mostly in its scale. As a practical matter, the situation for minority communities in Kosovo, including Serbs and Roma, has not been good since the United Nations, backed by a NATO-led peace operation, took control in 1999. A few weeks ago, I met with Serbian Orthodox Bishop Artemije, who presented documentation of attacks on churches and monasteries in Kosovo.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I recall the horrors which Slobodan Milosevic and his regime inflicted on the Albanian population of Kosovo. Attacks on places of worship and the lack of measures to stop these obviously vulnerable sites from being attacked again and again are inexcusable, as are the attacks on innocent people, be they Serbs, Albanians, Roma or anybody else.

This resolution says that the violence must stop. It supports Kosovo achieving benchmarks which, if met, would effectively mean the protection of human rights and democratic

development as well. It support the international community taking greater action, including providing more security, in order to achieve this progress.

I believe this resolution should be able to garner wide support. This House should be on record as condemning the violence and saying that the human rights situation for the people who live there, regardless of their ethnicity, must improve.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) successfully intervened in 1999 to stop the continued, brutal repression of the Albanian population of Kosovo by the regime of Slobodan Milosevic;

Whereas NATO has subsequently led a multinational peace operation in Kosovo, known as KFOR, while the United Nations has deployed an international civilian police force to enhance peace and security;

Whereas the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has deployed a mission to help develop democratic institutions, including a professional and multi-ethnic Kosovo Police Service, and encourage respect for human rights;

Whereas the United States and the international community as a whole have called for all parties to respect the terms of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (June 10, 1999) as the basis for progress in Kosovo;

Whereas the United Nations has developed benchmarks in Kosovo, progress in the achievement of which would include increased respect for human rights and adherence to the rule of law;

Whereas ethnic communities comprising the population of Kosovo, including an Albanian majority and Serb, Romani, and several other minority communities, have yet to reconcile their differences despite efforts by the international community and several nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas the OSCE has issued several reports critical of the respect shown in Kosovo for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Whereas ethnic tensions remain high in Kosovo due to the lack of freedom of movement, the inability of displaced persons to return to their homes, and sporadic and recurring attacks on individuals, their property, and particularly their places of worship;

Whereas separate and tragic incidents in Kosovo led to a massive outbreak of violence on March 17, 2004, which has left dozens dead, hundreds wounded, and thousands more displaced;

Whereas Orthodox churches and monasteries in Kosovo have often been targeted for attack, and in recent days several additional churches and monasteries have been severely damaged or destroyed;

Whereas mosques in Serbia have also been attacked, damaged, or destroyed, in apparent retaliation for the violence taking place against minority populations in Kosovo;

Whereas this violence in Kosovo threatens the dialogue which has just been established on issues of common concern, such as resolving the cases of missing persons from the earlier conflict; and

Whereas it should be beneath the dignity of any individual who was persecuted or otherwise suffered under the repressive regime of Slobodan Milosevic to violate the human rights of others, to support the persecution or repression of those belonging to other ethnic groups, or to encourage or participate in their ethnic cleansing: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the outbreak of violence in Kosovo deserves the strongest condemnation by the

United States and the international community, and all sides should refrain from encouraging or engaging in any further violence;

(2) the attacks on places of worship in Kosovo and in various Serbian cities should be viewed as especially reprehensible;

(3) those who can be identified as responsible for acts of violence should be brought to justice;

(4) the elected leaders of Kosovo have a primary responsibility to take action to stop any continuing violence, to prevent future violence, and to encourage ethnic reconciliation and respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities in Kosovo;

(5) the presence of additional military forces in the NATO-led multinational peace operation in Kosovo, known as KFOR, as decided by NATO with the support of the United States on March 18, 2004, is warranted and welcomed;

(6) the international community should take necessary measures to protect people and property facing the threat of violence in Kosovo;

(7) dialogue on issues of common concern in Kosovo, including the resolution of missing persons cases, should continue;

(8) the benchmarks established by the United Nations parallel the democratic standards established and encouraged by participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

(9) the United States and the international community as a whole should maintain an active and effective presence in Kosovo not only until violence subsides but until there is significant progress in meeting the benchmarks established by the United Nations, including the return of displaced persons and greater freedom of movement for all persons throughout Kosovo; and

(10) authorities in Serbia should maintain efforts to protect people and property vulnerable to retaliatory violence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 23, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the following: Rollcall vote No. 72 on Approving of the Journal; Rollcall vote No. 73 on H.R. 958, the Hydrographic Services Amendments of 2003; Rollcall vote No. 74 on H.R. 2408, the National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Act of 2003; and Rollcall vote No. 75 on H.R. 2489, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Distribution of Judgment Funds Act.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARRY TUCKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Harry Tucker, who has been a central figure in Buford, Colorado for nearly fifty years. He fell in love with Buford while on a hunting trip in 1936, but seventeen years of service in the Air

Force delayed his plans to settle there. When he finally moved to Buford and bought the Buford store, he became a local fixture, running the store for nearly half of its over a century of existence.

Harry grew up in North Denver and earned a teaching degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, which he attended on a football scholarship. Following his graduation, Harry joined the Armed Forces and served his country in both World War II and Korea. Upon returning from Korea, he settled in Buford, and in 1956 he bought the historic Buford Store, and began teaching and coaching wrestling in nearby Meeker. After teaching for three years, Harry started an outfitting business, and subsequently helped found the Colorado Outfitters Association. In 1995, his son Tom took over the outfitting business, while Harry concentrated his efforts on the Buford store.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Harry Tucker before this body of Congress and this nation, and to commend him for his outstanding service and dedication to his country, his family, and his community. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic issues, I rise and join my colleagues in honoring the 183rd anniversary of Greek independence. This is an important occasion to pay special tribute to the Greek nation and its people.

More than marking the independence achieved by the Greeks in 1821, today the House of Representatives celebrates the special relationship between Greece and the United States.

We Americans owe a special debt of gratitude to the country upon which our democratic process is founded. Greece was the cradle of democracy, the birthplace of the civic engagement so inherent in our country's social fabric. Whenever we promote freedom, civil liberties, and self-determination, we pay testament to our shared values and common heritage.

This year is particularly significant as the time when the Olympics return home. The 2004 Olympic Games in Athens will showcase both the prowess of the world's best athletes and the historical and cultural significance of a world-renowned city. Now more than ever, we look forward to seeing people from all over the globe come together in the spirit of peaceful competition, pursuing personal excellence, national pride and international cooperation.

Today, in my district in Massachusetts, thousands of Greek American families will commemorate this occasion and partake in festivities that pay tribute to their heritage. I extend congratulations to them, to all the people of Greek descent in the United States, and to the people of Greece on this important holiday.