to a man who had such a profound impact on society, Mr. Bruner touched a number of lives; all who knew Max Bruner are forever grateful for his presence in their lives, and will forever be inspired by his life.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the life of Maxwell Bruner, Jr., and his living legacy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARRY NOONAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harry Noonan and recognize him for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and posthumously award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944, the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Harry served in the United States Army, 194th Glider Infantry Regiment in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, Harry was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Service Arrowhead, and the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Harry Noonan who passed away on February 13, 2007. His service and dedication to this country exemplified the sacrifices of the ''Greatest Generation.'' He was truly a great American patriot.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOPE PLUS SCHOLARSHIP ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Hope Plus Scholarship Act, which expands the Hope Education Scholarship credit to cover K–12 education expenses. Under this bill, parents could use the Hope Scholarship to pay for private or religious school tuition or to offset the cost of home schooling. In addition, under the bill, all Americans could use the Hope Scholarship to make cash or in-kind donations to public schools. Thus, the Hope Scholarship could help working parents send their child to a private school, while other patents could take advantage of the Hope credit to help purchase new computers for their children's local public school.

Reducing taxes so that Americans can devote more of their own resources to education is the best way to improve America's schools, since individuals are more likely than federal bureaucrats to insist that schools be accountable for student performance. When the federal government controls the education dollar, schools will be held accountable for their compliance with bureaucratic paperwork requirements and mandates that have little to do with actual education. Federal rules and regulations also divert valuable resources away from classroom instruction.

The only way to reform America's education system is through restoring control of the education dollar to the American people so they can ensure schools provide their children a quality education. I therefore ask all of my colleagues to help improve education by returning education resources to the American people by cosponsoring the Hope Plus Scholarship Act.

ARCHBISHOP GEORGE NIEDERAUER'S EDITORIAL ON GLOBAL POVERTY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity to direct the attention of my colleagues to a very important opinion piece written by the Archbishop George H. Niederauer, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco and chair of the Communications Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which last October sponsored a national conference on global poverty. As a champion of the poor and a well-respected constituent, I value his commitment to eliminating global poverty and his mission to translate faith into action.

I emphatically agree with the Archbishop's position outlined in this article, that ending global poverty is one of the great challenges of our time and we have a moral obligation, as a civilized nation, to help eliminate the scourge of extreme poverty. As the Archbishop points out, foreign policy is indeed a moral endeavor. The United States, in keeping with its core humanitarian values, must be a model for other countries by promoting sustainable development. While we know that poverty does not cause extremism, the United must use all of the tools at its disposal to limit the breeding grounds for terrorists seeking to take advantage of the millions of economically deprived human beings in the world today. We must work with our partners in the faith-based community, non-governmental organizations, and development activists to end suffering, hunger, and death.

THE MORAL SCANDAL OF GLOBAL POVERTY

(By George H. Niederauer)

It's easy to forget that more than a billion people survive on a $1 a day when we live in the world's richest country. Whether in the fields of Africa, the factories of Asia or the streets of our own cities, we often pay scant attention to the abject poverty that degrades our fellow human beings. Ending global poverty is one of the great challenges of our time that requires urgent political will and solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Catholic leaders, economists, international-development experts and activists from several countries will meet in San Francisco tomorrow and Saturday to explore strategies for addressing the Moral Scandal that is global poverty. We come together to raise awareness, mobilize resources and reflect on how putting faith into action can build a more just world. As Catholics, we pray that we can embrace the hungry, the sick and the suffering as Jesus called us to do with compassion and love. As engaged citizens who understand that foreign policy and budgets are moral endeavors that reflect our values, we call on our leaders to do more to help the world's poor.

Our gathering will help build national momentum for the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty, an effort led by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services, which engages citizens to advocate for policies that increase development aid, offer debt relief to poor countries and ensure that trade agreements benefit more than the wealthy. Guided by Catholic social tradition that teaches us to have a ''preferential option for the poor,'' we know that upholding the dignity of all human life does not end at our borders. When our neighbors in other countries suffer, we too are diminished. What we do to the least among us, we do to Christ himself.

In the San Francisco Bay area, the Catholic community strives through its social service agencies to relieve the suffering of local poverty, and funds international anti-poverty and development programs through Catholic Relief Services. Local Catholic priests, nuns and lay people are working in some of the poorest countries to ease the burden of extreme poverty. We also work with people of other faiths in efforts to increase awareness and understanding about global poverty and to encourage our legislators to make greater efforts to address this crucial problem. In 2000, the United States and other nations signed the U.N. ''Millennium Development Goals'' to halve extreme poverty, increase development aid to 0.7 percent of gross national income, stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide universal primary education by 2015. The United States still falls near the bottom of the list when aid by developed countries is measured as a percent of gross national product.

Some ask why we should care about starvation or disease in remote corners of the globe. Along with being the right thing to do, retreating from this cause is also not practical. The forces of globalization have made nations, and their destinies, more interconnected than ever before. As the world's largest economy, the United States has considerable influence to galvanize resources for the poor, push to end curable diseases in Africa and be a model for other countries when it comes to development.

Each year, governments spend billions of dollars on sophisticated weapons. The technological creativity and energy it takes to build these systems should be matched by the best of our minds and hearts in fighting the enemy of poverty that kills 50,000 people every day, far more than even the ravages of war. A robust development agenda that helps uplift and support the poorest countries can also limit the appeal of terrorists who exploit political instability, desperation and poverty to recruit converts to extremist ideologies. Nothing can justify terrorism, but we can also build a world in which terrorism finds fewer places to breed.

As daunting as the challenge of ending global poverty may seem, this is not an unreachable goal. Renowned poverty expert, Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, who will deliver the keynote address at our gathering, has identified practical steps such as increasing crop productivity and soil efficiency, providing nutritious school meals and helping poor countries reform internal agencies. We know that governments alone can't solve this problem. Faith-based groups,

nonprofit agencies, academics and activists must work together with a renewed sense of urgency. Anything less will lead to more suffering, hunger and death. That's not an option the poor of the world should be expected to endure any longer.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 16

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine paying for college in the future relating to higher education, higher cost and higher student debt.
SD–430

FEBRUARY 27

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
345 CHOB

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the need for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation of tobacco products.
SD–430

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 294, to reauthorize Amtrak.
SR–253

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007 relating to strengthening the criminal justice system.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Appropriations
To hold hearings to examine the Supplemental Request for fiscal year 2007.
SD–106

FEBRUARY 28

10 a.m.
Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2008 for the Small Business Administration.
SR–428A

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science and Space Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the President's budget request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
SR–253

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
Administration adjudication process.
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Veterans
SR–418

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine universal service.
SR–253

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
345 CHOB

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, and Blinded Veterans Association.
SD–106

MARCH 29

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of AMVETS, Ex-POWs, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Fleet Reserve Association.
SD–106