

On September 28, 1998, the people of Eastern Samar will once again observe a date of remembrance and commemorate a victorious past when our forebears, ill-equipped and ill-armed, fought gallantly and won a battle in defense of our country's freedom and independence. And this makes this year very significant as we are celebrating the Centennial of our Philippine Independence.

The reprisal of the United States Army under Col. Jacob Smith need not be recalled in this august chamber when they killed "every Filipino capable of bearing arms and burned Samar and made it a howling wilderness." In fact he said, "the more you kill and burn, the better you will please me". This savagery of unparalleled notoriety had earned him the monicker "Hell Roaring Jake".

Yes, Colonel Smith was court-martialed, reprimanded and cashiered after the U.S. Congress conducted a searching inquiry. But, this is not enough. The Bells of Balangiga, our most symbolic civic treasure, which they carried away must be returned.

Lifeless and motionless, these bells are kept in an Air Force Base in Wyoming, USA. Few Americans attach significance to these relics. These have no value to them. They care less about these bells for very few of them know their importance. In a privilege speech delivered before the House of the U.S. Congress, Guam Representative Underwood, said: "There was a time when the officers of F.E. Warren wanted to get rid of the bells. These brass relics have no relevance for F.E. Warren Air force Base, which is a missile base. Few people seem to know or care about these bells. But, to us, freedom loving Filipinos, these represent not only national pride but also as memorial for the brave men who offered their lives so that others may graciously live under the blessings of independence.

Eight (8) years have passed since our people and our government started making serious efforts to repossess these bells. Filipinos from a broad spectrum composed of legislators, religious, governors, peasants, professionals, business leaders and even the President of the Republic have joined the nationalistic chorus demanding for nothing less than the return of these historic bells.

To us, Eastern Samarens, these bells are not mute for they are capable of making sound; they are not captives for they cannot be imprisoned; neither can they be silenced for they are forever shouting for freedom and yelling the sentiments that every Filipino have been wanting to.

These are enough considerations that should not fall on deaf American ears. Indeed, for so many long years, it has been the dream of every freedom-loving Filipino to have these bells returned to our motherland and hear them toll once more. Representative Underwood can never be more correct when he said: "For almost 100 years, the Philippines has been our closest friend and ally, and in the name of friendship and cooperation it would only be fitting and proper for the United States to share the Bells of Balangiga with the people of the Philippines for their centennial celebrations." Well said; said well. As I have intimated earlier, many have tried and many have failed.

To the mind of my constituents, the return of the Bells of Balangiga could be an opportunity for the Americans to show that they have indeed changed; for the homecoming of these inanimate relics which are symbols of our forebears' blood, flesh and tears, will at the very least, show a screaming message that America is now sensitive to our national freedom, liberty and dignity and is ready to value international comity and goodwill. In short, only when we hear these Bells of Balangiga toll anew, and its sound

reverberates over our land, can we, the Filipino people, say that we are ready to talk about this animal called VFA.

Mr. Speaker, in the name of international understanding, national pride and dignity, I respectfully appeal to my colleagues in this chamber to join me champion this good cause so that the bells of Balangiga shall be returned to its rightful owners the Filipino people. Hence, this representation filed House Resolution No. 145 entitled: A Resolution Demanding from the Government of the United States of America (USA) for the Immediate Return of the Bells of Balangiga to the People of the Republic of the Philippines", co-authored by twenty-seven of my colleagues, I earnestly urge this august chamber for its immediate adoption.

Thank you very much.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment Subcommittee Chairman TAUZIN and Chairman BLILEY as well as the Ranking Democrats of the full and subcommittee, Mr. DINGELL and Mr. MARKEY for their work in bringing this bipartisan legislation before the House today. I imagine all of us have heard from friends, neighbors, and constituents who have been victims of slamming. I know I have heard from Long Islanders who are so frustrated that somehow, without their knowledge, their long distance carrier has been switched. Trying to get their phone bill corrected and switched back to their desired carrier can be a time-consuming and frustrating experience.

The legislation before us today should accomplish two goals. First, it should reduce the likelihood that consumers will be slammed. The bill therefore encourages carriers to act responsibly by adhering to a new Code of Subscribers Protection Practices. Carriers who do not comply with the Code's consumer protection requirements and then make an error will be subject to FCC civil penalties as well as a possible fine. Second, Congress cannot legislate away human error. If a consumer loses his long distance carrier and has not been slammed, this bill should make it easy for the consumer to rectify quickly the situation. This bill says the consumer will only have to make one call to return to the carrier of his choice. Additionally, to compensate the consumer for his trouble, he will be switched back to his authorized carrier for free and will be credited up to 30 days of service. Because consumers will not have to be obligated to pay for the service they used after they have been slammed, carriers will have every incentive to guard against mistakes. Carriers will no longer be able to profit from slamming.

The bill before the House today also strikes a fair balance because a long distance company has the opportunity to produce their records of a verified sale when faced with a consumer complaint. This is very important legislation that seeks to protect American families and businesses from slamming. I urge its adoption.

RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues in Congress as well as citizens everywhere an article authored by Michael Kelly, National Journal editor. Mr. Kelly aptly describes how the notion of hate crimes undermines a pillar of a free and just society; that is, equal treatment under the law irrespective of which particular group or groups with whom an individual associates. Ours is a republic based upon the rights of the individual.

PUNISHING 'HATE CRIMES'

(By Michael Kelly)

As one who wholeheartedly supports capital punishment, I have what seems to me a clear-eyed vision of what justice demands in the murder of Matthew Shepard, the 21-year-old Wyoming college student who was, one night last week, robbed, pistol-whipped, tied to a fence and left to die. Bring in the monsters who did this, try 'em, verdict 'em and string 'em up, preferably before an applauding crowd of thousands.

And justice does appear on the way to being served. Two young men—Russell A. Henderson and Aaron J. McKinney—have been arrested and charged with first-degree murder; their girlfriends have been charged as accessories. There does not seem to be a lot of doubt that Henderson and McKinney did commit the acts that caused Shepard's death, nor does it seem at all likely that they will escape punishment.

But this, it is said, is not enough. Because Shepard was gay, and because his killers appear to have been motivated in part by an anti-gay animus (though police say robbery was the primary motive), justice is said to demand more. Specifically, it demands more bad law.

"Hate-crime" laws mandate increased penalties for defendants found guilty of committing crimes inspired by certain categories of prejudice. In 21 states and the District of Columbia, the categories are: race, religion, color, national origin and sexual orientation. Nineteen additional states have hate-crime laws that do not cover sexual orientation. Ten states, including Wyoming, have not passed categorical hate-crime laws. There is also a federal law, which covers race, religion, color and national origin but not sex or sexual orientation.

For Shepard's sake, the cry arises, Wyoming must pass a hate-crime law, and Congress must pass a new, more sweeping, Federal Hate Crimes Protection Act, which would add to the roster of crimes made federal offenses those inspired by bigotry based on sex, disability and sexual orientation. "There is something we can do about this. Congress needs to pass our tough hate crimes legislation," President Clinton declared Monday, the day Shepard died of his injuries.

At least he is consistent. No president has ever been more willing to assault liberty in the pursuit of political happiness than has this one. Clinton is always willing to embrace any new erosion of rights, as long as there is a group of voters or political contributors out there who wish it so. This is one area in which Clinton has been thoroughly bipartisan. In his five years in office, he has joined Republicans in Congress on quite a spree of liberty-bashing. He has signed laws that have stripped habeas corpus to its bones, vastly increased the number of crimes deemed federal offenses, established

mindless mandatory sentencing and targeted certain classes of defendants—terrorists, drug pushers—for the special evisceration of rights.

And playing to the other side of the political spectrum, Clinton has consistently and strongly supported the expansion of harassment and discrimination law, an expansion that has in recent years increasingly worked to criminalize behavior that government once regarded as private. Well, at least he supported such law until the case of *Jones v. Clinton* arose.

Of all the violence that has been done in this great expansion of state authority over, and criminalization of, the private behavior and thoughts of citizens, none is more serious than that perpetuated by the hate-crime laws. Here, we are truly in the realm of thought crimes. Hate-crime laws require the state to treat one physical assault differently from the way it would treat another—solely because the state has decided that one motive for assaulting a person is more heinous than another.

What Henderson and McKinney allegedly did was a terrible, evil thing. But would it have been less terrible if Shepard had not been gay? If Henderson and McKinney beat Shepard to death because they hated him personally, not as a member of a group, should the law treat them more lightly? Yes, say hate-crime laws.

In 1996 the FBI recorded 1,281 “crimes against persons” for reasons of sexual-orientation bias. Two of these were murders and 222 were aggravated assaults. Four hundred and seventy-two of what the government termed hate crimes were not assaults but “acts of intimidation.” These latter would not be crimes except for the determination that expressions of certain prejudices and hatreds were in themselves criminal offenses.

There is a long history of police and prosecutors slighting assaults against gays and lesbians. Justice demands that the cops and the courts treat the perpetrators of assaults against citizens who happen to be homosexual as harshly as they do the perpetrators of assaults against anyone else. But not more so.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on October 13, 1998, during roll call vote numbers 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, and 529. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on roll call vote number 524, “aye” on roll call vote number 525, “aye” on roll call vote number 526, “yea” on roll call vote number 527, “yea” on roll call vote number 528, “yea” on roll call vote number 529.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FRED SANDERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Fred Sanders. Fred was a small business owner in

Leasburg, Missouri who, for ten years, ran a small campground and rented rafts and canoes to folks who wanted to enjoy warm-weather days floating down the serene Meramac River and to take in the beauty of the Onodaga State Park. Fred, however, was more than a successful entrepreneur. He was also a successful community leader.

In 1991, a flood damaged a bridge in the Onodaga State Park, which enabled campers and “floaters” to make their way to Fred’s campsite and canoe and raft rental outfit. In his quest to see the bridge rebuilt, Mr. Sanders met with some resistance. Fred made up his mind to try and rebuild the bridge himself. While his initial attempts were blocked, Fred persisted and after years of working with the county government, they agreed to replace the damaged bridge.

Seven years after Fred began his crusade, the bridge in Onodaga State Park is now rebuilt. Unfortunately, Fred passed away on March 17, 1998—several months before his long-fought-for bridge was finally completed. In honor of Fred’s unwavering commitment to this bridge project, the new bridge in the Onodaga State Park was dedicated in his memory on October 10, 1998. I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to Fred. He fought long and hard to get this bridge built, and he was instrumental in making a real difference in Crawford County, Missouri. I think we can all learn from Fred’s exemplary perseverance and commitment to a local infrastructure improvement project that one person truly can make a difference in his or her community. I am proud to be able to honor the memory of Mr. Fred Sanders today here in the House of Representatives.

HONORING SISTER M. ANITA ROSAIRE FAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call to the attention of our colleagues a truly remarkable lady who has recently celebrated a significant milestone in her life.

Sister M. Anita Rosaire Fay, who is celebrating her jubilee year as a Dominican Sister, entered the Dominican sisters convent at Mount St. Mary in Newburgh, NY, on September 8, 1928. When she entered the sisterhood, she brought with her to the order the love of a wonderful family and a deep and abiding faith.

Sister Anita’s love of God goes back to her birth, as does her love of life. Always an avid sports fan—then and now—she often recalls playing hooky with her brothers and sisters to see the New York Yankees play.

Sister Anita received her B.A. from Fordham University and her M.A. degree from Villanova University, majoring in history and political science.

Sister Anita taught for 45 years in elementary education and secondary education in both New York State and New Jersey. Sister also taught political science and other courses at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY. One of the legislators in our New York State Assembly, Tom Kirwan, who studied under Sister Anita when he was still a State

Police officer, is only one of her many students who were inspired to enter politics by Sister Anita.

In 1975, Sister Anita informed me that she was seeking new challenges to conquer. I invited her to join my Washington Congressional staff, and she remains with us to this day. My entire Congressional staff values her wise counsel and her cheery disposition, as do I. She is considered the sunshine and the morale booster in our office.

Sister Anita’s dedication to assisting my constituents is rivaled only by her dedication to her beloved Georgetown Hoyas. Sister Anita balances her time between helping my Congressional offices operate at peak efficiency, rooting for her favorite basketball team, and the Office of the Hours prayers.

Mr. Speaker, as Sister Anita is celebrating her 70th Jubilee year as a Dominican sister, I am pleased to call her remarkable life to the attention of all our colleagues and their staffs, and invite everyone to join in celebrating her remarkable life.

DISABILITIES EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH—A PACIFIC PERSPECTIVE ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Guam is the place where America’s day begins. While small, idyllic and remote, it is a place where lots of things happen first. Today, I rise to inform my colleagues of a new first, we are the first to bring our other brothers and sisters from the international community of persons with disability together to develop our own local solutions to the global issues of rehabilitation and employment in the Pacific. We have used our own talent and skills from our communities to study what we can do to address the issues of unemployment of persons with disability on Guam and the rest of the Pacific. The importance of these locally-developed solutions cannot be overstated as persons with disabilities face barriers and problems that are endemic to our way of life. From my friends at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center of the Pacific at San Diego State University, I have learned that over 16,000 individuals with a disability in the Pacific have applied for assistance in order to work, train and attend school in 1995. The unemployment rate of persons with disabilities in the Pacific is four times that of any other group. Applying this statistic anywhere else with any other group in America and it would be deemed a travesty. However, we have also learned that through our own studies and methods, we are in the best possible situation to remedy these inequities.

Over the last four years, our friends and colleagues at San Diego State University, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, American Samoa Community College, College of Micronesia—FSM, and the College of Marshall Islands have established local steering committees for rehabilitation research and training. This work culminates in the first ever international conference, entitled “Pacific Perspectives for the Employment of Persons with