who were playing by the creek. The resulting fireball raced down the length of the creek for a mile and a half, killing King, Tsiorvas and an 18-year-old fly fisherman named William Wood. Swaths as wide as 200 feet along the creek were burned within minutes.

The explosion of June 10 caused millions of dollars in property damage and did immeasurable damage to the families and friends of Wade King, Stephen Tsiorvas, and William Wood.

I have long held reservations about our system of pipeline safety regulations. In 1996, I voted against the pipeline deregulation bill because I felt it removed too many essential safeguards.

Since the tragedy, I have redoubled my effort to improve the regulatory climate. I have been in close contact with industry, public interest groups, local officials, and Federal regulators and constituents and have emerged with significant concerns.

To name a few, pipelines are not required to be inspected thoroughly enough to ensure safety. Rules for training pipeline employees are woefully inadequate. Industry is not required to report spills under 2,100 gallons. Forty-five States have almost no role in regulating interstate pipelines which run through their jurisdictions.

Earlier this year I introduced H.R. 3558, the Safe Pipelines Act of 2000, which was cosponsored by the entire Washington State House congressional delegation as well as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH). Thus I am pleased that today a bipartisan group of legislators gathered in front of the Capitol to talk about pipeline safety.

I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) for introducing the new pipeline safety legislation, which I have cosponsored. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) is the chairman of the subcommittee that oversees pipeline safety. So this is a very important step forward.

Just last month, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) committed to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) and myself to hold a hearing fully exploring this vital safety issue before the full Committee on Transportation. In addition, Senator MCCAIN has marked up a pipeline safety bill in his committee which is now ready for a vote in the full Senate.

I will continue to work for additional safety provisions on the bill as it moves through the committee process in the House. I will push for measures like hydrostatic testing, greater State participation, Federal safety certification for pipeline employees, and a 5-year time period for internal pipeline inspections.

Too many people have already been lost in tragic pipeline accidents. We must ensure pipeline safety now.

SCOUTING FOR ALL ACT

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I introduced a bill, the Scouting for All Act, to repeal the Boy Scouts of America's Federal charter. The bill's cosponsors are sending a message to the Boy Scouts and to all Americans that the Congress of the United States does not support intolerance.

As my colleagues know, a charter is an honorary title Congress awards to organizations that serve a charitable, patriotic, or educational purpose. But to me there is nothing charitable or patriotic about intolerance, and it is not a value we want our children to learn.

Revoking the charter sends a clear message that Congress does not support this value, this value of intolerance. The supporters of my bill are not saying that the Boy Scouts are bad. We are saying that intolerance is bad.

I was a Girl Scout. One of my sons was a Boy Scout. And I know the values of scouting, and that is why I believe it should be available to all boys.

The decision handed down by the Supreme Court last month shocked me; but, most of all, it saddened me. Yes, the Boy Scouts fought hard to win their right to discriminate. But for me and the bill's supporters, this is not a question of whether the Boy Scouts have a right to establish anti-gay policy. It is a question of whether the Boy Scouts' anti-gay policy is right.

We believe that choosing to do nothing in response to the court's decision would only compound the injury and would reaffirm the Boy Scouts' message that intolerance is okay.

As I said, the Boy Scouts fought hard to win their right to discriminate. While they may have won this right, we strongly feel the Government should not be a participant in any policy that promotes discrimination or intolerance.

I truly believe that when brave people step up and say intolerance is wrong, we will and can make a difference.

One of those brave people is Stephen Cozza, a teenager from my hometown of Petaluma, California, who founded Boy Scouts For All, which is a national campaign to change the Boy Scouts' anti-gay policy.

To date, Stephen Cozza and his father, Scot Cozza, have gotten more than 51,000 signatures on a nationwide petition supporting the change in the Boy Scout policy and making scouting inclusive for all boys.

As Members of Congress, we also have a part to play. We have an opportunity, an opportunity to let the Boy Scouts of America know that we do not accept their exclusionary and intolerant policy.

I dread the implication and the repercussions should Congress choose not to act. If both the Court and Congress convey the message that discrimination is okay, I fear we encourage other organizations to discriminate as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are halfway through the first year of the new millennium, and we are still debating the pros and cons of discrimination. Did we not learn anything from the last century? All of our children need a tolerant environment in which to grow and learn. Straight kids and gay kids need to know that they are accepted. We must make it clear to those children that the Federal Government supports them and does not support intolerance.

I urge my colleagues to support our children. Join with me and the bill's cosponsors and support repealing the charter of the Boy Scouts of America. But let me repeat. We are not saying that the Boy Scouts are bad. We are saying, and we are saying in absolute terms, that intolerance is bad.

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NORTH KOREAN ATROCITIES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the numerous individuals being forgotten in the negotiations between the United States and the hard-line dictatorship in North Korea, those 200,000 plus people who suffer horrifying hardships in the prison camps throughout North Korea.

Despite the fact that the leaders of North Korea refuse to admit that these concentration camps exist, they are real. Individuals that I have met with who have escaped from these camps have said that they want the world to know of the evil that is perpetrated there, even against children.

One young man that I met with was imprisoned at the age of 10 because his grandfather was arrested, so they imprisoned the whole family. The North Korean regime incarcerates three generations of a family due to one generation's crime. What type of government imprisons a 10-year-old boy for his grandfather's crime? Certainly not a civilized one.

Another woman I met with described the terrible torture she endured because she was honest and would not embezzle material goods for her boss. As a result, her boss concocted false crimes, she was arrested, taken to a prison camp and routinely tortured to the point of losing consciousness. As soon as she lost consciousness, the security officials would pour water on her face, revive her and begin the torture process over again, all of this for 14 months. Then she was sentenced to 13 years in a resocialization camp.

Let me read some excerpts of testimony from torture survivors and escapees regarding the horrendous pain and suffering at the hands of this brutal and repressive regime, a regime that our administration is now looking to appease.