

and firefighters at Ground Zero. Against a background of terrible tragedy, he symbolically affirmed the importance of rank-and-file public workers in American society. Hopefully the letter of the proposed Homeland Security law will be amended to reflect the spirit of that vital gesture.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. JAMES WITHERS IN ADDRESSING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF PITTSBURGH'S HOMELESS POPULATION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Dr. James Withers, the Director of Operation Safety Net in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Withers recently received national recognition from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Health Leadership Program. The prestigious award includes a \$120,000 grant to provide additional funding for his program.

Dr. Withers, a Forest Hills internist and member of Mercy Hospital's medical and teaching staffs, founded Operation Safety Net to address the health care needs of Pittsburgh's homeless population. The program partners volunteer medical professionals and medical students with former homeless people to provide medical care to the city's unsheltered homeless.

Dr. Withers launched Operation Safety Net in 1993, after spending almost a year visiting Pittsburgh's streets dressed as a homeless person to learn about their health care needs. He and a friend walked down countless dark streets, alleys, and abandoned buildings to find people in need of medical care. He even carried his medical supplies in a backpack to ease their concerns.

Now, the 16 Operation Safety Net teams of volunteers, students and former homeless, do much the same, searching out those in need of care. Dr. Withers, or "Doc Jim" as he is known on the street, still walks with the teams several nights a week.

The project now provides care for about 900 patients annually—the majority are substance abusers and many suffer from mental illness.

In addition to helping Pittsburgh's unsheltered homeless population, Operation Safety Net also offers a valuable experience for the medical students and residents who participate as volunteers—giving them a hands-on lesson in caring for disadvantaged patients.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. James Withers for this national award and express my gratitude for his determination and leadership. His lesson reaches well beyond the medical students and residents who volunteer with Operation Safety Net. It carries a message for all of us.

Dr. Withers' nominator for the award put it best by saying, "Jim's advocacy, creativity, and leadership are tireless. He teaches all who are willing to listen, in Pittsburgh and beyond, that each of the homeless has a name and that each has a story."

CONGRATULATING THE CALIFORNIA ARMENIAN HOME

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the California Armenian Home on the occasion of celebrating 50 years of dedication and service to the needs of the elderly people in the Armenian community on September 21, 2002. The California Armenian Home was established to provide housing for the aging population who could no longer live on their own.

In 1952, the California Home for the Armenian Aged opened with accommodations for 35 persons in downtown Fresno, California. Since its inception, the Home has evolved into a community of 168 residents and is considered to have one of the highest standards of senior care. The highly skilled nursing staff provides excellent care for assisted living.

The California Armenian Home was dedicated in honor of the K. Arakelian Foundation and the Armenian-American Citizens' League. Prior to the Home's grand opening, sponsorship of only eleven rooms in the Home had been assured, leaving twenty-four rooms without sponsorship. Mrs. K. Arakelian, a widow of one of the Home's founders, was concerned and decided to coordinate a "Grand Opening Shower." More than 600 persons attended the shower and brought gifts such as blankets, sheets, pillows, and cash donations to help complete furnishing the Home.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the California Armenian Home of Fresno on the occasion of their 50th year anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the California Armenian Home many more years of continued success.

A GRAVE AND GATHERING DANGER

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon take up the question of whether to authorize the President to use any necessary means, including military force, to require Iraq to abide by its agreements with the United Nations to destroy its stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons. There is of course no question that Saddam Hussein has repeatedly violated these agreements and that he continues to pursue the development of weapons of mass destruction. The only real question is whether Congress and the United Nations will enforce these international resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the President and I believe that it is important that we act promptly on this issue. The President made clear in his address to the General Assembly of the United Nations that there is a clear and compelling case for forcing Saddam Hussein to obey UN agreements or face real and immediate consequences. As we prepare to debate this issue, I urge my colleagues to review the President's remarks because I believe this speech not only could help avert a

new Persian Gulf war but also could help restore credibility to a United Nations that has been drifting toward irrelevance.

I have been a strong and consistent supporter of the United Nations. I believe it is essential that we have a strong, credible and effective international forum where disputes can be debated and resolved without bloodshed, where problems that stretch beyond the boundaries and resources of any one nation can be tackled by the joint efforts of many countries and where those who flout the laws of civilized behavior not only face condemnation but international penalties with real bite.

In his speech, President Bush presented two challenges. One was to Saddam Hussein to abide by a series of UN resolutions over the past 12 years requiring him to halt production of weapons of mass destruction, to end internal political repression in Iraq and to abide by the terms of the ceasefire that ended the Gulf War. The other challenge was to the United Nations to enforce its own resolutions, if Saddam continues to murder and maim within Iraq while furiously working to complete his arsenal of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

By ordering Saddam to disarm and then failing to take any effective action to enforce those orders, the United Nations has endangered its own credibility. Since the 1991 ceasefire, the UN Security Council has issued 12 specific demands for Iraq to comply with requirements to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and other steps. Iraq has repeatedly and brazenly refused. As a result, UN weapons inspection teams left Iraq four years ago, ending any check on Saddam's growing arsenal.

President Bush made clear that this steady drift into danger will not be allowed to continue. Saddam has a well-documented history of invading neighboring nations like Iran and Kuwait, and using highly lethal concoctions of poison gas and nerve agents despite all prohibitions in international law and in civilized behavior. He also has a fully documented history of gassing entire villages of opposition groups within Iraq, as in 1988 when attacks against Kurdish villages killed hundreds of women and children.

The President puts it very simply: "The history, the logic and the facts lead to one conclusion: Saddam Hussein's regime is a grave and gathering danger. To suggest otherwise is to hope against the evidence. To assume this regime's good faith is to bet the lives of millions and the peace of the world in a reckless gamble, and this is a risk we must not take."

President Bush then posed two unavoidable questions that only the United Nations can now answer: "Are Security Council resolutions to be honored and enforced or cast aside without consequences? Will the United Nations serve the purpose of its founding or will it be irrelevant?"

The only adequate response to those questions is forceful and unequivocal action by the United Nations to require that Iraq immediately comply with the terms of the 1991 ceasefire and subsequent UN requirements, beginning with the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction. These demands are not onerous or outrageous. They simply require that Iraq abide by the same standards of human decency that guide every civilized nation. To demand less would be to abandon millions of innocent people within Iraq and to endanger millions more throughout the rest of the world.