

Bahá'u'lláh. He taught that there is only one God, that the conscience of man is sacred and to be respected, that racial diversity contributes to the overall beauty of mankind, and that women and men are equals in God's sight. He taught that a spiritual solution is required to address the disparities of wealth distribution and that religion and science must agree. He was among the first to express the need for an international auxiliary language, emphasize the importance of universal education, and advise that a commonwealth of nations was needed for establishing global peace and security. The significance of these principles could not be overemphasized in today's volatile world.

It is astounding to think how advanced these concepts were 150 years ago not only in an ancient Persian culture, but also in the United States. Slavery and persecution based on race were widely accepted facts of life at that time. Women in the United States were still 70 years away from getting the vote. Global literacy was low and universal education was unheard of in most places. Colonial exploitation was on the rise and workers enjoyed few protections.

Unfortunately, just as the Bahá'í message was met with hostility in Persia in 1852, it still faces persecution in that region today. The Islamic Republic of Iran regards Bahá'ís as heretics who, according to Islamic law, should be executed. Bahá'ís, along with Iran's other religious minorities, are prevented from exercising their right to religious freedom. They are excluded from institutions of higher education, denied jobs, and have had many of their holy places, cemeteries and properties seized or destroyed. They are denied their most basic human rights.

Since 1982, Congress has adopted eight resolutions condemning Iran's treatment of the Bahá'ís, its largest religious minority. With the support of the U.S. government, the UN General Assembly has adopted annual resolutions condemning these human rights abuses. Yet, Bahá'ís still await the religious freedom called for in those UN resolutions and promised in Iran's constitution. The Bahá'í community remains an oppressed religious minority and is denied rights to organize, elect leaders, and to conduct freely its religious activities.

On the 150th anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's imprisonment and the founding of the Bahá'í faith, we salute along with the American Bahá'í community the ideals of universal brotherhood, peace, cooperation, and understanding espoused by Bahá'u'lláh. These are Bahá'í values, they are American values, and they are universal values. I also would like to recognize the immense sacrifices that many around the world have made striving to ensure that true liberty and justice for all becomes not just an American dream, but also a global reality.

TRIBUTE TO JO-ANNE LEE COE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great American who

dedicated her life to supporting this country's democratic process. Jo-Anne Lee Coe recently passed away, but she has left behind a legacy of service and loyalty. It is an honor for me to stand and pay my respects to her and her family before this body of Congress and this nation.

Jo-Anne was born in 1933 to a Navy family dedicated to serving their nation. Her father, Admiral Roy Lee Johnson, commanded the U.S.S. Forrestal and served as the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet during Vietnam. Her mother, Margaret Louise Gross, was a sixth generation Washingtonian and installed in Jo-Anne deep patriotic roots. Jo-Anne built on the heritage of her family as she served in an assortment of federal capacities. Turning down a career as a stockbroker, Jo-Anne worked first for Congressman Harold D. Cooley, then as a secretary in the Navy and Air Force, and finally teamed up with Congressman Bob Dole as he ran for the United States Senate. She worked diligently through the ranks, moving quickly from office case-worker to office manager.

After serving briefly in the Ford Administration, Jo-Anne returned to the Dole team as Office Manager for his Vice Presidential Campaign, and continued on as the Senator's office manager and political liaison. Then, in 1985, Senator Dole nominated Jo-Anne to become the first woman ever to serve as Secretary of the Senate. For two years, Ms. Coe made history as she was responsible for supervising the Senate's interparliamentary relations, archives, and administration, as well as presiding over the body during a President Pro Tempore election.

She continued to work with Senator Dole after her time as the Secretary of the Senate and eventually was tapped to lead the leadership PAC, Campaign America, which she helped found. Jo-Anne led Campaign America as it became a top independent PAC contributor to congressional and gubernatorial candidates. Jo-Anne also served as the Finance Director for Senator Dole's 1995 Presidential Exploratory Committee, and then as the Deputy Finance Chairman of the Republican National Committee, two positions in which her skills and commitment were clearly evident.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to the memory of this outstanding woman. Jo-Anne Lee Coe spent her life supporting, serving, and participating in the democratic process. Her efforts and loyalty over these many years made American history and Jo-Anne's life illustrates the positive impact a dedicated citizen can have on the destiny of her country. My sincere condolences go out to her daughter, Kathryn Lee Coe Combs. Jo-Anne Lee Coe has given much to this country and she will be sorely missed.

IN HONOR OF JAMES ADDAMS
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the James Addams High School in Cleveland, Ohio for affording me the oppor-

tunity to visit with young students during my Third Annual Back-to-School Tour on Monday, September 23rd and Monday, September 30th of 2002. I would like to offer special thanks to Cleveland School Municipal District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent Kathy Freilino and Principal Judith Leveckis for their leadership and kind hospitality. The tour was an educational experience for all who were in attendance.

James Addams High School has set forth major academic goals for the year, which include increasing the percentage of students passing all five parts of the proficiency test to meet targets; creating a safe environment as indicated by significant increase in rates of attendance and parent involvement; and increasing the number of students graduating and successfully transitioning into post-secondary education and/or employment. Recent accomplishments from last year include a grant providing the school with long-distance learning; Read 180, which was established to build reading skills; grants awarded to fund the Accelerated Math program; and the addition of chemistry to the science offerings.

I commend the James Addams High School for its commitment to education and will continue to fight for increased funding to improve the quality of public education for all students.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. TESSIE REED

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Tessie Reed who was born on September 5, 1897 in New York City.

Her parents, William and Mary Reed, were originally from the Commonwealth of Virginia. She attended school in New York City until the age of 9. After the death of her mother, she moved to Virginia to live with her maternal grandmother. Ms. Reed worked as a Nurse's Aide at the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital fourteen years, as well as at the movie theatres for some years.

Her hobbies include poetry, church activities and gospel music. Ms. Reed's favorite poem is "REST AT THE END OF MY JOURNEY" by Sally Martin. Her loved ones reside in New York, New Jersey, and Virginia. Ms. Reed has been a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Brooklyn since 1932. She is known, for her gospel songwriting and her musicals, which are prized by Cornerstone's members. One of her dearest songs is "Something Changed Me." Ms. Reed was a member of the Metropolis Gospel Union Choir and its President for three years. It was one of the first gospel choirs in Brooklyn. Ms. Reed is still a member of Cornerstone's Gospel Choir and she served on the Board of the Atlantic Terminal Senior Citizens Center. She was also a member of Queen Esther Chapter # 21 Eastern Stars.

Mr. Speaker. Ms. Tessie Reed, who now resides at the Marcus Garvey Nursing Home, at the young age of 105, is more than worthy of our recognition today.