

the ACLU and his community. For this reason, I rise today to honor and celebrate his life achievements.

Dick Kurtenbach's tenure with the American Civil Liberties Union has been prolific for the Western Missouri and Kansas region as well as fruitful for the entire Nation. He oversaw notable litigation, such as *Cruzan v. Director of the Missouri Department of Health*, which was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990. The ruling was a victory, by recognizing that patients are entitled to the fulfillment of their end-of-life care wishes. More importantly, the case raised much needed public awareness towards the importance of living wills, medical proxies, and other means of documenting those wishes and was lauded as a success by supporters. However, Dick's unwavering commitment to the values of liberty didn't always make him friends. In 1989, while I served on the City Council, his office filed suit on behalf of the Missouri Knights of the Ku Klux Klan arguing that the Kansas City, Missouri City Council had violated the Klan's First Amendment rights by denying them access to rant on a public cable TV channel. I remember being interviewed with Dick on "The Today Show" in New York City. As we walked out of the NBC studios, it was obvious that he was painfully uncomfortable having appeared to side with a group like the Klan. All I could do was put an arm on his shoulder and say, "Hey, I understand what you're doing and why." It is a tough job but he has done it time and time again. Dick's steadfast refusal to compromise on something as precious as our civil liberties is representative of the purity and character of the American way.

Dick Kurtenbach had been the Executive Director of the Kansas and Western Missouri ACLU since 1985 and was responsible for their original merger. Prior to that, he was the Executive Director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union from 1979 through 1985. He has worked on several Senate and Congressional campaigns, as well as for the Nebraska Democratic Party. Dick is a veteran of the United States Army, having served on active duty from 1967 to 1970, including 15 months of service in Southeast Asia. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Civil Rights Consortium, The Human Rights Project, and the Western Missouri Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Dick graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a Bachelors of Arts degree and is married to Joette Pelster.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Dick Kurtenbach, not only for his unwavering efforts to preserve the tenets of our Constitution, but also for his courage in defending the individual rights of citizens, no matter how unpopular or difficult. I urge my colleagues to please join me, in congratulating Dick on his retirement as Executive Director of the Kansas and Western Missouri American Civil Liberties Union, and in celebrating his invaluable contributions and sacrifices to the cause of freedom.

H.R. 2745, THE HENRY J. HYDE  
UNITED NATIONS REFORM ACT

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to H.R. 2745, the Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005.

The United Nations is a critical multilateral organization that provides a vital and necessary forum for the U.S. to advance our Nation's foreign policy priorities as well as to improve and strengthen development, security and human rights around the globe. As an original founder and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the U.S. has an opportunity to shape the direction of future reforms and continue our important role of pursuing multilateral solution to the world's most challenging problems. Or, as this legislation appears intent upon achieving, the U.S. can withdraw support from the United Nations and watch from the sidelines as the world body withers, leaving our Nation isolated and at risk. The latter approach, I believe, would be a dangerous and foolish mistake.

For sixty years, the organizations and programs operating under the umbrella of the United Nations have been working to improve health, food security and human rights around the world; combating terrorism, narcotics trafficking and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; encouraging and empowering the protection of rights for women, workers, ethnic and religious minorities and persons with disabilities; and enhancing the security and upholding peace in areas devastated by conflict. The feeding, sheltering, and protection of millions of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide, many of whom might not be alive today without such help, has also be a vital United Nations function. The sum of this work carried out by the United Nations, this very difficult work, has been a monumental achievement, much of it funded by the generosity of the American tax payer, that has improved the lives of billions of people and made our world safer, healthier, more peaceful and more just.

This legislation before the House, H.R. 2745, is deeply flawed. It would mandate drastic cuts to the U.S. funding obligation to the United Nations, unless the U.S. Secretary of State can certify compliance with 39 far-reaching, and detailed, reforms. Unfortunately, many of these reforms apply to related agencies that are out of the management authority of the United Nations Secretariat. In addition, this bill would put ongoing peacekeeping missions, and U.S. involvement in future missions integral to our national security, in jeopardy.

Reforms are needed at the United Nations. The debate on the floor clearly reflects that Democrats and Republicans agree on this fact. However, the U.S. has an opportunity, and I would say a responsibility, to play a positive and constructive role in reforming the United Nations, in a way that promotes greater transparency, more effective decision making, greater emphasis on oversight of the bureaucracy and a clear standard of accountability among member states for their conduct with relations to human rights.

The Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act fails to provide the resources, the time,

and the flexibility to allow reform to be carried out correctly, as needed to sustain this great organization. This legislation blatantly puts politics before peace keeping and threatens to undermine the important leadership of the U.S. in the eyes of the international community.

The State Department strongly objects to key provisions of this bill including the key principle of linking of U.S. dues to United Nations reforms. Rather than starve the United Nations by unilaterally cutting support, I support the rational and reasonable alternative legislation, the bipartisan Lantos-Shays alternative to H.R. 2745, that would eliminate the mandate for funding cuts and empower the Secretary of State to withhold funds if suggested reforms are not met. This substitute appropriate encourages the U.S. to work with other nations to achieve real and lasting United Nations reform.

MR. JACK THOMAS' ARTICLE  
FROM THE BOSTON GLOBE

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article from the June 20, 2005, Boston Globe about two legendary figures in Massachusetts politics. "The Loner in Winter," by Jack Thomas, gives us an update on the former mayor of Boston, Kevin White, and former State treasurer Bob Crane. White and Crane came out of the same political environment that produced larger-than-life personalities like Tip O'Neill, Joe Moakley and Silvio Conte. As the article shows, Bob Crane and Kevin White have developed a great friendship in politics that has lasted over 40 years.

Kevin White was the mayor of Boston for 16 years, from 1967 to 1983, and his friend Bob Crane served as State treasurer for 26 years. They became friends in the 1960s while campaigning together in western Massachusetts and have been close ever since. During his tenure in Boston, Kevin White was simply the best mayor in America. When I became mayor of Springfield, I looked to Kevin for advice and guidance, and he always steered me in the right direction. For young mayors seeking to make their mark, Kevin White was the role model to which we all aspired. He helped make Boston the great city it is today.

Mayor White is now suffering from Alzheimer's, but he still commands the room, with his remarkable presence and sparkling personality. Bob Crane also had a remarkable public career as treasurer, but is also known as a great singer and entertainer, specializing in the Irish songs that form an integral part of the Boston Irish political culture. When Bob was in office, he brought his musical talents and singing group, the Treasury Notes, to nursing homes and other centers to entertain the elderly, and he still does so today, as well as appearing at select political gatherings. Beyond the music, Bob exemplifies the cardinal virtue of loyalty in politics, and no one is more loyal to his old pal, Kevin White, than Bob Crane. When politicians gather in Massachusetts, Bob makes sure that Kevin is there and is honored for the great mayor he was and great American he is.