

TO PRESENT A GOLD MEDAL TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE  
HONORABLE LEO J. RYAN; AND STRIKING MEDALS TO COM-  
MEMORATE THE LOUISIANA WORLD EXPOSITION

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**HEARING**

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
AND COINAGE

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON  
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 3348**

A BILL TO HONOR CONGRESSMAN LEO J. RYAN AND TO AWARD A SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE HONORABLE LEO J. RYAN

AND

**H.R. 3321**

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE STRIKING OF MEDALS TO COMMEMORATE THE LOUISIANA WORLD EXPOSITION

SEPTEMBER 20, 1983

**Serial No. 98-38**

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# TO PRESENT A GOLD MEDAL TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE HONORABLE LEO J. RYAN; AND STRIKING MEDALS TO COMMEMORATE THE LOUISIANA WORLD EXPOSITION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1983

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE,  
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D.C.*

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10 a.m., in room 2220, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Frank Annunzio (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Annunzio, Gonzalez, Minish, Paul, Hiler, and Ridge.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The meeting of the subcommittee will come to order.

This morning we will hear testimony on H.R. 3348, authorizing a gold medal to the family of the late Honorable Leo J. Ryan. Congressman Ryan was a man who brought great credit to this House. He gave his life in the service not only of the Congress, but also of the United States.

Throughout 1978, Congressman Ryan had heard reports of problems concerning the operations of a People's Temple headed by a man known as the Reverend Jim Jones. This religious group had left the United States and founded a colony in the small South American country of Guyana. Persistent reports kept reaching Congressman Ryan about how people were being forced to remain at Jonestown, the People's Temple colony in Guyana.

Representative Ryan queried the State Department concerning these reports, but received unsatisfactory answers. Disturbing reports continued to come to his attention.

At that point, Leo Ryan could have claimed he had done all he could to investigate the situation in a remote and far-off country. After all, if the U.S. State Department, after visits to Jonestown, saw no cause for alarm, why should a Congressman 2,000 miles away be concerned?

But Leo Ryan was cut from a different mold. He needed to see for himself. And so, he arranged to pay a visit to Guyana. Less than 2 weeks after being reelected to the House in November 1978, Leo Ryan set off for Guyana.

Members of Congress are often criticized for taking foreign trips when Congress is not in session. The press attacks these trips as



junkets and a waste of taxpayers' money. We hear how they are sightseeing tours and an opportunity for Members to see the world at taxpayers' expense.

For Leo Ryan, his trip to the People's Temple at Jonestown was no junket. He discovered information that confirmed all the rumors and reports about Jim Jones' religious colony. As he set off to leave Jonestown, Leo Ryan was murdered outside the plane that was to take him home. That night, the lunatic Jim Jones led and forced over 900 followers at Jonestown into a twisted orgy of mass suicide and murder. Leo Ryan had died in an attempt to save them.

By his effort, Leo Ryan set an example for all of us. His attempts to find the truth about the reports from Jonestown went far beyond normal constituent services, and for his efforts, Leo Ryan paid the ultimate price, dying on a remote airstrip far from home.

I am proud and humbled to have served with Leo Ryan in this House. A gold medal presented to his family in his honor is a small and inadequate tribute for a man who brought so much credit to this House and this country.

[The text of H.R. 3348 follows:]

98TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3348

To honor Congressman Leo J. Ryan and to award a special congressional gold medal to the family of the late Honorable Leo J. Ryan.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 1983

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. EDWARDS of California, Mr. BOSCO, Mr. CHAPPIE, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. FAZIO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. STARK, Mr. ZSCHAU, Mr. MINETA, Mr. SHUMWAY, Mr. COELHO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASHAYAN, Mr. LEHMAN of California, Mr. LAGOMARSINO, Mr. THOMAS of California, Ms. FIEDLER, Mr. MOORHEAD, Mr. BEILENSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ROYBAL, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. LEVINE of California, Mr. DIXON, Mr. HAWKINS, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DYMALLY, Mr. ANDERSON, Mr. DREIER, Mr. TORRES, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. McCANDLESS, Mr. PATTERSON, Mr. DANNEMEYER, Mr. BADHAM, Mr. LOWERY of California, Mr. LUNGREN, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. BATES, and Mr. HUNTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

## A BILL

To honor Congressman Leo J. Ryan and to award a special congressional gold medal to the family of the late Honorable Leo J. Ryan.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That (a) the President of the United States is authorized to



1 present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropri-  
2 ate design to the family of the late Honorable Leo J. Ryan in  
3 recognition of his distinguished service as a Member of Con-  
4 gress and the fact of his untimely death by assassination  
5 while performing his responsibilities as a Member of the  
6 United States House of Representatives. For such purpose,  
7 the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to  
8 cause to be struck a gold medal with suitable emblems, de-  
9 vices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary of  
10 the Treasury. There is authorized to be appropriated not to  
11 exceed \$20,000 after October 1, 1983, to carry out the pro-  
12 visions of this subsection.

13 (b) The Secretary of the Treasury may cause duplicates  
14 in bronze of such medal to be coined and sold under such  
15 regulations as he may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover  
16 the cost thereof, including labor, material, dies, use of ma-  
17 chinery, overhead expenses, and the gold medal. The appro-  
18 priation made to carry out subsection (a) shall be reimbursed  
19 out of the proceeds of such sales.

20 (c) The medals provided for in this section are national  
21 medals for the purpose of section 5111 of title 31, United  
22 States Code.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Our first witness this morning is a distinguished colleague from California, the Honorable Don Edwards.

I want to welcome you before the subcommittee as the Representative from the 10th District of California. His district is known as the heart of the Silicon Valley. Don is in his 11th term in the House, and is chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

Don also chairs the California Democratic congressional delegation, the largest delegation in the House, and I am extremely honored and privileged, Don, to welcome you before the subcommittee this morning.

If you have a prepared statement, you can submit the entire statement for the record and you can proceed in your own manner.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DON EDWARDS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN  
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Mr. EDWARDS. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you and the other members of the committee for receiving testimony on this bill, and I want to especially thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your opening statement. It was very poignant, and it was very accurate. It was really entirely appropriate for this particular occasion, as you consider legislation to strike a gold medal for our late colleague, Leo Ryan. I am speaking on behalf of the entire California delegation, and we are unanimous in our support, Mr. Chairman.

Leo was with us for 6 years as a Member of the House of Representatives. He was our colleague. He was a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He had courage. He had judgment. He had all the things that make Congressmen great, and we were very proud to serve with him. His death was a terrible, terrible tragedy. I do have a statement that I ask unanimous consent be made a part of the record.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Without objection, it shall be made a part of the record.

Mr. EDWARDS. We are proud that Leo was a member of our delegation and we sincerely hope that your subcommittee will find it appropriate to approve this resolution.

Thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. We appreciate your being with us this morning and once again, assure you of the complete cooperation of the subcommittee.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Edwards follows:]



TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSMAN DON EDWARDS  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE  
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
Tuesday, September 20, 1983

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you and the other members of the Subcommittee for convening this hearing to receive testimony on H.R. 3348, a bill which calls for the striking of a special congressional gold medal to pay tribute to the late Honorable Leo Ryan.

Since Leo's shocking and tragic death in the South American jungles of Guyana in 1978, we, his colleagues in the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, have been supporting efforts to provide an appropriate honor to him for his outstanding career in public service. I am pleased to let you know that all of us in the delegation strongly back the legislation which you are considering today.

Within the California Democratic Delegation are Members who had a long and rewarding friendship with Leo Ryan dating back to his ten years as a member of the California State Assembly. They remember his decision in the aftermath of the Watts riots in the 1960s to move in with a black family in that torn community to learn the reasons for the unrest. They remember also when, in pursuit of the truth, Leo spent a week as an inmate in Folsom Prison so he could understand more thoroughly conditions in California's prisons.

Other members of the Delegation, such as myself, came to know and admire Leo during his six years as a member of the House of Representatives. We recall his distinguished work on the Foreign Affairs Committee where he sought justice in our foreign

relations and continued his search -- always -- for the truth.

Others in our delegation never had the privilege of working alongside Leo. All of us, though -- even those among the delegation who never knew Leo personally -- know of and remember his dedication, his courage, his commitment to social justice, and his high standards of public service which are his legacy to us.

We are proud that Leo Ryan was once a member of our delegation. We feel the striking of a special gold medal in his honor would be a fitting tribute for the Congress to bestow, and urge your prompt approval of H.R. 3348.

**Chairman ANNUNZIO.** Our next witness is the Honorable Tom Lantos of the 11th District of California.

Mr. Lantos represents one of the most beautiful and diverse districts in the Nation. Tom Lantos himself is a living legend of the American story. He arrived in this country as a penniless survivor of the Holocaust.

He taught economics at San Francisco State before being elected to the Congress in 1980. I am pleased to welcome the sponsor of H.R. 3348 before the subcommittee this morning.

Mr. Lantos, if you have a prepared statement, you may submit that for the record and the entire statement will be made part of the record, and you may proceed in your own manner.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Mr. LANTOS.** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. I wonder if I might ask unanimous permission to submit a prepared statement by Congressman Robert J. Lagomarsino?

**Chairman ANNUNZIO.** Without objection, so ordered.  
[The statement of Congressman Lagomarsino follows:]



## TESTIMONY OF

REP. ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO

SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS

AND COINAGE

OF THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 1983

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE MATTER BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY -- THE AUTHORIZATION OF A GOLD MEDAL TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE HONORABLE LEO RYAN IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND THE FACT OF HIS UNTIMELY AND TRAGIC DEATH BY ASSASSINATION WHILE PERFORMING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MEMBER OF THIS HOUSE.

LEO RYAN WAS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND DATING BACK TO WHEN WE SERVED IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE TOGETHER. THOSE WHO KNEW LEO COULD NOT HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED BY HIS SENSE OF PURPOSE, COURAGE BRAVERY AND DETERMINATION. THE TRAGIC LOSS OF OUR FELLOW MEMBER WILL NEVER FADE FROM MEMORY, AND THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE BEFORE US TODAY, I BELIEVE, WILL HELP TO INSURE THAT THE LATE LEO RYAN LIVES ON.

THE GRIEF SHARED BY ALL OF US WHO KNEW AND ADMIRERD THE LATE LEO RYAN COULD ONLY BE TOPPED BY THE GRIEF OF THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM, HIS FAMILY. IN A SOMETIMES BRUTAL, CRUEL AND INHUMAN WORLD, WE NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD A TOUCH OF WARMTH AND COMPASSION TO THE LIVES OF THOSE SURVIVED BY HIM. I BELIEVE TO AWARD A SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE HONORABLE LEO RYAN IS MOST APPROPRIATE, AND I SUPPORT THIS SMALL, BUT SINCERE MEASURE.

Mr. LANTOS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I want to thank you for your cooperation which has gone beyond the call of duty. I also want to thank my colleague, the dean of the California delegation, for his opening statement, which so accurately reflected Leo's achievements and essence.

It is almost 5 years since the tragic death of my distinguished predecessor, Congressman Leo J. Ryan.

He was a brave and compassionate public servant who died in far-off Guyana trying to obtain information about the People's Temple for his anguished constituents who were afraid their loved ones had been taken there and detained against their will.

He was the only Member of Congress to have given his life in the performance of his duties in the Congress. And as such, it is only fitting that Leo's sacrifice be commemorated with the highest honor we can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal.

This medal is the oldest of our Republic, first given to George Washington by the Continental Congress in 1776, and later to such outstanding men as Thomas Edison and Winston Churchill. We should do no less for Leo Ryan.

He was a crusader on behalf of human rights, human dignity, and human justice. As a teacher, mayor, State legislator and Congressman, he carried out his responsibilities to his constituents with integrity, courage, and commitment. It was in this spirit that he undertook the fateful trip to Guyana.

He life exemplified the highest ideals of public service. His legacy should be a model for all Americans and all elected officials.

I am pleased to have the support for my legislation of the distinguished majority leader and all the Members of the California congressional delegation. In all, over 230 of my colleagues have joined in cosponsoring this legislation.

This award is long overdue, and I know both the House and the Senate will join us in honoring a courageous man.

I just would like to add, Mr. Chairman, that all his life, Leo remained a teacher. He brought to his work as a public servant the notion of Teddy Roosevelt, to use his office as a "bully pulpit," to teach all of his friends and neighbors and constituents about what a free and open and democratic society is.

He has always done the unusual, the extraordinary. After the riots in Watts, he went there and lived there with a family to obtain firsthand experience with conditions in an underprivileged community.

He voluntarily became a prison inmate to study conditions inside our prisons. He always put himself on the line. He was never satisfied to read memorandums and reports. Leo had to see it and feel it and sense it and experience it for himself.

Leo was an extraordinary Member of Congress. I first met him when he was city councilman and mayor in South San Francisco, and my wife and I lived in the neighboring community. He then became my State assemblyman and subsequently my Congressman.

Throughout his career, I was proud to have been represented by a man of his intelligence and courage and commitment. He was cautioned by colleagues against taking this trip, but it would not have been Leo had he not rejected the advice of caution and pru-



dence and had he not followed his own conscience, the mandate of his constituents to try and help.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to my colleagues that we approve this resolution, because we are honoring a man of extraordinary qualifications and commitments. In our national history, only three Members of Congress ever received this award, Vice President Humphrey, the Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, and Senator Robert Kennedy.

I believe Leo Ryan belongs among these giants.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Congressman Lantos follows:]

TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE  
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

September 20, 1983

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, it is almost five years since the tragic death of my distinguished predecessor, Congressman Leo J. Ryan.

He was a brave and compassionate public servant, who died in far-off Guyana trying to obtain information about the People's Temple for his anguished constituents who were afraid their loved ones had been taken there and detained against their will.

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**Chairman ANNUNZIO.** Thank you for your testimony.

**Mr. GONZALEZ.** I ask unanimous consent the record show me as being present. And, in view of the fact that I have a delegation from my district in my office, I have to be leaving. However, I favor this legislation and compliment the chairman for calling the meeting for this purpose.

**Chairman ANNUNZIO.** We will be voting on the legislation this morning after the hearings, and I assure you that your proxy will be cast in favor of the legislation.

Our next witness is Hon. James M. Jeffords. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the entire Vermont House delegation. Congressman Jeffords is in his fifth year in the House as a Representative of the Green Mountain State, and a graduate of the Harvard Law School.

Jim served as attorney general of the State of Vermont prior to his election to the House. Jim, it is a pleasure to have you before the subcommittee today.

Without objection, your entire statement will be made a part of the record, and you can proceed in your own manner.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES M. JEFFORDS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT**

**Mr. JEFFORDS.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, though I do not have a prepared statement, I do have material relative to Leo Ryan from my own personal observations of Leo, and I would ask if that could be made a part of the record?

**Chairman ANNUNZIO.** Without objection, so ordered.

**Mr. JEFFORDS.** This is not a medal that we should lightly give, and it has only been given very infrequently to Members of the Congress in the past.

A person must have shown unusual character and service to this country before such a medal is given. I had an opportunity to



travel with Leo Ryan in 1978 off the coast of Newfoundland to protest the killing of baby harp seals.

It is of specific relevance because this is not an issue which was easy to pursue. The Greenpeace Organization asked Leo and me to go there. I was at that time chairman of the Environmental Study Conference and Leo Ryan had previously passed House Concurrent Resolution 142, urging the Canadian Government to review their policy on the harp seal hunt.

Our trip was not looked upon with any great favor by the Canadian Government. They urged us not to proceed. We felt it was important for us to do so for the cause we were pursuing.

We first proceeded to Ottawa where we had a severe confrontation with members of the Canadian Government. We then proceeded to the ice floes of Newfoundland.

The Canadian Government was not enthusiastic. At one point, we were grounded and the Canadian Government refused permission for us to fly to the ice floes.

Notwithstanding that refusal, Leo convinced the pilot that the weather was good enough to proceed. I, perhaps more from the desire not to be embarrassed by not proceeding, agreed to accompany Leo.

We took off in a blinding snowstorm and landed in a blinding snowstorm. As a result of that, the pilot's license was revoked, and we had to find other means to return.

Then we had great difficulty in obtaining permits, but we were finally able to do so. We did proceed by helicopter off the ice floes. At that point, we found that there was a tremendous adverse reaction to our arrival by the seal hunters.

Leo was not one to avoid such confrontations and in fact, he perhaps went a little bit out of his way to pursue them. We had a rather dramatic confrontation between Leo Ryan and the local Province head of labor and industries there. This included a great oratory on top of a mound of ice in view of the seals which Leo outdid himself in making very clear our point, while surrounded by men with picks ready to go and pursue the killing of the baby harp seals.

I was not unhappy to stay somewhat in the background and observe it, not having quite the enthusiasm that Leo did for that type of confrontation.

As a result, though, I obtained tremendous feeling that here was a man of great courage and was willing to pursue his cause with great risk to himself.

It was with great fortune that I did turn down Leo's request that I go with him to Guyana, but I would like to share this information, because it is important to have evidence of the character of the individual if we are going to so honor him with a gold medal.

I also had the opportunity to work closely with Leo on our mutual goal of furthering our country's development of solar energy. Along with Congressman Ottinger, he and I introduced a resolution to designate May 3, 1983, as "Sun Day." His dedication to this and other important causes would be appropriately remembered by the passage of the legislation before the subcommittee today.



In this case, this award is very fitting and Leo Ryan's family should be so honored.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you for your tremendous contribution this morning.

Mr. Minish, would you have a statement?

Mr. MINISH. No questions.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Mr. Paul?

Mr. PAUL. No questions.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Mr. Hiler?

Mr. HILER. No questions.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Mr. Ridge?

Mr. RIDGE. No, sir.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. I wish to thank my three distinguished colleagues for being with us this morning. I want to also extend my appreciation for the statements you made.

The other day, under the 1-minute rule, I addressed the floor of the House. There are so many Members of this House who would like to have gold medals for everyone in their districts. There is much pressure on me to relax the 218-signature rule.

This is something I am not going to do. The Members of the House several years ago insisted that there be at least 218 cosponsors on gold medal bills.

I agreed with the Members of the House. We passed a rule on this subcommittee which we intend to enforce. I am not going to allow, as long as I am chairman of the subcommittee, gold medals to be issued, you know, like bubblegum cards out of a machine.

It is tough for you to say no to your colleagues, but by your testimony this morning, you have given me encouragement. You went out and worked hard. You got 218 signatures. You got over 230, in fact, so I know that the subcommittee this morning will take all of that into consideration.

So I thank you very much and support you.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, may I have the privilege of introducing two of Leo's children who are here, and who played a key role in helping to obtain the signatures?

Patricia Ryan, would you please stand?

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Welcome to the subcommittee.

Ms. RYAN. My aunt, Shannon Torphy; her husband, Bill Torphy; and my great aunt, Dorothy Mead, my father's aunt.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. I welcome to the subcommittee Mr. Steve Katsaris, who is the father of a daughter who died in Jonestown.

Mr. Katsaris, welcome to the subcommittee. We are delighted and happy to have you with us today.

#### STATEMENT OF STEVE KATSARIS, FATHER OF DAUGHTER WHO DIED IN JONESTOWN

Mr. KATSARIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, for this opportunity to testify at these hearings.

My interest and involvement in the tragedy that has brought us here is quite personal. Along with almost 1,000 others, my daughter Maria died in Jonestown. In the year previous to her death, I had made several unsuccessful trips to Guyana in attempts to bring her home.



I was also involved with the concerned relatives group that asked Congressman Ryan to help us determine if our relatives in Jonestown were indeed free to leave.

On that sad day of November 18, 1978, my son Anthony, who had accompanied us to Guyana to help free his sister, was himself seriously wounded at the Port Kaituma airstrip. He prepared a brief statement for this subcommittee that I wish to read at this time.

On November 18, 1978, Congressman Leo Ryan approached me in the Jonestown pavilion and, noting my distress about my sister said, 'Anthony, I realize this is hard for you, but I want you to know history is being made here today.' At that point, we did not know the tragic turn history was about to take. Congressman Ryan's words referred to the fact that members of the People's Temple had come forward and asked him to help them escape from Jonestown.

Although members of our Embassy staff in Guyana had made regular visits to Jonestown, it was Congressman Ryan's diplomatic efforts, and the air of strength and concern he exuded that had given these people the courage to attempt to break away from the nightmare that Jonestown had become.

Months earlier, Congressman Ryan had listened to the concerned relatives when no one else was interested. It was then that he made a commitment to find the truth about Jonestown.

To discover that truth, he journeyed to Guyana. Despite the obstacles, he wanted to become acquainted with the members of People's Temple through open, honest, face-to-face meetings. He was not there to harass, but to get an honest picture of the conditions of Jonestown. People's Temple, which had operated in secrecy and deceit for so long, was unable to allow such a thing to happen.

On that fateful Saturday in Guyana, Congressman Ryan committed himself to obtaining freedom for those who chose to leave Jonestown. Even after he was attacked by a knife-wielding assailant, he was determined to stay in Jonestown, believing his presence would offer some protection to those who wanted out but could not leave with the rest. He had to be convinced to leave with us, but I believed he would return to help those who wanted to reclaim their basic human rights.

Congressman Ryan did not return. He lost his life to the insanity of Jonestown. His commitment to truth, to justice, to human dignity was not feigned. He believed it. He lived it. And he died for it. His example and his sacrifice should be acknowledged. He deserves to be honored, for he gave his life in the service of his country, trying to ensure that constitutional freedoms protect all Americans.

Respectfully, Anthony S. Katsaris.

Almost 5 years have passed since those events referred to in Anthony's statement. It is appropriate we acknowledge Congressman Ryan's endeavors for the human rights of the victims of Jonestown that ended in his assassination.

And it is appropriate also that we address the many unanswered questions that burn in the hearts of those who lost loved ones in Jonestown, questions that concern all Americans:

Did it have to happen? Were there any warnings? Could it have been different? Have we learned anything from it? How much did our State Department really know about Jim Jones and the conditions in Jonestown before we went down there?

Did our Government indeed have such strategic interests in Guyana that precluded an effective response to our repeated pleas and warnings for the safety of our relatives during the period of an entire year before they died?

Through the Freedom of Information Act, we have now learned that the State Department knew as much, and in some areas far more, than the concerned relatives, about the beatings, the drug-ging, the guns, the intimidation that the Jonestown residents were enduring.

Yet the knowledge of these dangerous conditions was withheld by the Department, not only from the concerned relatives, but also



from the Members of Congress whose mission it was to find out what was going on there. Why?

Was the failure of the State Department to take effective action in Jonestown due to its inability to respond effectively in such matters, or was it due to their refusal to do so?

In either case, inability or refusal, we need to know why. It is a matter of accountability. Accountability to the Congress which oversees the Department's functioning and ultimately to the American people.

It is my fervent wish that this Congress will see fit not only to award the gold medal to Leo Ryan, but that it will also go on, now that the legal impediments have been removed, with the hearings that have been postponed which will address these questions and the other issues concerning Jonestown and our State Department.

Thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much, Mr. Katsaris. I know how difficult it has been for you to make this trip and we appreciate your statement. We appreciate your attendance. I assure you that the subcommittee shares in your deep feelings as to the answers that we should and must receive from the State Department.

I thank you very much. Any questions by any members of the panel?

[No response.]

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much. This morning we heard testimony on a Congressional Medal. The next bill is H.R. 3321, which calls for the striking of a commemorative medal, and I would like to call to the attention of the subcommittee that there is a big difference between a Congressional Medal and a commemorative medal.

H.R. 3321 authorizes the mint to strike commemorative medals for the Louisiana World Exposition. These medals would be turned over to the nonprofit corporation which is staging the World's Fair beginning May 12, 1984, in New Orleans.

The mint would be paid for the cost of manufacturing the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses. Furthermore, the Exposition corporation would be required to post security to assure that the mint would be indemnified for full payment of such costs.

The medals will be sold by the exposition to raise money to help offset the costs of the fair. In addition, the medals commemorate the fair itself. The broad cosponsorship that the bill has attracted testifies to the national interest in the medals and the appropriateness of declaring the medals to be national medals.

As with all medal bills, the subcommittee required that this bill be cosponsored by at least 218 Members of the House. To date, the legislation has 252 cosponsors, and I congratulate the Louisiana delegation on their willingness to abide by the subcommittee's rules and their ability to obtain the requisite number of cosponsors.

This requirement assures that medals are struck only to honor deserving individuals, such as the late Leo J. Ryan, or to commemorate notable events, such as the Louisiana World Exposition.

[The text of H.R. 3321 follows:]