

appropriation for the Department of State and other cuts in vital foreign policy programs being proposed in the Senate. These cuts could damage our standing in the world and hurt our national security for years to come.

Readiness is not just an issue for our military. Readiness is something we need to maintain in our diplomatic corps as well. Diplomacy is the first line of defense for the United States. If it fails because of inadequate funding, we will most likely be forced to increase defense spending even more. That is being penny-wise and pound-foolish. I urge my colleagues to support adequate funding for the international affairs account and commend the letter of the American Academy of Diplomacy to your attention.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMACY,
Washington, DC, September 19, 1995.

Hon. LEE HAMILTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: Earlier this year, during Congressional debate on authorization legislation for the FY 96 Function 150 Account, the Academy wrote to express its concern over funding then contemplated. We expressed our belief that the cuts then being considered risked endangering America's capacity, through diplomacy, to shape the world in which our national interests will be at play at a critical time of global change.

Today even larger cuts are being proposed in appropriations bills for both the 150 Account and funding for the Department of State and other foreign affairs agencies. We believe it important to state once again our concern that America's capacity for leadership and influence is being placed at risk at a time when our national interests face unique challenges as well as opportunities on the global scene. I believe all members of this Academy would concur in saying that these cuts are excessive. They come very near to undermining America's diplomatic readiness at a time when effective diplomacy is a vital tool in pursuit of our national interests in many regions of the world.

The membership of the American Academy of Diplomacy includes more than a hundred Americans who, while in government service, either as career diplomats or as private citizens, played leading roles in the formulation and implementation of American foreign policy. The membership includes all living former Secretaries of State. It represents both sides of the political aisle. Our members may disagree on the specifics of policies, but they speak with one voiced in believing that in today's world a strong diplomatic arm, well funded, well staffed and strategically placed throughout the world as well as in Washington, is critical to a prosperous American state.

At a time of stringent budget limitations, Academy members appreciate full well that overall spending on behalf of our global interests and the means to secure them must be weighed against compelling needs elsewhere. However, if the United States, which today is engaged nationally in a manner that touches on the smallest and most remote of our communities, must have a sustainable, flexible, long-term strategy to defend that engagement. Such a defense takes people. It takes funding. It requires understanding the 150 Account and the funding for State and other foreign affairs agencies have a legitimate and, indeed in today's circumstances, urgent claim on an appropriate portion of our national resources. The cuts in appropriations now being proposed, in our belief, directly contradict our national interest.

I ask that you share these views with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

L. BRUCE LAINGEN,
President.

HONORING JOANN HUFF

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as we in Washington tackle the difficult policy decisions associated with reforming our Nation's health care system, we must not forget the people who are most affected by our decisions, our constituents who are in need of medical care.

One such person is JoAnn Huff of Albuquerque who is an 18-year cancer survivor who has worked at the local, State, and Federal level to help educate others about breast cancer. She was part of a team that worked for passage of mandated mammogram legislation. Ms. Huff has also been an active member of the University of New Mexico Cancer Research and Treatment Center and has raised thousands of dollars when she served as the center's Walk-A-Thon chairperson.

We would all be a lot better off if there were more JoAnn Huffs among us determined to make a difference and willing to fight to overcome whatever obstacles are thrown their way. To better understand Ms. Huff and how she succeeds, I urge my colleagues to read the following commentary which appeared in this month's Club News, a publication of New Mexico Sports & Wellness.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT—JOANN HUFF

In no better way can one describe JoAnn Huff, but as a trail blazer. This accomplished and respected member of Highpoint Sports & Wellness is nothing less than active. You can always tell when she's around by her warm and hearty laugh.

Huff (who just turned 66) is a retired Albuquerque teacher with a plethora of achievements. Her greatest feat is surviving breast cancer. That traumatic victory has changed and enlightened her life forever. "After something like that," she says, "you know what is important and what is not. I am happier than ever."

Swimming, a positive attitude, and a healthy lifestyle have contributed to Joann's well being. "Swimming is what restored my physical health after cancer," she recalls. "We have never thought of physical activity for cancer like we have for heart disease, but I have always believed the principle is the same."

Joann is frequently seen swimming in one of the pools at Highpoint. In addition to swimming, she has added weight machines, cardio, and other forms of exercise into her fitness routine. "It is the positive and healthy atmosphere that the club and its people project that I like," says Joann.

Joann's commitment to fitness of both mind and body has improved her life. When she is not out vacationing to places like Alaska, the Arctic Circle, or Australia, she is active in her community by participating in events held by the KIWANIS Club, the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Board, and the Mayor's Open Space Advisory Board. She also competes in the Senior Olympics on both a state and national level.

Joann's main passion still lies in being an outspoken advocate for breast cancer research. She says her goal is to see cancer

eradicated by the year 2000. She has been doing everything possible to reach her goal. She has been noted as a top fund raiser for research. Joann is on the Board of Advisors for the UNM Cancer Research Center, and she is also an active participant in the National Breast Cancer Coalition's Project L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development). Joann is more than an accomplished and respect individual, she is an inspiration to all. She says she feels there is nothing she cannot do, and she's right!

HONORING THE WARNER BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Warner Baptist Church at Bailey's Crossroads, VA, which will be celebrating its 75th anniversary from October 8, 1995, through October 14, 1995.

The Warner Baptist Church, which is located in northern Virginia, has a long, proud, and colorful history. After being emancipated in the 1800's a group of families who had suffered through many years of slavery traveled on foot through swamps and wilderness carrying their few belongings, and settled at Bailey's Crossroads, VA. One of the dreams and major goals of this group was to erect a building dedicated to God where they could commune together as a body and worship and serve God.

In 1861, 1 acre of land was donated to the citizens of Bailey's Crossroads by Mr. B.H. Warner, a white citizen of Washington, DC, for the express purpose of erecting a school or church. From 1881 to 1920, church services were held under a small group of trees on the land and in inclement weather, services were held in a store located on Columbia Pike. In 1919 ground was broken for the erection of a church building and lumber was shipped by freight train from a sawmill in Herndon, VA, to Barcroft, VA, and was transported by horse and wagon to the building site. After much hard labor, the Warner Baptist Church, which served the community as a place of worship and an educational facility, was completed and the cornerstone was laid on August 20, 1920.

In 1962 ground was broken, and the construction of a new edifice adjacent to the 1920 building was begun. With most of the labor, including masonry, being performed by members of the church and volunteers from the community, the present church building was dedicated in November 1964. Since that time, the church has prospered and presently provides services on the local, State, and international levels through its many ministries and outreach programs.

Its current pastor, Matthew Pearson, has been a civic leader in Fairfax County who was instrumental in building the first shelter for the homeless in the county.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring the Warner Baptist Church for its many contributions to its parishioners and its surrounding community as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.