EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE BEST GUESS U.S. CENSUS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, today I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an important column on the topic of the 2000 census by Matthew J. Glavin, president of Southeastern Legal Foundation in Atlanta. Published in the July 15, 1997 edition of the Washington Times, Mr. Glavin's column is entitled, ''The Best Guess U.S. Census?'' Mr. Glavin points out that while Congress has delegated to the Commerce Department the census-taking responsibility, we have not given away the constitutional mandate that the census be an actual enumeration.

In addition to being inconsistent with the Constitution, statistical sampling techniques are open to partisan political manipulation of whichever administration is in charge of the Commerce Department at the time. We must not go down that path. I strongly commend Mr. Glavin's column to all my colleagues.

[From the Washington Times, July 15, 1997]

THE BEST-GUESS U.S. CENSUS?

(By Matthew J. Glavin)

The 19th century British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli warned, ''There are lies, there are damn lies, and then there are statistics.'' Last month, Congress heeded the warning. One of the amendments to the Disaster Relief bill passed by Congress was a requirement that the Census Bureau suspend its plans to use statistical sampling and adjustment in the 2000 Census. It was a simple requirement, really—count actual people; don't fudge the numbers.

President Clinton, deriding the bill as a ''political wish list,'' vetoed the package. Promising instead to ''rectify'' perceived inaccuracies among minorities in past Census-taking, the president's plan to use statistical sampling in the next Census flies in the face of one of the clearest mandates in our Constitution.

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution calls for the ten-year national census and demands an ''actual Enumeration.'' The purpose was to ensure that all American citizens are properly represented by district in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Founders, aware of the keen competition among the states for power in the nation's Capital, required the ''actual enumeration'' of our shifting population to guarantee that no group, state or special interest could gain an undemocratic advantage. The Constitution delegated the power to conduct the Census to Congress, which has this year made clear its intent.

Now, the President and his Commerce secretary, William Daley, who supervises the Census Bureau, have proposed a so-called ''dual estimation system'' (DES) to redress perceived undercounting of certain minority groups—by some accounts as high as 4.8 percent in the black community. Under this system, the Bureau would make its ''best guess'' as to where the population count was imagined to be low, add a magical percentage to the head count for that area, and apply those statistical percentages to similar areas across the nation.

In the 1990 census, for example, the Census-takers' ''best guess'' demographic group was black women homeowners in their 20's in Chicago and Detroit. Under the Clinton/Daley DES program for the 2000 Census, this demographic group would be statistically ''puffed,'' and the estimated figures would be applied to all similar urban areas across the nation. In addition to the fact that the estimates may not reflect real population figures, statistical sampling will unfairly lump individuals into stereotypical groups.

Presto, chango, ''actual'' Census figures are gone, replaced by the best guess of a bureaucrat in the Clinton Commerce Department. Still more unsettling is the fact that a ''statistically estimated'' Census is subject to the political agenda of the executive in power. The potential impact on congressional districts, particularly in those states containing large urban centers, is staggering.

The ''no-statistics'' rule vetoed by the president should be enforced. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill recognize that the power to call for a ten-year Census comes to them directly from the Constitution. While Congress has properly delegated the Census-taking responsibility to the Commerce Department, it has not given away, and indeed could not give away, the constitutional requirement that the census be an ''actual enumeration.'' That requirement still applies no matter what administration implements the Census.

The Clinton administration's ''best guess'' plan lacks compassion, offers a poor solution to a real problem, and flies in the face of a clear constitutional mandate. Should the 2000 Census be comprehensive and accurate? Of course. Will it reflect the true population of our nation? By law, it must. ''Actual'' versus ''estimated'' enumeration is a distinction with significant legal consequences. As required by the Constitution, Congress has made clear its intent.

It may fall to the third branch of American government, our courts, to decide the fate of the Clinton ''best guess'' census plan. The politicization of the national census must be avoided. Real justice, and our Constitution, demand it.

CARL D. PERKINS VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1853) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act:

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this Member would like to express his concern about the Mink amendment offered to H.R. 1853, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational—Technical Education Act amendments and to make it clear why this Member felt compelled to vote against it on principle and in order to provide the necessary flexibility to the States to better meet the diverse requirements and conditions of their populations.

This Member supports the direction incorporated in H.R. 1853, which is to move away from Federal setasides and toward giving authority to States, local school districts, and post-secondary institutions to determine their own priorities for reform and funding. In addition to allowing for greater decisionmaking at the local level, this bill includes enforcement mechanisms that are necessary to ensure that special populations are accommodated under H.R. 1853. This bill requires States to provide vocational education opportunities for special populations including, specifically, displaced homemakers, single parents, and single pregnant women. If the State application fails to show how the State will ensure that the special populations meet or exceed State benchmarks, then enforcement mechanisms in H.R. 1853 require the Secretary of Education to reject the application. Further, if a State fails to meet its own benchmark for these special populations, then the Secretary and the U.S. Department of Education has the authority to intervene to bring the State up to a minimum adequate level of performance.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1852 already allows States and local communities to continue to fund programs for special populations such as displaced homemakers, single parents, and single pregnant women to ensure that they have the opportunity to participate in vocational education programs. States should have the flexibility to choose and set priorities for themselves and protect their own citizens without being given a Federal mandate.

This Member strongly believes that there is no reason to suspect that a State or local official will not make the right decision. This bill ensures that special populations will continue to receive vocational and technical education.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, this Member has a record of support for assisting displaced homemakers, single parents, and single pregnant women, to ensure that they have access to educational opportunities. For example, during the previous sessions of Congress, this Member supported an amendment offered by the gentlelady from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] to the CAREERS Act to require States to include in their work force development and literacy plans a description of how the State will maintain programs for single parents, displaced homemakers, and single pregnant women, as well as programs designed to promote the elimination of sex bias.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, this Member would like to reiterate that States must have the flexibility to set priorities for themselves and protect their own citizens. This Member will continue to monitor the progress of this important legislation to reform the Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Act. Further, this Member pledges his commitment to an effort to have his home State of Nebraska comply with this legislation and to continue to

provide needed educational assistance to displaced homemakers, single parents, and single pregnant women.

SMALL BUSINESS MICROLOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, in rural States such as Maine, small businesses are responsible for the large majority of economic growth and job creation. Approximately 99 percent of all businesses in Maine fall into the small business category, with a majority of those falling into the category of very small businesses, or microenterprises.

Unfortunately, it's often difficult, if not impossible, for such businesses to get financing through traditional means because it's not feasible for private lenders to make such small loans. Also, because many microborrowers are either startup or growth phase businesses, they are often unable to meet a lender's collateral or credit requirements. In response to this problem, Congress authorized the SBA, in 1992, to start a demonstration project to address the capital and technical assistance needs of microenterprises. The program targets underserved startup and existing small business owners who have the capacity to operate a successful small business, but may not be able to access credit.

While it has been a very successful and popular program, the authorization for this project ends on October 1. That is why I am introducing legislation today that will make the SBA's Microloan Demonstration Program permanent.

The microloan program is a partnership between the SBA and nonprofit intermediaries. The SBA provides funding to intermediaries, who in turn provide financing and technical assistance to very small businesses. They also furnish them with grant funding to provide microborrowers with technical assistance to ensure the business succeeds and the loans are repaid. The intermediaries provide microborrowers with small loans of up to $25,000, as well as the technical assistance.

The program is successful, and a fine example of cooperation between the government and private sector in efforts to help promising entrepreneurs. It is also low-risk for the Federal Government. According to a 1996 report from the SBA, they have made 182 loans to intermediaries totaling $68.9 million with no loss to the Federal Government.

Maine has a very strong entrepreneurial spirit. Our economy is dependent on very small businesses and microenterprises. My legislation will ensure that many of the underserved startup and existing small business owners who have the capacity to operate a successful small business will have the opportunity to do so.

THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARDIN COUNTY YOUTH THEATER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Youth Theater of Hardin County, KY, on its 26th anniversary. The Youth Theater of Hardin County is now the oldest educating and performing community youth theater program in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. More than 1,275 students have participated in this program and over 3,000 students and adult volunteers have assisted in this endeavor. It has been an integral part in promoting and advancing theater among Kentucky's youth for over a quarter of a century. For that, it deserves special recognition.

The Youth Theater is composed of 7th through 12th grade students from Hardin County Schools, Elizabethtown's Independent Schools, and Fort Knox Community Schools. It is designed to educate students in the performing arts and to promote cultural growth and awareness with quality performances. In the process of putting together a production, students learn skills that are essential to a successful life. Skills such as team work, self-esteem, and the power of the human voice to stimulate and entertain audiences. In this regard, the Hardin County Youth Theater has been very successful.

The Youth Theater's impact on the arts community is being felt locally, nationally, and internationally. Several individuals and groups have won talent recognition at the local and State levels, as well as the Youth Talent International Competition. And the achievements don't stop after students leave.

Alumni from this distinguished Youth Theater are performing throughout the country and contributing to every aspect of the arts community. They are performing as equity and nonequity actors, singers, dancers, choreographers, technical directors, and technicians. Young, aspiring actors have left the Hardin County Youth Theater to perform on collegiate stages, regional stages, national stages, and even international stages. Several alumni have performed in off-broadway productions, and one has made an impact in Hollywood.

When students leave the Hardin County Youth Theater, they continue to give back to their communities in a variety of ways. Former students are working with regional and national entertainment parks as costume characters, live characters, singers, dancers, and technicians. One such student is now serving as an instructor to other aspiring performers with a multinational entertainment conglomerate. Another is the director of the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts. The Youth Theater is, indeed, an integral part of our Nation's arts community.

Meanwhile, those students who do not choose to follow theatrical careers credit the Youth Theater with preparing them for the future. They credit their poise, responsibility, self-esteem, and their ability to work individually and with diverse groups directly to their participation in Youth Theater and its activities. These alumni have chosen a variety of different career fields. They are professionals, businessowners, white and blue collar workers, and even farmers. Regardless of profession, they contribute vastly to society.

The Hardin County Youth Theater has been successful in many regards. It has contributed to the arts community at all levels. It has given students the skills needed to lead a successful life. And it has encouraged its students to give back to their communities and leave them better than they found them. I congratulate the Hardin County Youth Theater on its 26th anniversary. Hardin County is better because of it, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky is proud to claim it. I look forward to its continued success, and I'm sure it will strive to reach even higher heights in the future.

SUPPORT FOR A MEANINGFUL REDUCTIONS IN CAPITOL GAINS TAX RATES

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a letter from one of my constituents, Alan E. States of Hays, KS, which was recently published in USA Today. Mr. States lays out precisely what is wrong with a Tax Code that discourages entrepreneurship and savings. He writes,

> Twenty-five years ago, I purchased 80 acres of Kansas farmland for $10,000. The money came from my savings while in Vietnam, which, along with my Chevy, constituted my entire net worth. I was just glad to be alive, home again and ready to live the American dream.
>
> I used the 80 acres as a down payment on 400 additional acres and proceeded to build my own farm. I've been successful and now farm more than 4,000 acres. Much of it is rented.
>
> Now I have another business opportunity. I considered selling the farmland to raise the investment money. I could sell the 80 acres for $40,000. The federal capital gains tax would come to $8,400.
>
> The problem is that because of inflation since I purchased the land, my true basis on the land is $37,000. So my real gain on the sale is only $3,000. Therefore, the $8,400 tax represents a 280% tax on my actual gain. Is this what has become of the American dream? This is the system the President proposes we keep.
>
> The tax code makes no sense. Income and estate taxes for too long have tried to redistribute wealth. It hasn't worked. The code should have the sole purpose of raising revenue. If we are to tax income, it should be fair.
>
> To be fair, it must do four things: Tax all income; tax it the same without regard to source; tax it only once; and tax it only if it is real and not the result of inflation.
>
> What will I do under the current system? I certainly won't sell the land. I will borrow against it. I can borrow the land at 8.5%. I can deduct the interest as a business expense, reducing my rate to 5.2%. From that, I adjust for 3% inflation, and my effective rate of borrowing the money is only 2.2%. the tax code discourages savings and encourages debt.
>
> Rather than the Treasury making $1,200 on the sale of the asset, it now loses $1,300 because of my interest expense. Do some people really say we can't have tax reform because it will cost the Treasury too much?
>
> ALAN STATES,
> *Hays, KS.*

Mr. Speaker, the real tragedy is that stories such as this can be told by countless Americans struggling to build a better life for themselves and their children. To those who deride the Republican tax bill, I would challenge you to explain to Mr. States how a Tax Code that stifles investment, discourages savings, and destroys the American dream should not be reformed. I cannot give such an explanation. That is why I insist on meaningful reductions in capital gains tax rates.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHING EXCELLENCE FOR ALL CHILDREN [TEACH] ACT OF 1997

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday July 24, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer the Teaching Excellence for All Children [TEACH] Act of 1997.

This legislation addresses a longstanding concern that many of our Nation's school children are being taught by teachers who are not qualified to teach in their subject areas. This is a disservice to students, to parents, to the teachers themselves, and to taxpayers.

The problem, documented in several studies, will only get worse as the student population continues to rise along with the demand for ever more new teachers.

Parents have a right to know whether their children are being instructed by qualified teachers. And taxpayers have a right to expect Congress to do all it can to ensure that Federal education dollars are being spent in a responsible manner. I believe this legislation addresses both of those important demands.

Under this legislation, States receiving Federal education funds would set clear standards for teacher quality. The bill also will ensure accountability for federally supported teacher education, provide financial rewards to teachers who choose to teach in high-need schools and who pursue advanced teaching credentials, and establish local community partnerships to help to schools to recruit and retain qualified teachers.

TWO MILLION TEACHERS NEEDED OVER NEXT 9 YEARS

The number of elementary and secondary school students is expected to increase each successive year between now and the year 2006, from the current level of 51.7 million to an all time high of 54.6 million.

The need for qualified teachers will increase accordingly. Between now and 2006, enrollment and teacher retirement together will create demand for an additional 2 million teachers.

The shortage right now of qualified teachers to fill this demand is a significant barrier to students receiving an appropriate education.

TOO MANY TEACHERS ARE NOT FULLY QUALIFIED TO TEACH IN THEIR SUBJECT AREAS

Last September, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future found that one-quarter of classroom teachers were already not fully qualified to teach their subject areas. An even newer report—forthcoming from the Department of Education—indicates that 36 percent of teachers have neither a major nor minor in their main teaching field. Both reports show that the problem is even more serious in academic subjects such as math and science and in schools with high numbers of low-income and minority children.

Research evidence suggests that teacher quality is probably the single most important factor influencing student achievement. Now is the time to redouble efforts to ensure that all teachers in our Nation's public schools are properly prepared and qualified and that they also receive the ongoing support and professional development they need to be effective educators.

A FAIR DEAL FOR TEACHERS

Teachers are among the hardest working people in our country and they certainly have one of the most important jobs in our country. The vast majority of teachers deserve our wholehearted admiration, respect, and gratitude.

Unfortunately, our public policies have not always reflected this attitude. As the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development recently pointed out, ''teacher education, which encompasses preservice preparation as well as ongoing professional development, has suffered a chronic lack of funding, resources, and status in the United States, particularly as compared to education in other professional fields.''

In addition, the Teaching for America's Future report pointed out that: ''Not only do U.S. teachers teach more hours per day but they also take more work home to complete at night, on the weekends and holidays.'' At the same time, the report goes on to say that ''Other industrialized countries fund their schools equally and make sure there are qualified teachers for all of them by underwriting teacher preparation and salaries. However, teachers in the United States must go into substantial debt to become prepared for a field that in most States pays less than any other occupation requiring a college degree.''

I think the public is willing to address these issues. Education tops the list of concerns in most public opinion polls. But at the same time, parents and taxpayers want greater accountability to ensure that any additional resources directed at improving teacher quality have a maximal impact on student achievement.

By coupling support for teachers with enhanced accountability, this bill is a win-win for all those involved: educators, parents, taxpayers, and, above all, our Nation's schoolchildren.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

Last week, the President announced his intent to put the issue of teacher quality at the top of his educational agenda. With the issue of teacher qualifications receiving increased attention in Washington and across the Nation, I am more optimistic than ever that we can work together to achieve the goals set out in this legislation. I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues on this important issue.

TRIBUTE TO SUE NELSON

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sue Nelson, a resident of my hometown of Windsor, CA. She was just recently selected as the Windsor Chamber of Commerce's 1997 ''Business Person of the Year.'' The chamber made a very fitting selection.

Sue is a businesswoman of 20 years and is currently the president of the Brelje & Race, Sonoma County's largest engineering company. In that capacity she has been a dynamic force in the chamber's activities, placing her and the company's support firmly behind virtually every chamber event over the last several years.

She worked on the Windsor Map, the new town brochure put together with volunteers from the chamber. She also worked on the Windsor Festival.

Her community work has not been limited to the beneficial work of the chamber: She is a member and past president of the Windsor Rotary Club, as well as a trustee of the Boys and Girls Club.

It is the good work and dedicated community activism of individuals like Sue Nelson that builds and strengthens the communities in which our families and children live. I am particularly pleased that my hometown chamber of commerce has chosen such a deserving recipient for their annual honors. I offer my warm congratulations to Sue Nelson for a continuing job well done.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION RESTORATION ACT OF 1997

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 1997 I introduced H.R. 2220, the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Act of 1997, legislation that will begin to address an inherent unfairness under present law that affects the surviving widows of our Nation's veterans. As you know, many of these veterans gave their lives for our country, yet their surviving spouses are now being denied benefits that were promised to them.

In 1970, Congress enacted legislation that guaranteed widows of military veterans who died from service-connected disability that their dependency and indemnity compensation [DIC] benefits would be reinstated upon the termination of the widow's subsequent marriage(s) by death or divorce.

The apparent rationale behind this reinstatement policy was twofold: First, to encourage DIC widows to remarry, thereby removing them from the DIC rolls and saving the Federal Government money; and second, to bring Veterans' benefits statutes in line with other Federal survivor programs—e.g. Federal Civil Service employees, Social Security annuitants—which granted reinstatement rights in this instance.

However, in 1990, Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 which abruptly terminated DIC reinstatement rights for widows who lost these benefits upon remarriage. To make matters worse, the Department of Veterans Affairs never formally notified DIC widows of their loss of reinstatement rights, thereby relegating notice to be disseminated by word-of-mouth or by notices in publications of military and retiree organizations.

As you would suspect, many widows continued to apply to the VA for reinstatement of their benefits, only to learn for the first time that their benefits were being denied. Imagine the shock and surprise of these widows who were never notified of the change in the law, many making financial planning decisions under the mistaken assumption that they would be eligible for reinstatement if their subsequent marriage ended by death or divorce.

Mr. Speaker, my bill will reinstate DIC eligibility for widows who were remarried before November 1, 1990, and whose second or subsequent marriage is terminated by death or divorce. Recognizing the budget restraints under which Congress must operate, I initially have set the compensation rate at 50 percent of the current DIC rate. The bill would also require the Department of Veterans Affairs to notify all current and previously eligible DIC widows of the change.

I would also like to thank one of my constituents, Lt. Col. Raymond Russell—Ret. USAF—for his dedication to veterans' issues and his assistance with H.R. 2220. Lieutenant Colonel Russell is the legislative officer for the Joint Veterans Alliance of Burlington County; New Jersey State Council of Chapters—Retired Officers Association [ROA]; and Lakes and Pines Chapter—ROA.

I urge all of my colleagues to please consider supporting this bill.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with the Members of this House an article that appeared in the July 3, 1997 edition of the USA Today concerning the new and novel research techniques that the Weizmann Institute for Science in Rehovot, Israel, has developed to help identify tumors as benign, or malignant, without invasive surgery.

Finding cancer without subjecting the individual to a traumatic procedure promises to increase the possibility of early detection and ultimately save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the full text of the article be placed in the RECORD so that my colleagues may have an opportunity to read about this revolutionary new procedure.

FINDING CANCER WITHOUT BIOPSIES

(By Steve Sternberg)

Researchers have found a novel way to peer beneath the surface of the intact human breast and tell benign lumps from malignant ones, according to a report out today.

The technique, if proven reliable in large-scale studies, promises to spare women with breast lumps the discomfort of a biopsy, during which doctors remove a bit of suspect tissue for close examination.

Although this research focuses on breast tumors, doctors say the method also may help diagnose other tumors and monitor treatment.

Hadassa Degani, lead author of a report appearing in today's *Nature Medicine*, says the method uses a standard diagnostic tool in a new way. The tool is known as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which detects magnetic oscillations deep within tissues.

With the help of a computer, MRI turns this information into images—a rapid sequence of them or one at a time. By taking individual frames, the researchers can obtain detailed images of the tissues' architecture, showing whether cells are densely or loosely packed and whether blood vessels are normal or riddled with leaks.

Degani, of the Weizmann Institute for Science in Rehovot, Israel, and colleagues inject the breast with a fluid that shows up in high contrast in an MRI image. They create one image before the fluid is injected and two afterward. Using three images, rather than a rapid sequence of them, guarantees clear resolution.

By carefully timing the three exposures, doctors can also observe dynamic changes as the contrast medium penetrates the breast tissues. Cancerous tissues show up as a wildly disorganized jumble of cells, with black regions of dead cells and tangles of leaky blood vessels. Normal tissues are more orderly and less compressed, with normal blood vessels.

Degani says that potentially ''any abnormally can be diagnosed, monitored and assessed.''

Mitchell Schnall, head of MRI at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia, praises her work. ''She's done some careful studies to lay the groundwork for us to understand what we see in breast studies by MRI.''

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. EUGENE SHOEMAKER AND DR. JURGEN RAHE

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, we have all been enthralled by the exciting images we have been receiving from the Mars Pathfinder since its successful landing on the 4th of July. I think that we all would join in congratulating the team of scientists, engineers, and managers who made this amazing mission a reality.

Yet as we celebrate another success in the ongoing exploration of space, I believe that we also need to pause to honor the memory of two individuals who are no longer with us, but who have done much to help us better understand our solar system: Dr. Eugene Shoemaker and Dr. Jurgen Rahe. We had just begun to come to terms with the tragic loss last December of Dr. Carl Sagan, the distinguished astronomer and advocate for scientific reason, and now we have lost two more gifted space scientists. We mourn their deaths, but we also celebrate their accomplishments.

Dr. Shoemaker was a distinguished geologist and discoverer or co-discoverer of some 820 asteroids and comets. Perhaps his most famous discovery was that of the Shoemaker-Levy Comet, which was discovered by him, his wife Carolyn, and Mr. David Levy. I was that comet's spectacular collision with the planet Jupiter that stirred public interest in the possibility of comets or asteroids someday impacting the Earth with disastrous consequences.

However, Dr. Shoemaker had long been concerned with the potential for such impacts from his earliest days as a scientist when he was able to demonstrate that Arizona's meteor crater was likely the result of an impact by an asteroid. Throughout his career, he did much to increase public and scientific awareness of the potential threat posed by Earth orbit-crossing asteroids and comets, and he was a tireless champion of the need to detect and catalog those objects. I had come to rely on his insights and vision as Congress has attempted to come to grips with the public policy implications of a phenomenon that has a low probability of occurrence but that carries severe consequences for life on Earth. I shall miss him.

Dr. Rahe was also a distinguished scientist and a leading figure in NASA's solar system exploration program. I think that his impact on NASA's activities was well stated by Dr. Wesley Huntress, NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Science, when he said that under Dr. Rahe's leadership, ''NASA's planetary exploration program was experiencing an almost unparalleled period of major discoveries at the same time that a number of new missions were being started and launched. His legacy to the exploration of space is large, and I like to think that Jurgen's ideas, hopes, and dreams are aboard many of the spacecraft now headed to the frontiers of our Solar System.''

Both of these men were outstanding individuals in their profession. However, each also was a man with a strong sense of integrity and a love of life and of learning. Dr. Shoemaker and Dr. Rahe made the world a better place, and I know that all Members join me in expressing our deep sympathy to their families.

I include herewith obituaries of these two great scientists.

EUGENE SHOEMAKER DIES; DISCOVERED GIANT COMET

PHOENIX.—Eugene Shoemaker, 69, the geologist-astronomer who warned about the dangers of asteroids hitting Earth and who helped discover the giant Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet that slammed into Jupiter in 1994, died July 18 of injuries suffered in a car crash in outback Australia. He lived in Flagstaff, Ariz.

His wife, fellow Lowell Observatory astronomer Carolyn Shoemaker, suffered hip and chest injuries in the crash but was in stable condition at a hospital, authorities said. The car they were riding in collided head-on with another car on a dirt road about 310 miles north of Alice Springs, authorities said.

Dr. Shoemaker and his wife had discovered about 20 comets and 800 asteroids, but they were best known for the discovery with amateur astronomer David Levy of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9, which broke up and smashed into Jupiter's gaseous atmosphere in 1994. The team had been searching the sky for new comets.

It was Dr. Shoemaker's fascination with asteroid impacts—such as the one that caused a Meteor Crater near his home—that drove most of his work.

A geologist by training, he was a leading expert on craters and the interplanetary collisions that caused them. He first proved to the scientific community that Meteor Crater was indeed the result of an asteroid impact, said University of Arizona planetary scientist Larry Lebofsky.

He also was the author of an influential paper in the early 1960s comparing Meteor Crater with a large crater on the moon.

Dr. Shoemaker, a Los Angeles native, was a 1947 graduate of the California Institute of Technology. He received a doctorate in geology from Princeton University. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey from 1948 until retiring in 1993.

He founded the U.S. Geological Survey's Center of Astrogeology in Flagstaff in 1961 and served as the center's chief scientist. He also was involved in several U.S. space missions, including the Apollo moon missions. He lectured the Apollo astronauts on such topics as craters.

Dr. Shoemaker, who had wanted to be an astronaut but was rejected because of a medical problem, said in a 1996 interview that he hoped for more manned space missions soon—to nearby asteroids, if not to the planet Mars.

''I don't think I will live long enough to see us get to Mars,'' Dr. Shoemaker said.

In addition to his wife, 67, Dr. Shoemaker's survivors include two daughters, Linda Salazar and Christine Woodward of Los Angeles; and a son, Patrick, of Iowa.

NASA MOURNS DR. JURGEN H. RAHE, SOLAR SYSTEM EXPLORATION SCIENCE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Jurgen H. Rahe, 57, Science Program Director for Exploration of the Solar System at NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC, died tragically June 18 in the Washington, DC, area. Dr. Rahe was killed during a severe storm when a large tree fell on his car as he was driving near his home in Potomac, MD.

Dr. Rahe had a distinguished career in NASA and in the field of astronomy and space exploration. In his most recent position, he was responsible for overall general management, budget, and strategic planning for NASA's Solar System Exploration programs, including the Galileo mission to Jupiter and several upcoming missions to Mars, including the July 4, 1997, landing of Mars Pathfinder.

''I am shocked and deeply saddened by the loss of Jurgen Rahe. He was a good friend and an extremely dedicated scientist,'' said Dr. Wesley T. Huntress, Jr., Associate Administrator for NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington, DC. ''Under his leadership NASA's planetary exploration program was experiencing an almost unparalleled period of major discoveries at the same time that a number of new missions were being started and launched. His legacy to the exploration of space is large, and I like to think that Jurgen's ideas, hopes, and dreams are aboard many of the spacecraft now headed to the frontiers of our Solar System.''

As a member of the Office of Space Science Board of Directors, Rahe also was responsible for the upcoming Cassini/Huygens mission to Saturn. NASA's low-cost Discovery missions and several upcoming missions to Mars. Dr. Rahe also was the editor of one scientific journal (''Astrophysics and Space Science'') and a member of the editorial board of two others (''Earth, Moon, and Planets'' and ''II Nuovo Cimento'').

Dr. Rahe previously served as a Discipline Scientist, Chief Scientist for Planetary Astronomy, and Director of the Solar System Exploration Division at NASA Headquarters. Before joining Headquarters full-time in 1989, Dr. Rahe was a Staff Member at the California Institute of Technology/Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. He has also served as the Co-Leader of the International Halley Watch; Co-Investigator on the European space Agency's Giotto mission; Program Scientist for the Clementine, Rosetta, and NEAR (Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous) missions; and as the Associate Program Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope.

Previously, he was a Professor of Astronomy and Director at the Astronomical Institute of the University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany). During his tenured professorship, Dr. Rahe worked for extended periods as a Visiting Professor in several different countries. He has published many papers in scientific journals and books, edited more than a dozen books and conference proceedings, and served as President and/or member of three International Astronautical Union committees. He also served previously as the Director of the Remeis Observatory in Bamberg, Germany.

Rahe is survived by his wife and daughter, who live in Potomac, MD.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES M. ALAFBERG

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charles M. Alafberg, AFL–CIO Community Services Liaison for the United Way of central Massachusetts, on an outstanding and distinguished 27-year career in the labor movement.

Over the course of his career, Charlie Alafberg has made a demonstrable and eminently positive impact on the central Massachusetts community. Beginning his labor career organizing at the Wyman-Gordon Co. in North Grafton, MA, Charlie showed continued success as a union organizer between 1956–69, and was elected shop steward for Local 2285 in 1970. By 1978, Charlie moved steadily up the ranks—his peers' confidence in his leadership and organizing abilities rapidly growing—ascending to the position of union trustee and grievance committeeman. In 1986, Charlie was elected to the high office of president of Local 2285, representing the largest steelworkers local in the Third Congressional District with 1,400 active members.

In addition, since 1970 Charlie has held the position of delegate to the Worcester/Framingham Central Labor Council and serves as a labor representative on the Central Massachusetts Regional Employment Board. Always active in the local community, Charlie is an avid member of the Worcester Democratic City Committee. He is married to Diane Krikorian, and together they have four wonderful children—John Alafberg, Mary Alafberg, Kraig Krikorian, and Kimberly Krikorian, and two spritely grandchildren, John and Ashley.

Charlie Alafberg, through his strong commitment to serving the hard-working men and women of central Massachusetts and his genuine concern for others in his community, is an example of unwavering public service which will sorely be missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KING COVE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT OF 1997

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the King Cove Health and Safety Act of 1997. This legislation will for the first time provide residents of King Cove, AK, with a safe form of access to and from their community. Specifically, the legislation grants a right-of-way across certain Federal land in exchange for acquisition by the United States of land containing prime habitat owned by a Native corporation. Surface transportation made possible through the right-of-way will connect the city of King Cove, which has an ill-equipped airport, with Cold Bay, which has a modern, 24-hour all-weather airport and the State's third-largest runway.

King Cove, AK, is a remote community on the western end of the Alaska Peninsula, with a population of about 900. Most residents are of Aleut descent and have lived in the community long before Federal ownership of the surrounding area. Unfortunately, the only modes of transportation to and from this fishing community are by air and sea through some of the most extreme—and deadly—weather and topographic conditions in the world.

Weather conditions permitting, travel is done by small aircraft from King Cove's tiny dirt landing strip with no navigational aids to Cold Bay's modern facility, just 20 miles away. Because King Cove's landing strip is surrounded by mountains and experiences some of the harshest wind, snow, and dense fog found anywhere, residents do not have safely reliable transportation linking them with the modern airport facility in Cold Bay, from which access to the rest of the State and lower 48 States is available. People in King Cove are literally trapped in their community for days at a time during poor weather, and the risk of adverse conditions is present year round.

There have been several fatal accidents in the corridor between King Cove and Cold Bay. Even an attempted medivac during a life-and-death situation resulted in an accident, killing all aboard the aircraft. These accidents alone point to a need for a road between the cities.

In carrying out the land exchange, the bill specifically directs that the Secretary of Interior and the Aleutians East Borough, the municipal government representing King Cove and Cold Bay, to develop terms and conditions on use of the right-of-way to protect the lands and resources affected. This will assure that public and private interests in the lands surrounding the area are protected. In addition, the land acquired by the United States under the exchange is very high quality and maintains the quality of the public's resources.

In summary, this bill opens the way to safe, cost-effective access to King Cove and benefits the public, and it is my intent to move this legislation.

CONGRESSMAN KILDEE HONORS CHIEF MARLAN HILLMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you today to pay tribute to Chief Marlan Hillman who is retiring after 50 years of dedicated service to the Springfield Township Fire Department.

Since the establishment of the Springfield Township Fire Department in 1947, Chief Hillman has been a devoted firefighter and mentor. He has always taken the time to share his experience and wisdom with the dozens of firefighters he has worked with. Marlan Hillman is well known for his leadership, faith, and devotion to public service. At a very early age, Marlan was taught the importance of serving his community by his father, Charles, who served as Springfield's first

fire chief. Marlan succeeded his father as fire chief in 1975 and has witnessed the growth of the fire department with the addition of two new fire stations and nine new fire trucks.

In Springfield Township, the name Hillman has become synonymous with firefighting. Chief Hillman's brother Elwyn, who is assistant fire chief, and his son-in-laws Charles Oaks and Earl Colloto are all members of the fire department. Chief Hillman is a hero not only for his lengthy and diligent service as a firefighter, but for the sacrifices he has made. He has missed only a few fire department meetings in 50 years, he has been called to the scene in the middle of the night, and he has missed a number of hot meals. Chief Hillman did this with a humble disposition and sense of duty. One of the legacies he has left is the sense of camaraderie which helped mold the firefighters into the close-knit group they remain today.

We owe Chief Hillman a debt of gratitude for the protection and stability he has provided for half a century. Without a doubt, our community is a much better place in which to live because of him. The people of Springfield Township have truly been blessed to have a man of Chief Hillman's caliber working on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in wishing Chief Hillman and his lovely wife Norma much joy in their retirement

OBSERVING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 1974, Turkish troops landed on the island of Cyprus. The ensuing 23-year occupation has been a tragedy for the people of Cyprus and an embarrassment to the NATO alliance.

The United States has a special responsibility to play a role in the resolution of the Cyprus dilemma. Twenty-three years ago, as Washington was paralyzed by the Watergate scandal, the administration turned a blind eye to the crisis that was mounting in the Eastern Mediterranean. For many years prior to 1974, Washington had ignored Turkey's overt threats against Cyprus. In 1974, we watched with cold indifference as Turkish troops invaded the island. Our failure to avert the Cyprus conflict and to achieve a diplomatic solution to the standoff helped seal the fate of the island for the next 23 years. It is for this reason that the United States has a duty to help achieve peace on Cyprus.

I commend President Clinton and my colleagues here in the House for turning the spotlight on the tragedy of Cyprus. Recent United States diplomatic initiatives and the appointment of Richard Holbrooke as Special Emissary for Cyprus give new hope that an old struggle may be resolved. The United Nations-sponsored talks between President Clerides and Mr. Denktash in New York City are another promising step. Congress must continue to support the President and the international community in this long-overdue effort.

We may not be able to bring back the Greek-Cypriots who perished and disappeared at the hands of Turkish troops. But we can take occasions such as this to remember those who have suffered, and we can continue to search for answers to the cases of missing persons. And we can honor them by working to help today's Cypriots realize their dreams of a free, unified Cyprus. In doing so, we may be able to secure lasting peace and economic security for a people who are so richly deserving of it.

TRIBUTE TO REV. CHARLES BROOKS

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share in the thanks and praise being bestowed on Rev. Charles Brooks for his invaluable service to St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church and the community of San Bernardino. His 8-year dedication to this congregation as pastor will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. Since 1959, Reverend Brooks has undeniably touched the lives of hundreds with his positive and effective leadership.

The many awards and honors that have been bestowed on Reverend Brooks, including Life Time Achievement Awards for his dedication to civic affairs in the black community and for his diligent commitment to community service, do not begin to capsulize the contribution he has made to San Bernardino and communities abroad. Reverend Brooks is not only recognized for his contributions to a number of congregations, but in his capacity as teacher, administrator, and civic leader. His groundbreaking career, as the first black elected as president of the San Bernardino Clergy Association and the La Jolla Ministerial Association, will continue to serve as a leading example of excellence.

It is my honor to offer my congratulations and appreciation to such an outstanding pastor and leader at the arrival of his retirement. As he has given so greatly to San Bernardino and various other communities, it is my pleasure to wish him and his family the best in the years to come.

LINLITHGO REFORMED CHURCH OF LIVINGSTON, NY, CELEBRATES ITS 275TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, when French traveler Alexis de Tocqueville visited these shores in 1830 he noted something very special about the then-young United States. He noticed the importance of religion to Americans.

And he was right, Mr. Speaker. This is a religious Nation. And from the beginning, churches were among the first structures built, and they remain the center of American community life. I'd like to speak about a very special one today.

The Linlithgo Reformed Church of Livingston, NY, is celebrating its 275th anniversary this year, making it older than the Nation itself.

Mr. Speaker, this church can trace its existence to a July 4, 1722, organizational meeting. Robert Livingston, Jacob Vosburgh, and Cornelis Martensen were appointed elders, and Tobias Ten Broeck, Robert Van Deusen, and Willem Hallenbeck were named deacons.

Records are unclear, but we think the church building was completed on or about September 22, 1722. One interesting historical fact emerges from the records. The first pastor to be paid in money instead of corn or wheat was Jeremiah Romeyn in 1788.

Three years later, members of the consistory of the church voted to make it a corporate body. Finally, in 1813, the consistory voted to plan a new church, which was dedicated in 1815. The new church, still in operation today, was completed in 1855.

A reported low state of piety resulted in a January 3, 1840, day of fasting and prayer.

The 20th century history of the church resembled that of many others during this time. By 1921, the practice of renting pews was discontinued. During the World War II, many of the men of the congregation answered the call to service, as did many of the women on the home front.

Since then, the church has continued to grow and prosper, serving the spiritual and even the social needs of its people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and other Members to join me in expressing our best wishes to a very special institution, the Linlithgo Reformed Church of Livingston, NY, as it celebrates its 275th year of service to the community.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORMON PIONEERS ENTERING THE SALT LAKE VALLEY

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, 150 years ago today, Brigham Young and the first Mormon pioneers descended into the Salt Lake Valley. They found a desolate, hostile land, covered by sagebrush and a vast lake of water with a salinity seven times greater than the ocean. Naysayer Jim Bridger offered $1,000 for the first bushel of corn raised in the Salt Lake Valley. But these stout-hearted souls were undaunted. Making ''the desert blossom as the rose'' was certainly not the first or greatest challenge these pioneers had faced.

The Mormon pioneers were no strangers to adversity. Their trek had begun long before their handcarts and wagons were nailed together in Nebraska. From the time the Church was organized in 1830, they had faced persecution and were driven out of Kirtland, OH; they had fled Independence, MO, in the face of an exterminator order; and they had been driven by angry mobs from the fair city of Nauvoo, IL, which they had built up out of the swamps of the Mississippi River. At last, their only choice was to move west, to a land no one else wanted, where they could worship God after the manner they desired.

Along the trail, they faced numerous hardships. While over 70,000 people made the

journey to the Salt Lake Valley prior to the coming of the railroad, hundreds died on the journey west. Men, women, and children rode in covered wagons or walked pulling their scant belongings in handcarts along the thousand mile trail from Nebraska to Utah. Disease, starvation, fatigue, exposure to cold, took their toll on the lives of young and old alike. Many young children completed the journey orphaned.

It took great courage, faith, and commitment to make the trek west. These faithful pioneers have left a great legacy for our Nation. Their legacy is one of hard work; making the desert blossom as the rose. It is a legacy of commitment to religious freedom; although the U.S. Constitution did not protect them, the Mormons were willing to send a battalion to the Mexican-American War to fight for the freedoms it affords. And it is a legacy of American settlement of the West; over 500 communities were settled by early Mormons, from Canada to San Bernardino, CA, to Mexico.

I salute my own pioneer ancestors today, and honor all those who created this legacy of faith in every footstep.

THE CASE FOR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, I discovered a speech made in 1923 by then Army Maj. George C. Marshall, that warned against a troubling pattern of failure in American history—a pattern which I fear we may be repeating today. Marshall, of course, later became one of the most distinguished American leaders of the century, serving as Chief of Staff of the Army in World War II, Secretary of State in the early years of the cold war, and Secretary of Defense during the war in Korea. ''[F]rom the earliest days of this country,'' said Marshall in 1923, ''[the Regular Army] was materially increased in strength and drastically reduced with somewhat monotonous regularity.'' Immediately following a war, he said, ''every American's thoughts were centered on the tragedies involved in the lessons just learned,'' and the size of the standing Army was increased in an effort to prepare for future conflicts. But within a few months, Marshall lamented, ''the public mind ran away from the tragedies of the War . . . and became obsessed with the magnitude of the public debt. . . . Forgetting almost immediately the bitter lesson of unpreparedness, [the public] demanded and secured the reduction of the Army.''

The bitter lesson of unpreparedness, unfortunately, had to be relearned repeatedly through much of the rest of the 20th century. Each time the price was paid in the lives of young Americans ill-prepared for the missions thrust upon them—at Kasserine Pass in North Africa, where United States forces were decimated in their first large tank battle of World War II; at the start of the Korean war, where a poorly equipped United States holding force, called Task Force Smith, was almost destroyed; and at Desert One in Iran, where equipment failures and poor coordination doomed the hostage rescue mission.

Today, in contrast, America has built a military force that sets the standard for the rest of the world. It is equipped with modern weapons. It is well led and well trained. The military services are more able than ever to work cooperatively. It is, above all, a high quality force, made up of well-educated, carefully selected, disciplined volunteers. They have carried out an extraordinarily broad range of responsibilities in recent years in a fashion that has demonstrated their professionalism and their dedication to duty. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Colin Powell, often characterized the troops he led as an exquisite force—he was not exaggerating.

I am afraid, however, that we may once again be forgetting the costs of unpreparedness. A return to the unfortunate pattern of the past is reflected in several ways. First, now that the cold war is over, the rationale for maintaining U.S. military strength is being questioned even by many who ought to know better. Second, because of budget pressures, defense spending appears unlikely to rise in the foreseeable future, but budgets must grow modestly over time to maintain a capable force. Third, the quality of our Armed Forces depends on keeping quality people in the services, but the extraordinarily high pace of operations is putting too much pressure on military families and may lead many good people to leave. Consider each of these issues in turn.

Why we should remain strong: Today, a number of my congressional colleagues challenge me with a question that surely echoed through the halls of Congress in 1923 or in 1946—''What is the enemy?'' I am asked. And with that question, there are many others. Why continue to support more spending for defense when the cold war is over? Why continue to pursue expensive, new, advanced weapons when U.S. technology was so dominant in Operation Desert Storm, and when no other nation is spending nearly what we do on military hardware?

If we look to the past, however, we have never been able to predict what military threats would arise in the future. In 1903, no one envisioned World War I. In 1923 we did not foresee World War II. In 1946, we did not anticipate the Korean war. In 1989, we did not expect the Persian gulf war. So a major reason for maintaining military strength is to hedge against the appearance of unexpected regional or global threats in the future.

But that is not the only reason. Today, our military strength is the foundation of a relatively secure international order in which small conflicts, though endemic and inevitable, will not decisively erode global stability. And as such our military strength is also a means of discouraging the growth of a new power that could, in time, constitute a threat to peace and evolve into the enemy we do not now foresee. Because of this, the very limited investment required to maintain our military strength—though somewhat larger than we are making right now—is disproportionately small compared to the benefits we, and the rest of the world, derive from it. My fellow Missourian, Harry S. Truman, stated the issue clearly: ''We must be prepared to pay the price for peace, or assuredly we will pay the price of war.''

Defense spending: As so often in the past, the United States again appears unwilling to pay the price of peace. Since the mid-1980's, the Department of Defense budget has declined by 40 percent in real, inflation-adjusted dollars, and the size of the force has been reduced by a third. Funding for weapons procurement has fallen even further—today we are spending just one-third as much on new weapons as we did in the mid-1980's. I do not believe that these levels of spending can be tolerated without critically weakening our military capabilities. And yet, there is all too little support for restoring even modest rates of growth in military spending. On the contrary, for long-term planning purposes, the Pentagon assumes that Defense budgets will be frozen at about $250 billion per year, in constant prices, as far as the eye can see.

We cannot, however, maintain a force of a stable size without at least modest growth in spending. For one thing, in order to keep quality people in the force, the quality of life in the military has to keep pace with the quality of life in the civilian sector. So pay, housing expenditures, facility maintenance accounts, and other related activities have to increase with the overall growth of the economy. Second, modern, advanced weapons grow in cost from one generation to the next, so budgets must grow to take advantage of evolving technology. Finally, sophisticated new weapons are more expensive to maintain, and they allow a higher, more costly pace of operations. Flat defense budgets, therefore, will entail further, strategically unwarranted cuts in the size of the force, declining military readiness, and a failure to exploit the rapid evolution of military technology. This is a prescription for the slow, steady, debilitating erosion of our military capabilities.

Pressures on people: Perhaps most importantly, even as the size of the force has declined in recent years, the pace of military operations—from Somalia, to Haiti, to Bosnia, to the Persian Gulf—has accelerated dramatically. Senior officers in all of the services worry that the pace of operations will sooner or later drive good people out of the military. To operate the modern U.S. military requires professional personnel with advanced skills that take years to learn. As a result, the services have to retain quality people after their initial enlistment run out. Older, skilled service members will get married, have children, struggle to make ends meet, worry about education, just like other citizens. Military personnel managers, therefore, often say that they enlist soldiers,but they retain families.

By its very nature, military life puts pressure on families. Service members are away from home for extended periods. Moves are frequent. Jobs are often very demanding, and job pressures grow as careers advance. Military personnel, of course, understand and accept these pressures, including regular deployments abroad, as part of the job. The pressures on military families have been greatly aggravated in recent years, however, by force reductions and by unplanned, irregular, temporary assignments to support military operations. If we are to keep skilled people in the service, we cannot afford to keep asking them to do more and more with less and less.

Were he here today, Major Marshall, I am afraid, would recognize all of this—a failure to appreciate the need for military strength, reluctance to pay the price of peace, asking too much of those who serve in the military—as familiar symptoms of our Nation's traditional attitude toward national defense. If we are to

avoid the mistakes of the past, we need to reconsider sooner, rather than later, how to protect the exquisite military force that we have inherited.

BABY SAFETY SHOWER

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, 1997, I hosted an event in my district, the details of which I would like to share with you and my colleagues.

The event, a Baby Safety Shower, was developed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to help good parents become even better parents, and good grandparents become even better grandparents. I was certainly pleased to have Ann Brown, Chair of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission [CPSC], as my guest at Morristown Memorial Hospital to share some of her extensive knowledge of consumer product safety issues with new and expectant mothers, grandparents, pediatricians, and child care providers in New Jersey.

I can tell you that when I learned about the CPSC's Baby Safety Shower program, I decided immediately that it was something that I would like to share with my constituents. As I well know, as a parent myself, babies do not come with instruction manuals and even the best new parents need to learn how to take care of their babies.

We know how much new parents want this kind of information, and CPSC has already given out over a quarter million baby safety checklists, containing safety tips that can save a baby's life, to parents around the country. Most people don't know that many of the everyday items in their homes can be hazardous to a baby, nor do they realize the extent of harm that these hidden hazards can cause.

Ann Brown shared several of the most common items with us in her presentation. For example, many individuals would never think that an old crib with sentimental value could be deadly for a new baby. To the contrary, old and previously used cribs are involved in the deaths of about 50 infants each year. To prevent these unnecessary deaths, CPSC has an abundance of information that can be used to identify these hazards.

The event was cosponsored by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Dr. Leah Ziskin, Deputy Commissioner of Child Health, served as my cohost and offered her expertise on child health issues. The Department of Health and Senior Services offered new mothers important information on lead poisoning prevention.

I chose to host the event at Morristown Memorial Hospital to add a health emphasis on the day as well. The 11th District has a wealth of talented pediatricians and Morristown Memorial Hospital has one of the finest pediatrics and maternal health programs in the area. I want to thank Morristown Memorial and their staff for all of their assistance in planning the event and making the day run smoothly, including Dick Oths, Jeanne McMahon, Carol Paul, Dr. Kathleen Baker, Dr. Abraham Risk, Alan Robinson, Marcus DePontes, and Vicki Allen.

I would like to also thank the hospital for their excellent and informative presentations on the ''TraumaRoo'' program, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, the Women, Infants, and Children [WIC] nutrition program, and Childhood Immunizations. The new or expectant mothers that I spoke with at the event were thrilled with all of the information that was made available through these displays.

Further, the 11th District has a wealth of companies that manufacture important products to keep infants and children healthy. I would like to thank Johnson and Johnson, founding sponsor of the New Jersey State Safety Council and the New Jersey State Safe Kids Campaign, American Home Products, the Warner Lambert Co., and Discovery Toys for their generous contributions of products and information that they made available to all the attendees.

Finally, I consider myself and the 11th District privileged to work with Kathy Ross, executive director of Child and Family Resources, who was also a great help in coordinating the event, sharing information on the ''Rethinking the Brain'' campaign, and reaching out to parents and child care providers alike.

I am hopeful that the information that was made available at the Baby Safety Shower will prevent accidents and harm to infants and children in my State. I am also optimistic that the day's events will be replicated by some of the individuals in attendance so that these important points will reach even more new parents and grandparents in our area and around the country.

THE CLINICAL LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act Amendments of 1997 [CLIA '97], a bill identical to H.R. 1386 which had 131 cosponsors in the 104th Congress. H.R. 1386 was included in the House passed Balanced Budget Act of 1995 but was dropped by the Senate on a budget point of order. Like its predecessor, this legislation exempts physicians' office laboratories from the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Act of 1988 [CLIA '88], reduces the burdens on physicians who perform laboratory tests in their offices and consequently improves patient care while lowering patient costs. Also like its predecessor, this legislation would continue the regulation of any laboratory that performs pap smear analysis.

CLIA '88 has created enormous barriers to quality medical services for millions of Americans. Thousands of physicians have had to discontinue all or some portion of essential office laboratory testing, including tests for pregnancy and rapid strep. This creates a barrier to patient compliance with treatment protocols and subsequently causes patient inconvenience. For example, in those offices which have discontinued testing, a patient must now be referred to an outside laboratory to have the specimen taken and tested. This poses a substantial hardship for many patients, most notably the elderly, the disabled, and families who live in underserved areas. Oftentimes these patients cannot travel to or find someone to take them to these facilities. The result is that they do not obtain the necessary test which may interfere with their treatment or they go to a hospital emergency room when they become sicker and where the costs of testing are much greater.

CLIA '97 is an essential part of the Congress' continued efforts to provide affordable and quality health care to millions of Americans. CLIA '88 has added billions of dollars to the cost of healthcare and has significantly increased the Federal Government's expenditures for laboratory services. In the first 5 years following the enactment of CLIA '88, Medicare expenditures for laboratory services increased $3.1 billion or 110 percent to $5.9 billion annually. Last year, an independent analysis conducted by the Health Care Financing Administration's [HCFA] former Chief Actuary, using HCFA's own methodology, found that the Federal Government could save $800 million to $1.4 billion over the next 7 years by exempting physician office testing from CLIA '88.

I hope that my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, will join me in supporting this legislation which will reduce health care costs and improve the ability of patients to receive appropriate laboratory tests conveniently and in a timely fashion.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2158) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Foley-Bachus-Miller amendment to freeze the community development financial institutions [CDFI] fund at fiscal year 1997 levels, that was considered recently in debate on VA/HUD appropriation bill and support the level reported by the committee.

The CDFI Program was established in 1994 at the request of President Clinton and received bipartisan support. Public money from the CDFI is leveraged with private capital to increase much needed investment in distressed urban and rural communities. The purpose of CDFI is to provide technical assistance, loans, and grants to institutions and programs such as micro-loan funds, venture capital funds, community development banks, and low income credit unions. These ventures are purely established for the purpose of serving underserved communities and populations and are filling the void left by traditional lenders in urban and rural communities.

The Bank Enterprise Act, [BEA] which receives one-third of the funds appropriated to

CDFI, rewards traditional financial institutions that serve the credit needs of distressed communities. The money from CDFI is used to create new jobs, promote small businesses, and build affordable housing.

Congress authorized nearly $400 million for CDFI between fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1998. As part of the budget agreement, the President prevailed in increasing the authorization to $125 million for fiscal year 1998.

CDFI and BEA have issued one round of awards. Out of 268 applicants requesting over $300 million last year, CDFI selected 31 community development organizations to receive $35 million. BEA awarded 38 banks and thrifts $13.1 million. The demand for increased funding is evident by the level of interest that has been displayed by the increase in applicants and it is apparent that there is a lack of capital in the communities these institutions serve.

It has been alleged that the CDFI fund has no demonstrable record of success and raises questions about its practices in selecting grantees. After reviewing these allegations, the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee dismissed the charges. The subcommittee said in its report ''the Committee wholeheartedly endorses the goals of the program'' and voted to appropriate the full administration budget request.

I would like to further expand on the merits of the CDFI program by citing an example from the district which I represent. The Shore Bank Corp. received $3 million from the CDFI program that were matched with $8 million of private funds. These funds will go toward a new effort for a comprehensive community development bank holding company with a strategic plan to revitalize a well defined investment area on the east side of Detroit. This presents a promising approach to achieve large-scale community revitalization in Detroit.

The Detroit holding company, which is being established in stages, is designed to have three subsidiaries. One, a full service bank in the target area, is providing small business loans and housing loans to minority entrepreneurs and can leverage its equity many times over through deposits. The second a for-profit real estate development company, will initially focus on the development of 500 affordable houses to homeownership in a 30-square block area. The third, a nonprofit enterprise development affiliate, will have three functions—small business assistance to strengthen small manufacturers in the region and businesses in the target area, creation of a labor force development strategy to link potential workers with employers' skill needs, and homebuyer training and prepurchase services for first time homebuyers. Mr. Chairman, these services are much needed in my district, and in fact I wish I could have more financial institutions in my district with the same objective and purpose.

It has also been suggested that CDFI was making awards based on connections to the Clinton administration. In a letter to Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, more than 220 CDFI's around the country said that recipients of the first round awards include ''some of the strongest CDFI's in the field'' and called the funds's evaluation process ''exhaustive, competitive, and careful, assessing the management strength, systems, and business planning of each applicant.''

Shore Bank has pioneered the field of community development finance, for over 25 years. Their work has attracted bipartisan national and international support. Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose the Foley-Bachus-Miller amendment.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing 11 duty suspensions that should promote international commerce and improve the productivity of our American chemical industry. They include three general product categories. Four of the requests are in the category of antioxidant products which protect against heat damage during the manufacturing of finished products. Five are in the category of photoinitiators permitting the curing of varnishes and paints by ultraviolet light. And the remaining two are in the category of corrosion inhibitors.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FROM THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. STEVEN SCHIFF

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.***HD***Certificate of Merit Award Winners 1997

Albuquerque Evening High School, Jonathan Baird. Bernalillo High School, Melissa Anne Martinez. Cibola High School, Rebecca Wong. Del Notre High School, Jay M. English. Estancia High School, William D. Neish. Freedom High School, Marcio Lujan. Hope Christian School, Geoffrey Luke McKinnon. Albuquerque High School, Albert Leija. Bernalillo High School, Jennifer M. Rivera. Sandia Preparatory School, Leslie Siegal. Eldorado High School, Matt Byers. Evangel Christian Academy, Amanda Brown. Highland High School, Matthew Sullivan. La Cueva High School, John B. Wenz. Los Lunas High School, Sarah Archer. Menaul High School, Jedidiah Garcia Glazener. Mountainair High School, Jessica Dawn Barber. Rio Grande High School, Anthony Baca. Menaul High School, Anna Chrzanowski. Menaul High School, Haven Annette Scogin. New Futures High School, Angelita Garcia. St. Pius X High School, Shabbon P. Walsh.

TRIBUTE TO AN ANGEL

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an angel.

As you are aware, my district in Minnesota has been devastated by blizzards and floods for several months this past spring. The worst damage has occurred in East Grand Forks, the little city in the big flood. I was there when the dikes were breaking and we have been there ever since trying to help this brave community come back from this disastrous event.

The physical damage was an awesome sight and the water refused to recede for day after endless day. Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to tell you the sadness we felt as we watched their hearts breaking, or the pride as we watched them struggle not to fall into despair.

And when circumstances were still at their bleakest, there appeared an angel. An anonymous donor of such generosity that all of us were astounded by her actions. A gentlewoman from another state gave the citizens of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks a total of $15 million, to be given out in the sum of $2,000 to each household that was evacuated by air raid sirens and lost property to the raging Red River. No other criteria. No strings attached. No delay allowed. She asked only that there be no redtape to the process and to remain anonymous.

I will always honor her wishes. So I use this forum to tell our angel, thank you. The impact was beautiful and immediate. The families were and remain moved to tears by your selfless actions. The community itself rose to a new level of courage and strength of purpose because of you. You fed their spirits and restored their souls.

This city will rise again, recover and rebuild and become a finer, stronger community. Of this there is no doubt in my mind. But it will not be because of a new downtown, or a new housing development, rebuilt schools, or a revitalized business sector. East Grand Forks will become a stronger community because you opened your heart to them in their darkest hour. You believed them worthy of a future. They will now believe it themselves. And they have learned from you, angel, they have learned that there is no shame in receiving help, and great joy in giving it. They will remember you for all their lives. As will I.

You have made a difference in our lives, and perhaps that is the highest achievement a person can attain on this earth. So I join the citizens of East Grand Forks in heartfelt thanks to you, our angel. We will never forget you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 307, I was unavoidably detained at the White House.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay.''

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARD REDUCTION ACT, H.R. 2249

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing with my colleague on the House Science Committee, Mr. BROWN, legislation to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program [NEHRP]. Since its inception in 1977, NEHRP has contributed greatly to what we know about the science of earthquakes as well as to reducing our Nation's vulnerability to earthquakes. Earth science and seismological research performed through NEHRP has produced maps and seismic data from which we can determine seismic risks in a given location. And, NEHRP helped to develop the knowledge base that enables design and construction of new structures that are less likely to collapse during an earthquake.

The bill we are introducing today enables the program to continue its good work in earthquake research and hazards mitigation. Specifically, this legislation authorizes approximately $105 million in fiscal year 1998 and $107 million in fiscal year 1999 for the four NEHRP agencies, the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], the United States Geological Survey [USGS], the National Science Foundation [NSF], and the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST]. In addition, the bill provides $3 million in each of fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to the USGS for operation of the Global Seismic Network [GSN].

There are several provisions of this legislation which I would like to highlight which we believe will strengthen NERHP and provide for a more robust earthquake science and engineering research infrastructure into the next century: First, the legislation authorizes $8 million specifically for the USGS's external grants programs. This action is consistent with the Science Committee's ongoing efforts to recognize and support external programs within the science agencies. Second, this bill requires the Director of USGS to develop a seismic hazard warning system which will enable our Nation's vital lifelines such as electric utilities, gas lines, and high-speed railroads, to receive warnings in advance of an earthquake. It is hoped that these warnings will be provided in time to shut down the lifelines, thereby guarding against the catastrophic effects that occur when such facilities are ruptured or damaged by earthquakes. Third, this NEHRP reauthorization requires an assessment of regional seismic monitoring networks to determine the state of facilities and equipment. Fourth, the bill authorizes the Director of NSF to use funds to develop earth science teaching materials and to make them available to local schools. Fifth, the legislation directs the Director of USGS to improve hazards assessments of seismic zones in the United States. Sixth, the bill requires the Director of FEMA to assess and report on disaster training capabilities and programs offered by the agency. Seventh, finally, the bill requires the Director of NSF to work with the other NERHP agencies to develop a plan to effectively use earthquake engineering research facilities, which includes upgrading facilities and equipment and integrating innovative testing approaches.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation Mr. BROWN and I are introducing today is reflective of the Science Committee's bipartisan efforts on behalf of Federal science and technology programs. The bill is a manifestation of a jointly shared goal to ensure that the Nation has a vital earthquake research enterprise which will continue to greatly contribute to better earthquake awareness, more widespread and effective earthquake mitigation, and ultimately, a reduction in lives and property lost from this hazard.

NATIONAL PARENTS DAY

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that this coming Sunday we will celebrate National Parents Day. Unfortunately, because of our busy legislative schedule, I will not be able to attend National Parents Day ceremonies in my district this weekend.

The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the important role that parents play in the future of our country, based on how they bring up their children. At a time when we see more families where both parents are forced to work, we need to remind ourselves that it is not the Government's role to raise our children. Nor is it a teacher's responsibility to raise our children.

Parents need to take the primary responsibility for raising their children, instilling morals and teaching those values that we want our Nation to represent in the next century. Through active participation in all facets of their children's lives, parents can mold and shape their children into the type of citizens that can lead the United States into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, the positive influence that parents can play in the upbringing of a child is of the utmost importance, I am pleased we take the time to celebrate this occasion, and I salute groups like the National Parents Day Coalition, for hosting events to bring this to our attention.

FAITH IN EVERY FOOTSTEP

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, ''Faith in Every Footstep'' is the motto of the Mormon pioneer sesquicentennial year, which culminates today with a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847. I rise to recognize this historical milestone in the settlement of the West and important date in Nevada's early history.

Like many other western States, Nevada's initial settlements were established by Mormon pioneers—Genoa in northern Nevada in 1851, and Las Vegas in southern Nevada in 1855. In fact, Nevada was part of the Utah Territory before becoming the Nevada Territory. The Mormon pioneers of northern Nevada were led by Orson Hyde, while the pioneer group called to settle Las Vegas were led by William Bringhurst. On a warm day in mid-June of 1855, these courageous pioneers began to build a diamond in the desert. The old Las Vegas Mormon Fort is the oldest standing building in the State of Nevada.

Today, amid the bustle of the fastest growing city in the Nation, beautiful chapels and a temple grace the Las Vegas Valley while serving as a place of worship for over 100,000 Latter-Day Saints. Las Vegas has become a place where Latter-Day Saints have settled to raise their families and serve their community.

On behalf of all the citizens of my congressional district and throughout Nevada, I salute those early Mormon pioneers who blazed the trails of the rugged West and built a lasting heritage for themselves and the State of Nevada.

On Pioneer Day, we should remember and honor all those brave men, women, and children who answered the call to settle new lands, and through faith, courage, and sacrifice built hundreds of settlements throughout the Western United States and made the desert bloom.

FISCAL YEAR 1998 AGRICULTURE APPROPRATIONS BILL

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was blocked from offering an amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill by an unfair gag rule. This rule was written by the Republican leadership midway through debate on the Agriculture appropriations bill to change the rules for debate from an open amending process to a closed, undemocratic process.

Although we were told that no preprinting of amendments was required, the rule arbitrarily barred any amendments that weren't preprinted 2 days prior. This meant that by the time Members first heard of the new rule, it was already too late for them to meet its new restrictions. Unless, of course, you were one of the three chosen Republicans that were inexplicably grandfathered in as exceptions to the preprinting deadline.

The Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee knew that I intended to offer this amendment. I had sent out four dear colleagues letters, including one bipartisan letter signed by six other Members. Nonetheless, I was unjustly muzzled; my opportunity to have a debate on an important policy issue was held hostage to a partisan power play.

The following paragraphs describe in detail the animal damage control amendment that I would have offered had I not been silenced by an unjust rule of the majority party.

The goal of my amendment is to reduce the Federal subsidy for a practice that many Americans believe is economically unfair, ineffective as a livestock protection method, unnecessary, inhumane, a waste of money, and harmful to the environment.

My amendment requires that those who benefit from the livestock protection services

of the Animal Damage Control Program in the West pay for those services. This amendment is supported by more than 80 taxpayer and conservation organizations from across the country, including Taxpayers for Common Sense, the National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, the Humane Society, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group and the Green Scissors budget-cutting coalition.

My amendment is designed to eliminate the excessive, systematic, taxpayer-subsidized annual killing of hundreds of thousands of coyotes and other animals in the name of western livestock protection. Specifically, my amendment limits ADC funding for livestock protection efforts in the Western United States to $1.9 million. This amount is enough to provide $100,000 to each of the 19 States in ADC's Western region, which will allow them to continue predator control programs focusing on rancher education and nonlethal control techniques like guard dogs, shepherds, and the like.

By limiting expenditures for livestock protection to $1.9 million, we provide the American taxpayers with a savings of $11.3 million. I want to stress that this still leaves a total of $16.6 million in the ADC budget. I repeat, this amendment will not eliminate the Animal Damage Control Program, and will not affect ADC's other activities. The only portion of the ADC budget my amendment would touch is moneys for livestock protection in the Western United States. And I take a moderate approach. I do not cut the entire subsidy for these activities as many have advocated. My amendment would still provide Federal funding for each State to have a predator control program.

Let me take a moment to mention what this amendment would not do. This amendment would not take any of ADC's money away from measures to protect public health or safety. This includes ADC activities to prevent birds from causing problems at our Nation's airports or to prevent the spread of rabies. Nor would this amendment touch any ADC activities in the Eastern United States.

The ADC has seven categories of resources they protect: aquaculture, livestock, forest and range, crops, human health and safety, property and natural resources—which includes endangered species. Let me stress again that this amendment deals only with the livestock protection category, and only in the West.

Two ADC programs that protect endangered species warrant specific mention, if only to note that they will not be cut by this amendment. First, ADC plays an important role in wolf recovery by ensuring that problem wolves that prey upon livestock are immediately controlled. Almost all of ADC's wolf control activity takes place in Minnesota, which is in their Eastern region and therefore not affected by our amendment. What little wolf control activity that occurs in the Western region can easily be funded out of ADC's budget for threatened and endangered species, which is also untouched by my amendment. Second, ADC also plays an important role in preventing the brown tree snake from being introduced into Hawaii. I support the work ADC is doing on this issue and, again, would like to stress that my amendment does not reduce funds for this purpose.

This amendment focuses on the West for several reasons. First, 97 percent of ADC's livestock protection budget is spent in the West. Second, the objectionable and excessive mass-killing of coyotes and other predators takes place mostly in the Western States. Third, that region serves a livestock industry that is over-subsidized to the detriment of wildlife and other public land uses, such as outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing. Fishing is harmed because the run-off from intense livestock grazing near streams reduces fish populations available for commercial and sport fishing. And, of course, subsidized coyote control may induce ranchers to increase their herds beyond environmentally sustainable levels. Fourth and finally, this ADC subsidy is unfair to the majority of livestock producers around the country, who do not benefit from this subsidy, even though their tax dollars help pay for it. This represents an unfair competitive disadvantage.

Let me take a moment to talk about the ADC program and what it does. Each year, ADC kills more than a hundred thousand coyotes, mountain lions, bears, and other predators. Thousands more are accidentally killed. In fact, between 1990 and 1994, ADC killed 7.8 million critters. A number of techniques are used, including leghold steel jaw traps—the method chosen for this ill-fated bobcat in the photo next to me, who died a slow painful death, aerial gunning, field hunting with dogs, snares, denning—which means gassing the mother and pups in their dens, and M–44s—a baited device that ejects cyanide poison into the animal's mouth. One frequent ADC technique is the preventative shooting of coyotes from aircraft to kill as many coyotes as possible before livestock is moved to a new range area, even though they haven't actually harmed any livestock. This practice is comparable to a dentist pulling out all of a patient's teeth as a way to prevent cavities.

In fact, we often see that the amount of wildlife killed by ADC bears little relation to the actual damage inflicted. In 1990, for example, ADC personnel in New Mexico spent more than 80 staff days killing 55 animals—including 22 non-target animals such as kit fox, deer, porcupines and badgers—in response to a single lamb killed by a coyote—a loss of only $83. This is not a wise use of taxdollars.

I would also point out that the ADC's predator control program is of very questionable effectiveness. Between 1983 and 1993, Federal appropriations to ADC increased 71 percent and the number of coyotes killed increased 30 percent—but the number of livestock losses to predators did not decline.

In addition, other factors such as weather, medical problems, poisoning and theft account for the majority of losses of both sheep, 60 percent, and cattle, 97 percent—not predators. Less than 3 percent of all cattle losses nationwide are the result of predation. Our money would be better spent on animal research on how to reduce these losses than on killing coyotes.

The finances of the program are equally questionable. The private ranching interests that benefit from this program contribute only 14 percent of the costs of the program, despite the fact that the Department of Agriculture is authorized to collect fees for ADC services. In every Western State in fiscal year 1995, ADC spent more money controlling predators than the value of the livestock allegedly lost to predators by ADC beneficiaries.

To add insult to injury, this program uses tax dollars to benefit some very wealthy ranchers who can more easily afford ADC's predator control services than the American taxpayers. I bring to your attention the front page story of the New York Post from March which highlights how ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson, who makes $3 million annually, benefits from ADC. Sam's sheep ranch received 412 visits from ADC officers between 1991–1996, during which time they killed 74 coyotes and 3 bobcats. This is not an appropriate use of your constituents' tax dollars.

For years, official ADC policy has required ADC employees to try nonlethal methods of predator control before resorting to killing animals. Congress in fiscal year 1994 and fiscal year 1995 also directed that ''non-lethal methods of control should be the practice of choice'' for ADC personnel. Nonetheless, a 1995 GAO report found that ADC personnel still ''used lethal methods in essentially all instances to control livestock predators.'' In essence, ADC is completely ignoring established congressional guidance, as well as their own internal directives.

Many cost effective, nonlethal control methods exist, such as the use of guard dogs and shepherds, confinement of sheep during the vulnerable lambing period, pasture rotation, removal of carcasses that attract predators, fencing and electronic guards, to name a few. The State of Kansas, which has spent less than $75,000 a year on its predator control program for the past 27 years, relies heavily on nonlethal techniques. In fact, Kansas has 20 times fewer reported predator problems than the State of Oklahoma, a State of comparable size and agriculture production which spends $1.3 million on predator control. We could learn a lesson or two from Kansas on this issue.

So, let me reiterate. My amendment would save American taxpayers $11.3 million. It does this by reducing funds for the killing of predators to protect private livestock operators in the Western United States. My amendment still leaves more than $16 million for other ADC activities and does not touch funding for the protection of human health and safety or endangered species. It does not impact moneys to clear birds from airport runways, to remove beavers or groundhogs that cause flooding, to control mountain lions that attack joggers or to prevent the spread of rabies by raccoons. My amendment does not impact any ADC activities in the Eastern United States at all.

While we struggle to scrape together moneys to continue the many important programs critical to the American people, the subcommittee has chosen to increase the fiscal year 1998 funding for the ADC subsidy by $1 million over the fiscal year 1997 appropriation and $4.25 million more than the President's budget. In fact, this program is consistently funded at an average of almost $3 million per year more than the administration requests for it. I would argue that our constituents wouldn't view this program as a priority use of their tax dollars.

Let me close by saying that I am a Westerner. I hail from a district that includes rural areas and livestock ranches. Not everyone in my district would be happy to lose their ADC subsidy. But if we're going to be serious about balancing the budget and cutting the fat out of Government spending, then we're going to have to be critical of the subsidies in our own backyards. We can't just cut the pork in our neighbor's district.

I'd like to end my statement by quoting from a letter written to the Governor of New Mexico from a Ph.D. rangeland scientist who just happens to be a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. The Cato Institute, as you know, is a well-respected, fiscally conservative, free market think tank. Karl Hess from Cato writes:

ADC subsidies effectively shoulder what should be part of the costs of operating a business . . . ADC is a gross intervention in the market place. The wonderful feature of America is the freedom of opportunity each of us has to make it on our own merits and to do so in the arena of the free market. I am, as you might surmise, a fan of the free markets, just as I am a great believer in individual freedom. I am certain you are too. Let's make sure that ranchers can defend themselves against predators, but let's not ask taxpayers to pay the bill. It's only fair.

I couldn't have said it better myself. Please join me in reducing the animal damage control subsidy for private livestock owners in the West. Send the signal to ADC that they need to clean up their act. And give the American taxpayers a break.

Vote ''yes'' on the Furse amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall vote 307. If present, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall No. 307.

INTRODUCING A HOUSE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CRISIS IN CAMBODIA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today House Resolution 185 which addresses the current crisis in Cambodia and calls for definitive action to put that country back on the road to peace, democracy, and stability.

As you know, the Cambodian people suffered terribly through two decades of political conflicts, civil war, foreign invasion, protracted violence, and the horrific genocide perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge. The nightmare finally ended with the 1991 Paris peace accords which, through a massive and historic international effort, brought peace to Cambodia. The peace accords set the stage for a process of political accommodation, national reconciliation, and the founding of a nation based on democratic principles.

The successful national elections held in Cambodia in 1993 under U.N. supervision—in which over 90 percent of the eligible voters participated—demonstrated the firm commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy. Regrettably, earlier this month, a military coup by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen forcefully wrested democracy from the Cambodian people. This must not stand.

Since the signing of the peace accords and the completion of the 1993 elections, Cambodia has made considerable progress toward establishing a bright future based on economic freedom and democratic principles. This included the creation of a national constitution that guarantees fundamental human rights and liberties. With significant investment from the international donor community, including many millions of dollars in assistance from the United States, Cambodia appeared to be heading in the right direction toward democracy, peace, and freedom. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] recognized this progress and recently extended membership privileges to Cambodia.

On July 5, 1997, Cambodia's bright future was shattered when Second Prime Minister Hun Sen deposed First Prime Minister Ranariddh in a violent military coup. Reportedly, over 40 opposition politicians have died or have been executed in the custody of Hun Sen's forces, some after having been tortured. Hundreds of others have been detained without cause due to their political affiliations and thousands have fled the country.

It is regrettable that we find ourselves on familiar ground once again—trying to restore peace and stability in Cambodia. The military coup d'etat orchestrated by Hun Sen marks an unfortunate return to the past—a past of fear and violence. The reports of executions, arrests, and other human rights abuses are cause for tremendous concern. Cambodia's once bright future is now clouded by the shadow of tyranny that darkens the countryside.

This forcible change to the duly-elected Government in Cambodia is illegal and unacceptable. This brutality violates not only Cambodia's own constitution but also all internationally respected norms of behavior. More tragically, Hun Sen's actions violate the mandate of the Cambodian people, as expressed in the 1993 elections.

We must not look the other way while violence and tyranny rule in Cambodia. The United States Government and the international community have made a significant investment in bringing peace to Cambodia and providing the Cambodian people with the opportunity to determine their own future through free and fair elections. We must remain committed to this ideal.

The United States must condemn—in the strongest terms possible—the undemocratic and forcible change in government and the use of violence to resolve political matters by all sides in Cambodia. So far, the administration has taken a cautious approach in addressing this crisis, failing to acknowledge that Hun Sen's actions constitute a military coup.

We must not renege on our role as a guarantor of the Paris peace accords and wait on the sidelines while the situation in Cambodia sorts itself out. The United States Government should demonstrate leadership to reverse the coup and restore democracy in Cambodia. We should work with the U.N. Security Council and the ASEAN member states to consider all options to return democracy, stability, and the rule of law to Cambodia.

The administration's decision to suspend assistance for 1 month is only a first step. This resolution calls for a continued suspension of direct assistance to the Cambodian regime until the violence ends and a democratically elected government is reconstituted. The legislation also encourages the international donor community to suspend aid as part of a multilateral effort to encourage respect for democratic processes and principles.

The United States Government should use its influence to ensure that Cambodian authorities hold free and fair national elections as scheduled in 1998. We also must assist Cambodia in depoliticizing its military and making the judicial system independent.

In addition, this resolution calls upon the Cambodian authorities to stop all political violence; restore all civil and political freedoms to the Cambodian people; investigate all extralegal actions that have taken place since fighting was renewed in July 1997; and, bring to justice those who are responsible for the human rights abuses that have occurred.

The Cambodian people have suffered enough. Let's work to get Cambodia back on the road to democracy. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution (H.R. 185).

H. RES. 185

Whereas during the 1970s and 1980s Cambodia was wracked by political conflict, civil war, foreign invasion, protracted violence, and a genocide perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979;

Whereas the Paris Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict led to the end of 2 decades of civil war and genocide in Cambodia, demonstrated the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy and stability, and established a national constitution guaranteeing fundamental human rights;

Whereas the 1991 Paris Peace Accords set the stage for a process of political accommodation, national reconciliation, and the founding of a state based on democratic principles;

Whereas the international donor community contributed more than $3,000,000,000 in an effort to secure peace, democracy, and stability in Cambodia following the Paris Peace Accords and currently provides over 40 percent of the budget of the Cambodian Government;

Whereas the Cambodian people clearly demonstrated their support for democracy when over 93 percent of eligible Cambodian voters participated in United Nations sponsored elections in 1993;

Whereas since the 1993 elections, Cambodia has made significant progress, as evidenced by the decision last month of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to extend membership to Cambodia;

Whereas notwithstanding the notable societal and economic progress since the elections of 1993, concern has increasingly been raised regarding the fragile state of democracy in Cambodia, in particular the quality of the judicial system, which has been described in a United Nations report as thoroughly corrupt; unsolved attacks in 1995 on officials of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party; and the unsolved murders of journalists and political activists;

Whereas tensions within the Cambodian Government has erupted into violence in recent months;

Whereas on March 30, 1997, 19 Cambodians were killed and more than 100 were wounded in a grenade attack on a peaceful political demonstration in Phnom Penh;

Whereas in June 1997 fighting erupted in Phnom Penh between military and paramilitary forces loyal to First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen;

Whereas on July 5, 1997, Second Prime Minister Hun Sen deposed the First Prime Minister in a violent military coup d'etat;

Whereas at least several dozen opposition politicians have died in the custody of Hun Sen's forces, some after being tortured, and hundreds of others have been detained due to their political affiliation;

Whereas democracy and stability in Cambodia are threatened by the continued use of violence to resolve political differences;

Whereas the administration has suspended assistance to Cambodia for 1 month in response to the deteriorating situation in Cambodia; and

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has decided to delay indefinitely Cambodian membership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the forcible assault upon the democratically elected Government of Cambodia is illegal and unacceptable;

(2) the recent events in Cambodia constitute a military coup against the duly elected democratic Government of Cambodia;

(3) the authorities in Cambodia should take immediate steps to halt all extralegal violence and to restore fully civil, political, and personal liberties to the Cambodian people, including freedom of the press, speech, and assembly, as well as the right to a democratically elected government;

(4) the United States should release the report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the March 30, 1997, grenade attack in Phnom Penh;

(5) the United States should press the authorities in Cambodia to investigate fully and impartially all abuses and extralegal actions that have occurred in Cambodia since July 4, 1997, and to bring to justice all those responsible for such abuses and extra-legal actions;

(6) the administration should immediately invoke section 508 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208), as it is required to do;

(7) the United States should urgently request an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider all options to restore peace in Cambodia;

(8) the United States should encourage the Secretary General of the United Nations to expand the monitoring operations of the United Nations Special Representative on Human Rights in Cambodia;

(9) the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should coordinate efforts to restore democracy, stability, and the rule of law in Cambodia;

(10) direct United States assistance to the Government of Cambodia should continue to be suspended until violence ends, a democratically elected government is reconstituted, necessary steps have been taken to ensure that the election scheduled for 1998 takes place in a free and fair manner, the military is depoliticized, and the judiciary is made independent; and

(11) the United States should call for an emergency meeting of the Donors' Consultative Group for Cambodia to encourage the suspension of assistance as part of a multilateral effort to encourage respect for democratic processes, constitutionalism, and the rule of law.

EQUAL PARENTS WEEK

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that this coming Sunday signals the beginning of Equal Parents Week. Unfortunately, because of our busy legislative schedule, I will not be able to attend Equal Parents Week ceremonies in my district this weekend.

Equal Parents Week brings to the attention of our Nation the importance of both parents in the raising of a child, especially in cases of a divorce. Unfortunately, in many cases a divorce results in a custody battle that, in addition to severely hurting the child, renders one parent with fewer parental rights than the other.

As a result, the noncustodial parent loses a great deal of his or her parental rights, and is thus relegated to a position as a ''second class'' parent. I believe that, as long as it is in the best interest and safety of the child, parents should work together to make certain that both parents have an equal opportunity to play an active role in that child's upbringing.

Mr. Speaker, the positive influence that both parents can play in the upbringing of a child is of the utmost importance. I am pleased we take the time to celebrate this occasion each year, and I salute groups like the Coalition of Parent Support, for hosting events to bring this important issue to our attention.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUN BAN

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, the domestic violence gun ban amendment, included in last year's omnibus appropriations bill, was intended to protect victims of domestic abuse by prohibiting anyone convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor from purchasing or possessing a handgun. Supporters of this provision wanted to ensure that if one spouse was convicted of this kind of offense, he or she could not then have access to a gun, which could increase the likelihood of deadly violence against the abused spouse in the future. However, I do not believe that this amendment also intended another consequence: taking away the livelihood of some Americans.

The domestic violence gun ban amendment would make it illegal for law enforcement officials to do their job, because it would prohibit them from carrying a gun during normal work hours.

There is a simple answer to this problem. My legislation would allow law enforcement officials with past domestic violence misdemeanor convictions to carry a handgun on duty while engaged in official police business. A police officer with a prior domestic violence conviction would pick up his or her gun when beginning a shift at work, and then turn in the weapon when they leave to go home. I believe that my legislation is a practical solution to allow law enforcement officers to continue to do their jobs, while also protecting victims of spousal abuse. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE VETERANS SEXUAL TRAUMA TREATMENT ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act, which I have introduced today with the support of 33 of my colleagues.

I want to begin by thanking four outstanding Veterans Service Organizations; the American Legion, Amvets, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans of America for their leadership on this issue. Their input on this legislation has been invaluable. I am very proud that they all strongly support this legislation and thank them for their work.

The Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act provides very real help to veterans who experience the very real problem of sexual abuse or harassment while serving in our nation's military. The numbers are alarming. In 1996, approximately 190,000 women served in our armed services.

A Department of Defense survey of active duty women found that 5 percent of women had been the victim of a sexual assault. That is almost 10,000 women. These statistics—and news reports of incidents like those at Aberdeen—have made clear the existence of very serious problem in our Armed Forces and the need to move aggressively to end the tragedy of sexual abuse.

However, we must also take aggressive steps to help our veterans after this abuse or harassment has occurred. The pain and suffering that sexual abuse causes does not end when a person leaves the military. The physical, psychological and emotional effects are often just beginning.

That is why I believe the Veterans' Sexual Trauma Treatment Act is so important. This legislation strengthens existing Veterans Administration programs for aiding victims of sexual assault. Sadly, the current law is inadequate. It states that the VA may provide counseling and care to victims of sexual assault, and that the program must be reauthorized each and every year.

It excludes members of the reserves and National Guard—thereby denying care to some soldiers called to duty during the Gulf War. It also excludes any military personnel who separate before 2 years of duty with our armed forces. Finally, the VA has done a woeful job of notifying veterans of what services are available to them and how to access these services.

I don't believe these half-hearted provisions are acceptable for veterans who have made whole-hearted commitments to serving our Nation.

We know that problems exist. We should pass legislation that guarantees care.

Our bill assures a national commitment to our veterans. Our bill makes the provision of care to victims of sexual assault or harassment mandatory—and permanently authorize this care. It allows veterans who separate before they have completed 2 years of service to be eligible for care and counseling. This is vital, because often sexual assault is the very reason these people leave the military. It is illogical and unfair to deny them care.

The Veterans Sexual Trauma Act also makes reservists and National Guard members eligible for care.

It also ensures that health professionals—not VA administrators—make determinations about eligibility for care and guarantees that all appropriate medical care is made available to any eligible veteran.

Finally, it mandates that the VA aggressively promote the availability of this vital service and assure that veterans are aware of these counseling and care programs.

This is not a complicated bill, nor is it an expensive bill.

It is however, a vital bill.

Each year, more and more women make the decision to dedicate a portion of their lives to serving our Nation.

The increasing enlistment of females is a trend that should make our Nation proud—but we should be ashamed when any soldier faces sexual assault or harassment.

When Americans enlist in the military they make a promise to dedicate their lives to serving our Nation.

This legislation helps America keep its promise to our veterans—its promise to provide all necessary health care.

Care and counseling for victims of sexual abuse and trauma should be a basic and fundamental part of the health care services the VA makes available to our veterans. Today, it is not.

This legislation accomplishes this important goal. I urge all of my colleagues to support it and push for its quick passage.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will promote investment in small business by cutting the tax on capital gains that are reinvested in American small businesses. By doing so, this bill will create jobs. I repeat—the only capital gains relief is for small business—where their profit is invested in companies doing business in America. That means jobs for Americans in America. Increasing the amount of capital available to American businesses will be extremely beneficial to our long-term economy.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and need extra capital to expand and compete in the increasingly international marketplace. In Oregon, over 95 percent of businesses earn less than five million dollars per year in gross receipts. These small businesses are the core to Oregon's success in trade in the Pacific Rim. In fact, many of my colleagues are surprised to learn that Japan is Oregon's largest trading partner. Most importantly, Oregon small businesses provide job opportunities for Oregon's working families.

During the debate over the capital gains tax cuts, Congress should embrace this bill as an opportunity to provide support to the small business community and benefit America's working families. Traditionally, capital gains tax cuts have been viewed as a tool for the wealthy, but by targeting investments in small business we are providing job opportunities for working families. Many middle-income Americans realize some type of capital gain and this is an opportunity for them to reinvest that gain in their community and help provide jobs for their neighbors.

The Pacific Northwest International Trade Association and Oregon Bankers Association have joined me in supporting this bill. Following are their letters of endorsement. I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

OREGON BANKERS ASSOCIATION,
INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKS OF OREGON,
Salem, OR, July 21, 1997.

Hon. ELIZABETH FURSE,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FURSE: The Oregon Bankers Association wholeheartedly endorses your proposed ''Capital gains small business reinvestment exemption''. We shall support its passage in every way possible.

As we have previously discussed, Oregon has a large number of small businesses. As a matter-of-fact, most of our new job potential is in the small business sector.

We must create incentives and remove roadblocks to insure growth in this very key area of our economy.

Your proposal could be extremely valuable to the emerging Oregon small businesses and small businesses nationwide.

Sincerely,

FRANK E. BRAWNER,
President.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION, ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER,
Portland, OR, July 21, 1997.

Hon. ELIZABETH FURSE,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Re: Capital Gains Exemption for Small Business Reinvestment Act

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FURSE: PNITA commends you for introducing this bill which has our enthusiastic support. As a small business state we believe this legislation will help to encourage small businesses in general and specifically provide a greater opportunity for investment by people who own and operate small businesses.

We ask that your staff keep us informed as this bill is assigned to committee so that PNITA members may do whatever is necessary to insure its timely passage.

Again, we appreciate your continued support of the small business community. We know that your bill will help small businesses nationwide as the similar Oregon law has helped Oregon companies.

Sincerely,

STEVEN W. NEWMAN,
Executive Director.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS JOB OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Representative ELIZABETH FURSE, in introducing legislation that will provide targeted capital gains tax relief to small business owners. Our bill would reward small business owners who reinvest their profits in American small businesses, and would demonstrate our national commitment to the health and welfare of our nation's entrepreneurs.

In the state of Oregon, small businesses are a crucial part of the growing economy. In fact, more than 95 percent of businesses in the state earn less than $5 million a year. These growing businesses are providing quality jobs and economic opportunity for working families across our state. But this experience is not unique to Oregon. Small businesses across this country are providing the new jobs and economic growth that are driving our strong economy.

As Congress continues to work toward balancing the budget and providing tax relief, it is essential that we maximize the benefit of tax reductions by targeting them to the people who need them most. This bill does just that by encouraging reinvestment in small business and creating a climate for continued growth and job creation.

I am also pleased that the Oregon Bankers Association and the Pacific Northwest International Trade Association have joined us in support of the legislation. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important small business legislation.

IN HONOR OF QUEENS SURFACE CORPORATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Queens Surface Corporation, a company with an outstanding reputation of service in Queens, on the 60th anniversary of its founding. Now the largest privately owned transit company in New York City, Queens Surface plays an important role in the community of its headquarters in College Point, Queens.

Queens Surface Corporation has given significant amounts of financial support to the College Point community by helping such organizations as the College Point Ambulance Corp., the College Point Sports Association, the College Point Security Patrol, the College Point Little League and the College Point Athletic Club. The company has also given donations to the Poppenhusen Institute, Saint Mary's Foundation for Children, the American Diabetes Association, the American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society and Memorial Sloan Kettering.

For its service to and support for the community, Queens Surface Corporation has been awarded hundreds of awards and citations from cultural, religious and educational institutions. Since 1988, when the current owners, Robert and Myra Burke, bought the company, Queens Surface Corporation has continued to drive at community service, garnering 14 awards from a wide array of organizations.

Mr. Burke also gives his personal time to the community, serving on the board for Saint Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm, and holding positions as President of the Bus Association of New York State and Secretary/Treasurer of the Mass Transit Operations of New York. Most recently, Mr. Burke was the Grand Marshal of the 1997 College Point Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Robert and Myra Burke's company, Queens Surface Corporation, as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. I am honored to have in my district, a company which services over 80,000 riders daily while continuously contributing to its Queens community. Thank you