

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMBAT VETERANS MEDICAL EQUITY ACT

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to re-introduce the Combat Veterans Medical Equity Act. This legislation guarantees eligibility for Veterans Administration (VA) hospital care and medical services based on the award of the Purple Heart Medal. It also sets the enrollment priority for combat injured veterans for medical service at level three—the same level as former prisoners of war and veterans with service-connected disabilities rated between 10 and 20 percent.

Most people are unaware that under current law, the Purple Heart does not qualify a veteran for medical care at VA facilities. This bill would change the law to ensure combat-wounded veterans receive automatic access to treatment at VA facilities.

We as a nation owe a debt of gratitude to all our veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered in service to this country. This bill is long overdue and I am proud to sponsor this bill for our Nation's Purple Heart recipients.

This bipartisan legislation has over 100 original cosponsors and has been endorsed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY J.
CELEBREZZE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great servant of the people of Ohio, Judge Anthony J. Celebrezze. Celebrezze served Ohioans for over five decades. His recent death at the age of 88, is a sorrowful event for myself and many in my state.

Born in Anzi, Italy, Celebrezze emigrated to Cleveland at the age of two. He was one of 13 children. Like so many immigrants, Anthony Celebrezze grew up with modest means, but what he lacked in advantages he more than made up for in effort and ability. He worked his way through college at John Carroll University and through law school at Ohio Northern.

In 1950, Anthony was elected to the Ohio Senate. Three years later he was elected mayor of Cleveland. He was the first foreign born mayor of Cleveland. For an unprecedented five terms Anthony Celebrezze tirelessly served the people in this position. His leadership of the city brought Cleveland national recognition and respect. In 1962, he was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of

Health, Education and Welfare. Anthony Celebrezze worked to build Congressional support for Medicare and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, two legislative achievements that reflect the principles of compassion and decency.

In 1965, he was appointed by President Johnson to a federal judgeship. Six years later the Federal Building in Cleveland was renamed the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building. He was in the public eye for five decades, serving Ohio and the nation with honor and dignity. President Johnson said of Celebrezze that "with tolerance and energy with single minded purpose, he presided over the greatest thrust for the future of American education and health that his nation has ever known."

Judge Celebrezze was my role model, a man whose love of family and his community was never ending. I will never forget his warm smile, his friendly greetings, and his sense of decency, honesty and fairness. I am proud to have known him, and I think of him often. I, like many other Ohioans, will miss him terribly.

I ask you to join me in honoring the memory of this great man, Anthony J. Celebrezze. He will be greatly missed.

THE MEDICARE+CHOICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a number of my colleagues to introduce The Medicare+Choice Improvement Act. I don't need to tell you that the large number of Medicare+Choice plan terminations this past year was a real shock to many of our Medicare beneficiaries. In a number of communities, beneficiaries are left with fewer affordable coverage options in Medicare.

We should take immediate steps to make changes to the Medicare+Choice program that will protect beneficiaries when health plans leave the program, and we should make certain improvements that will aid health plans' abilities to project costs and continue as Medicare providers. I disagree with assertions that the only way to do this is to throw more money into the Medicare+Choice program and will oppose efforts of that nature.

History always has had a way of getting distorted and the Medicare+Choice program is a fine example of that happening. Let us remember, the Medicare+Choice program was created as part of the Balanced Budget Act. In other words, the purpose of creating the Medicare+Choice program was to save money in the Medicare program.

We have known for years that our payment system for Medicare managed care plans overcompensated them for the risk of the patients they were insuring. Medicare HMOs have historically insured younger, healthier

seniors. Because Medicare's payment to managed care plans was based on the average fee for service payment in the county, the HMO payments were higher than appropriate. We also know that there are a number of other ways in which we are still overcompensating Medicare managed care plans. A chart highlighting these current overpayments is attached.

So, rather than rewrite historical evidence to advocate increased funding of the Medicare+Choice program, I have put together The Medicare+Choice Improvement Act to make important consumer protection improvements in the Medicare+Choice Program. The bill would:

Broaden consumer protections so that beneficiaries can leave health plans that have announced that they are terminating Medicare participation and join another Medicare+Choice plan to purchase a Medigap policy;

Provide new protections for Medicare's disabled and ESRD patients.

Prohibit door-to-door cold-call marketing of Medicare+Choice plans to seniors;

Protect state efforts to provide comprehensive prescription drug benefits to their seniors;

End Medicare+Choice plans' abilities to gerrymander their Medicare service areas in comparison to their commercial business;

Require HCFA to calculate the portion of beneficiaries in a region receiving services through VA or DOD;

Require the NAIC to reconfigure the Medigap policies so that they better meet the needs of today's Medicare beneficiaries.

On the health plan side of the equation, my legislation would take care of one of their most pressing concerns: it would move the ACR submission date (the date that health plans must submit their pricing and benefit data for the following year to HCFA) from the current date of May 1 to July 1. This would give health plans two additional months to compile necessary data for the upcoming year. This might not move the date as far as health plans would like, but there are serious costs to move the date further in the year. As one example, moving the date any later would seriously jeopardize the ability of HCFA to prepare the "Medicare&You" beneficiary handbook which is mailed to seniors each year.

On the topic of risk adjustment, I think that HCFA's proposal to phase-in risk adjustment over the next five years is just too long. We have solid evidence that Medicare managed care plans have been enrolling healthier patients and making more money off of them because of that fact (again, see the attached chart). The hospital-based risk adjustment proposed by HCFA is a first step toward fixing this inequity. It would finally put in place a financial incentive to enroll less healthy beneficiaries. We need to be moving forward as quickly as possible with this mechanism. I do concede that a phase-in approach is appropriate, but my legislation would have that phase-in occur over three years rather than five.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

We have an opportunity this year to make improvements to the Medicare+Choice program that will protect beneficiaries when health plans make business decisions about whether to continue participating in Medicare. This bill makes those improvements without senselessly increasing Medicare expenditures on a program that already costs more than traditional Medicare. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make these important, reasonable, and necessary fixes to the Medicare+Choice program.

CURRENT MEDICARE OVERPAYMENTS TO MANAGED CARE PLANS

[Prepared by Rep. Pete Stark staff]

Source of overpayment	Cost to medicare	Source of analysis
Overpayments due to BBA change that removed HCFA's ability to recover overpayments when health care inflation is lower than expected.	\$800 million in 1997 .. \$8.7 billion over 5 years. \$31 billion over 10 years.	Congressional Budget Office.
Overpayments due to lack of risk adjustment.	5-6% overpayment to HMOs per beneficiary who is enrolled.	Physician Payment Review Commission (now MedPAC) 1996 Annual Report.
Overpayments due to inflation of Medicare's share of plan administrative costs.	More than \$1 billion annually.	HHS Office of Inspector General July 1998.
Overpayments due to inclusion of fraud, waste and abuse dollars from FFS payments. Managed care plans should better "manage" and therefore avoid such fraud, waste and abuse.	7% annual overpayment. Annual savings with a corrected 1997 base year would be: \$5 billion in 2002 ... \$10 billion in 2007	HHS Office of Inspector General Sept. 11, 1998.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, The World Customs Organization [WCO] designated January 26 as International Customs Day, a time to give recognition to customs services around the world for the role they play in generating revenue and protecting national borders from unauthorized imports.

The U.S. Customs Service represents the United States in the World Customs Organization which, since 1953, has grown into a 142-member international organization. The WCO's purpose is to facilitate international trade, promote cooperation between governments on customs matters, and standardize and simplify customs procedures internationally. It also offers technical assistance in the areas of customs validation, nomenclature, and law enforcement. The organization's objective is to obtain the highest possible level of uniformity among the customs systems of its member countries. The involvement of the U.S. Customs Service in the WCO reflects the recognition that our country and its trading partners benefit when international trade is facilitated by simple, unambiguous customs operations around the world.

I take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the World Customs Organization on its past accomplishments and wish it well in its ambitious efforts to further harmonize and simplify customs regulations. I also congratulate the U.S. Customs Service for its many years of fine work both domestically and internationally.

THE 509TH BOMB WING—SECOND TO NONE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to the successful leadership of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, MO. This superb military unit, located in West-Central Missouri and in the heart of my Congressional District, is home to the B-2 Stealth Bombers.

The history of Whiteman AFB is rich in tradition. In 1981, I began my work to make sure Whiteman AFB would have a future in the rapidly changing military arena, insisting on modernizing what was then becoming a run-down missile base. This modernization set the stage for 21 B-2 bombers that will eventually be based at Whiteman.

People living in the proximity of Whiteman AFB have a great opportunity to observe regularly what can be described as the premier United States Air Force Base. Attesting to the top quality of the base's 509th Bomb Wing was a recent mission in which three B-2s were deployed to Guam for a month of training exercises with 250 troops and other Air Force bombers. The returning B-2s were met at Whiteman by an honor guard and their two commanders, Lt. General Ronald C. Marcotte, the commander of the 8th Air Force, and Brig. General Leroy Barnidge, Jr., present commander of the 509th Wing.

Both commanders praised the success of the training exercise which combined a global power mission with precision bombing training on targets in the South Pacific. The praise of the 509th was given for good reason. Their team performed flawlessly and received high praise on every daily report.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the 509th is due to the high caliber leadership at both the 8th Air Force and Whiteman AFB. Lt. General Marcotte and Brig. General Barnidge possess the expertise and high quality leadership that makes our national defense second to none. The U.S. Air Force and other branches of military service merit the support of every American, including all Members of Congress.

HONORING MARTIN L. KING, FIREFIGHTER, CITY OF NEW HAVEN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 17, 1998, family and friends will come together to hold a testimonial dinner to honor Martin L. King, who retired from the New Haven Fire Department after forty-eight years. It is with great pleasure that I salute Marty King and his notable career of service to the New Haven Fire Department.

Marty King's career as a firefighter began in 1953 when he was transferred from his first public service job with the New Haven Police Department. Marty served the police department with distinction for two years, but his heart was with the fire service. In 1954, Marty was assigned to the old Central Fire Station

on Court Street. It was from this point that he launched his long career of courage and commitment to his community.

Because of Marty's hard work and strong devotion, he was promoted to lieutenant in 1967 where he was assigned to the Lombard Street Station. Following his duty there, he was transferred to headquarters as a veteran firefighter. For the past ten years, Marty worked as an administrative aide in the fire chief's office.

Marty earned a number of awards during the course of his career. He received many citations and a commendation for his bravery, and was also honored as the Fireman of the Year in 1993. Most notably, Marty was presented with the 35-year award from the Connecticut State Fireman's Association in 1987. His awards serve as a testament to his dedication to fire fighting and to protecting residents of New Haven. In addition to his outstanding record with the Department, Marty proudly served his country by joining the Navy during World War II.

Marty remains a legend to many, being the oldest member of the department in years of service, and the last active fireman who fought the most devastating fire the City had ever witnessed. The incident occurred when the factory on Franklin Street caught fire. Tragically, 15 people lost their lives.

I am very pleased to join Marty's colleagues and friends, his wife Kathryn, his six children, and his grandchildren in congratulating him on his retirement. His departure is a great loss to the Department. His efforts have made this City a better and safer place to live. Indeed, Marty, has left an indelible mark on the City of New Haven. I thank you for a lifetime of extraordinary services to the public, and I wish you much health and happiness in your retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOSEPH BOYD PRIVATE RELIEF BILL

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I must introduce a private relief bill for the Boyd family. This legislation will clarify the status of Joseph Samuel Boyd as a public safety officer for purposes of payment of death benefits by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Joseph Boyd, the dedicated and highly decorated Rangemaster for the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD), tragically died on-duty while testing an illegal firearm.

I wholeheartedly support awarding the Boyd family death benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program due to the contributions Rangemaster Boyd made to the Santa Ana Police Department and our community. Joe Boyd was not only a committed husband and father, he was a critical component of the Santa Ana police force.

In 1995, the Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded SAPD a grant under the Firearms Trafficking Program. The Santa Ana firearms program, along with the Santa Ana Weapons Inspection Team (WIT) has developed into one of the nation's premiere firearms trafficking programs as a result of this grant. Joe was

an integral part of this Weapons Inspection Team, and as part of his duties, Joe examined and tested firearms to confirm their nomenclature and help prove the elements of a crime.

Joe Boyd was an indispensable resource to the investigators assigned to the Team and he performed exceptionally in his duties. At the time of his death, Joe was assisting the SAPD, in conjunction with the firearms program, in testing a fully automatic MAC-11 weapon. The faulty construction of this weapon led to his untimely death.

As we come upon the one year anniversary of Joe's death, we can recount with pride the innumerable contributions he made to SAPD and the city of Santa Ana. The unusual circumstances surrounding his death call for the Boyd family to be compensated for their tragic loss. While this legislation may not make the loss of Joe Boyd any less painful, it will honor his work and legacy as a man dedicated to the safety of his community and his fellow officers. Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I would like to add the following materials to the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 4, 1998.

ASHTON FLEMMINGS,
Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Washington, DC.
Re: Claim for benefits—Joseph Samuel Boyd, File #98-185

DEAR MR. FLEMMINGS: I am writing to you on behalf of the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) and the Boyd family. In January of 1998, Rangemaster Joseph Samuel Boyd died while on-duty. Although Joseph Boyd was not a sworn peace officer at the time, he contributed his expertise and dedication to the Santa Ana firearms program. I highly advise and fully support awarding Joseph Boyd's family benefits, under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program.

It is my understanding that the Santa Ana Police Department has already submitted the Report of Public Safety Officer's Death and a Statement of Circumstances, and the Boyd family has submitted a Claim for Death Benefits. At the time of his death, Joseph Boyd was assisting the Santa Ana Police Department, in conjunction with the firearms program, in testing a fully automatic MAC-11 weapon. The poor construction of this weapon led to his untimely death.

In 1995, the BJA awarded SAPD a grant under the Firearms Trafficking Program. The Santa Ana firearms program has developed into a national success made possible by a grant offered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Rangemaster Joseph Boyd, a civilian, was an integral part of SAPD's Weapon Inspection Team (WIT). As part of his duties, he examined and tested the firearms to confirm their nomenclature and help prove the elements of the crime. Joseph Boyd was an indispensable resource to the investigators assigned to WIT and performed exceptionally in his duties.

Joseph Boyd's contributions to the Santa Ana Police Department and the BJA grant enforcement program are innumerable. Therefore, I respectfully request that the BJA award death benefits to the Boyd family. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Aylin Kuyumcu of my staff at (202) 225-2965. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

LORETTA SANCHEZ,
Member of Congress.

CITY OF SANTA ANA
POLICE DEPARTMENT,
Santa Ana, CA, July 1, 1998.

ASHTON FLEMMINGS,
Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Washington, DC.
Re: Claim for benefits—Joseph Samuel Boyd, File #98-185

DEAR MR. FLEMMINGS: As you know, in January of 1998, the Santa Ana Police Department suffered a great loss with the accidental on-duty death of Rangemaster Joseph Boyd. The Department hereby respectfully submits the Report of Public Safety Officer's Death, and the Boyd Family submits the Claim for Death Benefits. Also attached to the respective applications, please find all of the documents you requested in your letter. Although we acknowledge that Joseph Boyd was not a sworn peace officer at the time of his death, we believe there are extenuating and extraordinary circumstances that will prompt the Bureau of Justice Assistance to award benefits to the family. Please find below a comprehensive Statement of Circumstances as requested. Should you need additional information, please feel free to call me at (714) 245-8003. Thank you for your assistance, and we look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES

In 1995, the United States Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded the Santa Ana Police Department a grant under the Firearms Trafficking Program. The Department's Weapons Interdiction Team (WIT) has worked closely in joint operations with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), to combat illegal firearms trafficking. The Santa Ana grant program has proven to be an unqualified success, and one of the most effective firearms programs in the Nation. Rangemaster Joseph Samuel Boyd, a civilian, was an integral part of the WIT Team's effectiveness, as he examined and tested the firearms to confirm their nomenclature and help prove the elements of the crime. Rangemaster Boyd performed these duties above and beyond his customary functions in the Department, and proved to be a critical and indispensable resource to the investigators assigned to the Weapons Interdiction Team.

During an undercover operation in January 1998, investigators from the Santa Ana Police Department's WIT team purchased a purportedly fully automatic MAC-11 type of weapon with a silencer. The firearm was put together from a variety of parts that can be ordered through the mail, and was consequently poorly constructed. As usual, the investigators requested Joe Boyd's assistance in testing the weapon. During that test, one of the investigators reported that the weapon malfunctioned, and Rangemaster Boyd stepped in to try and resolve the problem. Boyd took control of the weapon and was in the process of trying to fire it, when the weapon began firing in fully automatic mode. As is the tendency for these weapons to behave, the muzzle moved upward and one of the rounds struck Joe Boyd in the neck. Despite efforts by the investigators to save his life, Rangemaster Boyd died of his injuries at the scene.

As you can tell from the attached biography, Joseph Samuel Boyd was an extraordinary individual who not only served his Nation with distinction in Vietnam, but also made law enforcement his civilian career. Joe graduated from the full-time San Diego Sheriff's Basic Academy, and worked for the Orange County Sheriff and Marshall's Office as a Rangemaster. His contributions to the Orange County Law Enforcement Community are significant, especially to the Santa

Ana Police Department. We believe that the circumstances surrounding his death, which occurred during his active participation in a BJA grant enforcement program, merits the awarding of benefits under the BJA Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program. As I said earlier in this letter, even though Joseph Boyd was not a sworn peace officer, the extraordinary circumstances surrounding his death are worthy of serious consideration under this program.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. WALTERS,
Chief of Police.

IN MEMORIAM OF JOSEPH S. BOYD, SANTA ANA
POLICE DEPARTMENT, 1943-1998

It is with great regret that I must report the death of a beloved friend, father, husband, grandfather, brother, co-worker, dedicated instructor and ASLET Member. Joe Boyd, the Rangemaster for the Santa Ana (California) Police department was tragically killed on January 28, 1998 while attempting to make safe an illegally converted machine pistol. During test firing, the weapon had a stoppage, and while attempting to make the weapon safe, the weapon malfunctioned and unexpectedly fired uncontrollably in full-auto.

Joseph Samuel Boyd, one of four children, was born March 26, 1943 in New York City to Patrick and Albina Boyd. He graduated from the New York School of Printing in 1961 and enlisted that same year in the United States Marine Corps. After attending boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, Joe served the next ten years primarily in the infantry and included combat duty in Vietnam.

Upon returning to the United States, Joe was assigned as a Drill Instructor at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California where he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and in 1970 was awarded a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. While having a very busy schedule and family life, Joe was somehow able to also attend the 109th session of the FBI National Academy, not to mention both the San Diego Community College Police Induction Training Course and the San Diego County Sheriff's Basic Academy, graduating with 560 hours.

In 1972, Joe decided on a career change in the Marine Corps and entered the field of Military Police. He continued his advancement attaining the rank of Major and retiring from the Marine Corps in 1985 with 24 years of honorable service to his country. At the time of Joe's retirement, he was responsible for base security at the Marine Corps Air Station El Toro.

Some of the awards Joe received during his career include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Combat Ribbon Citation, Presidential Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal. He also received numerous awards for his expertise in weapons competition and was a member of the Marine Corps Pistol Team.

As Joe's extensive knowledge and interest of weapons and training grew, he also recognized a strong desire to work with law enforcement officers on weapons proficiency and officer safety. After his retirement, he became a firearms instructor and worked for the Orange County Sheriff's Department at their training academy, the Orange County Shooting and Training Center and Orange County Marshal's Department between 1985 and 1993.

In 1993, Joe was hired by the Santa Ana Police Department as the Rangemaster. He immediately set out to develop a comprehensive training curriculum in firearm proficiency and safety for the department's 400

officers. Joe's number one goal was to insure that each and every officer, regardless of position or rank, was properly equipped and mentally prepared to confront any situation they might encounter.

When involved in training scenarios, he always stressed officer safety and demanded that each and every person practice safe weapons handling. To bring as much realism as possible to the training, he made available to the department a state-of-the-art system he was responsible for designing. The training scenarios simulate real life situations officers encounter daily and require them to rapidly evaluate and assess a set of circumstances in complex "shoot/don't shoot" situations. Joe believed this type of decision-making training was essential for every police officer.

While the new Police Department Administration Building and Jail were being planned, Joe was busy assisting with the design of the range. It was obvious to everyone this was his "love" and he gave totally of himself as the facility was under construction and the range was opened for operation in August 1997.

In recognition of Joe's contributions to the Police Department and City of Santa Ana, he received top honors as the 1997 Exceptional Quality Service Award winner. When not involved in range training, Joe enjoyed shooting, bicycle riding, camping, rock climbing and weightlifting. Perhaps the most enjoyment in Joe's life came from spending time with his twin three-year-old grandsons, Patrick John and Shane Joseph. They were the joy of his life and he never passed up an opportunity to tell you how proud a grandfather he was. In a personal biography Joe wrote to the Department when he was hired, he said the following: "My interests are in police training and my goal is to make a positive contribution to the field of law enforcement." Let there be no doubt that the many contributions Joe Boyd has made to all of law enforcement are appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Joe is survived by this loving wife, Marion, whom he married 34 years ago; his son, Keith, who was recently married to Kim; his daughter, Cynthia Journeay and her husband John; twin grandchildren Patrick John and Shane Joseph Journeay; his sister, Patricia Frankenberg; and brothers Andrew and Robert Boyd.

A Memorial Fund has been established to assist the family. Please send any donations to the Joe Boyd Memorial Fund, c/o Security First Bank, 141 W. Bastanchury Road, Fullerton, CA 92835.

COMMENDING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SK DESIGN GROUP

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of the tenth anniversary in business of SK Design Group, Inc., of Overland Park, Kansas.

SK Design Group, Inc., was established in 1989 and since its founding has provided professional engineering services to such clients as the Stowers Institute, the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the Department of Defense, the Blue Valley School District, the University of Missouri, and many more. SK Design provides a full range of civil engineering and construction phase services, including site designs, storm sewers, roadways, sanitary sewers, and water lines.

Mr. Speaker, I join with SK Design Group's employees in congratulating the firm's president, Sassan Mahobian, and its vice president, Katerah Mahobian, for their ten years of successful service in providing civil engineering and professional design services to the Kansas City community. We wish them many more successful years to come.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND FRANCIS M. BEDNAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rev. Francis M. Bednar for his many years of service and countless contributions to his community.

Father Bednar, a Cleveland native, graduated from Cathedral Latin School and studied for the priesthood at Borromeo College and St. Mary Seminary. In 1974, after his ordination to the priesthood, he became the associate pastor at the St. Justin Martyr parish in Eastlake, Ohio. Between 1979-1985 he served at the St. Clement Church in Lakewood, Ohio. Since 1989 Rev. Bednar has served as pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cleveland.

In addition to his service with the Church, Father Bednar was diocesan director of the Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In 1982 he was named spiritual director of the Cleveland Division of the Blue Army of Fatima. In July 1997, he was elected district chairman of the Southeast District.

Rev. Bednar was a wonderful man who was warm, caring, and deeply devoted to the Church. Away from his duties to the Church Rev. Bednar was also deeply devoted to his family. In recent years Rev. Bednar provided care for his parents with the same passion and determination that he pledged to the Church. His dedication was an inspiration to all who knew him. He touched many lives and his passing is a great loss.

Rev. Bednar is survived by his parents, Michael and Agnes; brothers Richard, Philip, Jerome, and Michael; and sisters Mary and Bernadette.

My fellow colleagues, I ask that we remember Rev. Bednar for his service to the Catholic Church and to the Cleveland community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NARAL ON 30 YEARS OF PRO-CHOICE ADVOCACY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) celebrates 30 years of pro-choice advocacy, those of us dedicated to preserving a woman's right to choose know that the need for pro-choice advocacy and activism is greater than ever.

America recently commemorated the 25th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that recognized the freedom to

choose as a fundamental right, while opponents of choice worked to put the private decision about abortion into the hands of government. The anti-choice Congress has pushed a wave of legislation requiring women to endure increasing obstacles in order to exercise a right that should be non-negotiable. Reproductive choice continues to be debated on the floor of the House on a near-daily basis.

NARAL has long been a fierce defender against infringements on the right to choose. For thirty years, NARAL has worked to increase Title X funding for federal family planning programs, promote contraceptive research and the development of contraceptive options for women and men, to protect the right of Medicaid-eligible women to make choices about their reproductive health, and to ensure that women have safe access to reproductive health facilities by condemning clinic violence and harassment.

Pro-choice Members of Congress have never underestimated the powerful impact of NARAL's message, that we all want to see abortion made less necessary. NARAL tirelessly exposes the irony of the abortion debate—that the strongest opponents of the right to choose also oppose programs promoting comprehensive sex education and birth control, which actually reduce unplanned pregnancies. Instead, anti-choice politicians would make access to family planning options more difficult, more dangerous, more expensive and more humiliating.

We must continue to support legislation to help reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies. Specifically, we must rededicate our efforts to require that health insurance plans provide coverage for contraceptives to the same extent that they provide coverage for other prescription drugs.

Our job in Congress is to move our nation toward a reproductive health care policy that promises to make abortion less necessary and protects the right of Americans to do what they believe is best for their families. We congratulate you on thirty years of advocacy, and look to NARAL for leadership as the 106th Congress prepares to defend a woman's right to choose.

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I join with 65 of my colleagues in reintroducing bipartisan legislation that the House passed last year to firmly establish sub-Saharan Africa on the U.S. trade and investment policy agenda.

Overall, the African Growth and Opportunity Act represents a trade-centered approach to development that will complement traditional forms of assistance. Increased U.S.-African trade and investment is a win-win proposition, one that can facilitate and strengthen the development of sub-Saharan African countries and create opportunities for U.S. firms and workers. Already, U.S. exports to the sub-Saharan region exceed by 20 percent those of all the former Soviet states combined. Sub-Saharan Africa is a continent with vast opportunities for U.S. companies and many U.S. businesses

are poised to increase trade and investment in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time, a strong trade and investment relationship between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the United States will reduce poverty and expand economic opportunity in Africa. Moreover, a stronger, more stable and prosperous Africa will be a better partner for security and peace in the region and a better ally in our mutual fight against narcotics trafficking, international crime, terrorism, the spread of disease, and environmental degradation.

Some 30 sub-Saharan countries have begun dynamic economic reform programs, including liberalizing exchange rates and prices, privatizing state-owned enterprises, ending costly subsidies, and reducing barriers to trade and investment. The African Growth and Opportunity Act is designed to complement economic reforms such as these which African nations have decided to pursue by creating greater opportunities for partnerships between Americans and Africans.

Specifically, the bill offers increased access to the U.S. market for non-import sensitive goods and increased dialogue with the United States on deepening our trade relationship. The benefits available under the bill provide incentives for the most aggressive reformers to liberalize their markets even further. This legislation would not impose new conditions for maintaining existing trade and aid benefits. However, to qualify for enhanced trade benefits, the African Growth and Opportunity Act requires that countries make continual progress toward achieving the bill's market-based criteria. For countries that choose to follow this course, the bill requires the President to develop a plan to solidify our economic partnership through the creation of a United States-Sub-Saharan African Free Trade Area.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act is strongly supported by political and economic leaders across sub-Saharan Africa. Every African Ambassador in Washington, D.C. has endorsed this bill. Never before have the 48 diverse nations in the region been united in support of such an initiative. In addition, the African Growth and Opportunity Act has a high profile throughout the continent and the response has been clear—Africans want to be trading partners with the United States and the world.

In order to continue to grow, African economies need to have enhanced access to U.S. markets, capital, management expertise, and technology. The bill is the first step toward making that happen and is a long overdue response to change led by Africans themselves across the continent. I urge my colleagues to support this historic legislation when it is considered on the House floor in the coming weeks.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MISSOURI
FARMERS AND TRADERS BANK
PRESIDENT JOE W. SCALLORNS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, It has come to my attention that a distinguished career in the banking industry has come to an end.

Joe W. Scallorns, bank president of Farmers and Traders Bank, retired recently after over 30 years of serving Missouri's banking needs.

Scallorn's distinguished banking career began as a bank collector in Columbia, Missouri while finishing his degree as a student at the University of Missouri. After college, he joined Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York as a credit analyst. He returned to Columbia in 1967, eventually rising to the position of Vice President of the First Bank of Commerce and later as President of the First National Bank and Trust Company. He joined Eagle Bank of Highland, Illinois, as its President in 1987. In June 1988, he purchased Farmers and Traders Bank in California, Missouri.

Additionally, Joe is active in professional organizations, chairing the committees on Banking Education, Legislative Affairs, and the Political Action Committee of the Missouri Banking Association, also serving on its Board of Directors. He also served on the Government Relations Council of the American Bankers Association and its National BancPac Committee.

As he prepares for quieter time with his wife, Fran and his son, Joseph, I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to my good friend Joe Scallorns and in wishing him the best in the days ahead.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
JUDGE AARON MENT FOR HIS
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 1999, the Honorable Judge Aaron Ment of Fairfield, Connecticut, will retire after 14 years of dedicated service as Chief Court Administrator for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. I rise today to honor Judge Ment and salute his distinguished career spanning over 20 years serving the people in the State of Connecticut.

Aaron Ment's career as a judge began in 1976 when he was first appointed to the bench. Only eight years later, on September 18, 1984, Judge Aaron Ment was appointed as the Chief Court Administrator for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. Here Judge Aaron Ment's vision and leadership helped shape the Connecticut Judicial Branch forever.

Judge Ment's innovative foresight and ambition helped to foster a more positive working relationship between the courts and Connecticut communities. He has been diligent in improving operations and trying to better serve the people of Connecticut. The multiple innovative programs he has helped pioneer have been studied and reproduced all over the United States.

Under Judge Ment's leadership, judges and citizens have benefited from programs such as the one day/one trial jury system, an expanded prebench orientation program, a wellness program for Judges, a centralized infraction bureau and a statewide alternative incarceration program. He has also implemented special sessions of the Superior

Court, including drug sessions, truancy dockets, the complex litigation docket and a National Demonstration Program for Domestic Violence.

It is with great pleasure that I join with the friends and family of Judge Aaron Ment in congratulating him on his retirement. The State of Connecticut's Judicial Branch will feel his absence for years to come. I thank you, Aaron, for all that you have accomplished in your very distinguished career. My very best wishes to you for health and happiness in your retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPAND &
REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS
ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce school construction legislation that I spearheaded in the 105th Congress. The Expand & Rebuild America's Schools Act is a progressive step forward to resolve America's ever-expanding school overcrowding crisis. I was disappointed to see the 105th Congress end without the passage of meaningful school construction legislation. The President, myself, and other members of Congress offered beneficial and positive measures to renovate and improve America's schools, but we were blocked every step of the way by a Republican leadership unwilling to commit needed resources to our education agenda. I hope our new Speaker will use the opportunity of a new Congress to do more, and to prove to the American people that we care about our schools and our children.

School overcrowding remains a tremendous obstacle in my congressional district and, I am positive, all across America. The Secretary of Education annually releases a Baby Boom Echo report which highlights trends in school populations across the country. The dismal scenario we saw in the 1997 report became even more bleak in 1998. This year total public and private school enrollment will rise to a record 52.7 million, and over the next decade public high school enrollment is expected to increase by 11 percent! Twenty states will have at least a 15 percent increase in the number of public high school graduates, with a 78 percent increase projected for Nevada, 39 percent for Hawaii, and 38 percent for Florida. Largely because of the high school enrollment increase, the total number of new teaching positions for public and private high school teachers is expected to rise by 115,000—a 9 percent increase. The Secretary of Education also anticipates that 6,000 schools need to be built in the next ten years to accommodate school population increases. We can no longer ignore these facts. School overcrowding is a national dilemma that needs a nationwide solution.

The Expand & Rebuild America's Schools Act, H.R. 415, is that solution. This bill is focused, effective, and tax-payer friendly. H.R. 415 develops a pilot bond program to help our local schools save money on bond initiatives. Through the creation of a new class of bonds, the Federal Government will provide a tax credit to lenders equal to the amount of

the interest that would otherwise be paid by schools. Schools will save millions of dollars in interest costs by having to repay only the principle amount of the bond.

To be eligible for the bond program, local school districts must have rapid growth rates and high student-teacher ratios, a problem facing the majority of suburban schools in this nation. Schools must also seek out partnerships with local businesses and the private sector for donations of equipment or funding, volunteer work, vocational training, or however a school and business sees fit. Encouraging our schools to develop these public/private partnerships will only enhance the impact of the bond initiative. The Expand and Rebuild America's Schools Act aims to reward schools that have high standards and are working hard to solve their overcrowding problems.

This bill is also simple and easy to administer. Schools can apply directly to the Secretary of Education for these bonds, bypassing state bureaucracy and cutting red tape. And, my bill does not create any new government program or agency. This legislation gives local school districts the incentive they need to float and pass local school construction bonds. It provides the stimulus for the private sector to step up and help their local communities.

This is a bill that both Republicans and Democrats can support. Within a week of the bill's introduction, we have gained 27 bipartisan co-sponsors, and the numbers keep growing. My bill is supported by the Administration, and even the President has included \$25 billion in school construction bonds in his FY 2000 budget. Organizations such as Cal Fed and the Coalition for Adequate School Housing have endorsed the bill, and I have also held numerous community wide forums and hearings in my Congressional district to highlight the benefits of H.R. 415.

Our schools are waiting for the Federal Government to act. And, we must act in a bipartisan and cooperative manner if we are to truly make a difference. The passage of school construction legislation is possible, but we must work together to achieve this goal. We cannot let the American people down. Help relieve America's bulging classrooms! This public/private partnership is the answer. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 415. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to include the following materials into the RECORD.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 16, 1997.

Hon. LORETTA SANCHEZ,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR LORETTA: I am writing to tell you how pleased I am that you are interested in introducing legislation to expand the education zone bond program that was enacted as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. Like you, I believe that program was a needed first step and that we should look for opportunities to expand it.

I hope to have the opportunity to offer an amendment on the Floor to expand that program in connection with the consideration of H.R. 2646. That legislation would permit taxpayers to contribute \$2,500 per year per child to an education savings account. Earnings from that account would be tax-exempt if used to pay expenses of primary and secondary education.

I oppose that legislation because I feel that it is a diversion of scarce resources for the benefit of a small group of wealthy families

with children in private schools. I believe that those resources should be devoted to the improvement of our public school system. Therefore, I intend to offer a substitute that would expand the education zone bond program. My substitute would increase the size of the program from \$400 million per year for the next two years to \$4 billion per year for those years. In addition, my substitute would permit the use of those bonds for school construction. My substitute is very similar to your proposed legislation and I hope that you will support my substitute.

Again, I welcome your interest in the education zone bond program and look forward to working with you on this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Ranking Democrat.

—
U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, February 6, 1998.

Hon. ROBERT E. RUBIN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. RUBIN: I share your commitment to schools and education and applaud the administration's school construction bond initiative. The tax proposal will provide assistance to schools in California, particularly schools in low income areas. These schools have significant rehabilitation and construction needs, but may be forced to pay the highest bond interest rates to obtain financing, if the bonds can be issued at all.

In preparing the legislation for introduction in Congress, I encourage the Treasury Department to use the proposed tax legislation to address the important issue of alleviating school overcrowding, which will contribute dramatically to improving education. Specifically, I urge the administration to incorporate provisions of H.R. 2695, introduced by Representative Loretta Sanchez, which confers eligibility for the bonds to schools facing significant school overcrowding, projecting significant future growth and has adopted a strategic plan to address overcrowding concerns. California's schools face a major crisis in education:

California faces compelling school infrastructure needs and a school overcrowding challenge that will only grow over time. Today, California's 32 million people are relying on school infrastructure built when the population was 16 million. The problems will only increase as our population increases to close to 50 million over the next 25 years.

School overcrowding directly affects education quality. Educators tell us that elementary schools should be limited to 450 students, yet some California elementary schools serve more than 5,000 students. Average enrollment in K-12 schools is expected to increase by more than 400,000 students by the end of this decade. At this pace, California would have to build nearly a school each day just to keep up with increased enrollment.

To be sure, the nation's education system cannot be fixed with just bricks, mortar and electrical wiring. However, California's schools face major needs, with both the nation's highest student-to-teacher ratio and the lowest share of 18-24-year-olds receiving a high school diploma. Poor education facilities are simply not compatible with meeting the requirements of today's global economy.

Every student deserves access to a quality education. Every parent deserves to know the federal government is committed to supporting the best education for their students. The administration deserves great credit for its school construction tax incentives. However, the tax incentives should acknowledge the critical challenge of school overcrowding and assist states and school districts to meet

their building needs. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to the administration's views.

Sincerely,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

[From the Orange County Register, Orange County, CA, Jan. 21, 1999]

JAM-PACKED SCHOOLS

EDUCATION: A PUBLIC FORUM TODAY ADDRESSES THE IMPACT OF OVERCROWDING IN CENTRAL O.C.

(By Dennis Love and Dina Elboghady)

Lunch time at Edison Elementary School in central Santa Ana. Fourth-grader Azucena Aburca stood at the rear of a 90-kid-deep lunch line that, to her, seemed to stretch to Arizona.

"It takes so long—10 or 15 minutes," she said, straining on tiptoes for a glimpse of the promised land. "And when we get up there, we have to eat fast."

Other symptoms of overcrowding abound at Edison, where 950 children and a staff of 65 jostle about a 3.7-acre campus designed for half that many.

Portable classrooms sit where children once played basketball. Music students practice in a small classroom amid skyscrapers of stacked chairs. In a hallway, seven first-graders squeeze together like paper dolls on an old sofa to be tutored in reading.

Conditions such as these will be the subject of a public forum today at 10 a.m. at Loara Elementary School in Anaheim, where Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Garden Grove, and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., will be among those listening to testimony from students, parents, teachers, principals, superintendents and others about overcrowding and its impact in central Orange County.

Sanchez arranged the hearing in support of legislation she has proposed that encourages new school and classroom construction through new tax-exempt bonds.

Enrollment in California is growing faster than anywhere else in the nation, and school districts are feeling the pressure. In the Anaheim City School District, for example, the newest school opened 10 years ago.

"The bottom line is always funding," said Mike Vail, senior director of facilities planning and governmental relations for the Santa Ana Unified School District, who will testify at the hearing. "Schools suffer because we just don't have a reliable stream of money to build more classrooms."

The state school-construction program requires school districts to put up matching money, which few districts have. Compounding the dilemma is that any local school-bond measure must be approved by a two-thirds majority of voters rather than a simple majority.

Even if only a simple majority were required, school officials consider that avenue unpromising. In response to a survey conducted by Sanchez, Michael Perez, director of facilities planning for the Anaheim City School District, said, "Orange County is still recovering from the recession, and the likelihood of the community passing a general obligation bond seems very unlikely."

All the while, enrollments are soaring and many school districts are running out of stop-gap measures. The recent move in California to 20-to-1 student-teacher ratios in grades K-3 only intensified the crunch.

For example, Perez estimates that the Anaheim City School District needs a minimum of \$80 million over the next five years to build eight new schools. In addition, Perez noted, "Almost all buildings do not meet today's safety and structural requirements for school facilities." Vail said Santa Ana needs

\$120 million to build a high school and three elementary schools.

Yet these needs often run counter to political realities. Historically, building schools has been a local issue. Congress has resisted paying for school construction for philosophical and economic reasons.

Some lawmakers say local taxpayers will become more dependent on the federal government and less committed to paying property taxes if Uncle Sam helps build schools.

Others say it will cost too much. For instance, building a new school in the Anaheim City School District costs about \$15 million, according to Perez. And the General Accounting Office estimates that it would take \$112 billion to repair schools nationwide.

"The Republican majority in Congress has tended not to support federal involvement in education," said Sally McConnell, a lobbyist for the National Association of Elementary School Principals. "That mood is still there among lots of members."

To appease deficit hawks and other critics, many lawmakers who want the federal government to pitch in are focusing on tax-oriented rather than spending-based solutions.

Under Sanchez's proposal, the federal government would give investors in school-construction bonds a tax credit.

A tax break, Sanchez said, will entice purchasers of bonds and take some financial burden off the schools without costing the federal government extra money or harming local control of schools.

To get the tax credit, schools must prove that they've tried to alleviate overcrowding by using nontraditional classroom space or holding a year-round schedule. They must work in partnership with a private group or business willing to pay some expenses such as computers.

And they must meet at least two of the following criteria: a 10 percent growth rate during a five-year period; a student-teacher ratio at least 28-to-1; or at least 35 percent of students living below the poverty level.

Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill., wants \$1 billion a year in tax credits for companies doing school construction projects so they would charge the local school districts less for the work.

Under Moseley-Braun's plan, \$226.7 million in tax credits would go directly to two school districts and six cities in California, including Santa Ana.

President Clinton plans to weigh in. In his State of the Union Speech on Jan. 27, Clinton is expected to propose spending \$5 billion on school repairs and construction. A similar plan was shelved last year during the balanced-budget talks, angering many education groups.

If any school-construction bill passes, it will probably borrow from the various pieces of existing legislation, said Michael Briggs, Moseley-Braun's spokesman.

Advocates of federal school-construction money say they're encouraged that some Republican governors are joining them to ask for federal help, including Gov. Pete Wilson, who has floated his own school-construction bond proposal.

About 87 percent of the public schools in California say they need to upgrade or repair buildings, according to a recent study by the GAO.

Enrollment in the state's elementary and secondary schools is expected to reach almost 7 million by 2007 from the current 6 million—a 17 percent increase, making it the state with the highest growth rate in the nation, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

And with many pushing for smaller classes, the space crunch will only get worse. About 6,000 more schools are needed to accommodate the growing enrollment, the education department study says.

"The joke around education circles is that every available trailer was headed to California when that thing passed," said Jewell Gould, research director at the American Federation of Teachers.

To principals like Edison's Ann Leibovitz, it may seem as if all those portables have landed on her campus. "We need more air space," she said. "We need help so that we're not bumping into each other as much."

REMEMBERING THE REVEREND
DR. EDWARD ANDERSON FREEMAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, and I join today in paying tribute to the late Reverend Dr. Edward Anderson ("E.A.") Freeman, who we are saddened to report passed away on January 26, 1999, in Kansas City, Kansas. His funeral was held this morning at the First Baptist Church of Quindaro, where he had been pastor for fifty years before retiring in 1996.

Reverend Freeman was the fifth of seven sons of James and Ollie Watts Freeman, born in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 11, 1914. He was educated in the Atlanta public schools, and received an A.B. from Clark College in Atlanta. After attending U.S. Army Chaplaincy School and Harvard University, he received his bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from Central Baptist Theological in Kansas City, Kansas. His doctoral thesis was published as a book, "Epoch of Negro Baptist and the Foreign Mission Board" in 1953, and remains a standard textbook for teaching religious progress from the earliest beginnings of African-American life in the United States. After his early career as principal of Austell School in Georgia, Reverend Freeman served as pastor of two churches and as a U.S. Army chaplain from 1942-46, attaining the rank of major. After discharge from the Army, he was called to pastor the First Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas, where he served our community for fifty years.

Reverend Freeman, simply put, was a leader in local, national, and international communities. He was a visionary who was driven to assist and empower people, fighting as a civil rights activist, community leader, and president of the Kansas City chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Additionally, he served on the Kansas City, Kansas, Planning Commission from 1955 to 1995 (as its chairman for 29 years), and served on the Kansas City, Kansas Crime Prevention Council. He also was a leader in church affairs, serving as: president of the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Kansas; president of the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A.; first vice president of the Baptist World Alliance for five years in the 1980s; and as adjunct professor and member of the board of directors of Central Baptist Theological Seminary for many years.

In addition, we must note the numerous awards Reverend Freeman won throughout

his career which reflect his dedication to dialogue between different faiths, races and cultures, such as the Meeker Award from Ottawa University, which is given to individuals who have demonstrated a life of sacrifice, service to the disadvantaged, profound stewardship of life, unrelenting humanitarian services, and worthiness as a role model; and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Citizenship Award for Community Service, which embraced the philosophy of Dr. King and was presented by the Kansas City Kansas Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Celebration Committee.

We join with the many friends, colleagues and community associates of Reverend Freeman in mourning this profound loss. As the *Kansas City Star* noted in its obituary, Reverend Freeman, throughout his career, was known for "interceding in numerous personal, business, and church matters at the request of those involved." He will, of course, be greatly missed by his wife, Ruth Anthony Freeman, and their three children: Edward A. Freeman, Jr.; Constance M. Lindsay; William N. Freeman; their son-in-law, Horace B. Lindsay, Jr.; six grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we add to the RECORD two articles from the *Kansas City Star*, reviewing the life of this remarkable man, which are aptly entitled, "Death claims a role model: Rev. E.A. Freeman was local, national social crusader," and "Commitment was the hallmark of Rev. E.A. Freeman's life."

[From the *Kansas City Star*, Jan. 29, 1999]

DEATH CLAIMS A ROLE MODEL REV. E.A. FREEMAN WAS LOCAL, NATIONAL SOCIAL CRUSADER

(By: Helen T. Gray)

He was a man of God, and a man of his word. When the Rev. E. A. Freeman put his weight behind a cause, things would happen.

"If he said he would do something, you could count on him to do it," said the Rev. C. L. Bachus, a fellow minister and longtime friend. "Only the Lord could stop him."

Freeman, 84, a longtime religious and civic leader, died Tuesday at the Alzheimer's Center of Kansas City in Kansas City, Kan. He had been pastor of First Baptist Church of Quindaro for 50 years before retiring in 1996.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, long a friend of Freeman's, will deliver the eulogy at the service Tuesday.

"He was a very well respected member of our community," said Carol Marinovich, mayor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kan. "He was a gentleman, and a gentle man, very committed to all the people of the community."

"Freeman's influence extended beyond Kansas City. He was first vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, a worldwide organization of Baptist churches, for five years in the 1980s. He worked with people of different races, ethnic backgrounds and cultures around the world."

During the Iranian hostage crisis in 1980, Freeman was among African-American ministers who went to Iran to try to open lines of communication between Islamic and Christian leaders.

"I had a great respect for him," said the Rev. Stacey Hopkins, pastor of First Baptist. "Everybody respected him. He was always willing to help the younger preachers. Many of us tried to pattern ourselves after him. . . . He always wore a shirt, tie and jacket. Always. He was a good example."

The Rev. Nelson Thompson said he worked with Freeman on several projects and admired his longevity.

"He was a mentor for me," said Thompson, president of the Greater Kansas City chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. "He was a rare individual. Not many people can pastor a church for 50 years."

Freeman was a past president of the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress, the Christian education arm of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A. Inc. He also was a past president of the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Kansas. He had been president of the Kansas City, Kan., chapter of the NAACP; a member of the Kansas City, Kan., Planning Commission from 1955 to 1995, serving as chairman for 29 years; a member of the Kansas Board of Probation and Parole; and a member of the Kansas City, Kansas, Crime Prevention Council.

When Freeman retired, he said his greatest desire had been to help people. He recalled speaking with city officials about problems that minorities faced and riding with police during the riots after the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., "trying to keep everybody calm."

Alvin Brooks, a former assistant city manager in Kansas City, said that his friend of more than 45 years had few peers, either as preacher or prompter of social change.

"He could really preach a sermon," said Brooks, "But he wasn't just a preacher. He could walk into a room, and he had such a presence. . . . He was a great role model for young African-American men and young men aspiring to be ministers."

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at First Baptist Church, Fifth Street and Nebraska Avenue, Kansas City, Kan. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday and from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

It was Freeman's wish that Jackson deliver his eulogy. Jackson spoke at First Baptist several times. Religious leaders from throughout the community and various parts of the country are expected to attend the services.

He leaves his wife, Ruth Anthony Freeman; his children, Edward A. Freeman Jr. of San Diego, Calif., Constance M. Lindsay and William N. Freeman, both of Kansas City; a son-in-law, Horace B. Lindsay Jr.; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

[From the Kansas City Star, Feb. 1, 1999]

COMMITMENT WAS THE HALLMARK OF REV.
E.A. FREEMAN'S LIFE

[By Steve Paul, Kate Beem and Erica Wood]

The first indication that the Rev. E.A. Freeman could be a persuasive force in his adopted home of Kansas City, Kan., came in the spring of 1946.

Then a 32-year-old Army chaplain and major about to leave the service, Freeman arrived at the invitation of a friend. The First Baptist church, at Fifth Street and Nebraska Avenue, was between preachers. Freeman agreed to give a guest sermon.

He proved quite up to the task. This was, after all, the Edward A. Freeman who at the age of 16 had won an oratorical contest in his hometown of Atlanta.

Well, the short version of the story goes, Freeman so impressed the leaders of First Baptist that they had a little problem. They quickly solved it by withdrawing an offer made to their pastor-to-be and giving the job to Freeman.

It turned out that Freeman was not just taking on a job when he moved his wife, Ruth, and three children from Atlanta that June. He was taking on a way of life.

Over the next 50 years, until his retirement in 1996 and his death a week ago today, Freeman's way of life was commitment. As most people who knew him put it, he embodied the idea of commitment, not only to his God and to his church, but to his community.

Preacher, pastor, minister to those in need. Bridge builder, conciliator, a quiet civic giant. Husband and father. Orator and scholar. Advocate for social and economic justice.

Freeman's accomplishments were many and his influence vast.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson—civil-rights leader, activist and presidential candidate—will deliver the eulogy at Freeman's funeral today. Jackson said that, after Martin Luther King Jr., the most important person in his political life was the Rev. E.A. Freeman of Kansas City, Kan.

"He was a real freedom fighter," Jackson said.

CIVIC, RELIGIOUS PILLAR

Leon Lemons, a retired banker, an old friend and a trustee of First Baptist, noted how important Freeman was to the city when he recalled what H.W. Sewing, a founder and president of Douglass Bank, told him some 40 years ago.

"We should not let Reverend Freeman get out of this city," Sewing told Lemons. "He's a man with vision, a man with integrity. He's a man who can get things done."

By that point, after a little more than 10 years in Kansas City, Kan., Freeman had run for the school board and the state Legislature. Although unsuccessful, those campaigns gave him a public forum to speak up about social welfare and segregation.

But he didn't need a political campaign to raise his voice: In 1949, he excoriated the Wyandotte County chairman of the American Red Cross over a racial affront at a "Victory Dinner," threatening a boycott of the agency's fund drives. The next year, he helped bring pressure on the owner of two local movie theaters, which until then had denied admission to blacks.

In the years to come, he would spearhead housing developments and become involved in many improvements in Kansas City, Kan., as a member of the city's Planning Commission for 40 years and its chairman for 29. There were disappointments, too, and failures amid the long economic decay of his city, but he never stopped fighting for what he believed was right.

In the 1970s and '80s, he helped establish some of the first homeless shelters in the community, said Mary Sue Severance of the United Way of Wyandotte County.

"He seemed to be everywhere in the community," Severance said.

In civic dealings, Freeman's trademark was his tranquil demeanor. He often was a peacemaker. The Rev. Nelson Thompson, president of the Greater Kansas City chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, used code words for the white and black communities when he said Freeman "had great influence uptown, yet he could work in the northeast and everybody respected him."

In ministerial dealings, his tenure produced Sunday services that usually lasted two hours or more. He was prone to offering two sermons, a spiritual one and a political one. He gave his congregation political advice on issues of the day. Although he never told them how to vote, he gave strong hints, said his daughter, Connie Lindsay.

Freeman had a legendary amount of energy and drive. Arieta Mabley, a former church deaconess, said it wasn't unusual to drive by and see Freeman's car parked outside the church at 1 or 2 in the morning.

Even after he retired, Mabley said, Freeman went to the church every day for two years.

"There weren't many people who had the energy he did,"

Lindsay said. "His persistence, his vision, that will, that drive. To him, it was, 'I'm

going to get to that goal,' and that goal had to do with the commitment to and investment in the people around."

He was humble about his accomplishments but had the courage essentially to start his own civil-rights movement in Kansas City, Kan., said Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver.

"When he came along," Cleaver said, "times were really dangerous for a black man who would stand up and declare his somebodiness."

Freeman well knew that the fight for social justice and equality for African-Americans involved not only overcoming racism but also, in the words of his friend and colleague, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., "its perennial ally—economic exploitation."

A JACKSON MENTOR

Jackson and Freeman first met in the 1950s. Jackson was a King disciple; Freeman was a leader in the National Baptist Convention. By 1959, however, the convention had become increasingly uncomfortable with King's high-profile activism. A rift developed, but while Freeman actively stuck with the convention, he never lost contact with King or Jackson.

After King's assassination in 1968, Jackson stood alone. Freeman reached out to him, inviting him back and re-introducing him into powerful circles within the National Baptist Convention.

"He took that risk and adopted me in a spiritual sense," Jackson said. "I feel so indebted to him."

Jackson returned to Kansas City several times, and in 1976, at his first revival, he chose Freeman's First Baptist as the location for the week-long spiritual event.

Jackson said his speeches for students from two area high schools helped him form the National Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, his long-running, grass-roots organization promoting social justice.

Thompson said Freeman was a model of a minister who became involved in politics. Along with two other titans of the black community, the Rev. Wallace S. Hartsfield and the Rev. A.L. Johnson, Freeman inspired and mentored a younger generation of political-activist preachers—Thompson and Cleaver among them. To them, he advocated action over political posturing.

"He used to tell me, 'Reverend, talk will kill anything. You've got to just keep it low. Get it put together before you talk about it too much.'"

"He really wasn't quiet, but he didn't do a lot of talking about what he was doing until it was done."

Talk is one thing. Public speaking is another. And Freeman was a master at oratory.

He filled his many speeches and sermons with scholarship and poetry. Not only did he make the scripture sing, but he also quoted extensively from Shakespeare and Tennyson, from Keats and Browning and Kipling. "And he didn't just read it," his daughter said of his great capacity for recalling classic poems from memory, "he spoke it as if he himself had written it."

"Once you heard him deliver a sermon," Cleaver said, "you would know quickly that this was no ordinary man. He was touched divinely in ways many can only imagine."

"He was academic and educational, yet he could be right down to earth," Thompson said.

In the late '70s, Thompson heard Freeman deliver a speech on the steps of the Kansas Capitol. His topic was the Exodusters, the black migrants who settled in Kansas after the Civil War. Thompson had been unaware of the depth of Freeman's scholarship or his capacity for research and history. And he was moved.

"It was a profound historical address," Thompson said. "I shall never forget it."

THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Education was extremely important to Freeman and his family. He sacrificed so his children could go to college. He long remembered how difficult it had been to pursue his own education.

In the late 1930s, Freeman desperately wanted to go to college. But his widowed father was struggling to support seven sons.

Freeman interviewed with the president of Clark College in Atlanta and begged to attend classes there. He succeeded, working his way through as a custodian, and eventually graduated with a degree in education.

After his arrival in Kansas City, Kan., he earned advanced degrees, including his doctorate in theology from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in 1953. At the time, the opportunity to earn such a degree was rare for a black minister.

Education remained important throughout his involvement in the National Baptist Convention, USA. Freeman became president of the organization's Congress of Christian Education (as it's now called) in 1968.

His influence was almost immediate. His dynamic leadership and speechmaking helped increase attendance at its annual meeting by the thousands over his 15-year tenure.

"It's his personality," said the Rev. Ellis Robinson, Freeman's successor at First Baptist. "He knew how to get things done."

In his work for the National Baptist Convention and other programs, Freeman traveled extensively—all around the world—often at a moment's notice.

But his first priority was always his church. He always made sure that things would get done in his absence.

"Ministers and clergymen play a lot of different roles," said Thompson. "The pastoral role is one of shepherding, caring for and protecting and watching over the flock. . . . Nobody I know of played that role as well as Rev. Freeman. He was just a rare individual. He could make you feel good when you felt bad; he was very inspirational and uplifting."

There's something else about Freeman that people talk about. He loved to tell jokes. Every time he spoke, people could expect to hear two or three jokes along the way.

Of course, he had two kinds of jokes: those he could use in sermons and those he couldn't.

One of his very popular jokes dated from the days of "streaking," when college kids would dash through public places in the buff. Freeman's joke had to do with some older women in a nursing home. The punch line: One fellow goes, "What was that?" And the other goes, "I don't know, but it sure did need ironing."

Even in his last days, that joke was still able to touch people in unexpected ways. One former church member was visiting just a couple of weeks ago. Sitting at his bedside, this person said, "Reverend Freeman, I'll always remember that old joke about the senior citizens."

And, as his daughter Connie Lindesay tells it: "He just beamed. His eyes just twinkled."

FASTA, THE "FAIR STEEL TRADE ACT"

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, our foreign competitors have been dumping steel in Amer-

ica below market value for well over a year. This practice, which has been allowed to continue unencumbered by the Clinton Administration, has had a devastating effect on the U.S. steel industry and U.S. steelworkers. I have taken numerous actions, alone and in conjunction with the Congressional Steel Caucus, to urge the Administration to change its backward trade policy and remedy the current crisis. These pleas have fallen on deaf ears. It is time for a clear and decisive action. Therefore, I am introducing FASTA, the "Fair Steel Trade Act" today to force the Administration to impose swift and severe penalties on those countries that have flagrantly and repeatedly violated our trade laws. Specifically, FASTA will impose a three-month ban on imports of steel and steel products from Japan, Russia, South Korea and Brazil.

Steel dumping in America has become a global event. In the first 11 months of 1998, steel imports are up 167 percent from Japan, 60 percent from Russia, up 112 percent from South Korea, up 68 percent from the Ukraine, up 150 percent from Australia, up 105 percent from South Africa, up 114 percent from Brazil and up a whopping 586 percent from Indonesia.

In January, it was reported that a Congressionally-mandated report on foreign steel dumping would finally be released from the Administration. It was rumored that the report would outline the Administration's plans for helping the U.S. steel industry cope with cheap steel imports, but would not include any new initiatives beyond the Administration's previous efforts. Those efforts have consisted mainly of expediting complaints from U.S. steel companies and negotiating with countries such as Russia and South Korea.

In response to this rumor, I wrote a letter to President Clinton urging him to reverse course and take drastic action to stem the tide of cheap steel imports: "During your two campaigns for the Presidency and throughout your Administration you spoke eloquently about using U.S. trade policy to build a bridge to the 21st century for American workers. That bridge is crumbling under the weight of millions of tons of illegally dumped foreign steel. If your Administration does not take extraordinary and decisive action, hundreds of American communities and thousands of American families will enter the 21st century in poverty." The fact is, the Administration has been reviewing the dumping of foreign steel below cost in our market. It is crystal clear that anti-dumping statutes have been repeatedly violated. It's time to stop reviewing and start acting. I made it clear to the President in my letter that maintaining his present course of action falls woefully short of the type of decisive action that is warranted by this emergency.

Unfortunately, the rumors about the report proved true. In essence, the report demands that Japan curb its steel shipments to America through "voluntary export restraints." Idle threats and voluntary self-policing restraints do not a trade policy make. What's worse, the report makes no mention of the other six countries that continue to dump steel in our market.

The report also provides for tax relief for steel companies. According to the report, the steel industry will have greater ability than other industries to receive tax refunds to offset its losses. Under current law, companies can receive tax refunds on their losses for the previous two years of taxes paid. The steel indus-

try is now able to obtain refunds for the previous five years. This news, however, was not enough to save Bethlehem Steel. After the report was made public, Bethlehem Steel announced that it will close two stainless steel and strip-metal plants, thereby adding 540 American workers to the unemployment roll.

The tax relief provision is estimated to cost \$300 million over five years. While I support relief for the steel industry, I am livid that the President expects the American taxpayer and the steelworkers who have lost their jobs to pay for the illegal actions of our foreign competitors. Perhaps if the Administration enforced our trade laws for a change, and penalized dumping, we would collect enough revenue to pay for tax relief for our domestic steel industry.

It has become obvious to me that this Administration is unwilling to take the type of definitive action necessary to deal with this serious crisis. Voluntary self-policing is like putting a kid in a candy store and asking him not to eat. No disincentives, no repercussions—it's strictly voluntary. Promises won't help the 10,000 steelworkers who have lost well-paying jobs and promises won't stop industry giant Bethlehem Steel from closing the doors on two of its plants.

Despite repeated calls from steelworkers and Members of Congress such as myself, the Administration has elected to pursue a course of limited and meek actions. The time for negotiating, monitoring and litigating are long past. Tax breaks and more retraining programs will not put a single steelworker back to work.

It is now incumbent upon my colleagues in Congress—Democrats and Republicans—to take up the banner and fight to ensure that the steel industry, an industry vital to America's economy and national security, is not decimated by illegal competition. Cosponsor and pass FASTA today.

TRIBUTE TO DICK VOLPERT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. SHERMAN, and I rise today to pay tribute to our dear friend Dick Volpert, who this year is receiving the Learned Hand Award from the American Jewish Committee. Certainly we can think of nobody more deserving of an award that honors both superior intellect and humanitarianism. Dick is that all-too-rare person who cannot remain aloof when he sees a person or group in need of help. He has a widespread and richly-deserved reputation for getting passionately involved in a range of causes.

Dick and his wife, Marcia, were without question among the most forceful and tireless advocates anywhere in the world on behalf of Soviet Jews in the 1970s and 80s. There is no doubt that their efforts enabled many Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union at a time when the freedom to practice their religion had been

eliminated and in a very real sense their lives were in peril. The Volperts educated the Jewish community of Southern California and beyond about the dire circumstances of Soviet Jews and the absolute necessity of doing whatever all of us could to bring about their release. As far as we're concerned, Dick and Marcia merit at least a chapter in any history of the Soviet Jewry movement in the United States.

While this was going on, Dick also spent countless hours engaged in pursuits relative to the Jewish community of Southern California. And though the cause of Soviet Jewry waned with the fall of the Soviet Union, Dick today remains extraordinarily active in local Jewish affairs. Since 1996, he has been a board member of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, and he continues as both a member of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles and the Executive Board of the American Jewish Committee. Dick has also been active with the University of Judaism and Valley Beth Shalom, a large synagogue in the San Fernando Valley.

Dick has other causes that occupy his time, not to mention a thriving practice in real estate law. For example, he is president of the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, a position that allows him to help determine the future of cultural life in Southern California. The Museum is in fact one of the most important places to experience art and culture in the entire region.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Dick Volpert, a man whose dedication to making ours a better world is an inspiration to us all. We are in awe of his accomplishments and proud to be his friend.

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this month our nation commemorates the 56th anniversary of one of the most tragic, and at the same time inspirational, incidents in our nation's history.

As an avid stamp collector, as well as a Member of Congress who served for many years on the Post Office and Civil Service Committee and who now serves on the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, I have long been aware that federal law prohibits any American being honored on a postage stamp prior to 10 years after his or her death. The only exception made is for Presidents of the United States, who may appear on stamps one year after their death.

However, once and only once in this century was an exception made.

And that was in 1948, fifty-one years ago, when Congress passed special legislation allowing the four chaplains to be honored on a stamp only five years after they sacrificed their lives. It was the night of February 3, 1943, fifty-six years ago this week, when four brave chaplains—George I. Fox and Clark V. Poling, Protestant ministers; Alexander D. Goode, a Rabbi; and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest—laid down their lives aboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* so that others might live on.

The *Dorchester*, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen, and civilian workers, was

traveling across the North Atlantic, toward a U.S. Army base on the coast of Greenland, when it was attacked without provocation by a German submarine. The Germans fired torpedoes toward the *Dorchester* which struck the transport ship below the water line, beyond all hope of repair. As water began to flood through the ship's hull, chaos set in aboard the *Dorchester*, and it was into the ensuing scene of utter hopelessness and despair that the chaplains' legacy was woven.

When it was discovered that the supply of life jackets aboard the *Dorchester* was insufficient, the chaplains—without hesitation—removed their own life jackets and offered them to four frightened young men. The chaplains remained with those injured by the initial blast as the ship slanted down toward the icy water. The four chaplains were last seen clutching hands together, offering prayers to heaven for those around them.

The qualities which those chaplains embodied—self-sacrifice, unity, and faith—are the qualities upon which our nation rests, and it is for this reason that they are rightfully honored as true American heroes.

As we pay homage to the four chaplains today and throughout this month, let us call on all our fellow Americans to reflect for a moment upon the attributes which defined their actions.

Mr. Speaker, today more than ever, it is important that we recall the sacrifice and selflessness which won for us the liberty and freedom which all of us Americans enjoy today.

Today, we sometimes seem to be living in an era when selflessness and sacrifice for others is considered "passe". Today, it sometimes seems that some people are more concerned with coming up with excuses for their actions, and casting themselves as the "victim", no matter what.

Today, more than ever, it is appropriate to remember the four chaplains and their self sacrifice. It is important to recall also the sacrifice of countless other men and women who gave their lives in the name of our country.

Nathaniel Hawthorne once wrote: "A hero cannot be a hero unless in a heroic world."

Mr. Speaker, in memory of the 4 chaplains, let us dedicate ourselves to reconstruct that historic world, a world where ideals and principals reign supreme.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH EQUITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would fix an inequity in the current reimbursement rates for low-income Native Americans who receive health care through the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Under current law, a 100 percent federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) applies for the cost of services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries by a hospital clinic, or other IHS facility, as long as they are run by the IHS, tribe, or tribal organization. While IHS facilities (usually in rural areas) are eligible to receive the 100 percent FMAP, similar services provided through IHS programs (usually

in urban areas) receive only 50–80 percent reimbursement depending on the service.

My legislation would fix this inequity by raising the IHS program FMAP to 100 percent as well.

Equalizing the FMAP for health care received through IHS programs is especially important given that roughly half of the nation's Native Americans now live in urban areas. Furthermore, many urban IHS programs are run through Federally Qualified Health Centers whose state funding have been threatened by repeal of the Boren Amendment.

Passing this legislation would benefit IHS programs in over 35 cities throughout the country and would have little impact on the federal budget. Informal estimates illustrate that equalizing the FMAP for IHS programs would cost \$17 million over the next 5 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Indian Health Equity Act.

IN MEMORY OF HEDY SOMMERFELT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Hedy Sommerfelt, a prominent figure in the Cleveland Polish Community.

Hedy was a lifelong Slavic Village resident. While in elementary school she began to go to Polish school on Saturdays. There she learned to speak, write, and read the Polish language. Throughout her life she was an advocate of Polish culture. In 1946 Hedy married John F. Sommerfelt. This prompted her to join the Union of Poles in America (UPA), a fraternal insurance organization founded more than 100 years ago. In 1978, Mrs. Sommerfelt began working for the UPA as the financial secretary. Following that, she worked under longtime UPA president Richard Jablonski as the executive vice president. When Jablonski died in 1995, Mrs. Sommerfelt assumed the presidency of the Union of Poles. She was the first woman president of the organization. She also volunteered for many Catholic and Polish causes and was the president of the Immaculate Heart Parent Teachers Unit (PTU) in the 1960's.

Those who worked with Hedy will forever remember the pens given to them which were topped with a tiny gold "guardian angel." One of these pens, her trademark, was even given to President Clinton in 1996. She was a pillar of strength in the community. She had great energy which she used to help the Polish community in every way to further the cultural and spiritual growth of the community. Her influence was felt at every level of government. She was committed to the cause of Poland as well as the Polish Community in Greater Cleveland. She and her husband have been lifelong friends and I consider her passing a personal loss.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in honoring the memory of this remarkable woman, Hedy Sommerfelt.

IN MEMORY OF FIREFIGHTER
TRACY DOLAN TOOMEY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to Tracey Toomey, a firefighter from San Leandro, California, who died in the line of duty on January 10, 1999. He leaves a wife, Renee, and two children, Daniel and Shannon.

Mr. Toomey died while on voluntary overtime, trying to put out a six-alarm fire which consumed a nightclub in Oakland. He was a dedicated and talented firefighter.

He was born and raised in Oakland, graduating from Castlemont High School in Oakland in 1964, and went on to study at Laney Junior College. He served for two years in the United States Marine Corps, from 1965 to 1967, during which time he served in the Vietnam war.

He became a firefighter in 1972, working in Oakland for several stations, including Station 23 and 6, and was volunteering for a further station at the time of his death.

Toomey was as active in his personal life as he was in his professional life. He could often be found hiking, biking and hunting with his son. He also ran a welding business, and was skilled in the production of detailed pieces. He was a member of the California Artistic Blacksmiths' Association.

He was a committed family man and was weeks from celebrating his twenty-ninth wedding anniversary. All those who had lived and worked with him will miss him greatly. He will be remembered as one whose commitment to his job went far beyond most and for that reason I wish to pay tribute to him today, and send our deepest sympathies to his family.

EMPOWERMENT ZONE REFORM
LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to require the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), when evaluating future applications for designation as an urban empowerment zone (EZ), to make an applicant's unemployment rate and poverty rate 50 percent of the criteria.

Last month, the Vice President announced 15 new urban empowerment zones. Each zone will receive \$10 million a year for ten years in federal grants and \$13 million a year for ten years in bonding authority. While many of the new zones went to needy areas, some designations raised serious questions about the designation process. HUD selected zones based on a 100-point scoring system that measured the quality of revitalization plans, poverty and unemployment rates, and private and public sector commitments made to implement the plans. An applicant's poverty and unemployment rate only counted for 25 points under HUD's current scoring system.

The scoring system presented many distressed communities across the country with a

Catch-22. In order to put together a competitive application, communities had to secure large commitments from both the public and private sector. Most of the winning applicants had commitments in excess of one billion dollars. But most distressed communities do not have billions in public and private resources to commit to an EZ application. In fact, communities with more than a billion dollars in public and private resources really don't need additional aid in the form of empowerment zone designation. It is those communities that have seen an exodus of manufacturing and other private sector jobs that most need federal assistance. But the way the EZ application scoring system was developed, those communities cannot compete.

For example, last October the cities of Youngstown and Warren in Ohio submitted a joint application for an EZ designation. The Youngstown-Warren area has a poverty rate of 51.42 percent and an unemployment rate of 17.3 percent—almost four times the state and national average. Youngstown-Warren's application was turned down. But Santa Ana, California, with an unemployment rate of only 5.6 percent and a 31 percent poverty rate, got an EZ designation. Youngstown-Warren's unemployment rate was three times higher than Santa Ana's. Youngstown-Warren's poverty rate was 20 percent higher. Yet, Youngstown-Warren's application didn't make the cut. The difference? Santa Ana was able to leverage \$2.54 billion in public and private sector commitments. Youngstown-Warren was only able to come up with about \$200 million.

The list goes on. Minneapolis, Minnesota, with an unemployment rate three percentage points lower than Youngstown-Warren's, and a poverty rate 11 points lower, received an EZ designation. The difference once again was the fact that Minneapolis was able to come up with \$2 billion in public-private sector commitments. In fact, most of the communities awarded EZ designations last month had poverty and unemployment rates significantly lower than Youngstown-Warren's. But they all had very strong public and private sector commitments.

I agree that EZ applicants should demonstrate strong local and private participation. But something is wrong when a community with a poverty rate of more than 50 percent and an unemployment rate of 17.3 percent is turned down, and a community with a poverty rate of 31 percent and an unemployment rate of only 5.6 percent is approved. EZ designations should be reserved for those communities that desperately need to attract private sector jobs.

My legislation will change the scoring system HUD uses in evaluating EZ applications so that, in the future, struggling communities will have a fighting chance to get the federal assistance they so desperately need. The Traficant bill will end the Catch-22 many communities faced in the recent round of EZ awards. The bill would still require communities to put together applications with strong public and private commitments. But it would give an applicant's poverty and unemployment rates equal footing with public and private dollars. That's the way it should be.

This legislation is a common sense fix to ensure that future EZ designations go to the neediest communities.

INTRODUCTION OF TRUCK SAFETY
LEGISLATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation that will improve the safety of our highways for the millions of motorists who use them. Very simply, my legislation moves the Office of Motor Carriers (OMC) from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

TRUCKS ARE DANGEROUS

In 1997, 5,355 people died on America's highways in truck related accidents. That was not only more people killed than in the previous year, but more people than any other year in this decade. Regardless of who's at fault, when a tractor-trailer is involved in an accident on our highways, the consequences are too often fatal. I should note that many, if not most, trucks are operated safely and their drivers are concerned first and foremost with safety. Unfortunately, there are always operators on the margins who make the roads unsafe and in 1997, the last year for which figures are available, the number of people killed in truck related accidents has risen to a new high for the decade. The trucking industry dismisses these figures by noting that the per-vehicle-mile death rate has gone down. They're right. But the fact remains that the number of people who died in 1997 from accidents rose.

To put the issue in perspective, compare these figures to the aviation industry. What would our response be if the aviation industry suggested that only 5,355 people died in airline crashes? What if we rationalized that as a percentage of miles traveled, there has been a reduction in fatalities? There would be outrage in America. Last year, the domestic aviation industry's rate of death's per mile traveled also decreased. But the actual number of aviation related fatalities decreased too, all the way to zero. This must be our goal: a reduction in the both actual and per-vehicle-mile deaths on our highways. We are talking about real people—not just statistics.

CURRENT EFFORTS TO MONITOR THE INDUSTRY ARE
LACKING

Federal efforts to monitor the trucking industry for safety are falling short. The Office of Motor Carriers (OMC) which is responsible for the oversight of the trucking industry is a component of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the agency principally tasked with managing over \$25 billion in highway and construction dollars. Locating OMC under FHWA has placed a lower priority on truck safety issues and blunted some of the initiatives needed to maintain an effective and forceful monitoring program. In fact, OMC personnel have become too close to some in the trucking industry which I believe has compromised their effectiveness.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General (DOT IG) completed a study of OMC and its close ties to the trucking industry. In the attached report summary, the IG found that OMC leadership has engaged in a "strategy . . . devised to solicit the

trucking industry and third party communications to Congress in order to generate opposition to the OMC transfer provision in [Congressional legislation].” In short, OMC contacted the industry it is charged with regulating to solicit support to defeat a proposal to move the OMC to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). OMC officials have effectively gotten in debt to the very people they are supposed to regulate.

SOLUTION: CONSOLIDATE OMC FUNCTIONS IN ANOTHER SAFETY AGENCY

In my opinion, the rising number of deaths and the poor oversight of the trucking industry by OMC is partially a result of OMC's location at FHWA. FHWA is skilled at building and maintaining roads, but has done a poor job at monitoring the trucking industry. This task has not been high on the priority list. Therefore, I have suggested a reorganization where OMC will become a part of an existing or new managerial structure whose primary mission will be safety. I have suggested NHTSA, and I recognize the possibility that a better structure may exist. The legislation I introduce today, if not the answer, is a good place to start.

The dispatch with which this proposal is implemented becomes critical when we consider that on January 1, 2000, less than a year from now, the Northern American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will permit trucks crossing the border from Mexico to travel anywhere in the United States. Anywhere. Currently, Mexican trucks are permitted to travel in border commercial zones which range from three to 20 miles. A recent DOT IG report, which is also enclosed, found that of the 3.7 million trucks from Mexico crossing in 1998, only 17,332 were inspected, and of this number, 44 percent were found to be in such disrepair that they were immediately taken out of service. These unsafe trucks could be in your state next year. These trucks could be on every road in America—most uninspected and many grossly unsafe. We need to address this problem now.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, which I chair, will be holding hearings on this important issue Tuesday, February 23.

HUNTINGDON FIRE COMPANY, NO. 1, 125 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Huntingdon No. 1 Fire Company located in my District in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Most people take fire protection for granted, yet don't realize the intensive undertaking involved in training and maintaining a fire department. Huntingdon No. 1 Fire Company has shouldered this responsibility well, as evidenced by their solid record of outstanding service. Created by an ordinance passed in 1801 making bare provisions for the town's fire protection, Huntingdon No. 1 Fire Company has evolved into a sophisticated and flexible department capable of managing a wide variety of emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending each member of the department, past and

present, on a job well done. They have helped safeguard Huntingdon for the past 125 years and will continue to do so far into the future. I am indeed very privileged to serve such a distinguished group of individuals in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE JAMES P. KILBANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Judge James “Seamus” P. Kilbane, who dedicated his life to serving the public.

Judge Kilbane graduated from St. Ignatius High School, where he was an avid athlete, in 1941. He then attended John Carroll University before he served in Europe during World War II as a first lieutenant in the infantry. Following his service in the Army Judge Kilbane earned his Bachelor's degree from John Carroll University in 1948, working as a boiler-maker and salesman while he was in school.

In 1951 Judge Kilbane received his law degree from Western Reserve University Law School and in 1968 he earned a juris doctorate. While attending Western Reserve University he also served as a patrolman for the Cleveland Police Department. He resigned from that position in 1952 to practice law.

From 1955 until 1962, Judge Kilbane served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, and in 1963 and 1964 he served as a member of the Ohio State Senate. As a legislator Judge Kilbane fought for legislation that established state nursing home standards as well as legislation that supported labor and welfare.

In 1972 Judge Kilbane was elected judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, where he served full-time until 1990. Judge Kilbane, however, continued judging cases on a part-time basis after 1990. He was known as a well-prepared, hard working judge who always stuck to his convictions.

Judge Kilbane and his outstanding, life-long commitment to public service will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF THE DALE CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of outstanding citizens from Dale City in Prince William County of the Eleventh Congressional District of Virginia. These remarkable individuals have been selected by the Dale City Civic Association in recognition of their many achievements and their dedication to serving their community. These award-winners are people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis. They are members of the Dale City community who gave of their time in order

to serve others and encourage others to be leaders. These citizens will be recognized on January 31, 1999, by the Dale City Civic Association, one of the largest, most active and accomplished Citizens Associations in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I would like to offer my congratulations to these award recipients.

The Dale City Civic Association was created over thirty years ago. Since that time, it has grown into a strong organization that has encouraged its members to volunteer their time and efforts to make their neighborhood a better place to live and work. The Association has an outstanding record of service to the community. Their work includes awarding a number of scholarships to college-bound students from Dale City, as well as monitoring development in the region and serving as a sounding board for citizens and businesses.

Citizen of the Year: David H. Dell, Sr. Mr. Dell, a twenty-two year resident of Dale City, has made a career of giving back to the community. In addition to being a Life Member of the Dale City Civic Association, Mr. Dell is also a long-time member of the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department and volunteer driver for hospital personnel, doctors, nurses and staff to get them to and from work during inclement weather. Not only does Mr. David Dell, Sr. see to the safety needs of Dale City, he is also dedicated to fostering the City's cultural well-being as Staging Director for the Dale City 4th of July Parade for the past three years. Mr. Dell has demonstrated exceptional community spirit over the past twenty-two years and is certainly deserving of the honor bestowed upon him by the Dale City Civic Association.

Young Citizen of the Year: Rachel J. Bryant. Miss Bryant is an extraordinary young citizen who has already become a strong role model to her peers. Rachel is currently a senior at Gar-Field High School. At Gar-Field, Rachel is a member and facilitator in the Gifted Education Enrichment Seminar Program for the past four years. Additionally, Miss Bryant is Vice President of her class, a member of the National Honor Society and has attended Virginia's Governor's School for Mathematics, Science and Technology where she was awarded the Macy's Scholar Award for Minorities in Medicine. Rachel is Gar-Field High School's shining star and demonstrates that our next generation is caring, selfless and dedicated.

Community Service Award: Dorothy Holley. Mrs. Holley is a volunteer who works with the elderly, local service organizations, and the less-fortunate. She spends much of her volunteer time arranging for food donations to be made to the PW Homeless Shelter, Senior Center and the PERTC Thermal Shelter. Throughout the community she is described as always willing and able to lend a hand in her community.

The Kathy Feeney Nurse of the Year: Eileen J. Yetter, RN. Mrs. Yetter has served the Dale City community at Potomac Hospital for the past eight years and is now one of the senior staff members in the Emergency Department. She is clearly dedicated to administering excellent quality care to her patients. In particular, Mrs. Yetter has helped design the state of the art Emergency Care Center at Potomac Hospital. Some of her design innovations have been duplicated in other emergency rooms across the nation. She also has worked to make the senior communities in Dale City

more aware of their specific health risks, and how to react if they recognize them. The patients and community at Potomac Hospital have truly benefited from her work.

Police Officers of the Year: Officer Ruben D. Castilla and James C. Virgil. Officers Castilla and Virgil have been instrumental in making Dale City's streets more inviting and safe for community residents. Specifically, Officers Castilla and Virgil were commended by their department for the thorough investigation of the vandalism cases which led to the closure of twenty-one cases and the clearance of an unreported attempted armed robbery. These two officers are also credited with removing two area juveniles who had been harassing residents. Their efforts have provided protection to the residents of Dale City, so they can sleep peacefully at night.

Deputy Sheriff of the Year: Sergeant William O'Connell, Jr. Sergeant O'Connell is an individual who cares deeply about the people he serves. As a member of the Sheriff's Department and resident of Dale City for eleven years, Sergeant O'Connell is credited with developing an innovative Mentoring Program for middle school students in Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, bringing together a variety of criminal justice agencies. Sergeant O'Connell also serves as the Sheriff's office representative to the Northern Virginia chapter of the Virginia D.A.R.E. Association. Sergeant O'Connell has proven his dedication to making Prince William County safer for all residents.

Firefighter of the Year: Todd Zavash. As a Battalion Captain with the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department he has been instrumental in the personal and professional growth of over eighty firefighters whom he has supervised in two Battalions. His leadership has allowed the residents of Dale City to know that firefighting personnel are ready to respond to all calls for assistance. Captain Zavash is recognized by his peers as an individual who is always willing to lend a helping hand or a sympathetic ear.

Emergency Medical Technician of the Year: John Dooley. Mr. Dooley has served as a volunteer EMT with the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department for the past eight years, and is currently the lead paramedic on Battalion 1. Mr. Dooley being awarded this honor is the culmination of years of dedicated service to the people of Dale City. Mr. Dooley is highly respected for his professionalism and dedication as a senior staff member by his peers and the community. He is truly a remarkable person who has provided excellent medical care to those who call in need.

Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Miss Bella Raphael. Miss Raphael is a Second Grade teacher at Kerrydale Elementary School. In addition to her regular teaching duties, Miss Raphael volunteers in support of a number of school activities. She is well-known for her work with the Special Needs Committee which is a community outreach program to assist families during special holidays and emergency situations. As part of her work with this group she spends the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays preparing and delivering baskets of toys and food for families in need. Miss Raphael is also active in the Prince William Alliance of Black School Educators, which is an organization that promotes academic achievements for minority students in Prince William County Schools through a scholarship

fund. Through her many varied activities Miss Raphael has certainly made a positive mark in Dale City's educational system.

Middle School Teacher of the Year: Suzanne Johnson. Mrs. Johnson is a seventh grade teacher of language arts at Stuart M. Beville Middle School. At Beville, she is involved in many extra-curricular activities, and was a charter faculty member of the school in 1990. Mrs. Johnson is known among the students and faculty alike as "An energetic and resourceful teacher", always willing to offer that extra help to a student in need. She brings tremendous caring and dedication to her work, and inspires her students to excel.

High School Teacher of the Year: Jeannine Turner. Mrs. Turner has been an AP English teacher at C.D. Hylton Senior High School for the past thirty-three years. She has encouraged her students to excel in their studies using innovative teaching techniques and dedicating as much of her own time as necessary. Her work in this area has enabled the students at Hylton to achieve higher academic levels than ever before. Additionally, she volunteers her time to the alternative education program and works with at-risk students through the night school and summer school programs. Mrs. Turner is an individual who is able to unlock each student's desire and motivation to learn and gives completely of herself.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating these outstanding citizens for their tireless efforts to make Dale City, Virginia a better place to live. Through the untiring and selfless efforts to citizens like these, many others across the country are inspired to do likewise. Not only Dale City, but America is enriched by their accomplishments and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE GOLDT

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, the late George Goldt, a man known far and wide as "the gentle giant."

As Undersheriff of Ocean County, George met Michael Gillick, a young cancer patient, and took him under his wing, naming Michael "Honorary Sheriff." In fact, when Michael was honored, even standing on a chair, he only reached George's waist. It was his interest in Michael that led to George's wanting to learn more about kids with cancer.

George Goldt and Linda Gillick, Michael's mother, joined forces and began the organization, Ocean of Love, aptly named by George for Ocean County and for the love he felt for the kids. Starting with 12 children, Ocean of Love now helps over 200 afflicted children and their families.

A person who never had to be asked twice, George Goldt worked tirelessly in behalf of the young people he loved and cared so much for. In fact, his last earthly act was trying to obtain food for a needy family, when he was felled by a heart attack at a very young age.

He was instrumental in coordinating fund raisers, and always preferred to remain in the background, never seeking credit for his actions.

The spirit of George Goldt, the gentle giant, will always be a large part of Ocean of Love due to his efforts in behalf of kids in need.

I remember George best during the years he served as President of the Manchester Township Republican Club. During those years George and his wife Bev were among my most avid and energetic supporters. George knew what should be accomplished and made sure it was, and almost always without me even asking. The success of the club and the candidates it supported under his leadership speak volumes about George.

The recipient of this year's Ocean of Love Public Service Award, George Goldt is truly deserving of this posthumous honor, and of the love and gratitude of the community.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRIS CENTER YMCA, COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Morris Center YMCA, of Morris County, New Jersey.

Since January 2, 1874, the Morris Center YMCA has provided programs essential to the people of Morris County. The 172 founding members first gathered in meeting rooms located in the Old Post Office in Morristown. In 1889, the Board of Directors dedicated a new building which included a gymnasium, classrooms, bowling alleys and a game room. A second building was dedicated in 1912 which included a wing exclusively for women. By 1968, however, it became clear that a new building was needed and plans were made to begin construction.

On March 1, 1981, the grand opening of the newly completed Morris Center YMCA took place. The Center featured a 25 meter swimming pool, gymnasium, track, racquetball courts, weight rooms and a fitness center. Over the years renovations have been made to the building, bringing many more programs to people of all ages in Morris County. In 1985, the Center added an in-house After School Care program. Later, in 1988, the Center added the Y's Owl Care Child Center which provides care to approximately 130 children each day.

The Owl program received national accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Building on the reputation of the Y's Owl Child Care Center, the Morris Center YMCA was selected to create and manage the child care center of the Morristown Memorial Hospital, and opened the Children's Corner in the late fall of 1996.

The Center currently has over 400 volunteer members comprising the Board of Directors, all of its committees and program leaders. These volunteers are the heart of the Morris Center YMCA, working in all aspects of the organization. In short, the Center is people caring for people, not just buildings and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 125 years, the Morris Center YMCA has provided the citizens of Morris County with programs that benefit all those who participate. I ask that you and my

colleagues join me in congratulating all past and present members of the Morris Center YMCA on this special anniversary year.

IN RECOGNITION OF GIL IBERG,
"BIG BAND MOUTH OF THE
SOUTH"

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize today my constituent, Gil Iberg, known by many as "Big Band Mouth of the South." Gil Iberg has distinguished himself as a true connoisseur of big band music and has amassed an extraordinary collection of roughly 1,000 cassettes and 100 albums, containing the music of over 200 big bands. To make sure he misses no opportunity to add to his collection, Gil keeps a radio/cassette recorder on his bedside table so he can tape big band broadcasts.

Gil learned to play the trumpet when he was young, following the footsteps of his father, who played a bass fiddle in a local band in his hometown of Highland, Illinois. Although he caught big band fever when he was young, he didn't start collecting records and tapes until the 1960s, when the popularity of the music began to wane. Afraid that he might lose access to the music he loved, Gil began to collect his own supply. Gil has also seen many big bands in person, including Glenn Miller's and Artie Shaw's ensembles.

In the words of Gil himself, "I could talk about big bands all day and all night. I live and breathe and eat big band music. I play big band music every day of the week, and I exchange tapes and letters with other big band buffs from all over the country."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Gil Iberg for following his dream and becoming an expert in his chosen hobby. In more of his own words, "Some men fish or hunt. Some men golf. My thing is big bands. For me, there's nothing like it."

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E. HAGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Robert Hagan, an exceptional father, a dedicated public servant, and a brilliant humorist.

Mr. Hagan grew up in Youngstown, OH, one of six children in his family. He served as a Marine Corps flight instructor during World War II. Following the war he worked for his father's steel-erecting business, where he patented a new steel-scaffolding process.

Always aspiring for something new and challenging, Mr. Hagan hosted his own TV variety show in Youngstown. He also appeared occasionally on the Mike Douglas syndicated television show when it was broadcast from Cleveland.

In 1956, Mr. Hagan embarked on his political career by running for Trumbull County commissioner. He lost that election, but ran

again in 1962 and won. He served eight years at that position, resigning in 1969 in protest of a local judge's disregard for the commissioners. As a politician Mr. Hagan was a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and an ardent supporter of civil rights and labor unions.

In 1970, while making a bid for the presidency, George McGovern hired Mr. Hagan as a special assistant in charge of one-liners. This offered Mr. Hagan the chance to merge two things he loved and understood best, politics and humor. He explained why this combination worked so well when he said, "the very concept of humor, to me, is a very important one because it communicates ideas in a most pleasant way."

Mr. Hagan was elected to the Ohio State House in 1981, where he served with his son Robert Hagan. After he failed in his bid to win re-election in 1988, Mr. Hagan continued to perform stand-up comedy and contribute editorials and guest columns to area newspapers.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have known Robert Hagan. He set an example of how to do a job well, and have fun at it too. I will miss him.

Mr. Hagan was the father of 14 children. His commitment to them, as well as his contributions to politics and humor, will be greatly missed.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
ORGAN DONOR LEAVE ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, during the last 20 years, important medical breakthroughs such as tissue typing and immunosuppressant drugs have allowed for a larger number of successful organ transplants and a longer survival rate for transplant recipients. Certain organs, such as a single kidney, a lobe of a lung, a segment of the liver or a portion of the pancreas, can be transplanted from living donors, making it possible for them to save the lives of family members, coworkers, and friends.

Currently, federal employees may use up to 7 days of leave in each calendar year to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor. Yet, experience has shown that an organ transplant operation and post-operative recovery for living donors may take as long as six to eight weeks. In order to address this disparity, I worked with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in drafting this legislation to increase the amount of leave that may be used for organ donation to 30 days. The amount of leave that may be used for bone marrow donation will remain at 7 days because that is generally adequate for recovery from bone marrow donations.

Under this legislation, donors will not have to be concerned with using their personal sick or annual leave for these vital medical procedures because the leave granted is in addition to what they routinely earn.

The bill passed the House during the last Congress but the Senate failed to act on it before adjournment. I reintroduced this bill at the beginning of the 106th Congress in the hope that there will be ample time to win its enactment.

The Organ Donor Leave Act has the support of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), the largest professional transplant organization in the United States. In a letter expressing its support, the ASTP stated, ". . . a lack of leave time has served as a significant impediment and disincentive for individuals willing to share the gift-of-life."

Since the first kidney transplant in 1954, hundreds of patients have received successful transplants from living donors. Yet, each day, while 55 people receive an organ transplant, another 10 people on waiting lists die because not enough organs are available. A new name is added to a waiting list every 18 minutes in the United States. In 1997 only 15,000 people donated organs, leaving 35,000 people desperately in need. Currently, over 58,000 are waiting for a life saving organ transplant.

One lung can help another person breathe. One kidney can free someone from dialysis. A portion of a liver could save the life of a patient dying from disease. One's bone marrow could help repair another person's damaged joints.

This legislation will give federal employees who may consider becoming organ donors the assurance that they will be granted an adequate amount of time to recuperate from the life saving process that they voluntarily undertake. It will also serve as a guide and encouragement to other employers, public and private, to provide similar benefits to their employees. I urge all members to give it your support.

TRIBUTE TO MS. KAREN M.
PHILLIPS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Karen M. Phillips, a Peace Corps volunteer who was killed late last year near her home in Gabon, West Africa.

Karen Phillips dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. Starting in June, 1998 when she was sworn in as a volunteer in Gabon, she worked to help local farmers market their products. She had also previously worked for five years for the international development organization CARE. According to her peers, she was a well-liked and dedicated volunteer.

In today's world, people often bemoan the lack of positive role models and heroes for our children and ourselves. Karen Phillips proved that this is not necessarily true. We would do very well to follow her example of selfless service.

SOUTH FLORIDA TEEN GIRLS
RECEIVE POSITIVE ATTITUDE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the accomplishments of a woman who has served as a wonderful example for teenage girls in the South Florida area

while at the same time rising to excellence within her chosen field as a TV anchor. Jennifer Valoppi conceived, created and founded "Women of Tomorrow" in 1997 and convinced her employer, NBC 6, to sponsor this very successful teen mentoring program.

"Women of Tomorrow" pairs professional women in the area with teenage girls of South Florida in order to improve their self-esteem as well as provide guidance and nurturing in their lives. The program is designed to show young women the endless possibilities ahead of them as they embark on the beginning of their adult lives.

Mentors meet with small groups, no larger than ten girls, to discuss their ambitions, motivations, positive attitudes and the achievement of their dreams in addition to sharing personal stories of triumph and temporary setbacks. Roads to success as well as potential roadblocks are also discussed.

In addition to launching this wonderful organization devoted to teenage girls, Jennifer is a multi-E Emmy award winning journalist who has twice been named "Best TV News Anchor."

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer has certainly made a mark on our community and I applaud her example to the community. She inspires all of us with her dedication and drive to improve the world around us.

SKOKIE, ONE OF THE BEST TOWNS AROUND

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, January 14, 1999.

MAYOR JACQUELINE B. GORELL,
Village of Skokie, Skokie IL.

DEAR MAYOR GORELL: What a wonderful job you have done in shaping Skokie into the remarkable place that it is! You should feel very proud and fulfilled as you leave elective office after 22 years of service, ten as Mayor. Now it is your turn to enjoy the wealth of opportunities that you have brought to Skokie.

You have more time to enjoy the world class library for which you were truly the driving force. You can walk the beautiful canal bank along with so many of your villagers who are appreciating the bike path, the sculpture park and the natural beauty which your vision and work made possible. You and Nate can attend even more excellent activities at the Performing Arts Center which is now your legacy. And you can rest assured at all times that you and yours are protected by a police and fire department that achieved a status that few other municipalities have reached while under your watch.

It is no wonder that Chicago Magazine rated Skokie as "one of the best towns around", and Worth Magazine said that "on Wall Street, it is a star." Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with you and observing your leadership are not surprised by these accolades.

Mayor Gorell, thank you for all that you have done for the community. I wish you happiness in your retirement. If I can ever be

of help to you, I would be honored if you would call on me.

Sincerely,

JAN SCHAKOWSKY,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO FLORA WALKER

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in rising today to recognize Flora Walker, past President of AFSCME Council 25, who retired on November 16, 1998. Her friends and colleagues will honor her with a reception on January 29, 1999.

Through the years, Flora Walker has been a fighter. Her tireless efforts have improved the lives of the working families throughout Southeastern Michigan. Flora is a woman who has dedicated her life to securing dignity and respect for all people. She has been a champion of civil rights and civil liberties, and has helped create a stronger, more united community. Her strong leadership and vision were recognized by her colleagues and she was chosen to serve in a distinguished list of elected positions.

Flora Walker began her career with the AFSCME Council 25 Executive Board that continued for twenty-four years. Her first elected position was as a representative. She went on to serve as delegate to one special and two regular Council 25 Conventions. Her tenure as president began in 1992 during a time of crisis for the Council. Under her guidance, it has become a strong, united, statewide council continuing the work begun by the Founding Convention in 1978.

During her six years as President, many new innovative programs were implemented. Flora was instrumental in overhauling the entire Council 25 legal operation, providing union members with an unprecedented level of service. The arbitration department was streamlined, initiating a process of audits and increasing the number of advocates. She has also served as an AFSCME International Vice President from Michigan. Flora had a demanding schedule, but she would never hesitate to go to the bargaining table with her members if needed.

Flora is not only an active union leader, but a community leader as well. She has received both the Champion of Hope Award from the National Kidney Foundation and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. She was recognized by the University of Michigan during a Black Labor History Celebration. She has been honored for her active involvement in the community, in the political arena, and in service and charitable projects.

Few people have given to their community with the vision and commitment that Flora Walker has given to hers. She is a person who has inspired the admiration of many. I am sure her colleagues will miss the famous Walker hug. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Flora on her very distinguished career and I wish her and her family all of the best.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE VERNON
IRONS, SR.

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to eulogize and celebrate the life of Dr. George Vernon Irons, Sr., distinguished professor of history and political science at Samford University for 43 years, who passed away July 21, 1998. Dr. Irons taught 17 university presidents—more than any other known educator.

Dr. Irons was also a colonel in the United States Army for 33 years, active and reserve, and received full military honors. Dr. Irons was a member of the prestigious Alabama Sports Hall of Fame for 22 years—its oldest member. He was the only distance star ever inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and a true great in Alabama's rich athletic history. As captain of the University of Alabama distance team, he broke the record for the Birmingham Road Race in 1923. His record was never broken or equaled. Dr. Irons also broke the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association, now the Southeastern Conference, record for two, three and three and one-half mile races.

Dr. Irons was listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Who's Who in American Education and Directory of American Scholars. Dr. Irons was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal from Freedom's Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in 1962.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that articles from the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and Bama Magazine be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to share the achievements of this great Alabamian who served Samford University as distinguished educator 43 years, his country as colonel in the U.S. Army 33 years and his alma mater, the University of Alabama, as a record-breaking champion athlete and Phi Beta Kappa honor student.

[From the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame]
IRONS ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING FINISH LINE
FIRST
(By Kyle Mooty)

While football was far from its 'king' stages the University of Alabama would enjoy in the future, Crimson Tide track star George Irons was keeping the athletic flame burning at the Capstone as its 'Knight of the Cinderpath.'

Former Alabama Sen. John Sparkman was a classmate of Irons at Alabama and later served in the Army together. And according to Sparkman, if it hadn't been for Irons, athletics would have been pretty boring during that time period at Alabama.

"George Irons was all we had to cheer about," said Sparkman.

Today, Dr. George Vernon Irons is catching another milestone, as he'll turn 91 on Aug. 7.

With the discipline, desire and skill he possessed, Irons would have probably been a standout distance runner anyway. But there were other reasons for perfecting the art of running.

"For the fear of being paddled," Irons said. "When I was a freshman at Alabama the sophomores were always getting after the freshmen. If they caught you, you could do one of two things . . . you could lie or you could run. Don't press me too much on which I did because I did both of them."

Irons also said that running was getting for catching up with the co-eds.

Born in Demopolis as a son of a Presbyterian minister, Irons moved to Fort Valley, Ga., shortly afterwards and eventually took a job as a paper boy. Strangely enough, it was perhaps that job was the start of something that led to him being inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1978.

"I rode the bicycle a whole lot delivering those papers, so I had strong legs," Irons said.

Later, as a freshman at Alabama, Irons first realized he could run a long distance in a short period of time.

"From where I was living, when I would hear the whistle blow each morning I had about 10 minutes to make it to class," Irons recalled. "And it was a pretty good distance. But I always made it to class on time. I don't think I was ever late. I guess you could say I found out I could run fast by accident."

His trip to class would take him across an open field, a few acres of ground that now is the home of Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Irons also noticed the 'college boys' running around the university's campus having what seemed like good times. He laughs now at remembering thinking they were running around in their underwear, when actually it was the track team's shorts.

Irons joined the Alabama track team and would never lose a race to a teammate. In fact, from his sophomore year on, Irons never lost a race to another collegian. But the problem was not fellow collegians. The problems was pros.

The big running events often allowed older, professional runners to compete with the collegians. And one of the best of those that Irons would compete against in events ranging from the 880-yard run to the four-mile run would be a fellow by the name of Ellsworth Richter.

Richter was Irons' biggest nemesis in a Birmingham road race that was held annually for the SIAA (Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) championship.

Irons recalls the race through Birmingham had about seven turns in all, and Richter knew the course well, which gave him an added advantage each year.

As a freshman at Alabama, Irons would place 10th in the event, but would come back and claim second-place finishes both as a sophomore and junior, as only the professional Richter was able to beat him.

Then came Irons' senior year at Alabama, and although Richter was busy having an appendectomy, Irons completely shattered the course record by 20 seconds. And he did so in the rain. It was a record that stood for the final 20 years of the race until its demise.

How could a record be broken by so much, and especially by an amateur, and in the rain? It must have been the shoes.

In fact, Irons wore kangaroo skin shoes. "They stuck to my feet very tight," said Irons. "While the others were sloshing along in their tennis shoes, mine felt just great."

Richter would never beat Irons on other courses such as Atlanta. The two would later become friends before he passed away many years down the road. His son, Ellsworth Richter, Jr., would later be an SEC champion distance runner for Auburn University in the 1980's.

Irons had other ways of getting the edge. While he had no state of the art weight set to work out with, he would simply lift an old shotgun repeatedly for upper body strength. "That improved my endurance, my wind and strength," Irons said.

During the early '20s, college football games had all the excitement a game may have today . . . or at least while the game was actually going on. But halftimes were more of a dead period.

Irons explained, "There were no bands, or girls to watch at halftime. There was not much entertainment. So they'd bring us runners in to run before these big crowds. We'd run for 10 or 15 minutes during the half. We'd start inside the stadium and run a couple of laps, then go outside and run a road race. It was usually a three-mile run and we'd finish in front of the grandstand.

"The big game back then was Georgia Tech and Auburn and I guess there would be fifty or sixty thousand at those games even back then at Grant Field. They would bring in 75 runners, and of course the crowd would be really pulling for their school."

Once again, the rules were pretty loose as pros were allowed to compete once again.

"Richter was there, but I would always beat him in Atlanta because he didn't know the course," said Irons.

Irons added that Alabama's big rival in track was Mississippi A&M, which is now known as Mississippi State University.

Irons worked his way through school. Despite his success, he ran for three years on no scholarship. But as a senior he became aggressive off the track, too.

"Yeah, my last year I suggested to them that I could use a scholarship," laughed Irons about something that was certainly no laughing matter at the time.

Irons' coach at Alabama was the late Hank Crisp, who was more widely known for his football and basketball duties. He served as an assistant for five Alabama football coaches, and was the head basketball coach from 1924-42 in Tuscaloosa, but he actually came to Alabama to be the head track coach.

The NCAA rule book was nowhere near as thick as it is today. And with Crisp being what Irons called "a very kind man," his players would never have to worry if they got in a serious bind financially.

"He (Crisp) would loan you money on the side if you really needed it," said Irons.

Irons, like everyone else that came into contact with Crisp, had great respect for the coach.

"He was a four-year letterman at VPI (Virginia Tech) despite having his right arm cut off," said Irons.

Crisp lost his arm when he was 13 cutting corn to fill a silo.

"But man was he tough," said Irons. "And he ran the hurdles, and if you've ever run hurdles before you know how important balance is, but he did it with just one arm. He also played football, basketball and baseball. They said he played outfield and after he would catch the ball, he'd throw the glove up in the air and catch the ball coming out and throw it back to the infield."

Crisp died the night he was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame on Jan. 23, 1970.

Irons wouldn't let the university or Crisp down for awarding him the scholarship for his senior season. He finished undefeated in dual matches. And the biggest race in the south during that period was an AAU event run in Atlanta where some of the top eastern runners were also in the field. Irons won that race two years in a row.

Irons path in life took a turn during World War II. He had finished at the university just after World War I, but through his ROTC classes he had made 2nd Lt. He would become a Captain in WWII and eventually a Lt. Col. for four and a half years.

"I had various experiences in the Army," said Irons. "I was in a swamp about 30 miles north of Wilmington, NC. They put us there so when the shrapnel fell it wouldn't hurt nothing but the rattlesnakes."

He would also be stationed in Texas, Mexico and New Jersey before returning home.

He would enter the educational field once back in Alabama at Howard College (known today as Samford University) in 1933.

"Howard was really struggling to keep its head above water at that time," Irons said. "I was lucky to be hired. Jobs were scarce during the Depression. We were accepting a side of beef and 12 dozen eggs for tuition. Those were hard times. Nobody had cash, so we took produce instead."

But Irons knew a banker in Woodlawn, and he feels even today that may have helped him get hired at Howard College.

"Yeah, one of my first jobs was to go down to First National Bank and try to get them to extend the loan for the college. I knew the banker so they thought I'd be a good one to send."

He didn't say whether he got the extension or not, but he got the job, and stayed for 43 years.

During his tenure at Howard College, Irons taught future sports legends Bobby Bowden and Shorty Cooper in the classroom. But he also remembers a young man from Rattlesnake Gulch, Montana named Homestead. "He was a big fella that talked big, but he wasn't too brave at heart," recalled Irons. "But everybody just assumed he was tough because he came from Rattlesnake Gulch, Montana."

As the only University of Alabama track man in the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, Irons is extremely proud. But perhaps no more than his son, Birmingham attorney Bill Irons.

"Dad is the most disciplined person I've ever known," said Bill Irons. "He goes beyond the doctor's wishes. And he also has a very high threshold of pain."

Bill calls the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame "a galaxy of stars and assembly of greats."

Dr. George Irons is certainly a great star in the Hall of Fame.

"Being inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame was the most important event of my life," said Irons. "Everybody wants to get to heaven. Well, this may be the nearest I come."

"I've read about all of these guys in the Hall and now I'm in it."

Just a couple of months away from his 91st birthday, Irons still gets in a couple of miles a day, although they're most accomplished by walking. He does jog on occasion.

"It's good to get a little sweat out of you and spend a little time in the sunshine each day," said Irons.

Asked how he's made it, Irons said simply, "All my life I've been doing what seemed the best thing to do at the time."

One of his favorite quotes comes from another Hall of Famer. "Satchel Paige used to say, 'Don't look back, they may be gaining on you.'"

Gain on George Irons? Hardly.

[From the Bama Magazine, May 1984]

HISTORY OF ALABAMA ATHLETICS—IRONS: A TIDE TRACK IRON MAN

(By Tommy Deas)

George Irons had never run in a race before his freshman year at Alabama in 1921. But afterward he was without equal in his four years of running track and cross-country for the Crimson Tide.

Not once did Irons finish behind a teammate in a race, beginning with his first effort as a freshman. And not often did he finish behind an opponent. George Irons was simply a natural.

It wasn't a background in track that led Irons to start running for Alabama—he had no such family ties to the sport. It wasn't the promise of medals and recognition, or the thrill of victory or the roar of the crowds. All that was still unknown to Irons when he began running.

Irons had more practical concerns that led to the discovery of his talents. After building

his legs up by delivering newspapers on bicycle. Irons found his leg strength could come in handy.

"I lived in Tuscaloosa on Queen City Avenue," he said. "They blew a whistle in those days to start class. They would take roll 10 minutes after the whistle. I found I could eat my pancakes in time and still get to class for roll call after they blew the whistle.

"Also in those days, the upperclassmen would haze the freshmen. They would wait around Woods Hall—that was the center of campus because that's where the Post Office was—and grab a freshman and carry him upstairs for a paddling. There were two things a freshman could do—lie or run.

"I'd rather not comment on the lying, but that's where I started my running. I found that running was a fun thing to do. I just gradually worked my way up to cross-country."

By the end of his four years at Alabama, Irons had made his name as one of the best, some said the very best, distance runners of his day. Known as "Alabama's Shining Knight of the Cinderpath" (track events were then run on cinder courses), Irons competed all over the South against the best amateur and, occasionally, professional runners around.

"I mostly ran the mile, two miles and three miles. I ran cross-country over hill and dale and streams and meadows. Sometimes they would even throw me in the half-mile to pick up a point in a meet," he said.

After his freshman year, Irons won every cross-country and road race while competing for the Tide. That led to his being named captain of the track and cross-country teams his junior and senior year. In addition, in Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association competition after his freshman year, Irons never finished worse than second in any race, including shorter-distance races that he ran to help the team score points.

As naturally as the slight 6-footer took to the sport, he did not begin running without some skepticism. "That first race I didn't know that I'd be running so much," he said, "and I asked myself, 'What am I doing this for? This hurts!' So I decided to pick it up and start passing people to get it over with, and I came in first."

And running around town in a track suit in those days attracted more attention than it does today.

"When we'd run down Greensboro Avenue, some of the sweet old ladies would call the police to come arrest these men running down the street in their underwear. The police were understanding, and they asked us to run back another way and not let the ladies see us again," Irons said.

One race that stands out in Irons' memory is his final run in the Birmingham Athletic Club Road Race in 1923. In that race Irons broke the course record by over 20 seconds, and his record has never been broken. And as the three-mile event is no longer run, his record may stand forever.

"I'd been running that race all along," he said, "and I believe I'd won it twice, but for this race I'd bought a pair of kangaroo leather running shoes. All the other runners were wearing tennis shoes, but I had brought these that wrapped around your feet.

"It was raining very hard, and it was a big handicap for them to be wearing tennis shoes, because they kept slipping. It ruined my shoes, and I was never able to wear them again, but I won that race, and the record still stands."

Irons likes to recall the big races that were part of the halftime shows of big football games. The biggest was the one held at half-time of the Auburn-Georgia Tech game every year in Atlanta.

"They'd have the big race over there between the halves," he said. "This was before

they had the bands and the 'honey-watching' that they have now, so we were the only halftime entertainment. We'd leave before the half and finish at the middle of the field with everyone standing and cheering us on. I ran three of those, and won two of them."

After coaching at two high schools and earning his doctorate at Duke, Irons went into the teaching profession. Now 82 years old, he retired a few years ago after teaching history for 43 years at Samford (formerly Howard) University in Birmingham.

In 1978, Irons was recognized as one of the state's outstanding athletes by being inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. The drive was spearheaded by his son, William Lee Irons, a Birmingham lawyer (George Irons, Jr., Irons' other son, is a doctor in North Carolina).

"It means a great deal to me," Irons said of the induction. "I never expected to get that. In 1978, I never expected to be heard from again as a track man. There's only one track man in the Hall of Fame from Alabama, myself, and I think there will be a great many more in there, because they've got world-class people competing in the state now. I hope maybe I've opened up the door for some of them."

HONORING SYLVIA MARTINEZ

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary young person who has recently been named the Junior Carpenterian of the Year: Sylvia Martinez.

As a student attending Carpinteria High School, Sylvia has had many successes. In addition to her class ranking and impressive 3.8 grade-point average, she was the recipient of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Scholastic Achievement Award last year, and a recipient of the Golden State Exams Awards in 1995 and again in 1998.

At school, Sylvia is a leader in the Interact Club, the Director of Elections in the Student Body Association, a varsity player in Track and Field, and was voted Most Valuable Player in Basketball last year. She is a strong role model to other Latina students and an inspiration to many.

Most impressive however, is Sylvia's commitment to her community. Before she was ten, Sylvia was a volunteer at Main and Aliso Schools as a teachers aide and was active in numerous summer Migrant Education programs.

One of her advisors has described Sylvia as a "bright, inquisitive, compassionate person who has dedicated her young life to fulfilling a dream of becoming a successful humanitarian." I believe that someday she will be.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sylvia Martinez for her hard work, vision, and commitment to her community and world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNE WYNNE

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the dedicated public service and accom-

plishments of a good friend and great Texan, Ms. Anne Wynne, as she completes her term as a member of the Texas Transportation Commission. As the first woman on the Commission, she has served our state in one of the most demanding of all appointed positions in our state's government. Anne tackled her tasks with more common sense than East Texas has pine trees and a compassionate heart bigger than Big Bend National Park. Her sense of humor became her trademark throughout the Texas Department of Transportation as she visited with employees throughout the state.

During her term, Anne was instrumental in developing a spirit of partnership between the Texas Department of Transportation and the contractors who do much of the actual highway work throughout the state. She encouraged the department to move toward a diversified workforce and she worked with the legislature to create innovative ways to respond to the ever increasing costs of transportation projects. She also continually challenged the department's managers to operate the government agency like they would their own private business.

Those of us fortunate enough to be close to Anne Wynne know that at the core of her philosophy regarding her responsibilities on the Commission has been her great love for the State of Texas. The Commission and TxDOT will miss her deep commitment and dedication to the Texas Department of Transportation's mission.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my fellow Texans join me in this expression of thanks to Anne Wynne for her exemplary performance of duty. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF LECH WALESZA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lech Walesa, 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner, former President of Solidarity Union and the former President of Poland, on his visit to Cleveland.

Mr. Walesa has been fighting for democracy in Poland since he assumed the leadership of the independent trade union Solidarity in 1980. His rousing speech to striking workers from the top of a bulldozer began a social revolution and prompted talks with the government which resulted in legal recognition of Solidarity. After a military crackdown eighteen months later, which resulted in his spending a year in prison, Mr. Walesa continued his leadership of Solidarity underground. After his release, he returned to his mission of a Democratic Poland. He was awarded the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. Mr. Walesa was also named Man Of The Year by Time magazine, The Financial Times, and The London Observer.

In 1990, Mr. Walesa became the first democratically elected President of Poland. His leadership planted the seeds of freedom and democracy in Poland and ended Communist rule. After a term in office in which he set a path to secure Poland's commitment to a free

market democracy and set a model for the rest of Eastern Europe to follow, he retired. Mr. Walesa now heads the Lech Walesa Institute whose goal is to advance the ideals of democracy throughout Eastern Europe.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Walesa for his long, hard struggle to bring democracy to the people of Poland.

PRESIDENT'S FY2000 BUDGET
PROPOSAL

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union address, President Clinton proposed to create or expand fifty-four government programs. Fifty-four new ways to spend other people's money, but not one major proposal to give back to hard-working American families. While the President continues to champion targeted tax cuts for a select few, the net result for most Americans is plain as day—higher taxes. In case anyone doubted his words that night, President Clinton made sure it was all in black and white yesterday when he delivered his FY2000 budget to Congress.

The President's plan includes more than 80 tax hikes and new fees that would raise the tax burden on the American people by more than \$100 billion over 5 years. According to the President's own plan, Americans shouldn't expect to see any income tax relief until sometime after 2015. This is wrong. Washington does not have unlimited rights to spend the hard earned money of American families without accountability.

A surplus is nothing more than an overpayment by taxpayers that should have never made it to Washington in the first place. We should give it back. The Republican agenda will control government spending and provide American families with immediate, across-the-board tax relief. We will continue to dedicate much of the surplus to saving Social Security, eliminate the death tax and the marriage tax penalty. We should never forget that these dollars still belong to the American people, not Washington bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, under President Clinton's budget, big government will prosper and working Americans will be forced to work harder. Under our proposal, families could keep substantially more of what they earn. A ten-percent across-the-board tax cut would return \$600 to a couple earning a combined income of \$40,000. Does anybody really think that this \$600 would be better spent here in Washington?

Mr. Speaker, the choice is clear. Either you support the family budget or you support Clinton's federal budget. I urge my colleagues to resist new spending and higher taxes and to work together to return this surplus to those who earned it, the American people.

HONORING THE FIELDING
INSTITUTE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fielding Institute.

The Fielding Institute has been a leader in distance learning for mid-career professionals since it was founded in Santa Barbara, California in 1974.

With the development of a revolutionary "Learning Community" concept that provides lifetime learning opportunities for its scholars, the Fielding Institute has maintained its leadership in the field.

The Institute has built an outstanding reputation for its graduate programs, including doctoral programs in Clinical Psychology, Human and Organizational Development and Educational Leadership and Change and a masters program in Organizational Design and Effectiveness.

Their approach offers highly effective, customized, professionally rich and interactive learning processes, along with significant possibilities for learning created by emerging electronic technologies.

In providing a graduate learning experience using technology that is uniquely tailored to the professional and personal needs of adult learners, the Fielding Institute has been at the forefront of the distance learning movement.

And so Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Fielding Institute. They have provided 25 years of service and outstanding graduate learning opportunities to the scholars of California, the United States and the world.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARGARET
WALKER-ALEXANDER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to the late Dr. Margaret Walker-Alexander. Dr. Walker-Alexander was a world renowned author and poet who resided in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. Dr. Walker-Alexander was best known for "Jubilee," her 1966 novel about slave life. Dr. Walker-Alexander died on November 30th, 1998 in Jackson, Mississippi of cancer at the age of eighty-three.

Apart from "Jubilee," Dr. Walker-Alexander has written more than four volumes of poetry. Among some of her most noted works are: "Prophets For A New Day," "October Journey," "How I Wrote Jubilee," and co-authored with Nikki Giovanni, "Poetic Educations: Conversation Between Nikki Giovanni and Margaret Walker Alexander."

Dr. Margaret Walker-Alexander was born on July 7, 1915, in Birmingham, Alabama. At the age of fifteen, she published her first poem, "I Want to Write," which appeared in the 1934 edition of Crisis Magazine, then edited by W.E.B. DuBois. After high school, Dr. Walker-Alexander enrolled in Northwestern University and the University of Iowa where she received her M.A. and Ph.D. respectively. In 1943, she

married Firnist James Alexander. From this union were born two sons and two daughters.

In 1949, the Alexanders moved to Jackson, Mississippi where she remained until her death. Dr. Walker-Alexander became a positive role model in the community. She taught at Jackson State University where she served as an inspiration to young Mississippians. Throughout her life, Dr. Walker-Alexander received numerous honors and awards for her outstanding literary works includes the Yale University Award for Younger Poets, 1942; Rosenwald Fellowship, 1944; Ford Fellowship at Yale University, 1953-54; and an honorary doctoral degree in literature from Tougaloo College.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Dr. Margaret Walker-Alexander for her outstanding work in our literary world. Her works will remain with us for years to come to pass down to the next generation to enjoy her stories and learn from them.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY "TONY"
DeMARINIS OF GROTON, CON-
NECTICUT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness to memorialize Anthony "Tony" DeMarinis of Gorton, Connecticut. Mr. DeMarinis, who passed a way on January 25, was a true American hero—a career Army officer, a public servant and a great human being. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and citizens from across southeastern Connecticut.

Tony DeMarinis served in the United States Army for 32 years before retiring in 1972 with the rank of Captain. He enlisted in 1940 and served in 14 campaigns during World War II. He was wounded in battle and received a battlefield commission. Tony helped the United States prevail in the greatest test of good versus evil the world has ever known and played a role in freeing my family from the terror of the Holocaust. Tony served in the Korean conflict where he received yet another battlefield commission elevating him to the rank of Captain. In another selfless act on behalf of his country, Tony volunteered to serve with the First Army Division—known as the "Big Red One"—in Vietnam. Throughout his distinguished military career, Tony received many honors and decorations, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

After retiring from the Army, Tony continued to serve the public. He was elected to three terms as City Clerk of Groton in the 1980s. In this position, Tony did much more than merely perform administrative duties. He worked each and every day to build pride in the community. One of his most lasting achievements in this regard was securing a large mural depicting the Battle of Groton Heights, the only major battle of the Revolutionary War fought in Connecticut, for display in City Hall. This engagement occurred in Groton and resulted in the massacre of almost every single soldier at Fort Griswold due to the treachery of Benedict Arnold. Tony DeMarinis was instrumental in ensuring the City of Groton received this important part of its history.

Mr. Speaker, Tony DeMarinis was a public servant of the highest order. He served his country in the Army for three decades. He served the City of Groton as City Clerk. He did so unselfishly and with boundless enthusiasm and pride. Tony DeMarinis embodied all of the best qualities of America—service, patriotism and pride in community. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

U.S. AIRLINES REACH SAFETY
MILESTONE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, in the late summer of 1908, just five years after he and his brother, Wilbur, completed the first successful powered flight at Kitty Hawk, Orville Wright was demonstrating their flying machine for the U.S. Army Signal Corps at Ft. Myer, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from where we now assemble.

After a successful first flight, Orville took off again, this time with a young Signal Corps officer, Lt. Thomas Selfridge, aboard. As they completed their first circuit of the field, Orville heard two strange thumps. He cut the engine and attempted to glide the plane to a safe landing, but the Wright Flyer lost lift and plummeted nose-first to the ground.

Lt. Selfridge died as a result of the crash and became the first person ever to be killed in an airplane accident. Orville Wright survived, but took four months to recover from his injuries.

Now, 90 years after that fatal day at Ft. Myer, air travel has become commonplace. Last year, American air carriers transported 615 million passengers, most of us in this House among them, through the skies. However, for the first time in the 31 years such records have been kept, and possibly the first time in history, U.S. airlines completed their flights without a single fatal accident. Let me repeat that: 615 million passengers carried by U.S. scheduled air carriers, not one single fatality.

For many years now, statistics have shown that travel on America's airlines has been among the safest of all transportation modes. In contrast, 42,000 people died on America's roads, streets and highways in 1997, the latest year for which a total is available.

The airlines are to be congratulated for this remarkable safety record. Congratulations, too, are to be extended to the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the aircraft manufacturers, all of whom can share credit for this remarkable accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, we indeed have cause to celebrate, but we must also temper our celebration with a dose of realism. Travel, whether by air, rail, highway or sea, is never without some element of risk. We cannot rest on this single year's result.

Worldwide, flights are expected to increase from 16.3 million this year to over 25 million by 2010. The number of passengers on U.S. domestic and international flights is expected to increase to over 900 million by 2006, a 50 percent increase over 10 years. We must be ready to manage this growth.

Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and FAA Administrator Jane Garvey, in partnership with the aviation community, have initiated a targeted safety agenda, focusing on issues such as terrain avoidance systems, to help us meet the challenge.

We in Congress must ensure that airports continue to have the resources to make critical capacity and safety investments. The FAA and NTSB must have the safety inspectors, air traffic controllers, airway system specialists and the air traffic control equipment to meet the increased aviation demand. As a matter of fact, from all indications, we can expect to debate a measure on the House floor sometime this year to provide these resources.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee since I was first elected to the House 24 years ago. When I had the privilege to chair the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, and later the Aviation Subcommittee, I held many, many hours of hearings which called the airlines, the manufacturers and the FAA to account for practices that threatened to diminish the margins of safety for the traveling public. I feel it is only right that, when the country's air transportation system has achieved such a remarkable safety record, I should also stand to give those responsible the credit they most certainly deserve.

I call upon my colleagues to join me in this commendation.

RECOGNITION OF DELRAY BEACH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce's acquisition of its 1,000th member. The membership of Redhead Yacht Charters, owned and operated by Mr. Jerry Janaro, bring the Delray Chamber's membership to 1000, placing the Chamber in an elite group of just 30 Chambers in Florida to have reached this landmark.

The Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce has an 86 year history of serving the South Florida business community boasting over 175 businesses which have been members for 15 years or more, including a select group which is celebrating their 50th anniversary with the Chamber.

Although Mr. Janaro's Redhead Yacht Charters is a new member, Jerry is not new to the Chamber. Jerry joined the Chamber in 1984 and has served on the executive board, holding positions as Vice Chair of area committees as well as Chairman of the Board. Jerry has joined other chambers now that his business takes him up and down the coast, but says, "None can beat the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce for value, services and friendliness. It's the best chamber around."

The mission of the Chamber is to provide "leadership, promote the economic well being of our total community, preserve our free enterprise system, and promote business growth and development." Mr. Speaker, the Delray Chamber is doing a fine job in promoting their mission and I congratulate them on their milestone 1,000th membership.

HONORING DR. MARY SCOPATZ

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Mary Scopatz of Santa Barbara, California as she retires on January 29, 1999 after serving our local schools for 28 years.

Mary began her distinguished career in 1970 as the Department Chair and teacher for the Santa Barbara High School Business Education Department. After only three years, she was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1973. In 1978, she served as the Project Director for Disadvantaged Students, and then became the coordinator for the Youth Employment Training Programs and the Private Sector Involvement Project.

After receiving her Educational Doctorate in 1980, Mary focused her attention on involving local industry with education as the Director of the Santa Barbara Industry Education Council, and providing year round and summer employment opportunities for young people as the Director of the Career and Youth Employment Programs.

Mary has also shown a deep commitment to her community through her involvement in organizations such as the American Vocational Association, the California Business Education Association, as a member of both the Santa Barbara and the Goleta Chambers of Commerce, the Santa Barbara Youth Coalition, and the Children's Resource and Referral program.

Recently, my office had the pleasure of working with Mary on establishing a Job Corps Program on the Central Coast. Her determination and commitment to the success of young people is unquestionable.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Mary Scopatz for her lifelong work as a committed, innovative educator. Her dedication and vision will be missed but never forgotten.

HONORING MRS. RUTH ANN HALL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Ruth Ann Hall of Waldorf, MD who passed away on January 18, 1999. Her passing is a tremendous loss for her family and all the people who knew her.

Ruth Ann graduated from Charles County Community College and the University of Maryland and was a teacher for the Charles County Public Schools for more than 20 years. She was voted outstanding teacher of the year in the mid-1980s, was a past president of the Education Association of Charles County and was active in many political associations.

Christa McAuliffe, one of our country's best known teachers, used as her credo: "I touch the future, I teach." Ruth Ann touched, indeed she embraced and shaped, the future. Ruth Ann fought tirelessly for children and for their teachers. She advocated public policies that would benefit our students and recognize the critical importance and inestimable worth of

those we entrust to expand the minds of our children, our teachers.

Ruth Ann was the embodiment of excellence and enthusiasm. She inspired her students and colleagues. She was what every parent would want for their children—a person with great ability, who loved children and enriched their lives and shaped their future and, in turn, our country's future.

Her love of politics was a joy to behold. She was a leader—by example, by conviction, by courage, and by extraordinary competence.

Ruth Ann Hall was, in sum, one of those very special people who make a difference. She was a good and decent person, whose goals and ideals motivated her actions. I extend my deepest sympathy to Ruth Ann's husband, Bob; her parents George and Anna Collier, her brother George Collier, Jr., her son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Laura Ann Johnson, and her granddaughters, Kaitlyn and Eryn Johnson. Ruth Ann Hall will be remembered as an outstanding teacher, a loving wife and mother, and a very special friend to all who knew her.

HONORING LEIGH MORRIS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, there is a common question asked in theoretical science that has also become part of the political lexicon. And I think I have the answer. The question is "What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object?" The answer is "Leigh Morris."

I say this because Leigh is both. He has been a tireless worker for our community and a vortex of organized activity to advance health care quality. And he has also been a stoic, standing rock-solid in his insistence on excellence, community participation and vision for the future.

Although we consider Leigh our own in northern Indiana, he is nationally recognized for his expertise and abilities in health care management and planning. I must also add that Leigh is equally well-known for his grace, courtesy and intellect.

Leigh Morris has served in his capacity as President of LaPorte Hospital, which is now known as the LaPorte Hospital Regional Health System, for twenty-one years. His stewardship at the helm has steered through some very rough times, and some very good ones. And he will be leaving at a time of very positive growth and success. We will know in the future that the good health of our hospital system was due in part to Leigh's planning and foresight.

Although his dedication to the LaPorte Hospital is the counterpiece of Leigh's career, he will also be remembered for his leadership at the Indiana Hospital Association and the American Hospital Association. He has brought his unique vision to hospitals, administrators and providers throughout the nation, and I know they are as grateful for his gifts as we Hoosiers are.

Mr. Speaker, Leigh has impacted our community in many ways beyond the health care system. He has been involved in other quality of life issues, fighting for superior education,

pulling for economic development, laboring to bring enriching cultural experiences to our citizens, young and old.

Many have expressed concern that we are somehow "losing" Leigh Morris due to his retirement. I think otherwise. Leigh is not leaving us, rather he enters a new chapter in his life. I know that he will find new and interesting ways to bring added life and zest to our community: in health care, in business and in all ways. I am pleased to be able to join his wife Marcia and his family in sharing the pride and admiration I know they must feel at this important time.

Mr. Speaker, some among us are leaders, some are healers, and some are teachers. Leigh Morris is all of these. He has preserved the health of so many, kindled the imagination of more, and inspired everyone. For all he has done, he deserves recognition and reward.

For who he is, his own work was reward enough.

13TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all girls and women who participate in sports by recognizing the 13th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, February 4, 1999.

This year's theme, "All Girls Allowed," reminds us we all should have an equal chance to participate in sports regardless of gender. In my youth women were discouraged from team sports and were looked down upon if active in an individual sport. "All Girls Allowed" characterizes how far we've come. But there is more to do. This day grants us a special time to remember past and current achievements, and reflect on the continuing struggle for equality in sports.

In 1987, a Congressional Resolution created National Girls and Women in Sports Day to celebrate the achievements of Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman and to recognize her work to assure equality for women's sports. Today we take this day to celebrate the achievements of all girls and women in sports. Communities such as mine around the country observe this day with events, luncheons, awards banquets, and parades.

We can all call to mind significant women in sports who have paved the way for others including the high-profile tennis match when Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs, or the recent emergency of the Women's National Basketball Association. Because of the leadership of these women, there are more sports opportunities today than there were 25 years ago. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination from extracurricular activities—including sports—in federally assisted education programs. One in three girls in high school now participate in athletics. As a former educator, I have seen firsthand the value athletics has played in building self-esteem, establishing confidence and leadership skills in young women.

In the 5th District, the Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC) is sponsoring a luncheon to honor local girls and

women that have achieved significant goals in sports. WIN for KC was established to promote sports participation opportunities and recognition for girls and women in the Greater Kansas City area. Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics Shannon Miller will deliver the keynote address to encourage and support fellow athletes. This year's Kansas City award winners include Heather Burroughs for USA Track and Field, Janet Calandro for Spirit, Peggy Donovan for Senior Sportswoman of the Year, Linda Jones for Coach of the Year, Jean Nearing for Physically Challenged Sportswoman of the Year, Lauren Powers for Courage, and Jennifer Waterman for Mentor of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 13th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, congratulate every individual for their dedication and efforts, and thank them for paving the way for other women.

THE HAWAII FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation to adjust the State of Hawaii's Federal medical assistance percentage [FMAP] rate. The intent of this bill is to more fairly reflect the ability of the state to bear its share of Medicaid payments. I am happy to have my colleague, Representative PATSY MINK, as a cosponsor of this measure. I am also pleased that our Hawaii Senators, Senator DANIEL AKAKA and Senator DANIEL INOUE, have introduced similar legislation in the Senate, S. 264.

The FMAP, or Federal share of the medical assistance expenditures under each state's Medicaid program, is determined annually by a formula that compares a state's average per capita income level with the national income average. States with a higher per capita income level are reimbursed a smaller share of their Medicaid costs. By law, the FMAP cannot be lower than 50 percent nor higher than 83 percent. In 1997, the FMAPs varied from 50 percent to 77.2 percent, with Hawaii receiving the lowest 50 percent rate.

Alaska was another state receiving the lowest FMAP rate in 1997. However, in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, a provision increasing Alaska's FMAP rate to 59.8 percent for the next 3 years was included. Language in the Balanced Budget Act also mentioned that the same conditions warranting an increase in Alaska's FMAP rate applied to the State of Hawaii. The legislation that I am introducing today would conform Hawaii's rate with Alaska's. This bill would increase Hawaii's FMAP rate from 50 percent to 59.8 percent.

The rationale for the FMAP change is quite simple. Hawaii's high cost of living skews the per capita income determining factor. Based on 1995 United States Census data, the cost of living in Honolulu is 83 percent higher than the average of the metropolitan areas. More recent studies have shown that for the state as a whole, the cost of living is more than one-third higher than the rest of the United States. In fact, Hawaii's Cost of Living Index

ranks as the highest in the country. If per capita income is measured in real terms, the State of Hawaii ranks 47th at \$19,755 compared to the national average of \$24,231 (according to the twenty-first edition of "The Federal Budget and the States," a joint study conducted by the Taubman Center for State and Local Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the office of Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN). Thus, Hawaii's 50 percent FMAP rate is understated because cost of living factors are not considered. Per capita income is a poor measure of Hawaii's relative ability to bear the cost of Medicaid services.

Some government programs take the high cost of living in Hawaii into account and funding is adjusted accordingly. These programs include Medicaid prospective payment rates, food stamp allocations, school lunch programs, housing insurance limits, Federal employee salaries, and military living expenses. These examples show a Federal recognition that the higher cost of living in noncontiguous states should be taken into account in fashioning government program policies. It is time for similar recognition of this factor in gauging Hawaii's ability to support its health care programs. It is time to pass my bill increasing Hawaii's FMAP from 50 percent to 59.8 percent.

Setting a higher match rate as was done for Alaska would still leave Hawaii with a lower FMAP rate than a majority of the states. However, the higher rate would better recognize Hawaii's ability to pay its fair share of the costs of the Medicaid program and I am committed to achieving it.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST SERGEANT
DANIEL L. JENNINGS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand here before you today to honor a man who without his efforts, my existence in Congress may not have been a reality. Daniel L. Jennings was born to the late Samuel Rufus and Rosie Lillie Jennings on November 19, 1936 in Claiborne County, Mississippi. He attended school in Memphis, Tennessee, St. Louis, Missouri, and Fort Stilicum Community College. He also attended the University of Puget Sound in the state of Washington and Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

First Sergeant Jennings served 21 years of active duty in the United States Army where he retired as one of the most decorated soldiers of the Vietnam War. He received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Army Commendation Medal and the Cross for Gallantry.

First Sergeant Jennings was indeed a "community concerned citizen." He served as President of the MS Christian Missionary Convention from 1992 until present, past President of the Claiborne County Board of Education, President of the Claiborne County Branch of the NAACP, President of the Claiborne County Democratic Party and County Coordinator for my reelection to Congress Campaign. He also worked at my Alma Mater, Hinds Agricultural High School in Utica, MS as the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor for 17

years. First Sergeant Jennings died Sunday, January 17, 1999 at his residence in Port Gibson, MS.

Mr. Speaker, First Sergeant Jennings will be sorely missed. It is indeed reassuring to know that he is going to a better place. His efforts and services to the Second Congressional District of Mississippi will be remembered for eternity. There will never be another like him.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN WATSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Evelyn Watson, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education. She was honored by parents, family, friends, and professionals for her outstanding contributions to the community at a January 29 dinner marking her retirement as Executive Director of East Tremont Head Start.

Mrs. Watson was born on September 10, 1925 in Beckley, West Virginia. She received her certificate in Community Organization in 1972, her AAS from New York University in 1974 and her BSW from the same university in 1975.

She started her career as a Units Clerk at the New York State Employment from 1955-1962. From 1967 to 1969 she worked as a Family Assistant with Head Start. From 1969 to 1974 she was a Lay Associate LCA at Messiah Lutheran Church. In 1976 she joined East Tremont Head Start.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Watson has been a pillar of our Bronx Community for more than thirty years. She dedicated almost twenty five years of her life to the Head Start community, working at East Tremont Head Start. Her first position was Family Assistant. She served as Acting Director before ascending to Executive Director. Presently, East Tremont Head Start is comprised of six sites, all operating under Mrs. Watson's diligent and dedicated leadership.

It is a privilege for me to represent the 16th congressional district of New York, where East Tremont Head Start is located. I have witnessed first-hand the exemplary work they are doing for our community, and I am deeply impressed. I am very proud of their accomplishments.

Evelyn Watson retired on January 29 after a fruitful career in public service. Mrs. Watson left us with many lessons learned in community service, leadership in education, and wisdom. A talented leader and educator, Mrs. Watson will continue sharing her knowledge and views with her family, including three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, and her friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Evelyn Watson for her outstanding achievements in education and her enduring commitment to the community.

HONORING BETTY BROWN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary wife, mother, and citizen recently named 1998 Carpinterian of the Year: Betty Brown.

Betty began her years of exemplary service in Carpinteria, California as a member and leader of the Eastern Star, a service organization and social group where she assumed the role of Worthy Matron in 1965. In the 1960's, Betty served as a mother advisor for the Rainbow Girls and continued to be a role model for young women. This devotion was seen in her involvement with the Children's Home Society, which helped unwed mothers and orphans with family counseling and adoption services. Betty was actively involved in the Carpinteria auxiliary called Los Chiquitos.

Betty's commitment to advancing the success and happiness of adolescent girls was again evident through her commitment to Girls Incorporated of Carpinteria. She was a critical force in the Girls, Inc. building project, dedicating countless hours to raising funds for the new facility. Betty has also served as a national member of the Board of Trustees for Girls, Inc.

The Carpinteria Community Church, Carpinteria Rotary Club, the Carpinteria Republican Women, the Carpinteria Women in Agriculture and the American Heart Association have all benefited from Betty's desire to serve her community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Betty Brown for her extraordinary service to young women and the Carpinteria community, and honor her as the 1998 Carpinterian of the Year.

KEEP BART-TO-SFO ON TRACK

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a recent editorial that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle about the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) extension to the San Francisco International Airport (SFO), also known as the BART SFO Extension. This editorial strongly endorses the existing program and plans for extension of BART to the airport and Millbrae.

The BART SFO Extension will connect the 95-mile, four county intermodal rail transit system of the Bay Area to the rapidly growing San Francisco International Airport. Four new stations will provide service to the airport and cities on the Peninsula offering millions of travelers fast and convenient connections to and from the airport and the greater metropolitan San Francisco Bay Area. The BART SFO Extension will improve mobility, productivity and economic opportunity, while alleviating traffic congestion and air pollution throughout the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to point out that 70 percent, or \$2 billion, of the overall BART Extension program, which includes three extensions in the East Bay and the

BART SFO Extension, is funded by state and local sources. All of the operating costs on each extension, including the BART SFO Extension, are being funded 100 percent locally. Only the BART SFO Extension is a recipient of federal capital funds. The project is an excellent model for federal, state and local cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, the San Francisco International Airport is one of the country's fastest growing airports and has undertaken a locally funded \$2.4 billion expansion program which includes a new international terminal and will double the size of the existing terminal. By the year 2006, SFO is projected to increase air passenger travel by 70 percent, or 51 million total travelers a year. Without the BART SFO Extension the impact on traffic congestion and air pollution along adjacent Bay Area freeways would be staggering.

The BART SFO Extension is a long-awaited regional project and is taking shape after more than two decades of painstaking planning, consensus-building, and the tireless efforts of a remarkable partnership forged among local, regional, state and federal officials and funding entities. In the past year, significant progress has been made on the BART SFO Extension. As a longtime supporter of the BART SFO Extension, I am pleased to report that construction is well underway and progressing rapidly.

Mr. Speaker, the recent editorial in the Chronicle notes that after many years of planning, analysis, public input and consensus-building, the scope of the project is well established and construction is in high gear. Naturally, cashflow needs are substantial during the construction phase. In order to keep costs within budget and avoid expensive increases in financing costs and construction delays, it is imperative that BART secure federal appropriations consistent with levels identified in the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) funding schedule and as requested by the President in his budget submitted to the Congress yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we, as federal partners in this project speak with one voice and commit the resources promised to deliver this project. The BART SFO Extension is a sound investment in our nation's future transportation infrastructure and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting appropriations that meet the FFGA targets.

KEEP BART-TO-SFO ON TRACK

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 11, 1999]

A small group of Peninsula activists continues to try to stymie BART's plans to run train service to San Francisco International Airport.

Its latest argument is that the \$1 billion project, now under construction, should be scaled back because it is running over budget and federal funding is coming in slower than expected. Specifically, the Coalition for a One-Stop Terminal (COST) has suggested that BART should scrap the portion that would extend service south of the airport, to a Millbrae station.

Given the importance of this project, we recently invited representatives of BART and COST if for an Editorial Board meeting to debate the issues.

While it was clear that BART does have some serious budget problems with the project, it was equally apparent that elimination of the Millbrae station would not make any sense from either an economic or transportation-planning standpoint.

For starters, scaling back the project would be inviting Congress to reduce the funding even further. And a perception of controversy on this project would make it easier for lawmakers to justify shifting the money to projects in other regions.

Also, the airlines have agreed to put \$113 million into the project. A major revision of the plans, such as eliminating the Millbrae extension, would require renegotiation of that hard-won pact—with the possibility of a smaller airline contribution.

Moreover, the purpose of this project is to get air travelers to take mass transit to SFO. It would seem imperative to have at least one stop south of the airport. Also, the Millbrae station would have a convenient cross-platform connection with Caltrain.

The debate about the best way to bring BART to the airport has been settled. It is time to stop the obstructionist tactics and make a strong, unified regional pitch for full congressional funding.

The region's leaders should be striving to keep this project on budget and on schedule for its December 2001 completion.

ENDANGERED SPECIES REFORM NOW

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, when Congress begins anew this month, I will reintroduce three bills to reform the Endangered Species Act, an act that has miserably failed to safeguard species while imposing an enormous burden on American landowners. Republicans have held the House for four years now but have yet managed to pass legislation to break the grip of the so-called environmentalists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The reason is that oversized and comprehensive bills, while entirely justified, can not garner the support needed for passage especially in light of an antagonistic Administration. Let's face it. The Administration has us in stalemate.

The strategy behind my bills is simple. We need to shake up the debate, take the negotiating victories we have won so far, introduce some new ideas, and package them in smaller, easier to pass bills. We need rifle-shot bills targeted toward specific and clear abuses by the Federal Government. We can not wait until we can patch together a political coalition to rewrite the entire Endangered Species Act. We need ideas we can win with and give you relief, now. Here are my bills:

The Fair Land Process Reform bill will ensure open and equal access to the decision making process of federal agencies and allow landowners to identify and criticize poor decisions from the onset.

Public access to scientific studies and underlying study data and a right for landowners and commercial interests to join in decision making process through a formal rule-making hearing. No more closed decisions using secret information.

A substantial evidence standard for agency listing decisions and peer review of scientific data. No more tolerance of inadequate science.

The Fair Land Management Reform bill will ensure government pays for obligations it imposes on landowners.

Landowner compensation for significant government takings.

Limit on mitigation requirements imposed by government. No more giving up 30 acres in order to use 1 acre of one's own land.

The Liability Reform bill will stop unfair government penalties against landowners.

No criminal liability for unintended and speculative takings of endangered species. No penalty for modifying so-called habitat in which no endangered species actually exists.

A "Safe harbor" and "No surprises" provision. No more broken promises and the added obligations put on landowners.

The Endangered Species Act needs to be reformed now. These proposals are a fair and balanced response to the tragic failures of the current system. I look forward to presenting my bills at House hearings.

TRIBUTE TO FRED MATTEI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, Mr. Fred Mattei, whose life-long commitment to the City of Petaluma is to be commended. Fred Mattei died last December at the age of 83 in the city that he loved. I wish to join his family, friends and colleagues in celebrating his distinguished life.

Fred Mattei spent most of his life involved in his family business, located in the heart of downtown Petaluma. Opened in 1907, Mattei Bros. became a Petaluma tradition that has been sadly missed since it closed four years ago. Mr. Mattei also served on the City Council and as Mayor of Petaluma for 15 years. During his tenure as a member of the City Council, Mayor Mattei was supportive of the adoption of the landmark growth control ordinance that was eventually upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fred Mattei's devotion to the community was admirable. In 1996, he was recognized for his long service to the community when he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Petaluma Community Recognition Awards Ceremony. He worked tirelessly to support community organizations, including the Petaluma Rotary Club, the Petaluma Chamber of Commerce, and the Petaluma Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to Fred Mattei. His dedication to the residents of Petaluma will be greatly missed. I send my very best and my heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.

STOP ILLEGAL STEEL IMPORTS ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I'm so glad to see so many people from both sides of the aisle supporting the Stop Illegal Steel Imports Act today.

Bethlehem Steel in my hometown of Baltimore and the other great American steel manufacturers have proven that they can take a

punch and come back strong. The American steel industry is the Rocky Balboa of the global market.

None of us will forget those difficult days 15 years ago when American steel was on the ropes. We had become too content with the status quo and our overseas competitors exploited this. But management and unions worked together and American steel was reborn.

We have seen real and significant growth since then. In my district, Beth Steel cranks out 9,000 to 10,000 tons of quality American steel a day!

That's 9,000 to 10,000 tons of quality steel a day when operating under normal conditions. But these days things are anything but normal. Steel producers in our country are decreasing production, laying off workers, and reporting losses.

I understand that there are serious economic problems around the world—problems that are already affecting us. But we must protect our businesses, our employees and our country first.

The American steel industry has done nothing wrong. It shouldn't pay the price for other countries' mistakes.

I'm proud to be here to stand up for steel and my friends who produce it. This is an industry rich in tradition. This is an industry which literally made this country. From the Golden Gate Bridge to the Alaskan oil pipeline—Baltimore's Beth Steel has been there.

This industry has proved it can take a punch. But it shouldn't have to weather a storm of low blows, which is what this foreign dumping amounts to.

This has nothing to do with protectionism. Insisting that our trading partners adhere to international law and play by the rules is not protectionism. I'd call it something much simpler: it's called fairness.

It's not fair that Beth Steel lost \$23 million in the last quarter because of these low blows. The bill we're here to introduce today would become the referee in a fair fight.

We want the amount of steel imported into the United States to return to the rates we saw last summer when the global steel industry competed on a level playing field.

This industry is being forced to fight with one arm tied behind its back. It's taking a pummeling. Congress should release the other hand.

Pass this bill, let this industry fight fairly and, believe me, Rocky will win another.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUAL EDUCATIONAL STATUS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the University of the District of Columbia Equal Educational Status Act. The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is the only publicly funded institution of higher education in the District of Columbia. The District, like most large cities, has a large population which requires access to a publicly funded open admissions institution to go to any institution at all.

Under existing law, UDC is, by definition, a Historically Black University that qualifies for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) funds because it meets the three salient requirements: (1) UDC was created from colleges established before 1964; (2) it served primarily black people; and (3) it is an accredited institution. Though technically an HBCU, UDC was denied the funding benefits of HBCU status because of a factual error. In the HBCU provision of Title III, UDC is discussed in the same section with Howard University, and it explicitly indicates that the University receives a direct payment from the federal government. This has never been true, and in any case, the District itself no longer receives a federal payment.

The importance of HBCU funding and status is that there is an annual appropriation for HBCUs. I have attempted to get HBCU funding for UDC before. The only reason that UDC has not been included is that no extra funds were available to accompany the request, and the entry of UDC was seen as diminishing the appropriations available for the 103 existing HBCUs. I would remove this impediment by proposing that an amount to be determined from the \$17 million in the President's budget for college bound D.C. students be allotted to UDC. The amount in the President's budget is not based on specific underlying assumptions about the available pool of students to go out-of-state. The \$17 million is sufficient to allow some funds to go to desperately needed technology and infrastructure at the University. This is now possible to satisfy the needs of all our students—those prepared to go out-of-state as well as the larger number of students who will not be able to take advantage of the scholarship proposal.

I support the proposal of Congressman TOM DAVIS, Chair of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia who, acting on suggestions from District and area business people, is writing a bill for public and private funds to pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition for D.C. residents outside the District. I am pleased that in addition to federal funds, private business in this area is also raising funds for this effort. Mr. Davis' staff and mine have begun working together on a joint UDC-scholarships approach. I have also discussed this idea with Mayor Tony Williams and have asked and gathered his suggestions about how funding for UDC should be targeted. Mayor Williams also supports the UDC-scholarship approach.

Working with the White House, we have been able to secure funds sufficient not only for the scholarship proposal but also for the needs of the majority of D.C. students who could not possibly take advantage of out-of-state opportunities. A scholarship—only approach would leave the largest number of college bound D.C. students stranded with access only to a university severely injured by the fiscal crisis. I am pleased that with adequate funding, there is no reason to ignore the demographics of D.C.'s typical student population in need of public higher education.

Who is the typical college bound D.C. resident? The profile of UDC tells the story. Two-thirds of UDC students work; many are single parents with obligations to young children; many go to college after years in the workforce; others could not afford living expenses away from D.C.; and many can only attend an open admissions university. The Davis pro-

posal was never meant to be, nor could it substitute for, a public university which serves the residents of this city in this city.

UDC funds would not be used for the operations of UDC but would be carefully targeted to urgently needed infrastructure needs that have no hope of finding the needed priority in the D.C. budget for years. The city is constantly being asked why our young people are not being trained for rapidly growing technological jobs in the region but they are left with antiquated computers and other hopelessly out-of-date technology.

Further, deferred maintenance has produced pitiful results, such as elevators that don't work, that are shameful in a public institution. Part of the reason for UDC's condition is that it took an enormously hard hit during the fiscal crisis. Its budget went from \$69,631 million in fiscal year 1994 to \$40,148 million this year, not counting huge reductions that began early in the decade. In the one year since February 1, 1998, the number of full-time faculty has plummeted from 375 to 246, not counting enormous cuts to which the University has been subjected throughout this decade.

The University was forced to close for three months in 1996, a calamity that would have destroyed most colleges and universities. Yet, D.C. residents are voting with their feet and returning to UDC. Despite the University's hardships, entering freshmen enrollment rose dramatically by 70% in only one year, from 661 in fall 1997 to 1125 in fall 1998. Today, the University's enrollment of 5,284 represents, an 11% increase in one year.

Some emphasize the undeniable fact that UDC needs money. Others indicate that District youngsters need increased opportunities for higher education, a truism if ever there was one. However, I told UDC students who visited the Capitol yesterday that it is wrong to pit individual justice against institutional justice. I say the same thing to my colleagues—we must do the right thing and assure that we have a win-win for higher education for our young people in this city.

ON THE DEATH OF VIRGINIA GOV.
MILLS GODWIN

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today in the borough of Chuckatuck, Mills E. Godwin Jr., a former Governor of Virginia, was laid to rest. He was not just a Governor of Virginia, he was in my view and that of many others, the greatest Governor of the Commonwealth in this century.

Mills Godwin served Virginia in the House of Delegates, in the Senate of Virginia, as Lt. Governor and then from 1966–1970, as Governor for his first term as a Democrat. Later, after sitting out a term, he was elected to a second term as Governor, this time as a Republican. Mills Godwin has the distinction of being the only person twice elected Governor of Virginia in this century, and is the only person elected Governor of a state once as a Democrat and once as a Republican.

The first term of Governor Godwin was a magical time in Virginia. For too long, unrealistic fiscal policies prevented Virginia from investing in its future by elevating the level of

spending for public education, higher education, mental health facilities, transportation and economic development. All this changed under the inspirational leadership of Governor Godwin. A statewide network of two-year community colleges was created during his first term. He led in the successful effort to comprehensively revise the antiquated 1902 Constitution of Virginia, and in doing so made possible prudent fiscal policies that provided limited, responsible use of long-term financing of vitally needed programs that had been barred by the old Constitution.

It is no wonder that Mills Godwin for so many people epitomized responsible conservatism. His life and his work attest to the fact that dramatic progress can be coupled with sound conservatism.

I was privileged to have served in the Senate of Virginia as a newly elected Democrat member during Mills Godwin's first Administration. We came from different factions of the Democrat Party of the 1960s. I served during his second Administration when he was a Republican and I had become a Republican.

My respect for him as Governor, and our friendship, was never affected by our political party affiliation. He was a person of tremendous natural dignity accompanied by a keen sense of humor, untouched by frivolity. No American in my lifetime has surpassed the eloquence of Mills Godwin. He had a magical gift of the language and the ability to communicate a sense of quiet passion for the ideas and values he expounded.

Virginia has lost a great son. Virginia is and should be proud of him and the legacy he leaves behind.

POPE JOHN PAUL II REJOICES AT
CROSS-STRAIT TALKS BETWEEN
TAIWAN AND CHINA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on January 11, 1999, Pope John Paul II spoke to all the ambassadors accredited to the Holy See and gave his evaluation of world affairs. The pontiff specifically mentioned that the Holy See "should rejoice at the efforts of the great people of China, in a dialogue undertaken with determination and involving the peoples of both sides of the Strait. The international community and the Holy See in particular—follows the felicitous development with great interest, in the hope of significant progress which, without any doubt, would be beneficial to the whole world."

Indeed, I myself am very happy to see that Taiwan has done its very best in attempting to achieve the goal of peace through a mutual understanding with the Chinese mainland. In his 1996 inaugural speech, President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China made it very clear that he is a man of peace and that he would like to embark on a journey of peace to the mainland. On numerous occasions President Lee Teng-hui said he would like to see continuing peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Moreover he fervently prayed that Taiwan and the Chinese mainland agree under the principles of democracy, freedom, and equitable distribution of wealth. In fact,

during his January 18, 1999 meeting with some of the members of the International Relations Committee, President Lee reiterated his desire to see rapid progress in the cross-strait relations and extended his welcome to Mr. Wang Daohan, chairman of the Peking-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, to visit Taiwan this year.

Mr. Speaker, President Lee Teng-hui ought to be commended for maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and for re-starting the cross-strait dialogue between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland. In addition, the pope's speech to the ambassadors on January 11, 1999, especially his reference to Taiwan and the Chinese mainland, was both timely and insightful, fully demonstrating the pontiff's concern for world peace. I submit the text to be printed in the RECORD.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am deeply grateful for the good wishes offered to me on your behalf by your Dean, the Ambassador of the Republic of San Marino, Signor Giovanni Galassi, at the beginning of this final year before the year 2000. They join the many expressions of affection which were sent to me by the Authorities of your countries and by your fellow citizens on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of my Pontificate and for the New Year. To all, I wish to express once again my profound gratitude.

This yearly ceremony is like a family gathering and for this reason it is particularly dear to me. First, because through you almost all the nations of the world are made present here with their achievements and their hopes, but also with their difficulties. Secondly, because such a meeting affords me the pleasant opportunity to express my fervent and prayerful good wishes for you, your families and your fellow citizens. I ask God to grant each one health, prosperity and peace. You know that you can count on me and my collaborators whenever it is a matter of supporting what each country, with its best efforts, undertakes for the spiritual, moral and cultural uplifting of its citizens and for the advancement of all that contributes to good relations between peoples in justice and peace.

The family of nations, which has recently taken part in the joy of Christmas and with one accord has welcomed the New Year, has without doubt *some grounds for rejoicing*.

In Europe, I think especially of *Ireland* where the agreement signed on Good Friday last has established the basis for a much awaited peace, which must be founded on a stable social life, on mutual trust and the principle of equality before the law for all.

Another reason for satisfaction for all of us is the peace process *in Spain* which for the first time is enabling the peoples of the Basque territories to see the spectre of blind violence retreat and to think seriously of a process of normalization.

The transition to *one currency and the enlargement towards the East* will no doubt give Europe the possibility to become more and more a community with a common destiny, a true "European community"—this is in any case our dearest wish. This obviously presupposes that the member countries are able to reconcile their history with the same common project, so that they may all see themselves as equal partners, concerned only for the common good. The spiritual families which have made such a great contribution to the civilization of this continent—I am thinking especially of Christianity—have a role which seems to me to be more and more decisive. In the face of social problems which keep significant sectors of the population in poverty, and of social inequalities which give rise to chronic instability, and before the

younger generations seeking points of reference in an often chaotic world, it is important that the Churches should be able to proclaim the tenderness of God and the call to fraternity which the recent feast of Christmas has caused to shine out once again for all humanity.

I would like to draw to your attention, ladies and gentlemen, further grounds for satisfaction in relation to the *American Continent*. I am referring to the *agreement reached in Brasilia on 26 October last between Ecuador and Peru*. Thanks to the persevering efforts of the international community—especially on the part of the guarantor countries—two sister nations had the courage to renounce violence, to accept a compromise and to resolve their differences in a peaceful way. This is an example for so many other nations still bogged down in divisions and disagreements. I am firmly convinced that these two nations, thanks particularly to the Christian faith which unites them, will be able to meet the great challenge of fraternity and peace, and thus turn a painful page of their history, which in fact dates from the very beginning of their existence as independent states. I address an urgent and paternal call to the Catholics of Ecuador and Peru to work with conviction for reconciliation through prayer and action, and thus to contribute to ensuring that the peace brought by the treaties enters everyone's heart.

We should also rejoice at the efforts of *the great people of China*, in a dialogue undertaken with determination and involving the people on both sides of the Strait. The international community—and the Holy See in particular—follows this felicitous development with great interest, in the hope of significant progress which, without any doubt, would be beneficial to the whole world.

However, the culture of peace is far from being universal, as the centres of persistent dissension testify.

Not far from us, *the Balkan region* continues to experience a time of great instability. We cannot yet speak of normalization in Bosnia-Herzegovina where the effects of the war are still being felt in inter-ethnic relations, where half the population remains displaced and where social tensions dangerously persist. Again recently, Kosovo has been the scene of deadly confrontations for both ethnic and political reasons which have prevented a peaceful dialogue between the parties and hindered any economic development. Everything must be done to help the people of Kosovo and the Serbs to meet around a table in order to defuse without delay the armed suspicion which paralyses and kills. Albania and Macedonia would be the first to benefit, since in the Balkans all things are closely related. Many other countries, large and small, in *Central and Eastern Europe* are also at the mercy of political and social instability; they are struggling along the road to democracy and have not yet succeeded in living in a market economy capable of giving everyone a legitimate share of well-being and growth.

The peace process undertaken in the Middle East continues to make uneven progress and has not yet brought the local peoples the hope and well-being which they have the right to enjoy. It is not possible to keep people indefinitely between war and peace, without the risk of dangerously increasing tensions and violence. It is not reasonable to put off until later the question of the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, to which the followers of the three monotheist religions turn their gaze. The parties concerned should face these problems with a keen sense of their responsibilities. The recent crisis in Iraq has shown once more that war does not solve problems. It complicates them, and

leaves the civilian population to bear the tragic consequences. Only honest dialogue, a real concern for the good of people and respect for the international order can lead to solutions befitting a region where our religious traditions are rooted. If violence is often contagious, peace can be so too, and I am sure that a stable Middle East would contribute effectively to restoring hope to many peoples. I am thinking for example of the suffering peoples of Algeria and of the island of Cyprus, where the situation is still in deadlock.

Some months ago Sri Lanka celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of independence, but unfortunately it is still today divided by ethnic struggles which have delayed the opening of serious negotiations, which alone are the only way to peace.

Africa remains a continent at risk. Of its fifty-three States, seventeen are experiencing military conflicts, either internally or with other States. I am thinking in particular of Sudan where, in addition a cruel war, a terrible human tragedy is unfolding; Eritrea and Ethiopia which are once again in dispute; and Sierra Leone, where the people are still the victims of merciless struggles. On this great continent there are up to eight million refugees and displaced persons practically abandoned to their fate. The countries of the Great Lakes region still bear open wounds resulting from the excesses of ethnocentrism, and they are struggling amid poverty and insecurity; this is also the case in Rwanda and Burundi, where an embargo is further aggravating the situation. The Democratic Republic of Congo still has far to go in working out its transition and experiencing the stability to which its people legitimately aspire, as the massacres which recently occurred at the very beginning of the year near the town of Uvira testify. Angola remains in search of a peace which cannot be found and in these days is experiencing a development which causes great concern and which has not spared the Catholic Church. The reports regularly coming to me from these tormented regions confirm my conviction that war is always destructive of our humanity, and that peace is undoubtedly the pre-condition for human rights. To all these peoples, who often send me pleas for help, I wish to give the assurance that I am close to them. May they know also that the Holy See is sparing no effort to bring about an end to their sufferings and to find equitable solutions to the existing serious problems, on both the political and humanitarian levels.

The culture of peace is still being thwarted by the *legitimation and use of armed force for political purposes*. The nuclear tests recently carried out in Asia and the efforts of other countries quietly working on establishing their nuclear power could very well lead to a gradual spread of nuclear arms and consequently to a massive re-armament which would greatly hinder the praiseworthy efforts being made on behalf of peace. This would frustrate all policies aimed at preventing conflicts.

There is also *the production of less costly weaponry*, like anti-personnel mines, happily outlawed by the Ottawa Convention of December 1997 (which the Holy See hastened to ratify last year), and small-calibre arms, to which, I believe, political leaders should pay greater attention in order to control their deadly effects. Regional conflicts, in which children are frequently recruited for combat, indoctrinated and incited to kill, call for a serious examination of conscience and a concerted response.

Finally, the risks to peace arising from *social inequalities and artificial economic growth* cannot be underestimated. The financial crisis which has shaken Asia has shown the extent to which economic security is com-

parable to political and military security, inasmuch as it calls for openness, concerted action and respect for specific ethical principles.

In the face of these problems which are familiar to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to share with you a conviction which I firmly hold: *during this final year before the year 2000 an awakening of consciences is essential*.

Never before have the members of the international community had at their disposal a body of such precise and complete norms and conventions. What is lacking is the will to respect and apply them. I pointed this out in my Message of 1 January, in speaking of human rights: "When the violation of any fundamental human right is accepted without reaction, all other rights are placed at risk" (No. 12). It seems to me that this truth needs to be seen in relation to all juridic norms. *International law cannot be the law of the stronger*, nor that of a simple majority of States, nor even that of an international organization. It must be the law which is in conformity with the principles of the natural law and of the moral law, which are always binding upon parties in conflict and in the various questions in dispute.

The Catholic Church, as also communities of believers in general, will always be on the side of those who strive to *make the supreme good of law prevail over all other considerations*. It is likewise necessary for believers to be able to make themselves heard and to take part in public dialogue in the societies of which they are full members. This leads me to share with you, as the official representatives of your States, *my painful concern about the all too numerous violations of religious freedom in today's world*.

Just recently, for example, *in Asia*, episodes of violence have caused tragic suffering to the Catholic community: churches have been destroyed, religious personnel have been mistreated and even murdered. Other regrettable events could be mentioned in several African countries. In other regions, *where Islam is the majority religion*, one still has to deplore the grave forms of discrimination of which the followers of other religions are victims. There is even one country where Christian worship is totally forbidden and where possession of a Bible is a crime punishable by law. This is all the more distressing because, in many cases, Christians have made a great contribution to the development of these countries, especially in the area of education and health care. In certain countries in *Western Europe*, one notes an equally disturbing development which, under the influence of a false idea of the principle of separation between the State and the Churches or as a result of a deep-seated agnosticism, tends to confine the Churches within the religious sphere alone and finds it difficult to accept public statements from them. Finally, some countries of *Central and Eastern Europe* have great difficulty in acknowledging the religious pluralism proper to democratic societies and attempt to limit, by means of a restrictive and petty bureaucratic practice, the freedom of conscience and of religion which their Constitutions solemnly proclaim.

As I recall religious persecutions either long past or more recent, I believe that the time has come, at the end of *this century*, to ensure that everywhere in the world the right conditions for effective freedom of religion are guaranteed. This requires, on the one hand, that each believer should recognize in others something of the universal love which God has for his creatures. It requires, on the other hand, that the public authorities also—called by vocation to think in universal terms—should come to accept the religious dimension of their fellow citizens along with its necessary community expres-

sion. In order to bring this about, we have before us not only the lessons of history, but also certain valuable juridical instruments which only need to be applied. In a certain sense, *the future of societies depends on the inescapable relationship between God and the Earthly City*, for, as I stated during my visit to the seat of the European Parliament on 11 October 1988: "Wherever man no longer relies on the great reality that transcends him, he risks handing himself over to the uncontrollable power of the arbitrary and to pseudo-absolutes that destroy him" (No. 10).

These are some of the thoughts which have come to my mind and heart as I look at the world of this century which is coming to a close. If God in sending his Son among us took such interest in mankind, let us act in such a way as to correspond to such great love! He, the Father of all, has made with each of us a covenant which nothing can break. By telling us and by showing us that he loves us, he also gives us the hope that we can live in peace; and it is true that only the person who knows love can love in return. It is good that *all people should discover this Love which precedes them and awaits them*. Such is my dearest wish, for each of you and for all the peoples of the earth!

JEREMY AND JULIA'S LAW

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because an increasing number of moms and dads have to take their loved ones to day care while they go off to work. The time is right for me to introduce a new bill, Jeremy and Julia's Law. This bill has two parts: (1) A misdemeanor for a person who misrepresents intentionally the credentials of the day care provider or the conditions of the care provided, and; (2) A felony for a person who causes serious physical injury to a child under his care. This bill gives parents the peace of mind knowing that their children are safe and secure while being cared for by responsible, reliable, licensed, professional day care professionals.

Last July in Albany, New York, a couple left their three-month-old daughter, Julia, in the care of a licensed, in-home day care provider. The provider lied about the number of children for whom she cared on a daily basis. Julia had been placed in a swing and left unattended. The baby was not supervised for twenty minutes. During that time, Julia threw up her food and choked on her own vomit. She was rushed to a local hospital, placed on life support, and tragically she was diagnosed as brain dead.

The critical fact in this horrible story is that the day care provider lied. She told Julia's parents that she was caring for four children. An official investigation discovered that eight children were under her care.

I must tell you another tragic story. Last January, three-month-old Jeremy Fiedelholz was being care for by a licensed, in-home day care operator. His parents left Jeremy with the professional for two hours. It was a trial run; the parents were deciding if this day care professional was one they could trust. When the Fiedelholz' returned, they found Jeremy face down in a crib, in a pool of his own vomit, dead. The state of Florida had licensed this facility to care for six children, but this woman

had taken in 13 children that day. On the day that Jeremy died, while the owner ran errands, all 13 children were left at the mercy of a poorly trained staff person who was not CPR certified. The provider had lied to Jeremy's parents.

The circumstances surrounding the deaths of these two infants are frighteningly similar. In both cases, the day care provider misrepresented to parents about the number of children who would be accepted daily, who would be responsible for caring for the child, and the qualifications of the person who would care for the child. Two children died after the day care professional misrepresented the conditions of care being provided. In both cases, the only recourse for the parents was in civil court. No federal or state criminal law applied. Under my bill, a crime will be committed if a day care provider intentionally misrepresents: (1) Credentials, licenses or permits that the provider or the staff possesses; (2) Number of children for whom they care, or; (3) Quality of the day care facilities.

Most states do not have adequate criminal laws in this arena. In many states, there are standards but they are not consistently enforced. Critical gaps that would safeguard the basic health and safety standards for child care exist. For example, many states do not require small, in-home day care providers to apply for a license. Those providers are not inspected. Even when states require in-home providers to be licensed, most of the time there are no inspections.

Today, millions of parents have no choice. They must make ends meet to pay the bills. So, they are forced to place their loved ones in child care while they work. Currently, 77

percent of all women with children under the age of 17 hold a job. Each day, about 13 million children under the age of six spend part of their day in day care. There are six million infants and toddlers who are being cared for by people that parents are hoping they can trust.

Every parent wants to feel secure in knowing their loved ones are receiving quality day care. Quality care means providing a safe and healthy environment where care gives safeguard infants and nurture their development. Quality care means having a maximum number of children for each care giver. The best of all worlds means every child in day care receives as much one-on-one attention as possible. This bill gives moms and dads what they deserve—the peace of mind that goes with knowing their children are safe and secure and in the arms of a day care professional.

Jeremy and Julia's Law is a fair bill. Prosecutors will be allowed to pursue day care providers that deliberately break the law. Parents will see justice done when their child is seriously injured or dies. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

WHAT WILL POSTERITY SAY
ABOUT THE PETTINESS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, first the impeachment debate; and now the trial in the Senate, have provided the American people

with graphic examples of government descending into dangerous pettiness. The House Managers or prosecutors have behaved like zealous persecutors. Beyond Kenneth Starr's forty million dollars already spent, they propose to paralyze the nation's decision-making process for an indefinite time period. Issues such as school construction and the minimum wage increase will get scant attention while we drag witnesses in for more Peyton Place depositions. Mice minds have hijacked the government machinery of a great nation. The situation may be summarized in the following RAP poem:

PROFILE OF THE PERSECUTING PROSECUTORS

Mice men gnawing
At the Core of the Nation
History will rate them
The pompous petty generation
Rodents feeding
On the Monica sensation
Eloquent enemies
Of issue liberation
Filibuster babies
Babbling in their bubbles
Mischievous teenie boppers
Making monumental troubles
Nice men guffawing
Mice men gnawing
Franklin's wisdom dies
Madison closes his eyes
Rodents raiding Hamilton
Jumping over Jefferson
Boasting bloody fangs
Pompous petty generation
Bloated on Monica sensation
Perfumed urination
Decorated defecation
Mice men gnawing
On the heart of the nation.