

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CAPITAL GAINS TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1999

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the "Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act." As with similar legislation I introduced last year, this bill would simplify the computation of capital gains taxes for all individual taxpayers and provide modest capital gains tax reductions for millions of Americans.

As recent articles in *The Wall Street Journal* and *Money* magazine have observed, the 1040 Form's Schedule D has become very burdensome for ordinary taxpayers as they attempt to comply with the current capital gains tax law. Filling out Schedule D is disproportionately burdensome for low- and moderate-income taxpayers whose only capital gains come from investments in mutual funds and real estate investment trusts. It has been estimated that nearly half of all U.S. households now own mutual funds.

The IRS estimates that a typical taxpayer with a capital gain will spend 6 hours and 41 minutes filling out his or her 54-line Schedule D form. That is over 3 hours more than in 1994. In addition to the amount of time involved, the chances of making an error in filling out this form have increased with its increased complexity. Elimination of the 18-month holding period last year did little or nothing to eliminate the complexity of Schedule D. If nothing is done to change the tax code, the complexity of Schedule D will get even worse in 2001 and again in 2006, when additional capital gains tax rate categories will take effect; these future changes in Schedule D will make the 1998 version look simple in comparison. Finally, increasingly large numbers of taxpayers will have to fill out Schedule D twice—once for the regular tax and once for the minimum tax.

The Internal Revenue Service's new national Taxpayer Advocate, Val Oveson, agrees that capital gains simplification is needed. In his January report to Congress, he cited the capital gains reporting requirements in Schedule D as an example of unnecessary complexity faced by taxpayers with capital gains income from mutual funds.

Under the legislation that I am introducing today, the current complicated system of different capital gains tax rates would be replaced with a simple 38 percent exclusion. The bill would also change the taxation of collectibles so that any gain or loss from the sale or exchange of a collectible would be treated as a short-term capital gain or loss. Consistent with the treatment of capital gains under current law, the tax rates that apply to capital gains income for regular tax purposes would also apply for alternative minimum tax purposes.

Under my bill, low- and moderate-income taxpayers who invest through mutual funds

and real estate investment trusts would no longer have to fill out even a simplified capital gain schedule. Rather than filling in 35 separate lines of information and making a number of confusing, error-prone calculations—as required under current law—they would simply total up their capital gains distributions, figure out what 62 percent of that total would be, and then write that amount on the appropriate line of their tax return form.

This bill would simplify income tax preparation for millions of Americans, and I believe that it would do so at no cost to the U.S. Treasury. While the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) has not yet determined the revenue impact of the bill I am introducing today, JCT estimated last year that nearly identical legislation would actually have raised revenue over a ten-year period.

Congress should act this year to make the tax code less complex—and less burdensome—for the American taxpayer. The Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act would go a long way toward achieving that goal.

Several of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee—including Representatives RANGEL, MATSUI, MCDERMOTT, LEWIS, and NEAL—have joined me in introducing this legislation. I urge all of my House colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this important tax simplification bill.

A TRIBUTE TO DEAN PRESTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's esteemed reporters, Dean Preston (the recently retired agricultural reporter for *The Pueblo Chieftain*). In doing so, I would like to honor this man who, for many years, combined hard work and knowledge with his own special personal touch. An individual with so much integrity and compassion will be truly missed and difficult to replace.

Beginning his career with *The Pueblo Chieftain* over 28 years ago, Dean Preston learned and experienced various positions before deciding on a career as an agricultural reporter. What began as a "gamble" by the city editor, led Preston to an area of reporting very suitable to him. Growing up on a dry land farm in the Texas Panhandle, Preston had gained an understanding of this type of agriculture. Preston's knowledge of Colorado agriculture was second to none, however, I think all would agree that it was his dedication to the people that made him so unique. He was known to make personal visits to check on crops, regardless of the time and miles it required to get there.

During the time Dean Preston spent reporting and editing for *The Pueblo Chieftain*, he received several awards, one of which was "Agriculture Champion" given by the Colorado

Cattlemen's Association. Additionally, Preston has recently received honors from the Pueblo County Farm Bureau.

After 28½ years of service to *The Pueblo Chieftain*, City of Pueblo, and the surrounding areas, Dean Preston begins down a new avenue in life. Few have displayed the dedication and genuine interest that Dean Preston is being honored for, thus I wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE AND THE CENTER FOR ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to *The School of the Future* as it celebrates the opening of the new Center for Ethics and Technology.

This innovative educational facility, located in the heart of my district, is aptly named: it does a remarkable job in preparing our city's children for the future. An astounding 98 percent of the School's graduates were accepted to colleges and major universities in 1998.

The School places an emphasis on providing students with a strong liberal arts education. It aims to produce students who are not only culturally literate, but who have well-developed analytical skills. Students are trained to examine evidence, explore alternate points of view, consider significance, understand point of view and seek connections in all of their learnings.

The new Center for Ethics and Technology strives to create a sense of balance and responsibility in our increasingly technological society. Through the use of computer technology, the Center will allow participants to expand their inter-generational dialogue toward an intercultural, international exchange.

Last month, the Center invited senior citizens, computer scientists, inner city freshman and their parents to join the Anti-Defamation League at a forum to explore how our sense of community has evolved in today's high-tech world.

This Center would not have been possible if not for the dedicated volunteer work of the Center's director, Adam Kinory; the school's teachers and principal, Kathy Rehfield-Pelles; its parent body, and volunteers from *The Sol Goldman 14th Street Y of The Educational Alliance*, *New York Cares*, and *Pencil*.

At a time when our public school enrollments are at record levels and those numbers are expected to climb further, we have an obligation to act now to shore up our public education system. *The School of the Future* is leading that journey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to *The School of the Future* as it strives to bring our public education

• 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.

system into the next millennium. The School's important work with New York City's children is priceless. It is an honor to have the School in my district.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ROBERT
"BOB" HUGHES

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and give honor to a Texas legend: Coach Robert "Bob" Hughes whose name is synonymous with the game of basketball. Coach Hughes has a winning reputation that stretches far beyond the great State of Texas and the mark he continues to make on the sporting culture of this great country is without argument an indelible one.

This remarkable man's career spans almost four decades. He began his career at the proud and the historic I.M. Terrell school. After the unfortunate closing of I.M. Terrell, Coach Hughes carried on his winning tradition at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School where he continues coaching today and is an exemplar of integrity and sportsmanship. Among his many outstanding accomplishments: 19 district championships, 3 State championships, Coach of the Year 22 times. He has been featured in Sports Illustrated, and seen on the CNN. He also has more wins than any other high school coach in America at 1,120 and counting.

People in Fort Worth often associate Bob Hughes with his young Wildcat teams, but it needs to be noted that this man has been directly responsible for producing many of the fine business and community leaders who contribute so much to our city and country every day.

Congratulations Coach Hughes on the well-deserved honor you are receiving from Dunbar High. This is yet another momentous occasion in a life filled with them.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL COWBOY
POETRY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Sixth Annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival that took place at the historic Melody Ranch in Santa Clarita, CA. For 4 days, cowboy enthusiasts such as myself, were entertained by local residents, as well as individuals from 22 different states and 2 foreign nations.

This ranch has a significant historical background, Mr. Speaker. Once owned by Gene Autry, the Melody Ranch was used for some of the greatest western movies featuring legendary stars such as Tom Mix, Hopalong Cassidy, Gary Cooper, John Wayne, and Ronald Reagan.

In celebration of our Western Heritage, this festival brought together communities from around the nation and around the world to my hometown to enjoy in a bygone era of cowboys, campfires, and country music. Cowboy

music, poetry, and food provided everyone with what Santa Claritas know to be true, that country and western tradition are among the very best that our nation has to offer.

Whether it was the special performances at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, the mansion of silent film star William S. Hart, or the Heritage Junction Historic Park this festival can be called nothing less than an overwhelming success. I would like to applaud the organizers, the participants, and the community as a whole for their participation in this event.

Mr. Speaker, as I end these remarks and I reflect back on the Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival, I am reminded of the end of so many of the western movies that show the cowboy riding off into the sunset. We sure hope that he returns next year to make certain that future generations never forget this indispensable history.

HONORING WEBSTER HIGH
SCHOOL'S VICTORY IN THE NYS
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a moment to call attention to the outstanding accomplishments of a dedicated team of students from the Rochester region. In March 1999, the Webster High School Science Olympiad team competed in the New York State Science Olympiad championship and finished in first place. This is the second time in 3 years that students from Webster have been victorious in this challenging and difficult competition. In addition, this year's victory is the 5th year in a row that the team has placed first or second state-wide.

The Science Olympiad focuses on confronting the critical situation of declining academic achievement in science classes nationwide. The rigorous academic competitions are dedicated towards the goals of improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. The atmosphere surrounding these events strikes a balance among science facts, concepts, skills, and applications, while simultaneously encouraging teamwork and enthusiasm. Since the first national tournament in 1985, this organization has helped to create a significant increase in student interest in science.

As members of the Student Olympiad, this group of Webster students have committed themselves to these goals. Their exemplary performance is a clear indication of their hard work and dedication, as well as an example of their commitment to academic excellence and intellectual achievement. In March they competed against 40 high schools in 25 events focusing on topics such as biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, problem solving, and technology.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize the members of the Webster High School Science Olympiad team as residents of my district. Their accomplishments create an academic standard which all students should strive to at-

tain. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students and the coaches on their victory in the 1999 Science Olympiad New York State championship.

HOME EDUCATION

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Missouri State Senate and Missouri House of Representatives in support of home education. The Missouri General Assembly has designated the first week of May as Home Education Week. Missouri is looked to as a leader nationwide in home education movement.

Home education in Missouri has enjoyed considerable success in recent years because of the tremendous support received from countless citizens who realize the significance of family participation in the education process. Home education allows parents to ensure that the positive character traits and moral values instilled in their children at home are reinforced by the educational process.

Home education is successful and history proves it. Since the founding of America many famous Americans have been home educated. That list includes George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Booker T. Washington, Thomas Edison, Andrew Carnegie, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mark Twain and Sandra Day O'Connor. Home education is practiced by over 4,600 citizens of Missouri.

Without hesitation, I thank each parent who is at home teaching their child the skills they will need to succeed in the competitive world we live in today. I hope that my colleagues will join me today to let you know that your efforts are generally appreciated.

HONORING McDONALD'S RESTAURANT OWNERS FOR THEIR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 200 independent McDonald's Restaurant Owners of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut for launching the Arching into Education Scholarship program. These locally owned and operated restaurants have a long-standing commitment to the communities they serve. The Arching into Education Scholarships is just the latest example of the great work our area McDonald's owners are doing. Through this program, the owners are providing \$175,000 in college scholarship money to high school seniors in the New York Tri-State area. Arching Into Education encompasses three distinct scholarship programs: one offers scholarships for all students; another provides scholarships for students wishing to attend a United Negro College Fund member institution; and a third, the GospelFest Music Scholarships, awards scholarships for students interested in majoring in music.

The Tri-State McDonald's Owners have also partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities to offer an additional \$175,000 in scholarships for HACER, a scholarship program for area students of Hispanic heritage. Combined in these four scholarship programs, McDonald's owners will contribute \$350,000 in college scholarships to students in the Tri-State community.

These scholarship programs are just one part of the McDonald's Owners' continuing commitment to education and the communities in which they operate. The Tri-State Owners support reading incentive programs and other initiatives for elementary school students. Additionally, they sponsor programs that teach parents the importance of immunizing young children, and instruct children on bicycle safety, helmet use, and fire safety. The Tri-State McDonald's owners also help support the great work that the Ronald McDonald House does for families of young cancer victims.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the important contributions Tri-State McDonald's owners are making to our communities. I urge you and all Members of Congress to join me in applauding the McDonald's Restaurant Owners of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut for their continued commitment to education and dedication to programs that help ensure a successful future for our children.

TRIBUTE TO THE KATHRYN SEVERYNS DEMENT SLEEP DISORDERS CENTER

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Kathryn Severyns Dement Sleep Disorders Center located in Walla Walla, Washington. I was very pleased to visit the sleep clinic and recently had the honor of accepting an award on behalf of Walla Walla, Washington being recognized as the Healthy Sleep Capital of the Nation.

The Walla Walla sleep center is the result of Dr. William C. Dement's efforts to educate others on sleep awareness and its disorders. Dr. Dement is a Walla Walla native and sleep medicine pioneer. He is the director of the Stanford University Sleep Research and Clinical Programs, and was the founding President of the American Sleep Disorders Association. Dr. Dement, along with Dr. Richard Simon, Jr., director of the sleep center, and doctors Michael Bernstein, Jennings Falcon, and Eric Ball have all made sleep problems a fundamental focus of their medical practices. These doctors have become experts in the field of sleep disorders and lead the world in sleep disorder treatment.

Most people do not realize the seriousness or extent of the sleep disorders problem. Statistics show that between 50 and 100 million people in the United States have diagnosable sleep disorders. This is not just limited to adults, sleep disorders affect people of all ages. These disorders are severely underdiagnosed in children. The National Transportation Safety Board points to chronic sleep deprivation as being the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal heavy truck accidents. The esti-

mated annual cost of untreated sleep disorders due to preventable morbidity and accidents is \$100 billion.

The work the Walla Walla sleep center has done in treating and diagnosing sleep disorders is unparalleled. Compared to doctors from outlying areas, Walla Walla doctors are referring as many as six times the number of patients for sleep disorders treatment. This is mostly due to the training these doctors have received. Prior to sleep disorder training, a survey of more than 750 patient charts found that just six patients mentioned having problems sleeping, and of those, two patients were diagnosed with disorders. One year after the training, 130 to 140 people were diagnosed with sleep apnea, a treatable disorder where the sleeper repeatedly stops breathing for an instant. Between 1994 and 1998, the center saw 1,421 new patients and performed 1,711 sleep studies.

The doctors at the Walla Walla sleep center continue to make advances in sleep study research. They are responsible for training physicians throughout the area and have helped two other hospitals start sleep centers. They are also currently working with Stanford University to apply for a grant to determine whether mild sleep apnea should be treated. Everyone at the Walla Walla sleep center deserves to be recognized for their hard work and commitment to the silent epidemic of sleep disorders. Thanks to them, this serious problem is not going unnoticed, and their efforts will save lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TOM BANE—DECEMBER 28, 1913—APRIL 10, 1999

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, and I rise today to remember the Honorable Tom Bane who died last Saturday, April 10, 1999. Tom was not only a great legislator and politician, but also a mentor and friend.

Tom represented the San Fernando Valley in the California Legislature for 24 years, during which time he authored ground breaking legislation that improved the lives of all Californians—fighting to protect the environment, the poor, the elderly, and also working to enhance public education.

Perhaps Tom's best known legislative victory was a 1988 law mandating heavy punishment for hate crimes committed in California—the first Hate Crimes legislation passed in the United States. Tom also authored legislation that prohibited the "cop killer" Teflon bullet; the Tom Bane Civil Rights Act; and significant banking and savings and loan legislation. He also worked with his colleagues to co-author California's first Lemon Law, Seat-Belt Law and the Paramedic Bill.

Whether it be on the floor of the Assembly or walking through his district talking with constituents, Tom exemplified democracy at its

finest. He took great pride in his friendships with members from both sides of the aisle, and played a significant leadership role as the Chairman of the powerful Assembly Rules Committee. And even late in his political career, Tom often walked his district during campaigns instead of relying on focus groups and advertisements to rally support—that type of grass roots accessibility is the way democracy is supposed to work.

Tom's vision, leadership and tenacity were an inspiration to all who knew him. He dedicated his career to enriching every aspect of our lives and our communities—making our streets safer from criminals, improving the quality of education received by our children, and ensuring that as a society we would not tolerate crimes committee because of race, religion or gender.

Our thoughts are with Tom's wife Marlene, their children Bruce, Lisa and Neil; and grandchildren Ryan, Eric, Shai, Dean, Ziv, Evan, Paul and Adriadne.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join us in remembering a great friend and outstanding man, a true mensch, Tom Bane.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL SALMEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's fine physicians and outstanding individuals, Dr. Paul Salmen. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to a man who has shown, time and again, that it pays to give a little back to the community. In our Community Dr. Paul Salmen is fondly referred to as Dr. Paul.

Dr. Paul Salmen is a long time resident of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, who has made a large impact on his community. Aside from his contributions as a physician, Dr. Salmen takes time out of his day to get involved with many local organizations such as Healthy Beginnings, the Youth Recovery Center, Glenwood Medical Associates, the Sunlight Mountain Resorts Ski Patrol and the Pediatric Crisis Committee. In addition to the many organizations in which Dr. Paul Salmen is active, he still finds time to extend his knowledge to the youth as a coach for swimming, volleyball and basketball. He also participates as a soccer and basketball referee.

Those who are privileged to know Dr. Paul Salmen know he is well liked and respected by the community. Given his moral character and all the areas that Dr. Salmen dedicates time to, it is no wonder that he was chosen as the recipient of the "1998 Garfield County-Wide Humanitarian Service Award."

I have known Dr. Salmen and his wife Nancy Reinisch (who in her own right is a bright star in our community) for years. I have deep respect for the caring they have for people. Dr. Paul and Nancy have dedicated their lives so that other peoples are improved. The Salmens succeed with the tools of compassion, knowledge, advocacy, and dedication.

Individuals such as Dr. Paul Salmen, who volunteers his time to a good cause, are a rare breed. Dr. Paul is a model citizen. Fellow

citizens and patients have gained immensely by knowing Dr. Paul Salmen and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF SISTER PAT MYER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Sister Pat Myer upon her departure from the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Manhattan for Albany where she will continue her lifelong dedication to helping others.

For decades, Sister Pat has been one of the main rocks of leadership in the East Harlem community, an area that I had the honor to represent as a member of the New York City Council. When a neighborhood crisis arose, Sister Pat, in her quiet and dignified manner, worked to solve the problem. She would peacefully direct a solution to any situation.

Although one would most often find Sister Pat at the Convent of the Sacred Heart on East 91st Street, where she served as a school administrator. One was just as likely to find her out in East Harlem working with the community.

Sister Pat Myer was always at the heart of the important movements in the community, whether it was fighting crime or drugs or simply improving the neighborhood. Among her many endeavors, Sister Pat helped facilitate a Tactical Narcotics Team in the neighborhood, helped to save Metropolitan Hospital from severe cutbacks, fought zoning laws to prevent the destruction of the East Harlem neighborhood, and led the great fight to "Save the Tenements," East Harlem's important affordable housing.

An East Harlem resident since 1976, Sister Pat's active involvement in the community came in many different forms. For five years she served as the chair of the Pleasant Village Block Association. She established a neighborhood watch program and helped to shut down places of ill repute. These efforts earned Sister Pat a Snap Award from the City of New York.

Her community work did not end there. She chaired the Economic Development Committee of Community Board Eleven; she was involved with the Little Sisters of the Assumption Health Center; she worked on the Big Picture Committee, which looked at East Harlem's larger problems; and she became active with the Neighborhood Advisory Committee's Department of Youth and Community Development where she helped to secure federal funding for community projects.

Sister Pat Myer's efforts have made the East Harlem neighborhood a better place to live. The people of Albany should feel blessed to have a woman like Sister Pat in their midst.

I will miss the phone calls I used to receive from Sister Pat whenever she saw a problem arising in the community. She reached out to anyone who needed help and made a difference in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the outstanding work of Sister Pat Myer. It has truly been an honor to work with such a dedicated and caring woman over the years. Her unwavering dedication to make her

community a better place will always be felt and appreciated. East Harlem and New York City will greatly miss the special touch of Sister Pat Myer.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR ALLAN SAXE

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of Arlington, Texas's most civic-minded residents. Professor Allan Saxe was honored Saturday as Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County's Volunteer of the Year. Allan has been delivering meals to the elderly for 20 years, but that is just the beginning of his charitable activities.

Over the years, Allan has selflessly given away hundreds of thousands of dollars to community causes throughout Arlington. Whether it's the Saxe Museum or one of the two baseball fields that bare his name, you can't go far in the Arlington area without coming upon something honoring Allan's good works. There are so many things named after Allan in Arlington that even her says he can't keep track of them all.

Allan has taught political science at the University of Texas at Arlington for many years. He has a strong attachment to the city and adds great color to our community. He is a regular columnist for the Star Telegram, and his opinionated columns often invoke intense responses from readers. Allan is also widely known for giving away much of what he has to charity, including all of a very large inheritance.

This latest honor confirms Allan's status North Texas benefactor, both in terms of his time and money. Allan is simply one of those people that every community wishes they had more of. I am pleased to call him a friend, and am pleased to have him in my Congressional District.

Allan, congratulations on being named Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County's Volunteer of the Year. This is another great honor in a life full of them.

GEORGE L. PLUMLEE WRITES AN ESSAY WORTH READING

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend to my colleagues an essay authored by my constituent George L. Plumlee, a senior at Parker High School in Parker, AZ. George was the first place district winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Competition. His essay on the contest theme of "My Service to America" reminds us that our freedoms are not to be taken for granted, and that freedom is something we all must work for each day. Service to America means that we must be personally responsible for the protection and perpetuation of our freedoms that make America strong. Every person can make a contribution in even

the smallest of ways to continue fighting for the freedoms we all enjoy. I commend George's essay to my colleagues attention.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA" 1998-99 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

I am very proud and thankful to be an American living in the United States. To me, having the right to be an American should be earned, or at the least, nurtured and contributed to on a constant basis. If we expect our country to remain strong and free, I believe all Americans should contribute some type of service to America. I see "My Service to America" as a daily effort to support the country that I love, and the country that gives back to me all the wonderful gifts it does, such as freedom. Freedom is the most precious thing a man can have. America's freedom has been hard won by the sacrifice of its many veterans, and stays free because they are still there doing their duty, rain or shine, day or night, everyday.

As individual citizens if we do not contribute to our country, I believe it will eventually weaken and not be the strong country it has been for so long. I feel there are many ways I can give "My Service to America". If I cannot serve in the armed forces of our country, there are still many ways to support and contribute to make my America function and stay strong. Through out my first 12 years of school I have been active in not only school activities, but have volunteered many times to serve the community with civic and charitable functions. America is a big country, and has a lot going on, but I believe it all starts with the common citizen living in Little Town, U.S.A. If a person does not bother to vote, they are giving up a right that has been earned in blood and lives. It is apparent in so many countries around the world today what happens, or does not happen when you have the right to vote as a free people. Without the right to vote and decide your own destiny, every part of your daily life is controlled by only one person or a small group of people. If educators do not give their very best in educating our children, we will not have properly prepared citizens to become our educators and leaders of tomorrow. Even mechanics and bus drives are important for the same reasons. What makes our system work is everybody doing their share of supporting our way of life even in the smallest of ways.

When I was younger I did not give much thought to all the freedoms we have in America, and how we got or kept them. I was just a kid running around having fun. Then I remember my dad started telling me how and why we are free, and how so many Americans sacrificed so much for our country. I am being honest when I say I used to get so tired of Dad preaching this to me so many times. But Dad had, and was doing his duty to his country by being a Master Sergeant in the United States Marines, and by passing on to me the values that make America what it is today. I am extremely proud of my dad for many reasons. Today when I see many people not doing their share to support America, it reminds me of when I was a little kid, just running around having fun. All Americans need to be educated and informed on a regular basis why we are free, and what it means to be an American and the responsibilities that entails. I believe my dad has served his country in every possible way. Because of my dad, when I see our flag flying, or hear the National Anthem, my pride and emotions start to swell. When I see our flag flying it is not just a piece of material with a pattern on it. It is the symbol of our country and stands for all the sacrifices made by our veterans to keep us free. In movies or on TV when I see all the white crosses at Arlington National Cemetery, or American

flags on grave markers in common cemeteries, I am reminded of why we are free. Those brave and honored Americans gave the ultimate "See to America".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Monday, April 12, 1999, and Tuesday, April 13, 1999, attending a family funeral, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 78 through 82. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 78, "yes" on rollcall vote 79, "yes" on rollcall 80, "yes" or rollcall 81, and "yes" on rollcall 82.

HONORING HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER VONDA HIGGINS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Houston Police Department Officer Vonda Higgins, who is being honored as the Honorary Chairlady of the Top Ladies of Distinction on April 10, 1999. Officer Higgins is certainly deserving of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, police officers across the country show courage and bravery everyday. Vonda Higgins displayed this courage as an undercover narcotics officer protecting Houstonians from the evils of drugs. For five years she worked in this role to stop criminals from dealing drugs and ruining lives and neighborhoods. Vonda Higgins loved her work and was passionate about her work.

On February 4, 1998, Officer Higgins was working to stop drug dealers from overrunning an area on Bellaire Boulevard where children played, Buddhists worshipped, and families lived. On that day, while trying to apprehend a criminal, Officer Higgins was shot by an assailant. The bullet entered her neck and paralyzed her. She is now in a wheelchair.

Mr. Speaker, Vonda Higgins now faces a new challenge in life. She is facing that challenge with the same dignity, courage, passion, and integrity that she displayed while on the job. She is supported by loving parents and a new dog, "Latin," named after a fellow police officer.

Fortunately, the perpetrator of this despicable act of cowardice was charged and sentenced to 24 years in prison. The effects of Vonda Higgins and the efforts of the Houston Police Department have stopped the scourge of deadly drugs into the area on far west Bellaire Boulevard. Instead of criminals and needles, flags and balloons fly in front of the landscaped entrance of the Arbor Daily Ashford.

Mr. Speaker, Vonda Higgins is an inspiration to all of us working to make this world a better and safer place for our children and our neighbors. We wish her Godspeed as she recovers from this terrible tragedy. We wish her the best and with hard work and determined prayers, we know she will overcome.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE PAUL WILLIAM TANNER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, northwest Indiana lost an outstanding citizen last month. Paul William Tanner, Sr., who devoted his life to our county, passed away on March 10, 1999.

Throughout his life, Mr. Tanner served as an exceptional example of a good American. As a United States Army World War II veteran of the North African campaign against General Rommel, Mr. Tanner demonstrated the enduring qualities of loyalty, honor, devotion, and service to our country.

While serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, he suffered shrapnel wounds and was captured by the Germans. Following his capture, he was forced to march to Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, from where he was flown to Italy, where he remained for about a month. During his stay in Italy, he was fed one small bowl of cabbage daily. From Italy, he was forced to march to various countries, including Austria and Germany. As a prisoner of war, Mr. Tanner was required to work on a farm thrashing barley, and while performing this difficult manual labor, he inhaled thick dust which weakened his lungs. He contracted tuberculosis, which led to a lifelong debilitating battle with bronchitis and emphysema. After gaining his freedom and returning to the United States, Mr. Tanner completed his college education and became a public school teacher. His weakened lungs forced him to take an early retirement and led to his eventual death at the age of 76.

Mr. Speaker and my distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in commending Mr. Paul William Tanner, Sr., for his dedication to this country. His family and friends can be proud of his strong devotion and service to the United States. He will be missed by all who loved him.

H.R. 1285, THE CANCER SCREENING COVERAGE ACT OF 1999

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very important bipartisan piece of health legislation—H.R. 1285, The Cancer Screening Coverage Act of 1999 (CASCA). This bill was recently introduced by myself and Representative SUE KELLY. It provides coverage for cancer screening to private insurance patients.

Cancer is extremely prevalent in the United States. It is the second leading cause of death in the United States and, according to the Centers for Disease Control, almost half of these deaths are among women. One out of every 4 deaths is from cancer. The American Cancer Society has said that approximately 563,100 Americans will die from this disease this year. That's 1,500 cancer-related deaths per day. Everyone is at risk. Men have a 1 in 2 lifetime risk of developing or dying from can-

cer and women have a 1 in 3 lifetime risk. Those are pretty high odds.

Cancer also costs both individuals and our society a great deal. The National Institutes of Health has estimated that cancer has an annual lost productivity cost due to premature death of \$59 billion.

Since 1990, approximately 5 million people have died from cancer. In this day and age, getting diagnosed with cancer is not necessarily a death sentence. Treatments are being improved every day and the overall survival rate has increased dramatically in the last decade. However, according to the American Cancer Society, treatments are most effective if cancer is caught at an early stage. Early detection has been a particular problem for minorities. Cancers among African Americans are more frequently diagnosed after the cancer has metastasized.

The first step that needs to be taken to reduce the number of cancer related deaths is to increase access to screening exams in the private sector. We have already increased access for those over 65. In 1997, Congress gave Medicare patients many of the same benefits that are included in my bill. Americans under the age of 65 deserve this same benefit.

Cancer screening and early detection offer many benefits. Screening is the search for disease in persons who do not have symptoms or who do not recognize that they have the disease. Early detection can extend life, reduce treatment, and improve cancer patients' quality of life. When conducted regularly by a health care professional, screening examinations can result in the detection of cancers of the breast, colon, rectum, cervix, and prostate at earlier stages, when treatment is most likely to be successful. More than forty percent of all cancer cases occur in these screening-accessible cancer sites.

Another benefit is that screening tools allow for the detection of cancer in its early form, when treatment costs are less expensive. With an increased availability of screening, the economic and social costs of cancer are kept to a minimum. We know that cancer screening and early detection not only improve the chance of survival and quality of life but also save money. For example, patients diagnosed through colon cancer screenings at a cost of \$125-\$300 have a 90% chance of survival. Yet, if a patient is not diagnosed until symptoms are apparent, the chance of survival drops to 8% and care during the remaining 4-5 years of life can cost up to \$100,000. Similarly, the initial cost of treating rectal cancer that is detected early is about \$5,700. This is approximately 75% less than the estimated \$30,000-\$40,000 that it costs to initially treat rectal cancer that is detected further in its development. As a society, we can't afford not to screen.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read into the record a statement by a woman who spoke about her own life saving experience with cancer screening at a press conference I recently held in New York City on this bill. This woman had the most advanced form of pre-invasive cervical cancer. If she had waited only a little longer for her screening, it may have been too late.

"Hi, my name is Theresa Nygard. I am someone who knows first hand the benefit of cancer screening tests. In November 1991, nine months after the birth of my second child,

I received the news that my Pap smear showed an irregularity. I had gone for a regular check-up, suspecting nothing, and came away with the news that I had what is called a 'level three dysplasia,' or a 'carcinoma in situ.' When my doctor, Dr. Goldstein, called to deliver the news, we immediately scheduled an in-office laser surgery for him to remove the cancerous tissues (that same day). In retrospect, this potentially devastating bit of news was almost rendered a non-event. I had the surgery, and beyond some lingering anxiety about having 'missed a bullet,' my life continued as if nothing had happened. In fact something very significant did happen—my life was saved."

"I know how lucky I am. When I was nineteen I lost my mother to ovarian cancer. I saw what cancer can do. To a person's health and vigor, to their family and friends. When I put my experience in the context of that knowledge I am incredibly thankful that this absolutely routine testing saved me from my own ignorance. I had never thought to fear cervical cancer. Since my mother's death I have been concerned (maybe even obsessed) with fears of contracting ovarian cancer, but I had never even thought of the danger of cervical cancer. I had specifically sought out Dr. Goldstein because I had heard that he was an expert on ovarian cancer detection. I thought I was being vigilant, but in fact I was simply lucky. Lucky that this form of cancer screening test was conducted as a routine part of my regular exam and lucky that my mother's experience has at least taught me to assume nothing about my health. I had no clue, no symptom, no ache or pain that would have compelled me to make a special appointment in 1991. Only because this testing had become a routine part of my life was my condition rendered a completely curable 'non-event.' I wish that this could have been so for my mother, as I wish it were so for all women faced with this sort of discovery."

Another woman, Lee Ann Taylor, also shared her story about cervical cancer screening at the New York City press conference. I would also like her statement placed into the RECORD.

"Hi—my name is Lee Ann Taylor and I would like to briefly explain how pre-cancer screening tests or preventive care has helped me lead a normal life."

"I have been a patient of Dr. Goldstein for over 10 years. With Dr. Goldstein's guidance and recommendation I have diligently followed a regimen of annual PAP tests are now semi-annual tests. During these years there has been a number of times when abnormal cells have been detected in early stages."

"My family also has a history of breast cancer. Once again annual mammograms and now at the age of 40 and over, a semi-annual sonogram test is recommended for women with a family history of breast cancer."

"For me, these annual/semi-annual pre-cancer screening tests have detected abnormal cell changes in such early stages that only minor procedures had to be performed to correct the problem."

"I strongly believe that pre-cancer screening tests are absolutely necessary and have helped me lead a normal active life. I have two beautiful healthy children and I want to think that I am doing everything that I can to prevent any unnecessary risk to my health and to my family's health."

Mr. Speaker, most insurance companies provide coverage for some cancer screening. The problem is that coverage is very inconsistent and plans do not always provide coverage for the appropriate type of screening test given a person's risk level. For example, some New York City health plans have made mammographies available, but would deny coverage for a colonoscopy to a woman with a family history of colorectal cancer.

Studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between the utilization of preventive services and the level of service provided by health insurance coverage. The more comprehensive an individual's health insurance coverage is, including cancer screening, the more likely that the person will use these important preventive services. Health insurance, covered items and services, deductibles, co-insurance, and other co-payments all affect care seeking behavior.

My bill assures that all individuals with health insurance are guaranteed coverage for important cancer screening tools used for the detection of breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancers. Science has shown that the screening exams contained in my bill are effective. If a physician and patient have decided that a patient would benefit from a screening exam, insurance companies should not deny access to this exam. This bill will save lives and lower the cost of treating cancer by increasing the rates of early detection.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the following facts and statistics on these four cancers with you and my colleagues.

Breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths among American women. This type of cancer also strikes men. The American Cancer Society has estimated that there will be 175,000 new invasive cases of breast cancer in 1999 among women and about 1,300 new cases among men. 43,700 people will die of breast cancer in this year. Regular mammography screening has been shown to reduce breast cancer mortality significantly by at least 30% in women aged 50 and older. Recent scientific evidence has also shown that women in their 40s also benefit from regular mammography.

My bill provides annual mammograms for women ages 40 and over and for women under 40 who are at high risk of developing breast cancer. Annual clinical breast exams will also be provided for women ages 40 and over and for women between the ages of 20 and 40 who are at high risk of developing cancer and every three years for women in the 20 to 40 age group who are at normal to moderate risk.

An estimated 4,800 women will die from cervical cancer this year. When detected at an early stage, invasive cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable cancers. The five year survival rate for localized cancer, cervical cancer that is detected in the early stage, is 91%. According to the CDC, the costs of diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up associated with early stages of cervical cancer are \$4,359, whereas the same costs for late, invasive cervical cancer are more than triple that amount. CASCA ensures that women ages 18 and over and women who are under age 18 and are or have been sexually active will have coverage for annual pap tests and pelvic exams.

Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States.

While colorectal cancer is often thought of as a men's disease, women are almost equally affected by it. Early detection is essential for survival of colorectal cancer. When colorectal cancers are detected in an early, localized stage, the 5-year relative survival rate is 91%; however, only 37% of colorectal cancers are currently discovered at that stage.

There are several tests that can be used to screen for colorectal cancer. Only a physician can determine in consultation with the patient which test is appropriate. My bill ensures coverage for the appropriate test for men and women ages 50 and those under 50 who are at high risk for an annual screening fecal occult blood test and a screening flexible sigmoidoscopy every four years or a screening barium enema. Because science has demonstrated the effectiveness of colonoscopy in detecting colon cancer throughout the entire colon, coverage for this exam is ensured for men and women at high risk in any age group.

In the past five years, more than 20,000 American men lost their lives to prostate cancer. About one in four prostate cancer cases strikes a man under the age of 65. The number of men in their 40s and 50s who are battling prostate cancer is increasing, and clinicians around the country report seeing more aggressive forms of the disease in younger men. African American men are diagnosed with prostate cancer 35% more frequently than Caucasians and are more than twice as likely to die of the disease. In fact, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of death among this group. Last year, the American Cancer Society reported a 23% rise in the prostate cancer death rate over a twenty year period. CASCA ensures coverage for annual digital rectal examination and/or annual prostate-specific antigen blood tests for men ages 50 and over. This specific provision is supported by not only the American Cancer Society, but also the American Urological Association.

The provisions in CASCA are based on the latest scientific knowledge and have been shown to be effective in reducing cancer mortality. The bill is based on the guidelines of the American Cancer Society and follows the Medicare cancer screening benefits as provided by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

The following 28 organizations have endorsed CASCA: The American Cancer Society, American Society of Clinical Oncologists, Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, American Urological Association, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, American Medical Women's Association, Cancer Research Foundation of America, American Public Health Association, American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons, American Nurses Association, National Alliance of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Nurse Practitioners, American Society of Reproductive Medicine, Cancer Care, Inc., Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Cure for Lymphoma Foundation, National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations, National Patient Advocate Foundation, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, Oncology Nursing Society, North American Brain Tumor Coalition, American College of Gastroenterology, Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization, Alliance for Lung Cancer Advocacy, Support & Education, the Center for Patient Advocacy, the Kidney Cancer Association, and the National Cervical Cancer Coalition.

"The Cancer Screening Coverage Act of 1999" is an important first step to ensuring that the goals of reducing cancer mortality and incidence, as well as improving the quality of life for all cancer patients, are met. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in taking this opportunity to save almost 150,000 Americans a year.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, once again, I am introducing legislation to remedy a problem brought to my attention by the U.S. utility industry involving the taxation of foreign operations of U.S. electric and gas utilities. These firms were prohibited for many years from doing business abroad until the National Energy Policy Act (NEPA), enacted in 1992, removed that prohibition. With passage of NEPA, and as some foreign governments began privatizing their national utilities and increasing energy demands necessitated the construction of new facilities to fulfill the new capacity, U.S. utilities began to make foreign investments. Since 1992, U.S. utility companies have made significant investments in utility operations in the United Kingdom, Australia, Eastern Europe, and South America.

Foreign utilities are particularly attractive investments from a U.S. viewpoint. They are not "runaway plants", but rather stimulate job creation in the U.S. in design, architecture, engineering, construction and heavy equipment manufacturing. When the subsidiary of an U.S. utility builds generating plants, transmission lines, or distribution facilities to serve its foreign customers, these most often come from U.S. suppliers. Given that the U.S. energy market is mature, overseas investments are a good way for U.S. utilities to diversify and grow, to the benefit of their employees and their shareholders.

Unfortunately, the Internal Revenue Code penalizes these investments by subjecting them to double taxation. Under the foreign tax credit rules, the interest expense of a U.S. person is allocated in part to its foreign operations based on the theory of the "fungibility of money." The allocation formula in Internal Revenue Code section 864 requires U.S. domestic interest expense to be allocated based on the value of the company's foreign and domestic assets. If a firm has mature (depreciated) U.S. assets and newly acquired overseas assets, like many U.S. utilities, a disproportionate amount of U.S. interest expense will be allocated abroad. The result is a very high effective tax rate on that foreign investment and a loss of U.S. foreign tax credits. Rather than face this double tax penalty, some U.S. utilities have actually chosen not to invest overseas and others have pulled back from their initial investments.

One solution to this problem is found in the legislation that I am introducing today. Our remedy is to exempt the debt associated with a regulated U.S. utility business (the furnishing and sale of electricity or natural gas) from the interest allocation rules of Internal Revenue Code section 864. The proposal would allocate and apportion interest expense attrib-

utable to qualified infrastructure solely to sources within the United States. "Qualified infrastructure indebtedness" would be defined as debt incurred in a corporation's trade or business of furnishing or selling electricity or natural gas in the United States. Further, the rates for such furnishing or sale of electrical energy must be regulated or set by the Federal Government, a State, the District of Columbia or a political subdivision thereof.

I am also aware that my colleagues on the Committee on Ways and Means, Congressmen HOUGHTON and LEVIN, together with Senators HATCH and BAUCUS, have been leading a multiyear effort to reform the international tax laws. I am a strong supporter of that effort, which is intended in part to rectify the disconnect between our Nation's favorable trade laws and our tax laws, which too often penalize American firms wanting to expand into foreign markets. The problem of interest allocation has not yet been addressed in the Houghton-Levin legislation, but I strongly urge that this provision be included in any foreign tax reform bill introduced in the next Congress. Further, because the process of getting legislation enacted into law properly involves consultation with Treasury, the affected industry, and the bar, we encourage those with subject matter expertise in this area to review our bill. I believe my bill reflects the best thinking now available on how to address this serious problem, but we are certain that further reflection will yield even better for U.S. utilities attempting to invest overseas.

IN RECOGNITION OF KICK BUTTS DAY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McKenna Elementary School in Massapequa, New York, for their participation in the national anti-smoking campaign, "Kick Butts Day." This truly motivational program has been diligently organized by the students of this elementary school.

As we all know, young people are easy targets for the tobacco industry and this is evidenced by the increase in teen smoking throughout the nation. Smoking hurts young people's physical well-being. It can be associated with poor overall health and can lead to more severe conditions if continued. Many children are pressured into smoking. The younger a child begins smoking, the more likely he is to become strongly addicted to nicotine. Nicotine is a drug that causes cancer, heart disease and emphysema. Statistics show that teens who smoke are more likely than nonsmokers to use alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine. Children are only putting themselves at risk by starting to smoke.

Again, it is important to recognize all the schools throughout the nation participating in "Kick Butts Day." Mr. Speaker, I would especially like to commend Principal John Gleason and all the staff and students of McKenna Elementary School in Massapequa, New York for their outstanding work promoting their message: "Don't start smoking! If you smoke, stop!"

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTO RODRIGUEZ SANTOS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, a great poet, Dr. Justo Rodriguez Santos, recently passed away in New York.

Dr. Rodriguez Santos was a man of extraordinary talent and sensitivity whose commitment to democracy and his fellow man will be enormously missed. Born in Santiago, Cuba in 1915, he received his doctorate in philosophy and literature from the University of Havana. His writings capture the human experience and demonstrate the triumph of the human spirit. Through his poetry and writings, he communicated his vision of the world with grace and flair. His wisdom and generous spirit will live on in the poems he left for us. He was a great Cuban who will always be remembered as a lover of freedom.

I am privileged to personally know Mari R. Ichaso and Leon Ichaso, the very talented daughter and son of Dr. Rodriguez Santos. I send them and Dr. Rodriguez Santos' widow, Mrs. Antonia Ichaso Rodriguez, my sympathy and deep affection of this difficult time.

Below is the obituary from the New York Times, dated April 13, 1999, that details further the life of this great Cuban poet.

JUSTO RODRIGUEZ SANTOS, 83, EXPATRIATE CUBAN POET

(By Nick Ravo)

NEW YORK.—Justo Rodriguez Santos, a Cuban poet who became disenchanted with Fidel Castro in the 1960s, exiled himself from his native land and became an advertising executive in the United States, died on Wednesday at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in Manhattan. He was 83.

Rodriguez Santos was a minor member of Origenes, a prominent group of writers and painters founded by the poet Jose Lezama Lima in the 1930s and loosely linked to the American poet Wallace Stevens. The name Origenes was a play on words, meaning both origins and a church father; the group's work was strongly influenced by the Roman Catholic faith. Origenes was also the name the artists chose for an influential literary magazine they published from 1944 to 1954.

"It was a very important journal in the history of Latin American culture," said Roberto Gonzalez Echevarria, a professor of Hispanic and comparative literature at Yale University.

Rodriguez Santos was born in Santiago, Cuba, on Sept. 28, 1915, and moved to Havana at an early age. He earned a degree at the University of La Salle in Havana and a doctorate in philosophy and literature from the University of Havana. He also worked in television and radio in Cuba.

His books of poetry include "Luz Cautiva" ("Captive Light," 1936), "La Belleza Que el Cielo No Amortaja" ("The Beauty the Sky Will Not Shroud," 1950), "El Diapason del Ventisquero" ("Echoes of a Whirlwind," 1976), "Los Naipes Conjurados y las Operas del Sueno" ("The Conjured Cards and the Operas of Dreams," 1979 and 1989).

He also wrote a nonfiction account of the Cuban revolution, "The Moncada Epic: Poetry of History," in 1963.

"It was translated into several languages, and it was a favorite of Mao's," said Rodriguez Santos' daughter, Mari Rodriguez Ichaso of Manhattan.

After the Cuban revolution in 1959, Rodriguez Santos wanted to stay in Cuba, although his wife and children left in 1963. In 1967, though, after a disheartening trip to China, he asked permission to emigrate.

"He was very in favor of democracy and felt betrayed by what he felt were the excess of the revolution," Ms. Rodriguez Ichaso said.

Instead of receiving permission to leave, he was sent to a work on a tobacco farm, his books were withdrawn from library shelves and he was banned from the Cuban Writers Union.

"They converted him into a nonentity, a nonperson," Ms. Rodriguez Ichaso said.

A year later and ailing, Rodriguez Santos was permitted to leave Cuba and settled in New York. In 1972, he was hired as director of advertising for Goya Foods in Secaucus, N.J. He retired from Goya in 1991.

Besides his daughter, he is survived by his wife, Antonia Ichaso Rodriguez, and a son, Leon Ichaso, of New York.

HONORING THE CONSUL GENERAL
OF JAPAN, TATSUO TANAKA

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring Consul General of Japan in Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. Tatsuo Tanaka. He has served Japan in the capacity of Consul General for 3 years, and has served his country in numerous capacities for more than thirty years. Throughout his tenure, he has worked successfully toward strengthening the bonds between the United States and Japan. Mr. Tanaka has forged strong ties between Missouri's fifth district and Japan, and his presence will be missed, although I am positive that his good work will continue.

Mr. Tanaka served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1962. He has worked in Pakistan, Bonn, and the United States to develop Japan's relationship with these countries. Mr. Tanaka has also done extensive research on the development of electronic money and the implications and benefits of the uses of e-money. Although he represents Japan and Japan's specific interests throughout the world, he is committed to recognizing the importance of international relations and the emergence of a global economy.

The Consulate General of Japan at Kansas City was established in 1979 and serves Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Its mission is to foster exchanges between Japan and this region in a variety of consular, commercial, cultural, and educational areas, and to assist Japanese and U.S.-Japan interests in this region. The United States-Japan conference last year held in my district helped to solidify the relationships between American and Japanese businesses.

My district has close ties with Japan. For instance, three Kansas City area companies have a strong presence in Japan: Butler Japan, Inc., AMC Entertainment, Inc., and Farmland Industries, Inc. Butler Japan markets construction products and services of Butler Construction Company. Since October 1989, Butler Japan has sold many industrial type buildings to Japanese companies, such as

Honda, Mitsubishi, Mitsui and Com., Sanyo, Sony, Toshiba, and Toyota. AMC Entertainment launched its export of theaters to Japan in April 1996 in Mr. Tanaka's hometown of Fukuoka, Japan. AMC's project in Japan has been a tremendous success. Farmland Industries, the largest farmer owned cooperative in North America, began doing business with Japan in 1987. This company now supplies pork, beef, grain, and fertilizer products to the Japanese market. Mr. Tanaka's work to build Japan-U.S. relations in the midwest has definitely contributed to the success of these American business ventures.

Mr. Tanaka has also worked to increase the amount of cultural and educational exchange between the United States and Japan. An example of his success in this area is the growth of the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) program. The JET program hires college graduates to teach English in Japanese schools. Currently, there are approximately 2500 American college graduates working in English education and international understanding throughout Japan.

Although Tatsuo Tanaka will be leaving the Kansas City area, I know that we will continue our friendship. I benefitted greatly from his wisdom and guidance when I served my U.S.-Japan Society Fellowship in Japan and also have appreciated he and his wife Eri Tanaka's hospitality on many occasions.

I also welcome a continued relationship with the office of the Consul General, as well as a continued partnership between the Fifth District and Japan.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE BRIAN
THOMAS MOORE

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man I came to know some years ago. Brian Thomas Moore was a ten year old boy when I first met him. He had joined a boys soccer team that I was coaching. Brian quickly prove to be feisty, competitive and competent in the game of soccer and the game of life. He was a pleasure to have on the team.

I never met Brian's father, who died of cancer when Brian was quite young. I am told that he was a real gentleman, taking a steady interest in Brian's development and the growth of Brian's many friends. His influence with Brian manifested itself every day of Brian's life. Over time, the father's influence came to fruition with a fine young man as the end product.

Brian suffered from a bout with cancer in his teens. Brian never told me of the illness; he just carried on with life as it was given to him. Over time, Brian came to be one of the top soccer players in the Sacramento metropolitan area, dominating games from end to end and side to side. Eventually, I had the pleasure of playing alongside my former player, watching with fascination as his skills came to exceed mine, his determination came to dominate mine, and his desire to overcome resulted in victory after victory after victory. These were great days in his life and mine, having the pleasure of seeing a young man mature into

a fine adult, a tremendous role model for those older and younger, and steady influence on his many friends.

Brian's mother succumbed to cancer during his ongoing illness. She was good people. I remember her attending virtually every one of Brian's games as a young man. She would bring Brian and his friends to the game, root them on, celebrate their victory and console them in defeat. She was a great mom, like so many other great moms.

I learned of Brian's relapse with cancer the night of my primary victory. Brian never lost faith in his ability to overcome the illness, hoping against fate that science and medicine would create a cure. In the end, the hopes were in vain. On Friday night, April 9, 1999, Brian succumbed to the pneumonia that came with a depressed immune system resulting from chemotherapy. At 10:00 am this morning, Brian Thomas Moore was laid to rest.

I keep in my mind's eye a picture of my friend, fleet afoot, racing down the field for the ball in some game of momentary importance. I see him reach the ball first and fire it into the net for victory. He turns, having raised his arms in triumph, and his friends race to him to celebrate. It is a moment of pure joy and satisfaction. This is the mind's eye picture I keep of my friend. I miss him already.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
BROOKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLING TEAM

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Brookville High School wrestling team—the 1999 Pennsylvania AA State Champions. In addition to their state title, the Raiders won the PIAA West Regional Dual Championship, the District IX Dual Championship, and the District IX Tournament Championship while amassing a dual meet record of 18–1. However, the program's victories on the mat were exceeded only by their inspirational drive to succeed in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

I followed the emotional roller coaster ride that was the Brookville wrestling program over the past few years, and admire the commitment to achievement they maintained when similar obstacles may have defeated others. In January of last year, beloved Head Coach Len Ferraro passed away. A Brookville native, Coach Ferraro wrestled for Brookville High and later returned to the coaching staff in 1984 and took over head coach duties in 1993. Still healing from the loss of their coach, a dear friend of the program, Andrew Lentvorsky, was lost four weeks later. Grandfather to team senior Adam Steele, "Pap"—as the gang called him—drove the boys to tournaments since their elementary days. Yet another tragedy occurred the following month with the passing of team senior Michael Lee Park. Despite suffering such emotional devastation in only a few short months, these young men managed to hold steadfast to Coach Ferraro's ultimate goal of delivering a State Championship to Brookville High.

Nurturing his young wrestlers from an early age, Coach Ferraro developed an ever-improving wrestling program thirsting for a state

title. His boys got that chance this year with the inaugural PIAA Dual Meet State Championships. Lead by Head Coach Thad Turner and Assistant Coaches Roland Reitz and Matthew Smith, the Raiders sought inspiration from senior Keith Ferraro, whose strength exhibited after the loss of his father is nothing short of heroic. Other seniors include Matt Geer, Jason Gilligan, Jason McKinney, Jeremy Reitz, Randy Stout, and B.J. Thomas. The junior team members are Casey Belfiore, James Bishop, Brad Ciesleski, B.J. Darr, Garrett Hurd, Emil Johnson, Jeff McLaughlin, Eric Painter, and Clint Puller; along with sophomores Rudy Bullers, Gian DeLoia, Trevor Doust, Joel Hammond, Mark Himes, Mike Miller, Josh Sammons, and Justin Steiner; as well as freshman Nick Neil.

For Brookville High School, the 1999 wrestling season demonstrates not only greatness of body and mind, but also perseverance of spirit. Mr. Speaker, as their classmates and community celebrate their inspiring accomplishments today back in Pennsylvania, I ask you to join me in thanking the young men and coaches of the Brookville Raider wrestling team for showing us all that even the shadow of adversity, continued belief in a unifying goal will bring shining success.

**MEDICARE ANTI-FRAUD EFFORTS:
HOSPITALS BACKING OFF UP-
CODING**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, for the past 14 years, hospitals have been up-coding their Medicare bills. Each year, the "complexity" of the cases that hospitals treat is said to increase. Like grade creep in a school, the way patients' illnesses are graded in a hospital gradually creeps upwards, and the taxpayer and Medicare pay more and more.

Last year, for the first time, the "complexity" of the cases declined.

As the following memo makes clear, this has something to do with the Administration's fight against waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare and in the well-publicized case against Columbia-HCA.

Taxpayers and Medicare beneficiaries should congratulate HCFA, the HHS Inspector General, and Justice for their efforts. Vigilance against fraud is a major reason that the life of the Medicare hospital trust fund has just been extended from 2008 to 2015.

Date: November 19, 1998

From: Office of the Actuary

Subject: Analysis of PPS Hospital Case-Mix Change between 1997 and 1998

The prospective payment system, PPS, uses diagnosis related groups, DRG's, as the basis of payment. Each DRG is assigned a relative weight which is used in the payment formula. Average case-mix is the discharge-weighted mean of all the DRG relative weights. We have monitored changes in case-mix since the beginning of PPS in FY 1984. From FY 1983 through FY 1997, case-mix increased every year. FY 1998 is the first year we have measured a decrease in case-mix.

Based on information available through October 1998, we have measured a change in PPS hospital case-mix in FY 1998 of -0.74 percent. When we receive further updates for FY

1998, we estimate that the final measure of the FY 1998 case-mix increase will be in the neighborhood of -0.5 percent. Since FY 1998 is the first year that case-mix has decreased under PPS, I have undertaken a study of the reasons for this decrease. My study found the following:

As is usually the case, some DRG's contributed to an increase in case-mix while others contributed to a decrease.

The new DRG's for back and neck procedures increased case-mix 0.05 percent.

The redefinition of DRG 116 in combination with DRG 112 increased case-mix 0.59 percent.

The change in coding of pneumonia cases decreased case-mix 0.23 percent.

DRG's in complex-noncomplex pairs decreased case-mix 0.82 percent.

Non-pair DRG's decreased case-mix 0.27 percent.

While assessing cause-and-effect is always difficult, I believe that some of the decrease in case-mix is likely to be attributable to certain efforts to combat fraud and abuse. The Department of Justice investigation of the Hospital Corporation of America, subsequent indictments, and the possibility of triple damages may have prompted hospitals to code diagnoses less aggressively—resulting in fewer complex cases. Similarly, the inspector general's investigation of pneumonia cases may have caused the significant shift of admissions from the more expensive respiratory infections DRG's to the simple pneumonia DRG's. HIPAA provides continuing funding for fraud investigations, which may have a continuing impact on increases in case-mix.

THE TAX FREEDOM RESOLUTION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the "Tax Freedom Resolution", H.J. Res. —, that will repeal the 16th amendment to the Constitution. This resolution will reverse one of the most destructive amendments to the U.S. Constitution and deny Congress the ability to lay and collect taxes on income.

I believe that the 16th amendment has created a system that is economically destructive, impossibly complex, overly intrusive, unprincipled, dishonest, unfair, and inefficient. Now is the time for us to restore freedom to the American taxpayer.

The tax Freedom Resolution is the first step to do just that. It will encourage an open, honest and constructive debate about why our current tax structure has failed and what we can expect in a new system.

You may ask why we need to repeal the 16th amendment. The answer is quite simple. The current system cannot be fixed. It has already undergone 32 major revisions and 400 minor ones in the past 40 years. Each time the revisions has been made the system becomes more and more complicated and unfair.

The IRS has hundreds and hundreds of different tax forms, plus countless more to explain how to fill out these forms. The original Tax Code had 11,400 words in it. Today it has well over 7 million words.

Our current system also discourages savings and investment while hampering economic growth. Complying with the Federal Tax

Code costs taxpayers more than \$250 billion each year. In 1991, the Tax Foundation reported that small corporations spent a minimum of \$382 in compliance costs for every \$100 they paid in income taxes.

In addition, several economists have said that replacing the current tax system will cause interest rates to go down and savings and capital investment to increase.

Right now, we have a system that stifles opportunity by picking winners and losers. It's a system in which Washington, DC, decides what is best for the American people instead of letting the people decide what is best for America.

The Federal Government simply takes too much money out of people's pockets. As recently as 1982, Americans paid only 19.9 percent of their income in taxes. New data reveals that in 1998, Americans paid 35.4 percent of their income in taxes—the highest level in history and increasing each year. In fact, Tax Freedom Day 1998 was May 10th, which means that Americans are working, on average 129 days before paying off their total tax bill. We must stop this confiscatory trend.

By embracing the principles of FREEDOM, we can create a system that is Fair and simple, that Reduces the federal bureaucracy, that Encourages savings and investment, that is Efficient, that Drives the economy, that creates Opportunity for all, and that puts More money in American pockets.

Fundamental and comprehensive tax reform will be one of the most profound and liberating changes our nation experiences. It is time for all of us—whether you support a flat tax, a consumption tax, a value-added tax, or a national sales tax—to come together and focus on our common goal: Replacing the current system. The Tax Freedom Resolution gives us the chance to do just that and at the same time restore FREEDOM to the American taxpayer.

BATTLESHIP RESOLUTION

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the esteemed crew of the battleship U.S.S. *Alabama* will hold their annual reunion in the city of Mobile, Alabama, during the third week in April. I would like to take this opportunity to express to these men the undying appreciation which their fellow Americans share for their proud service to our nation and the world.

The U.S.S. *Alabama*, a South Dakota class battleship, was built in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia. Following her commission on August 16, 1942, she was dispatched to the North Atlantic Ocean, where she and her crew proudly assisted the British Fleet in protecting convoys on the treacherous "Murmansk Run," which carried them from England through the North Sea to Russia, and brought the defending fleet into conflict with German warships and aircraft in occupied Norway.

After completing her service with the British Fleet, the U.S.S. *Alabama* was transferred to the Pacific Fleet. Her charge on the Eastern Front of the War was to provide invaluable support to U.S. ground troops, enabling them

to successfully take the Caroline, Gilbert, Marianas, Marshall, and Philippine Islands, as well as Palau, New Guinea and Okinawa from the Japanese.

The distinguished service of the crew of the U.S.S. *Alabama* includes numerous proud honors and achievements.

During the Battle of the Philippine Sea, her radar was the first to detect the approach of enemy bombers, 476 of which were downed by the American fighters and fleet gunners. During her tenure in the American Fleet, the U.S.S. *Alabama* was directly responsible for the elimination of 22 Japanese airplanes.

By the time of the Japanese surrender, she had earned the American Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 9 Battle Stars, the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

Her crew had proven themselves among the most courageous of the Allied fighting men, having faced the most fearsome opposition that the Axis forces had to offer as they defended the world against both Asian and European tyranny. In honor of these heroic Americans, I introduced H. Res. 123, which would immortalize their gallant contribution to liberty in our nation and the world.

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB-60) and the U.S.S. ALABAMA Crewmen's Association.

Whereas the U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB-60) was a South Dakota class battleship that served first in the North Atlantic and then in the Pacific Fleet during World War II;

Whereas in the course of World War II, the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA directly shot down 22 enemy aircraft;

Whereas the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA earned the American Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 9 Battle Stars, the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Naval Occupation Service Medal;

Whereas the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA were a courageous group, braving both the Arctic chill and the Pacific heat to help defend the Nation against enemy oppression;

Whereas many former crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA belong to the U.S.S. ALABAMA Crewmen's Association;

Whereas each year the former crewmembers participate in an annual reunion to celebrate their shared service, memories, and friendship; and

Whereas more than 100 former crewmembers, along with family and friends, are expected to participate in the next reunion, which will be held from April 15 to 18, 1999, aboard the U.S.S. ALABAMA at the Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB-60) and the U.S.S. ALABAMA Crewmen's Association for their valuable contributions to victory and peace in World War II and to the security and prosperity of the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the valuable contributions to victory and peace in World War II made by the crewmen of the U.S.S. *Alabama* are exemplary of the tenacity which has made the United States the proud world leader it is

today. I ask that you join me in honoring these brave Americans, and in thanking them for their sacrifices and dedication.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, In my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 24, 1999]
MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN LOUISIANA
HATE CRIME

GRETNA, LA.—A white man convicted of a hate crime for trying to torch two cars belonging to black motorists has been sentenced to the maximum of 20 years in prison.

Prosecutors said it was the first trial involving Louisiana's hate crime law.

Frank Palermo, 32, was convicted in December of two counts of a hate crime and of dousing the vehicles with gasoline. He was sentenced Monday by State District Judge Walter Rothschild, who told Palermo, "You were out to get these people because of their race."

One of the cars had a small child in it. The cars didn't burn because it was raining at the time of the incident last September.

Authorities said, Palermo and his younger brother, Patrick, encountered the blacks working on a stalled car along an expressway in Harvey, a New Orleans suburb. Witnesses testified the Palermos became involved in a shouting match with one driver, and then fistfights broke out. Racial slurs were used, authorities said.

Frank Palermo got a baseball bat and broke windows in one car, then grabbed a gas can and poured fuel on it and another car that had a crying child strapped inside, witnesses said. They said the brothers tried to ignite the gas but the rain kept it from burning, and the brothers then fled.

The younger brother received the minimum sentence of three years in prison. He had been acquitted of the hate crime count but convicted of helping put gasoline on the cars.

The hate crime law, passed in 1997, allows a judge to add up to five extra years to a felony sentence if it is found that the actions stemmed from hatred because of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or membership in an organization.

[From the New York Times, February 24, 1999]

JURY CONVICTS MAN OF CROSS-BURNING AT
HOME OF INTERRACIAL COUPLE

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.—A teen-ager was convicted today of attempting to burn a cross on the lawn of an interracial couple but was acquitted of a conspiracy charge.

The Circuit Court jury deliberated about three hours over two days on the case against Richard J. Elliott, 19, who lives next door to the couple in a rural neighborhood near the North Carolina state line.

Elliott stood quietly as the verdict was read. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine on the charge of attempting to burn a cross with the intent to intimidate.

Elliott was one of three white teen-agers arrested in the burning of a cross last May on the law of James and Susan Jubilee.

Jonathan S. O'Mara, 19, of Virginia Beach, pleaded guilty Monday to felony charges of conspiracy and attempting to burn a cross

with the intent to intimidate. Under a plea agreement, O'Mara has the right to appeal.

A 17-year-old boy has agreed to plead guilty to the same charges in juvenile court and testified against Elliott. In exchange, he will not be sentenced as an adult.

Jubilee, who is black, said he moved from Los Angeles back to Virginia to get away from big-city crime and raise his sons in a more peaceful environment.

About four months after moving into his new house, Jubilee awoke to find a wooden cross in his front yard with a burned spot in the middle.

Jubilee testified that as he pulled out of his driveway the morning of May 3, he saw a cross about 20 feet from his home.

"I took a double take, because I couldn't believe what I really saw," Jubilee said.

Enraged, he broke the 4-by-2-foot cross over his knee. He said his anger then turned to fear that the cross might be a warning of violence to come.

The 17-year-old testified that O'Mara and Elliott attended a party at his home the night of May 2 and that all three drank a lot of beer. There, Elliott allegedly expressed anger at Jubilee for complaining about a shooting range that Elliott and his father had in their back yard.

"He wanted to get back at them," the boy said.

Elliott suggested they burn a cross, so the three of them built a cross in the boy's garage, the boy said.

O'Mara is to be sentenced April 26. He faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Kevin Martingayle, O'Mara's attorney, said outside the courtroom that his client is not a racist.

"He's ignorant and he was drunk but he's not a racist," he said.

ABA POLL SAYS 47 PERCENT OF AMERICANS
DOUBT RACIAL FAIRNESS OF COURTS
(By Richard Carelli)

WASHINGTON (AP).—Too many Americans believe the nation's courts do not provide equal justice for racial minorities, the American Bar Association's president said, as the group released a poll showing nearly half of Americans feel that way.

"This is a very serious problem we . . . cannot afford to ignore," Little Rock, Ark., lawyer Philip Anderson said Tuesday. "We are concerned that the current perception of bias will eventually erode confidence in our system of justice."

Of 1,000 people surveyed by telephone in August, 47 percent said they strongly disagreed with a statement that "the courts treat all ethnic and racial groups the same." Only 39 percent agreed with the statement, and 14 percent voiced no view.

Asked whether courts treat men and women alike, 55 percent said yes, 30 percent said no, and 15 percent expressed no view.

Anderson noted that another recent ABA poll indicated great disagreement between white and black lawyers over the justice system's racial fairness.

"This raises the obvious question that if people believe the justice system is tainted with bias, how long can they expect the courts to remedy bias elsewhere in our society?" Anderson said. "Right now, the high degree of confidence in the courts exists side by side with the perception of bias in the courts. As the minority populations increase in America, will the perception of bias increase?"

He said the 350,000-member ABA "will intensify our efforts to eradicate gender and racial bias in our courts."

The poll released Tuesday contains some seemingly inconsistent findings. For example, most people—51 percent—believe the justice system "needs a complete overhaul,"

but 80 percent also believe America's system is the world's best.

A large majority of Americans, 78 percent, also voiced confidence in the jury system.

"Those numbers are high, and we can feel good about them," Anderson said.

Among the poll's other findings: 90 percent believe wealthy people and companies often wear down their opponents by dragging out legal proceedings; 77 percent say it costs too much to go to court; 27 percent believe the best lawyers are selected to serve as judges.

Anderson said the poll indicates most Americans need and want to know more about the justice system. One tool, he said, could be increasing public access to the nation's courtrooms by televising more proceedings.

"I cannot think of a better civics lesson than . . . to be able to see and hear every argument before the Supreme Court of the United States," Anderson said. "One television camera in the Supreme Court will educate more people more effectively in one morning than the traditional methods can reach in one year."

All federal court proceedings currently are closed to radio and television coverage.

The poll has margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

[From the Dallas Morning News]

PROGRAM HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE SHED
TATTOOS AND THE LIFE THEY REPRESENT
(By Veronica Alaniz)

FORT WORTH, TEXAS.—Robert Barton's hands and arms are covered with marks of hatred, each painfully etched into his skin when he was in his early teens.

Tattoos that he once wore with pride are now shameful reminders of a life that Barton, 19, says he has left behind. But with the help of a nonprofit program the emblems of racism are beginning to fade from his body.

When they are finally gone, thanks to laser surgery provided at no cost by a Fort Worth doctor, Barton said, he will know that his new life has really begun.

"At the time, I thought it was the right thing to do," Barton said of the designs traced across his forearms, wrists and knuckles. "Now, it just doesn't make any sense. I want them gone. They don't mean anything to me now."

Getting rid of the unwanted tattoos and the shame that comes with them is Michael Bumagin's mission.

Since returning to Fort Worth a little more than a year ago, Bumagin, 57, has volunteered his time and expertise to help those with little means remove ugly reminders of their past.

"These kids have been in bad situations—gangs, broken homes. Some of them have been on the street. They've had a hard life," said the doctor, who has his own plastic surgery practice. "These tattoos are going to keep them from succeeding in life. They make it hard for them to get jobs, even in the most entry-level positions."

That is one of the reasons Jessica Cross, 21, wants the Tasmanian devil cartoon character above her right breast removed.

"If you have a tattoo, I think a lot of people think you're a bad person," said Cross. "Everybody looks at you, and I can see what they're thinking."

Barton said that feeling is all too familiar to him, and he'll be glad when he doesn't have to hide his hands in his pants pockets in shame.

"People see this stuff on me and slap a label on me and write me off," Barton said. "But this (tattoo removal) is going to open up a lot of doors for me and give me a lot of opportunity."

Every other month, young people such as Cross and Barton come by the dozens to wait for their turn with Bumagin.

Some hear about the service, administered by the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth, by word-of-mouth. Others are referred by their local police departments, school counselors or probation officers.

In return for what many recipients call a life-changing service, the patients perform four hours of community service for each treatment. They call it a more than fair trade.

Gary Grossman, an Arlington Independent School District counselor, works with students in alternative programs and refers some to the tattoo removal program. He call Bumagin's work a godsend.

"Erasing those marks off their bodies is symbolic," Grossman said. "It's a way of leaving their past behind, a way to start a fresh, new, clean life. But for many, it's beyond their financial ability."

Bumagin said hearing his patients' stories is why he keeps doing the work.

"The kids benefit, the community benefits, and I get the feel-goods," he said.

But the program couldn't exist with Bumagin alone. Donations pay for rental of the laser machine and other supplies.

Cross, who paid \$50 for her tattoo while she was in high school, said that when she first looked into having it removed, the \$2,500 estimates she was given were prohibitive.

"I thought I was going to have to live with it forever," she said.

Danielle Lessard said she, too, was floored by the cost of losing her tattoo—a 2-inch-high tribute to her ex-boyfriend's gang name etched on her right hip.

When Lessard found out about Bumagin's work from the Fort Worth Police Department's gang unit, she jumped at the opportunity. She said that though her tattoo is not readily noticeable, its presence haunts her.

"Stupid. That's all I can say. I was 15, and it was a home job," said Lessard, now 18 and a Tarrant County Junior College student. "Since I'm not in that stuff anymore and I'm not in that environment, I don't want that stuff on my body."

Israel Villareal, 23, who got the first of several gang tattoos when he was 13, said he wants them gone so they won't influence his three children.

"I don't want my little kids growing up seeing them and thinking it's OK," he said.

Removing the tattoos takes far more time—and often hurts more—than getting them.

After her first treatment in January, Lessard said she wasn't expecting it to be so painful.

"Oh my gosh, this is stinging real bad," she said as she squirmed in her seat.

Bumagin said the pain comes from the particles of pigment that, when touched by the laser, explode through the skin.

The treatments cause redness, swelling and sometimes bleeding, but the symptoms disappear in a few hours. He said the pain decreases with each treatment as the tattoo fades, and the number of treatments varies by tattoo.

When Angela Acua showed up for her treatment last month, she was very apprehensive.

"I'm scared. What if it hurts?" she asked the doctor. After whimpering through the few minutes that it took to zap her tattoos, Acua turned to her boyfriend and gave him some advice.

"It hurt," she said. "Don't ever put anything on you."

NATIONAL KICK BUTTS DAY 1999

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for a nationwide initiative that encourages the reduction of teen smoking. Teen smoking reached an all-time high in 1997 with roughly 4.5 million kids between the ages of 12–17 using some type of tobacco product. Each day some 3,000 young people start smoking; one third of these kids will die too young because they smoked. If that wasn't enough, approximately 400,000 Americans die each year from cigarette smoking.

To counter these alarming statistics and to provide greater awareness about the dangers of smoking, The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids chose April 14 as the National Youth Movement to "Kick Butts." The goal of National Kick Butts Day is to encourage our teens to take a stand against tobacco products and fight for healthier futures for themselves and their peers.

I have spent my entire public career trying to prevent youth smoking. I support the objective of National Kick Butts Day. I urge all of my colleagues to join me and show their support for this serious and necessary campaign.

BREAUX-THOMAS PLAN IS NO
CURE FOR MEDICARE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, thirty-nine million senior citizens and persons with disabilities on Medicare are relying on Congress to do the right thing. They are counting on Congress to save Medicare, a program that continues to improve the quality of life for millions of people. But they are certainly not counting on Congress to privatize Medicare and turn over the program to for-profit HMOs and insurance companies. The Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare debated such a plan. And that is the reason why the Commission did not have enough votes to make a formal recommendation to Congress. The Commission's proposal would have been a disaster for seniors and persons with disabilities and a boon for the HMOs and insurance industry.

My recent remarks printed in the Chicago Sun-Times follow:

The Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare nearly approved a plan to save Medicare. But a fundamental consideration was strangely missing from the proposal by Medicare Commission Chair Senator John Breaux (D-LA) and co-chair Representative Bill Thomas (R-CA): the detrimental effect this plan would have on the millions of seniors and persons with disabilities who rely on Medicare.

The simple fact is that the proposal nearly passed by the Medicare Commission is a disaster. It is a disaster for seniors and persons with disabilities.

By far the majority of the proposed "savings" under the Breaux-Thomas plan would

come from pushing seniors and persons with disabilities into HMOs and increasing costs to those who want to stay in traditional Medicare.

Under this plan, Medicare beneficiaries who wish to remain with their own doctors would pay higher premiums (as much as \$1200 a year). Many seniors, who already pay more than 20% of their income for health care, would face even greater cost-sharing when they need home health and other services. And despite the problems older persons face in finding affordable insurance, the proposal would shut 65 and 66 year olds out of Medicare.

Members of the Medicare Commission who supported the Breaux-Thomas plan seem to have faith in a managed care industry that cuts corners on care, reduces benefits, and threatens to pull out of Medicare altogether unless participants pay significantly higher premiums. Those of us who oppose turning Medicare over to the HMOs respectfully disagree. Privatizing Medicare and handing over the medical well-being of millions of senior citizens to for-profit managed care corporations is not what President Lyndon Baines Johnson and Congress envisioned back in 1965. HMOs are not the answer. They are the problem.

As a member of the Democratic Task Force on Medicare, I join with many of my colleagues and experts in the field of health care to support the President's proposal to use 15 percent of the budget surplus to shore up Medicare. This will ensure the program's solvency until the year 2027. We also believe that Medicare is in need of improvement and that seniors deserve increased benefits. That is why we also support seniors' access to affordable prescription drugs and long term care, and a reduction in out-of-pocket expenses.

Medicare participants now have the peace of mind of knowing that health care decisions are made on the basis of sound medical science and not on the financial needs of stockholders and managers. But turning over Medicare to the HMOs is a radical step backward that will only harm seniors living on fixed incomes. If this plan is adopted, seniors will receive fewer benefits, marginal care, and will face rising costs. The Breaux-Thomas proposal is not the answer.

THANK YOU, MAYOR COX

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Collierville, TN, will be seeing an historic change in their home this year. Collierville Mayor Herman Wright Cox has decided to step down after serving the residents of this West Tennessee city for 40 years.

Mayor Cox began his career in public service in 1959, first as a city alderman until 1965 when he was elected vice mayor for the city. Then in 1975, he was elected for the first time as mayor.

Since that time, Mayor Cox and the rest of Collierville has seen enormous growth within the community from small businesses to large corporations making the city their home and employing so many Collierville residents.

But aside from the business and industry in the region, the community has made monumental strides in providing a variety of community-based parks and recreation facilities, such as the Collierville Community Center, the

Harrell Performing Arts Theater, Powell Road Park, W.C. Johnson Park, Suggs Park, and the renovation of the town square and the greenbelt walkways.

Mayor Cox also ensured the community a state of the art police station, an award-winning police department, new fire stations and a highly qualified fire department.

Mayor Cox's legacy also includes the prestigious 3-star rating and designation for the town, which speaks volumes of the work he has done for this city.

I commend Mayor Cox for his outstanding contribution to the community, which has thrived under his administration. It is a great loss to the community to have him out of the mayor's office, but it is comforting to know that we can always find him at his service station office if we ever need advice or some guidance as Collierville continues to grow.

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL SETO

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to other people, and acquisition of skills. This award is a strong reflection of these youngsters' ability to set goals, to put value into action, to plan, and to relate to the needs of the community.

I wish to recognize Cheryl Seto of Troop 286 in Placentia, CA.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate and thank Karin Carlson, Director of Program Services for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County for notifying of their achievements. On behalf of the people of the 41st Congressional District of California, let me say that we are all proud of you.

INTERNET ENGINEERING

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Internet Caucus to recognize a major step taken last week to develop the growing Internet economy of the United States.

In my home state of Virginia, just a few hours from the United States Capitol, the University of Virginia took the first step last week toward developing America's most technologically advanced Internet Engineering curriculum.

As we all know, high-tech and the Internet are a major part of the economic growth we have enjoyed these last few years. Over the next five years high-tech will create 1.8 million new jobs in the U.S.—1.8 million.

Because of an innovative public/private partnership, and thanks to the generosity of Cisco Systems and MCI/Worldcom, which have just

donated over \$1 million in new equipment to the University, UVA is now creating VINT-Lab, the premier high-tech training facility of its kind.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the thing about creating nearly two million new, high-tech jobs is that no good comes of it unless there's qualified people to fill them. What the folks at UVA and Cisco are trying to do is make sure that the young people of today are prepared to build the economy of tomorrow.

I think we'll be seeing a lot more public/private partnerships like this in the future, and as co-chairman of the Internet Caucus, I will certainly be working to promote them.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL
OF VALOR ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 46, the "Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act." Our nation's firefighters, enforcement officers, and other emergency services personnel put themselves at risk every day to assure the safety of the general public. Just as our military personnel are recognized for extraordinary acts of valor in the effort to preserve peace abroad, so should our domestic safety officers be recognized for their bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

Last year, Members of Congress witnessed an extraordinary act of valor as Capitol Hill police officers gave their lives defending the Halls of Congress from a gunman intent on shooting his way into Congress. It was a potent reminder of the risks every public safety officer face each and every day. I never will forget that sacrifice and by supporting this legislation I hope to draw more attention to sacrifices of the hundreds of thousands of public safety officers that serve our country.

In Delaware, I am particularly proud of the work of our firefighters because most of them serve the state voluntarily. Likewise, Delaware's police officers often find themselves squarely in the sights of a criminal's handgun, which prompted me to support legislation to provide all of Delaware's police force with bulletproof vests.

Again, I urge every Member to come together and support the "Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act." It symbolizes honor and recognition that is long past due.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE DAYTON-SOEHLKE-
OHLHORST POST # 5350 OF THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS IN
QUOGUE, NEW YORK

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Dayton-Soehlike-Ohlhorst Post #5350 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Quogue, Long Island as they celebrate the 53rd Anniversary of the Post's founding.

Established by a small group of veterans who helped lead America to victory in World War I and World War II, the Dayton-Soehlke-Ohlhorst Post #5350 was officially chartered in mid-1946, and was named in honor of the first veterans to die in combat from Westhampton Beach, Quogue and East Quogue—the three communities that made up the bulk of the Post's membership.

During Dayton-Soehlke-Ohlhorst Post #5350's 53-year lifespan, many changes have come to this area of Long Island. What remains unchanged is the devotion that the Post's members possess for our great Nation and their comrades-in-arms. The Post meets regularly on the fourth Thursday of each month, and during the course of the year hosts a number of family-oriented activities. And it goes without saying that the Post members take great pride in honoring their fallen comrades and America's war veterans during every Memorial Day and Veterans Day observance.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, Post #5350 continues to look for new members whose passion and faith in America has never wavered. Indeed, the Post intends to expand its membership not only with the veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, but also veterans of conflicts in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, and Somalia. One of those veterans is the current Post Commander, Arma "Ham" Andon, a true patriot and selfless public servant who I am proud to call my dear friend.

As citizens of this free and prosperous Nation, all Americans owe our war veterans a tremendous debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they endured and the efforts they made on our behalf. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me on this 53rd anniversary in saluting Dayton-Soehlke-Ohlhorst Post #5350 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and all of its members for all they do for our veterans and for all they've done for America.

INDIVIDUAL TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1999

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Individual Tax Simplification Act of 1999, and invite all my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation.

It is fitting that this bill on tax simplification is being introduced on the day before April 15th. At this time of year, simplification is on everyone's mind—and wish list. While it may not fulfill everyone's wish, this bill will eliminate approximately 200 lines from tax forms, schedules and worksheets. My bill generally does this in a revenue neutral manner, and without moving money between economic income groups. As we all know, no more so than at this time of the year, the tax code is terribly complex, and has become dramatically more complex for average taxpayers during the past four years.

A skeptic might argue that there is no constituency for simplification, but that is changing. A recent poll by ICR found that 66 percent said the federal tax system is too complicated. Three years ago slightly less than half agreed.

I believe that with a little compromise, we can enact significant tax simplification. That is why I have made sure this bill is essentially revenue neutral, so it contains no tax increase. And that is why the bill does not try to change the tax burden between economic income groups. This is not an attack on the wealthy, nor anyone else. As with any change in the tax law, there are some winners and losers—but I want to stress that this is incidental to the objective of the bill—which is simplification that benefits us all.

The bill has three parts. The first is based on legislation I introduced last year and introduced again earlier this year regarding non-refundable personal credits. The second part simplifies the taxation of capital gains. The third part repeals two hidden marginal tax rate on high income individuals, and repeals the individual minimum tax.

TITLE I—SIMPLIFICATION RELATING TO NONREFUNDABLE PERSONAL CREDITS

In recent years, much tax relief has been given to taxpayers in the form of nonrefundable credits, like the two education credits and the child credit. These credits are not usable against the alternative minimum tax. That means that more and more individuals will lose all or part of these credits, and will have to fill out the extremely complicated AMT form. Congress recognized this problem last year by enacting my proposal to waive this for the 1998 tax year.

The other problem with nonrefundable credits is that the phase out provisions vary from credit to credit, causing unnecessary complexity. In addition, the same additional dollar of income can result in a reduction in more than one nonrefundable credit.

It is fundamentally wrong to promise the American public tax relief, then take all or part of it away in a backhanded manner. This fundamentally flawed policy, enacted in 1997, will get worse each and every year as more American families find themselves to be AMT taxpayers simply because of the impact of inflation, or because of their desire to take advantage of the tax relief we have promised them. Not only that, this situation will also get worse as an additional nonrefundable credits are approved by Congress, such as the President's proposals to assist taxpayers with long-term care needs, and the disabled workers tax credit.

The bill addresses both concerns. First, it permanently waives the minimum tax limitations on nonrefundable credits, and on the refundable portion of the family (or child) credit which has the same problem with the AMT as nonrefundable credits. Second, the bill creates a single phase out range for the adoption credit, the family credit, and the education credits, replacing the current three phase out ranges.

This part of the bill is paid for by reducing the income limitation on the family credit from \$110,000 to \$85,000 on a joint return, and from \$75,000 to \$58,000 for a single individual. This provides a slight increase in the income limits on the education credits and the adoption credit, so about 85 percent of all families will be unaffected or receive tax reductions under this trade off.

TITLE II—SIMPLIFICATION OF CAPITAL GAINS TAX

The second title of this bill is, essentially, Mr. Coyne's capital gains proposal from last year. Under current law, there are 5 different tax rates for long term capital gains, and a 54

line tax form that must be endured. Moreover, this part of the tax code is already scheduled to get worse because additional rates will take affect under current law in 2001 and 2006.

The solution is clear. Replace this jumble of rates and forms with a simple 38 percent exclusion. Not only will this result in tremendous simplification (eliminating 36 of the 54 lines), but more than 97 percent of individuals would be eligible for modest capital gains tax reductions. This section of the bill pays for itself.

TITLE III—REPEAL OF CERTAIN HIDDEN MARGINAL RATE INCREASES, AND OF THE INDIVIDUAL MINIMUM TAX

The third title of the bill repeals the hidden marginal rate increases in current law, and repeals the individual minimum tax. Most of my colleagues understand the phrases, PEP and Pease. Under current law, itemized deductions are gradually reduced by 3 percent of adjusted gross income above approximately \$124,000. This is known as the Pease provision. In addition, personal exemptions are phased out for incomes between approximately \$187,000 and \$309,000. This is PEP. If we did not hide the effect of these provisions of current law, more people would know that these provisions result in hidden marginal rate increases. These marginal rate increases begin at almost 1 percent for incomes above \$124,000, and increases for those with incomes above \$187,000 by about .78 percent for each dependent. The important point here is that current law has a hidden marginal rate increase, which gets worse as families grow larger.

The second part of this title is complete repeal of the individual minimum tax. The minimum tax was intended to make sure that wealthy individuals did not overuse certain tax benefits and unfairly reduce their tax burden. It no longer accomplishes that goal. Most of the significant business related provisions have already been repealed. Since the AMT is not adjusted for inflation, more and more middle and upper middle income taxpayers are falling into the AMT. This is not what was intended, especially when you note that what pushes taxpayers into the AMT now, more often than not, are State and local income and property taxes, personal exemptions, and the nonrefundable credits. I repeat, this is not what Congress was trying to accomplish when the AMT was passed.

My suggestion is to repeal it for individuals, and substitute a simple tax on adjusted gross income, and an increase in the current floor on miscellaneous itemized deductions. The current hidden tax is dropped, and is paid for with an explicit tax on the same individuals. They get simplification, and we convert a deceptive practice into an open one.

Specifically, the replacement tax begins at 1 percent for adjusted gross incomes in excess of \$120,000 on a joint return, and increases to 2.08 percent for income greater than \$150,000, which is where the minimum tax exemption begins to phase out. The bill would also increase the floor on miscellaneous itemized deductions to 4 percent for adjusted gross incomes greater than \$100,000.

CONCLUSION

Ironically, this simplification proposal must be complex, because it mirrors our current law. I want, therefore, to focus on what is important.

This bill provides fairly dramatic simplification of the individual tax system.

It eliminates approximately 200 lines on tax forms, schedules and worksheets.

It is basically revenue neutral, so it can be accomplished during a year when there is no non-Social Security budget surplus to fund tax cuts.

It does not attempt to shift money between income groups. The philosophy behind the bill is that those who benefit from tax simplification of the current code should offset any revenue loss involved.

I have put the bill together this way to make this philosophy clear. While some families will be phased out of the child credit, the revenue raised is invested in other similar families for AMT relief and for increases in the adoption and education credits.

The capital gains section of the bill is paid for internally to that section, so those who realize capital gains will have their current tax liability adjusted up or down slightly in order to achieve the simplification contained in the bill.

Finally, those adversely affected by the hidden marginal rate increase of current law that worsens as a family gets larger, will have simplification and some relief offset by other better off taxpayers within their own economic group.

It is estimated that this tax filing season will see 51 percent of individuals using tax return preparers, and that 16 percent will use computer software to prepare their return. Only about 1/3 of individuals actually fill out their own forms. There is no excuse for that reality, and we should do something about it. Given the lack of resources to write a major tax bill, the reality that no one wants to pay for simplification no matter how much they support the goal, and the need to resolve the solvency issues surrounding Social Security and Medicare, I think the opportunity exists this year to solve some of the problems that bother all our constituents during this tax filing season in the manner that I have suggested. I am introducing this legislation to get this discussion going, and I hope it will be seriously considered by all parties.

HONORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A
BETTER TOMORROW ON THEIR
15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, and its Executive Director Sister Mary Franciscus as they celebrate their 15th Anniversary.

We are at the dawn of the 21st Century. As we look ahead there are many challenges that will face Americans in the new millennium. And while these challenges hold many opportunities and great possibility, the rewards will only be realized if people have the skills and the training they need to compete and succeed. That's why I applaud Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, and its Executive Director, Sister Mary Franciscus.

For the past fifteen years, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, has been committed to the education and training of individuals throughout Brooklyn. This organization has helped thousands of people receive the skills they need to join the workforce. The training programs and educational services they offer

have provided countless people with access not only to work, but have given them a chance to live the American Dream. The importance of this effort cannot be understated.

Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, is one of the best examples of community activism in New York. The organization is consistently rated as one of New York's top employment agencies, and the reason for that is simple: they are not just an employment agency, but they are an organization that is deeply committed to the community and committed to the people who live and work there. Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow develops people into proficient, accountable and skilled professionals. And a graduate of the Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow program becomes a well-rounded individual, who learns self-respect and self-esteem which many times they otherwise might not have.

In a highly competitive, highly technological time such as this, people must be highly skilled. Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow gives people a chance to develop the skills that they otherwise might not have. For thousands of people throughout Brooklyn, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow has provided the key to open doors of opportunity.

For these reasons, I would like my colleagues to join me in applauding Sister Mary Franciscus and the leadership and membership of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow. The success of the program is directly linked to the dedication, and quality of its leaders and teachers. I congratulate them on the celebration of their 15th Anniversary and wish them the best of luck for the next 15 and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIE KASPER

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to other people, and acquisition of skills. This award is a strong reflection of these youngsters' ability to set goals, to put value into action, to plan, and to relate to the needs of the community.

I wish to recognize Marcie Kasper of Troop 330 in Yorba Linda, CA.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate and thank Karin Carlson, Director of Program Services for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County for notifying of their achievements. On behalf of the people of the 41st Congressional District of California, let me say that we are all proud of you.

A TRIBUTE TO HAROLD SHWERDT

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to pay tribute to Mr.

Harold Shwerdt, who will be presented with a Life Membership by the Griswold Terry Glover Post No. 803 of the American Legion. This honor is well deserved and acknowledges the tremendous sacrifices Mr. Schwerdt has made for both our country and our community.

The Life Membership will be given to Mr. Shwerdt on April 28, 1999 at the American Legion banquet. The Life Membership is the highest honor the American Legion can bestow on its members. Mr. Shwerdt has long been an active member of the Griswold Terry Glover Post No. 803 of the American Legion, which holds their meetings in Southold, Long Island.

Mr. Shwerdt's first, and most important sacrifice, was to our nation. He is a World War II Veteran who put his life on the line to end injustice around the world. During the war, Harold spent time in a German prisoner of war camp. For 2 years, Harold was a German prisoner. Before his capture, Harold was a well-decorated fighter. He served as Flight Engineer for a United States B-17 bomber. It was in his plane that he was shot down and eventually captured. For his service to protect freedom alone, Mr. Shwerdt deserves our highest recognition.

After the war, Harold joined this post of the American Legion. It is here that Harold's hard work and determination paid huge dividends. His countless hours of devotion to assist others have helped both his American Legion post and the less fortunate members of our community. In his group, he helped to organize and strengthen both their Color Guard and their Bingo Team. In our community, Harold has been active with the Association for the Help of Retarded Children. He has also spent a countless number of hours helping Senior Citizens, Disabled Veterans and the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and the American Legion in honoring Mr. Shwerdt for his invaluable contributions to our community. Here on Eastern Long Island, we have the utmost respect for both our veterans and volunteers, and we are privileged to have Mr. Harold Shwerdt in our community. Thankfully, his service and generosity to our community will never go unnoticed.

TRIBUTE TO JACK SELVIAN ON
RECEIVING A PURPLE HEART

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Corporal Jack Selvian on receiving a Purple Heart. Jack served the Far East Air Service Command of the United States Air Force in World War II.

The initial liberation of the Philippine Islands from Japanese occupation, operation RENO, began on October 20, 1944, on Leyte Island. The primary purpose of the Leyte campaign was to establish Allied air and logistic bases to support subsequent operations. On October 20, 1944, after two hour naval bombardment, assault waves of four divisions landed between Dulag and Tacloban and quickly secured beachheads. Tacloban was October 24, and an air base was established. Leyte was

never provided the major Allied air fields envisioned, but its seizure had other, more important results. By electing to fight a decisive battle at Leyte, the Japanese had committed their fleet and a major part of their air arm, both suffering crippling losses.

Jack Selvian, Corporal United States Air Corps was wounded in the line of duty, while serving at Tacloban Air Base on Leyte Island. Jack was working near the flight line next to stacked aircraft engines, stacked two and three high. After dusk, work was being done under the illumination of artificial light, a Japanese fighter performed a low altitude bombardment in an attempt to destroy the stacked engines. There was a space of 6 inches between the crates, and debris was blown through this gap hitting Jack in the left wrist and the left knee. Jack was later released from duty on December 24, 1945. After four years away from his family, he left the U.S. Air Corps with an Honorable Discharge, yet no one ever submitted his name to receive the Purple Heart. The records have been corrected and Jack will receive the Purple Heart on January 2, 1999. This honor will be bestowed 54 years after being earned.

Jack was born in Fresno on June 21, 1921, and upon his return from the war he married the former Violet Shumavon, the couple have been married for 51 years. They have two daughters, Susan Millard and Betty Gross, and have been blessed with five grandchildren. Jack and Paul Shumavon were proprietors of a grocery store for 20 years, and later co-owned the Chestnut Avenue Disposal Site. More recently Jack has been involved in farming grapes for raisin production.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack Selvian, Corporal, United States Air Force. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Selvian best wishes for the future and sincerest thanks for his wartime sacrifice.

HONORING DOROTHY T. LEGGETT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dorothy T. Leggett for her tireless contributions to the Brooklyn community.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Dorothy Leggett has truly made an indelible mark in her community. Throughout her tenure in the community, Dorothy has striven to create numerous opportunities for all. As President of the National Council of Negro Women, Brooklyn Section, she introduced many new programs including the recognition of Black men who positively contribute to the Brooklyn community. Later, she unselfishly devoted herself to numerous organizations such as Mary McLeod Bethune Day Care Center, where she served on the Board of Directors for over twenty years; Church Women Untied, where she served as past Secretary; Community Planning Board #3; Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce; and the Unity Democratic Club.

Dorothy is truly a Renaissance woman! As a former Executive of Brownsville Multi-Service Center, she currently owns her own business, Hats Galore, on Nostrand Avenue. She

also serves as Vice-President of the Chauncey Street Block Association, a community group that she helped reorganize.

Despite her numerous activities, Dorothy has raised two daughters, Doranne and Carmen. She has also been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren, David, Patrick, Chantel and Darylyn.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dorothy T. Leggett for her tireless and unwavering service to the community.

IN HONOR OF ST. ROCCO PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Holy Family Sodality of St. Rocco Parish in Cleveland, Ohio.

The church was established in 1924 and one of the first acts of the founding Pastor, Father Sante Gattuso, was to institute the Sodality. Today, it is the largest organization in the Parish. Including the new members to be initiated this weekend, the membership numbers 225 people. Most of the members are second and third generation members and a few are even fourth generation members.

The members of the Sodality have made invaluable contributions to the Parish. Because of their efforts, church activities, dinners, and the annual St. Rocco Festival are always well-attended and very successful. The success of these events is essential to the financial stability of the church and the school, so the help of the members of the Sodality is invaluable.

In addition to participating in religious functions and helping at church activities, members also visit the sick and shut-in members of the parish, pray the Rosary at the funeral home for deceased members and accompany them to the cemetery after the funeral mass. Every year, the members fill two buses to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the ministry of love and service provided by the Holy Family Sodality of St. Rocco Parish.

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 24,000 women business owners in South Dakota. Within the last decade, the number of women-owned businesses in South Dakota has grown by over 65%, and their annual revenue has increased by 237%. In fact, women owned firms currently account for 35% of all South Dakota firms, and generate over 14% of the state's business sales.

Additionally, I would like to recognize one of South Dakota's most prominent women's business advocates, Dr. Sandra Christenson. Dr. Christenson is the president of Heartland

Paper Company in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Heartland Paper Company is a family owned wholesaler of printing paper, packaging supplies, food service disposables, maintenance supplies, dilution control systems, and janitorial equipment. First founded in 1908, Christenson assumed the presidency of Heartland Paper Company in 1989.

Born and raised in Sioux Falls, Dr. Christenson is currently a member of the National Women's Business Council, the Congressional advisory panel that works with Congress and the President to promote the growth of women owned businesses. Dr. Christenson has been a prominent member of the South Dakota business community for 20 years. She has also been an active member of her industry and community serving on the advisory boards of the National School Supply Association, the National Paper Trades Association, the United Way, and South Dakotans for the Arts.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I believe that women-owned businesses have played an integral role in the economic well being of South Dakota and the nation. As such, I strongly encourage my colleagues to actively support the women business owners in their districts.

SIKHS OBSERVE 300TH BAISAKHI BY MARCHING FOR FREEDOM

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join some of my colleagues in wishing a happy 300th Baisakhi Day to the Sikh Nation. The contributions that Sikhs have made to American life have been significant. They have added to almost every walk of American life.

On April 10, the Sikhs marched in celebration of the 300th Baisakhi anniversary of the day of the last of the 10 Gurus, Guru Gobind Singh, initiated the Khalsa Panth. I understand that it was a glorious event for the Sikh nation, and I would like to congratulate the Sikhs of America and my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, who was the march coordinator, on its success.

I understand that the parade looked like a sea of saffron (the Sikh color of freedom) as it moved from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol and that the grounds outside here on the West Front were filled with over 40,000 enthusiastic Sikhs. It must have been something to see!

It is appropriate that the march began at the memorial to Abraham Lincoln, issuer of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Sikh Nation struggles for their freedom, as instructed by the Sikh Gurus. Sikhs are instructed to oppose tyranny wherever it occurs.

The Sikhs are a proud people, and justifiably so. They are a people dedicated to living a holy life, working hard, sharing with those in need, and to the equality of all people and freedom for everyone. Unfortunately, in their own homeland, Sikhs do not enjoy freedom. They have been subjected to tyranny. The Indian Government has also oppressed other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and Dalits (the so-called "untouchables"). Yet India proudly proclaims itself a democracy.

We cannot make India behave like a truly democratic country, but we can apply pressure by withholding aid and by publicly declaring our support for a democratic vote in Punjab, Khalistan, and other Indian states on the subject of self-determination. If India is truly democratic, this is the way it should settle these issues.

The Governors of New Jersey and Texas have declared the "Year of the Khalsa." Numerous Members of Congress from both parties have saluted the Sikhs on this historic anniversary. The new Mayor of Washington, D.C. sent congratulatory remarks. As Sikhs move into their fourth century, they should celebrate their next anniversary in freedom in their own sovereign, independent country. Let us honor their history and their struggle by supporting their effort to be free.

I would like to add Mayor Williams' letter of congratulations to the RECORD.

CONGRATULATIONS, COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN—
"RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE"

300TH ANNIVERSARY, APRIL 10, 1999

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, it is my distinct pleasure to extend warm greetings and congratulations to the members, guest and friends of the Council of Khalistan as you celebrate your 300th Anniversary of the initiation of the Khalsa Panth.

This is a significant milestone in the history of the Sikh Nation as you celebrate this Vaisaakhee Day. Sikhism is the youngest of the world's religion, and it is humility and service to mankind that are regarded as most important. Religion plays an important role in our daily lives, and you are to be commended for your efforts to provide spiritual enhancement to your membership, service to the community and commitment to the principles of peace, progress, dignity, integrity, human rights and justice for all.

On behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia, thank you for making a difference in our lives and best wishes in your quest for holy fulfillment.

ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS,
Mayor, District of Columbia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, due to my wife having a medical procedure in Alabama, I was unable to cast rollcall votes on April 13, 1999. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 81, H.R. 46 the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act; and I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 82. H. Con. Res. 35 commending the people of Qatar for recent elections and commitment to the principles of democracy.

TRIBUTE TO TERESA JACKSON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women

in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to other people, and acquisition of skills. This award is a strong reflection of these youngsters' ability to set goals, to put value into action, to plan, and to relate to the needs of the community.

I wish to recognize Teresa Jackson of Troop 1325 in Anaheim, CA.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate and thank Karin Carlson, Director of Program Services for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County for notifying of their achievements. On behalf of the people of the 41st Congressional District of California, let me say that we are all proud of you.

IN HONOR OF OHIO TRAILS AND GREENWAYS DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ohio Trails and Greenways Day on Tuesday, April 20, 1999, and the work of the Ohio Field Office of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Ohio Field Office (RTC-Ohio) has three main goals: awareness, potential and sharing. RTC strives to promote awareness of trail and greenway projects in local communities, surrounding regions and throughout the state. The organization also seeks to explore the possibilities that trail and greenway projects offer to both transportation and recreation opportunities for the citizens of Ohio and visitors to the state. Their third goal is to create an atmosphere where information about trails and greenways is easily understood and accessible by everyone.

RTC has completed over 300 miles of rail-trail and is currently working on over 500 additional miles. In recognition of the importance of conservation and the efforts of RTC Ohio Governor Taft will officially declare April 20, 1999 at Ohio Trails and Greenways Day.

I am pleased to join in celebration of Ohio Trails and Greenways Day and wish the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy continued success in their environmental protection efforts.

HONORING PEGGY HASKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Peggy Haskins for her tireless contributions to the Brooklyn community.

Although she was born in Tams, West Virginia, Peggy Haskins has truly made an indelible mark in Brooklyn, New York. From her volunteer work with the Society for Seaman's Foster children where she teaches arts and crafts to I.S. 364 and P.S. 346 where she provides classroom and yearbook support, Peggy Haskins unselfishly shares her time and energy.

As the youngest of 11 children born to Louis and Sarah, Peggy's family spirit has also benefited the Women's Caucus for Congressman Edolphus Towns. She is a loyal, committed and inspiring member who prefers being in the background rather than in the forefront.

Peggy's concern for the Brooklyn community-at-large is also apparent in her professional life. She presently works for the New York City Board of Education. She is also working closely with her mentor, Dr. Ivan Bodis-Wollner, M.D., D.Sc., Director of Parkinson Disease and Related Disorders at Kings County Hospital Center. Peggy has degrees from both Chubb Institute and Kingsborough Community College.

Despite her numerous activities, Peggy maintains quality time with her 14-year-old son, Adam, and enjoys worshipping at St. Paul's Community Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Peggy Haskins for her tireless and unwavering service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY SHEHADEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Larry Shehadey for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Institute of Family Business conference. Mr. Shehadey is in his 50th year with Producers Dairy Foods, Inc.

Larry Shehadey, 91, remains chairman of the board for the Fresno based Producers Dairy Foods which has a full line of dairy products, fruit punches and orange juices. Producers Dairy was not Larry Shehadey's first career. He began a successful soap business and sold it to Safeway, Shehadey then bought half interest in Producers as an investment. He became general manager and began controlling the company. Today Larry Shehadey presides over a family business that expanded from 25 to 300 employees, sells milk products from Eureka to Santa Barbara, operates a chain of convenience stores and farms 7,000 acres of land on the west side of the Valley that provides feed for the company's 7,000 head of cattle.

Producers is capable of milking 2,500 cows, twice a day. Shehadey is proud to be one of the few remaining locally owned independent businesses in the Central Valley. He has served on many dairy boards, including the Dairy Council of California; Dairy Institute of California as president, California Growers Association; and The All Star Dairy Association, where he held the position of charter member.

Larry Shehadey was married for 63 years to wife Elayne, who passed away recently, and has two sons, Richard and John and eight grandchildren. Richard, president of Producers, runs the company with his father.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Larry Shehadey on his Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Shehadey's service to the community is commendable. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Larry many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH ZEMLOCK

HON. SCOTT McINNS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. McINNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of Colorado's exceptional citizens, Ruth Zemlock. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to a woman who has shown, time and again, that it pays to give a little back to the community.

Ruth Zemlock is a resident of Colorado who has made a large impact on her community through her genuine care for others. Above and beyond being a model citizen, Ruth contributes her time as a volunteer at the Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs. For the last 14 years, Ruth Zemlock has given more than 11,000 hours of her time to the hospital. In recognition of her contributions to the community Ruth Zemlock has recently been awarded the "1998 Senior Volunteer Service Award" in Garfield county. Obviously, this is a fitting award for such a fantastic public servant.

It is said by those how are privileged to know her, that Ruth Zemlock is a delightful lady who dedicates her senior years to making the lives of others a little bit better. Ruth is obviously a woman with a warm heart who, selflessly, gives to those in need.

Individuals such as Ruth, who volunteer their time to a good cause, are a rare breed. Fellow citizens have gained immensely by knowing Ruth Zemlock, and for that we owe her a debt of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JAMES
McCLURE CLARKE**HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague James McClure Clarke of Fairview, North Carolina who passed away last night. Although we were of different political parties and had our differences, James Clarke was a distinguished politician and, at all times, a gentleman.

Originally from Manchester, Vermont, Congressman Clarke graduated from Princeton University in 1939. He served as a Naval officer in the Pacific Theater during World War II from 1942–1945. Upon returning from the war, he began a lifetime of public service to the people of Western North Carolina, service that included the role of senior editor of the Asheville Citizen-Times from 1961–1969 and eight years on the Buncombe County School Board. He served with distinction two terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1977–1980, and one term in the state Senate from 1981–1982. He represented North Carolina's 11th District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1983–1985 and again from 1987–1989.

Congressman Clarke set a standard of service for the people of North Carolina to which every future member who has the privilege to represent them will be held. In every aspect of his professional and personal life, Congress-

man Clarke exhibited a gentility that is rarely seen in politics today. We will all certainly miss him. My prayers and those of everyone in Western North Carolina are with the Clarke family.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1400 "BOND
PRICE COMPETITION IMPROVE-
MENT ACT OF 1999"**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representatives BLILEY, DINGELL, OXLEY, TOWNS and several other Members of the Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials in introducing aimed at improving price competition in the nation's bond markets.

Price Transparency, or the dissemination of market quotation and transaction information, is of critical importance to investors in our nation's securities markets. Experience has shown that price transparency produces several important benefits. It can help to improve the liquidity and efficiency of a market by assuring that comprehensive price and trading information is disseminated to as many market participants as possible, so that the market price of securities will move more quickly to reflect the underlying economic value of the security. In addition, price transparency provides investors with greater protection from abuses by reducing the disparity of information that may exist between market "insiders" and "outsiders" and providing public investors with more equal access to information that is available to primary and other dealers.

With equal access to pricing information, investors in stocks or bonds can better evaluate the quality of execution and the value of their securities. This information is particularly useful for investors evaluating prices for less actively traded securities, where bid-asked spreads may be wider. Such data also can encourage competition among dealers and assist regulators in discovering possible manipulation, fraudulent mark-ups, or other wrongful conduct, or in determining the state of the market at any point in time.

In 1975, the Congress directed the SEC to facilitate the creation of a National Market System for qualified securities. When the Congress enacted that legislation, it did not limit its application merely to stocks but to all securities—including debt securities. In fact, the only type of securities that were not included were so-called "exempt securities"—Treasury bonds, government agency securities, and municipal securities. At the time this legislation passed, there were many in the broker-dealer community who opposed it. But some 24 years later the Dow Jones Industrial Average has topped the 10,000 mark, and all observers agree that our stock markets are much more efficient and more liquid in large part due to their increased transparency. However, over the years the SEC has not made much use of the powers Congress granted it in this area to bring transparency to the corporate bond market.

The legislation we are introducing today would direct the SEC to use the authorities Congress granted it back in 1975 to issue rules or take such other actions as may be

necessary or appropriate, to improve price transparency in the corporate bond market. Specifically, H.R. 1400 would mandate that the SEC assure the prompt, accurate, reliable, and fair collection, processing, distribution, and publication of transaction information in the corporate debt market. This would specifically include, but not be limited to, last sale information. The SEC is directed to assure that such information is made available to all exchange members, broker-dealers, securities information processors, and all other persons. In determining the rules or other actions to take under the subsection, the SEC is directed to take into consideration, among other factors, private sector systems for the collection and distribution of transaction information on corporate debt securities. Finally, the bill provides for a study by the General Accounting Office of measures needed to further improve price transparency.

I support this initiative because I believe that bond investors deserve to get full access to the type of market information that will better enable them to determine whether they are getting the best price for their buy and sell orders. I know that Chairman Levitt has already taken some preliminary steps to move the industry forward in this area, and that as a result of his leadership, the NASD is currently considering rule changes which would create transparency and audit trail systems for the corporate bond market. In addition, I understand that the bond dealers have also stepped in with a plan to make certain market information available. I welcome each of these initiatives, and would suggest that the legislation we are introducing today should be seen as complementing them by underscoring the determination of the Congress that effective and comprehensive action will be taken in this area.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill as it moves through the legislative process.

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE ELLINGSON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to other people, and acquisition of skills. This award is a strong reflection of these youngsters' ability to set goals, to put value into action, to plan, and to relate to the needs of the community.

I wish to recognize Leslie Ellingson of Troop 286 in Placentia, CA.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate and thank Karin Carlson, Director of Program Services for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County for notifying of their achievements. On behalf of the people of the 41st Congressional District of California, let me say that we are all proud of you.

IN MEMORY OF DON ROBERTSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a gifted writer, Don Robertson.

A Cleveland native, Mr. Robertson attended Harvard University and Western Reserve University. After serving in the army, he began his professional journalism career as a copy editor for the Plain Dealer. Robertson was the author of 19 novels, many of which were set in Ohio and revolved around major historical events. His best known books include "The Greatest Thing Since Sliced Bread," "Praise the Human Season" and Paradise Falls."

Robertson also used his journalistic talents to write scripts for the television soap opera "The Edge of Night," movie and theater critiques for WKYC Channel 3 and to serve as editor for Houston City Magazine. He was also a columnist for the Cleveland Press and worked for the Cleveland Magazine.

Robertson's journalistic endeavors included being a features writer for the Cleveland News and a radio and television talk show host. He had shows on WERE Radio, WVIZ Channel 25 and Channel 61.

Robertson received numerous accolades for his writing. In 1991, he was presented the Mark Twain Award from the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, which is given to a writer whose work continues in the tradition established by Twain. He was inducted into the Press Club of Cleveland Hall of Fame in 1992. In addition, he was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cleveland chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of a talented writer, Don Robertson.

SALUTING INTERFAITH MEDICAL CENTER—BROOKLYN, NEW YORK'S REACH AND READ PROGRAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Interfaith Medical Center (IMC)—Brooklyn, New York's Reach Out and Read Program. Reach Out and Read is a Pediatric early literacy program developed at Boston City Hospital in 1989 by a collaboration of pediatricians and early childhood educators. The Reach Out and Read program makes literacy a part of pediatric care, by having pediatricians in the out-patient setting encouraging parents to read aloud to their children, and by giving their patients (between the ages of 6 months and 5 years) books to take home with them.

Pediatricians are trained to counsel parents about the importance of reading with young children, offering age-appropriate tips and encouragement. Volunteer readers are in the clinic to read aloud to children as they wait for their appointments, thereby encouraging to learn to love books!

Through Reach Out and Read, every child starts school with a home library of at least 10 beautiful children's books, and parents are helped to understand that reading aloud is the most important thing they can do to help their children learn to love books.

Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York has been working to begin its Reach Out and Read program for the past 15 months. On Monday, April 12, 1999, Interfaith officially opened its program in the Pediatrics clinic at their St. John's site. Presently, over 7,000 books have been obtained through grants and donation. Interfaith is prepared to keep this program going for many years * * * in addition to working toward expanding it into all of their community clinics. Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Interfaith Medical Center for its unwavering commitment to preparing our children for a bright future.

AMERICA'S WILDERNESS ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced "America's Wilderness Protection Act." As many know, I have been an advocate of wilderness for many years. For example, I have introduced legislation to designate wilderness in the beautiful red rock areas of Southern Utah in each of the last several Congresses. I was also instrumental in the passage of the Utah Forest Service Wilderness Act of 1984 a bill that designated almost a million acres of Wilderness in the State of Utah.

As a wilderness advocate I have become increasingly concerned about a particular issue that makes wilderness legislation extremely difficult to pass. The issue I refer to is wilderness studies.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 created something called a "Wilderness Study Area." Lands that became Wilderness Study Areas pursuant to FLPMA were studied by the Interior Department to determine whether they qualified for Wilderness designation.

Unfortunately, FLPMA failed to provide for the release of Wilderness Study Areas. Thus Wilderness Study Areas, absent Congressional action, would be studied in perpetuity—even after the actual study, done by the Interior Department, was finished.

The perpetual study of an area for wilderness suitability is clearly not in the public interest:

The biggest problem is that it hinders the designation of wilderness. Because Wilderness Study Areas are managed almost as if they were already wilderness, there is no incentive to make the sometimes politically difficult decisions to actually make them wilderness. Also, because the Interior Department's wilderness studies invariably decide that certain parts of Wilderness Study Areas do not qualify for wilderness, fringe environmental groups often oppose any resolution to the issue, preferring perpetual Wilderness Study Area status over actual wilderness designation.

We need to reach a conclusion on this issue. Areas that qualify as wilderness should be designated as wilderness, and areas that don't should be released.

This bill would protect millions of acres of Wilderness throughout the country by directing that wilderness studies be completed within ten years. It would force Congress to decide the issue and finally designate wilderness.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support "America's Wilderness Protection Act" and protect America's wilderness.

UNITED BAY CITY CREDIT UNION:
SUNSHINE FOR A RAINY DAY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our nation's history is filled with examples of neighbors, friends, and coworkers coming together to help one another weather the bad times that life has in store for each of us. The members of the United Bay City Credit Union are an outstanding illustration of how bad times can be used to create good times. It was now fifty years ago that the employees of Bay City Chevrolet were ending a 110-day strike. They decided to each pool together a \$5 contribution to help provide a resource for their coworkers who needed help to recover from a tough time, help that may be there in future years for those taking the wise step to invest in their own future by supporting the future of others.

On April 20, 1949, the Chevrolet Employees Federal Credit Union was chartered. The subscribers to the organization certificate were Perely W. Bennett, Harry Vink, Richard E. Jane, Robert W. Kennedy, Chester S. Sosnowski, Harold McDougald, and Joseph M. Douponce. They took the first steps that resulted in George Reif as the first treasurer, and a portfolio that included 88 loans, 209 members, and bank balance of \$410.89 in 1950. That small effort has resulted in a financial institution that today boasts more than 20,000 members, assets in millions of dollars, and more than 100 companies that serve as partners with the Credit Union.

The history of this facility is enlightening. In 1954 an office was set up with a worker who was paid \$31.25 per week to run the office. In 1955, the name was changed to United Bay City Federal Credit Union. In 1959, members with four years of seniority could borrow up to a maximum of \$500. Branch officers were added over the years. Automated teller machines were added until now there are five. A phone access line was installed to make financial transactions even easier. And the same Credit Union that once limited loans to \$500 today offers a Master Money/Check Card. To those who took the risk in 1949, today's services would probably have been considered too phenomenal to have even been thought of as dreams.

But even with these changes brought on by advances in technology, by competition, and by consumer demand, United Bay City Credit Union remains true to its original purpose: to provide a safe haven for hard-earned dollars, to offer responsible credit to make life's needs more manageable and life's opportunities more obtainable, to combine limited resources in a fashion that offer limitless options.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all your colleagues to join me in wishing Charlie Booth,

Linda Meyer, the excellent staff and all of the members of United Bay City Credit Union a most joyous 50th anniversary, with many more successful ones to come.

HONORING LOU MATARAZZO AND
RON DEVITO

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lou Matarazzo, president of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, and Ron Devito, 2nd vice-president of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. They are being honored on April 15, 1999, at the Terrace in the Park in Flushing Meadows, NY, on the occasion of their retirement. Their leadership in the New York City Police Department and as officers of the PBA is truly inspirational to all New Yorkers.

Well known for his devotion to his fellow officers and for being ready, willing and able to help a colleague in need, under any circumstances. Matarazzo has combined a hands-on approach with a thorough knowledge of police and human affairs. He began his career in law enforcement as a rookie patrolman in 1964. In 1969, he was elected a PBA delegate from the 108 Precinct and held that position for 9 years, serving on both the Negotiating and the "Cop of the Month" Committees. In 1977, he was elected the PBA Queens Trustee and soon began serving as chairman of the board of trustees and chairman of the Law Committee. In February 1991, he became the PBA Recording Secretary and in June 1991, he was elected treasurer. He has held his current position as PBA president since 1995.

Matarazzo served as a member of the Police Pension Board, and is an expert in the field of disabilities. He is also a member of many civic and police groups, including the Columbia Association, of which he was a recent "Man of the Year." He has been cited for excellence by the Police Honor Legion, the New York Shields, the Nassau County Shields and the Holy Name Society. Currently, he serves as Chairman of the Public Employees Conference in New York States, which has over one million members.

A resident of Nassau County, Matarazzo has been married to his wife, Fran, for 36 years. Together they have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

A 42-years veteran police officer, Ron Devito has been a PBA delegate since 1972. He joined the force in 1957 and was assigned to the 103rd precinct where he worked in uniform for 20 years, before being elected to the Executive Board of the Policeman's Benevolent Association.

In 1977, he was elected as the Financial Secretary for Queens County, Treasurer, and then 2nd Vice President of the PBA. During his time with the PBA, Devito has served on the Pension Board, the Tellers Committee; was an original member of the Committee on Political Action; was director of the "Cop of the Month" Committee and served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors Executive Board.

Devito has been awarded one exceptional Merit Citation, two Meritorious Police Citations,

four excellent Police Citations and the Nassau Shields "Cop of the Month" Award.

A former sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, Devito is married to the former Patricia Guinan. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring these two outstanding men.

ARGENTINA'S DEMOCRACY FACES
STRUGGLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you my concern towards the struggles that a young democracy in Latin America is facing. I am referring to Argentina and its questioned judicial system, still so tainted by the memories of past dictatorships. I would like to talk to you about a small Buenos Aires based non-governmental organization that has to bear the harassment and persecution of a corrupt judiciary. I hope that after I share with you my concerns you will then be in a better position to discharge our responsibility of expressing some words of caution to our citizens and U.S. based corporations that are considering whether to make investments in Argentina.

On February 1st, President Clinton responded to a missive in a salvo of bipartisan letters from colleagues legislators concerning the Buenos Aires Yoga School case. Clinton began his response by observing: "I share your commitment to the protection and enforcement of human rights in Argentina and around the world." Our U.S. president then went on to note that: "Our embassy in Buenos Aires has been closely monitoring this matter [the BAYS case] for the past several years, and has raised it on several occasions with appropriate officials in the Argentine Ministry of Justice. Like other cases in the Argentine judicial system, this case has taken too long to resolve. While I agree that we cannot intervene in the Argentine judicial process, we will continue to follow the case and urge the Argentine government to resolve it as expeditiously as possible."

The BAYS case has been high on my agenda and that of many of our colleagues for much of the past year where we have expressed our unease over the treatment of this Argentine group. Many of our colleagues, in order to seek justice for BAYS, have sent letters to President Menem calling for his intervention—never receiving an answer, the case has achieved significant leverage among us, U.S. policy makers, as an important component in the hemispheric policy formulations.

Clinton's letter about BAYS's plight pointedly referred to this highly controversial case. One which was initiated over six years before when faculty and students of the Yoga school became a chosen target for Argentina's notoriously flawed judiciary vindictiveness of several relatives from BAYS members. The philosophical and culturally-centered educational institution was accused of "sexual corruption of adults" and has attracted unprecedented prosecutorial and judicial misconduct from Argentine authorities since then. Almost all out-

side observers who have examined the case considered it unfathomable why so much negative energy has been dissipated against such a small group which, in fact, has won considerable renown abroad for its artistic accomplishments and social programs. One compelling explanation is that the case has triggered a bundle of latent and overt ultramontaine, neo-Nazi and deep-seated anti-Semitic strains lying just below the surface of Argentina's historic memory, which may be fundamental to why this largely Jewish organization of 300 members has been subjected to its extraordinarily protracted ordeal. In the playing out of the case, it was also shown that the indignation of the Argentine media—to much of which venality is no stranger—is highly selective and that the press, in this case, has been revealed as a lapdog of the political establishment. It has not shown itself as a forensic lion when it came to confronting the slavishly purchased performance of the country's court system in general, and its outrageous behavior regarding the BAYS saga, where under-the-table subventions must have become the rule in forcing the prolongation of this case.

Over much of the past six years, members of BAYS have been experiencing unrelenting harassment at the hands of Argentine judicial authorities, including totally unjustified and violent illegal searches of their homes and offices, imprisonment of innocent members, the hectoring of their children, and the seizure of their personal property which to this day has not been returned. All this has transpired even though no compelling incriminating evidence has been presented by the prosecution against the Yoga School, the statute of limitations has since expired, and the Argentine Supreme Court has nullified the original charges. Some of the prosecutors and judges engaged in hounding the BAYS systematically have engaged in unprofessional behavior, which at times has included resorting to the use of scurrilous anti-Semitic remarks made in public settings—enough to result in the first judge being impeached by the national legislature. In this case, reputedly, justice has been for sale.

The BAYS affair provides a telling example of the corrosive role that corruption may have played in the form of payoffs to court personnel overseeing such cases as the one involving BAYS, from several wealthy and alienated relatives of BAYS members. Even one of the more controversial judges involved in the case is ready to acknowledge that the alienated relatives have a psychological, if not neurotic need to establish that it was the organization rather than themselves who had generated their family's personal travails. In fact, a close examination of each of these plaintiffs conduct reveals that in a number of these cases, much of the social anomie brought on by intrafamily strife existed even before the founding of the organization. The harassment of the BAYS also provides an insight into the role played by an extremist ideology in Argentina's tainted judicial system, and how little has changed since the era of military rule beginning in the 1970's, when government authorities murdered, with impunity, upwards of 20,000 innocent civilians in the country. Many of the judges now on the bench were appointed to their relatively lucrative positions at that time, with their modus operandi still reflecting the low standing that people of their political persuasion traditionally have accorded

to democratic practices, judicial guarantees and the notion of civil rectitude in public office.

My concern continues to grow as each week brings even more disturbing developments in the case. We are disappointed that Justice Minister Dr. Raul Granillo Ocampo's assurances, made while he was ambassador to the United States, have not been followed up on. Despite the July 1997 rulings of the Court of Cassation confirming the earlier decision of the Supreme Court condemning the actions of the judicial authorities, the lower courts have refused to cease their continuous penal persecution.

The three documents from the Court of Appeals, Chamber VI on March 2, 1999, revoked the dismissals ordered by the lower court and ignored the decision by the Court of Cassation. The Appelante written by Carlos Alberto Elbert, Luis Ameghino Escobar and Carlos Alberto Gonzalez ordered the continuation of an investigation which has long exceeded its statute of limitations. If we add to this the lack of legal controls and malevolent obsession to persecute by the State Attorney's office the opening of a new case with the identical charges which originated the BAYS case in 1993 the denial of the right to a fair trial for the defendants, and the continuance of the processes already declared null, the picture becomes very alarming.

We have shown our concern and wish to help strengthen Argentina's democracy, but we seem to be ignored by the country's authorities. For me this is yet another opportunity to depict a number of disturbing instances where injustice has been done; where the courts have served as a persecutor of the human spirit, rather than its defendant. Let our citizens be aware of this situation, let us take care of our interests—both in the economic and the humanitarian field—and let's hope that this can break the silence that rests over this serious matter of a group of philosophers that have the admirable strength to keep on wishing to live in a democracy, like we do.

IN HONOR OF MADELINE CAIN,
MAYOR, CITY OF LAKEWOOD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements and contributions of Madeline Cain, Mayor of the City of Lakewood, Ohio.

As the first woman mayor of Lakewood, Cain has focused her efforts on developing an effective economic development strategy, controlling costs, preserving high quality and safety services and protecting the residential character of the community. Cain initiated the "Mayor's Night Out" program to bring government and community members together. This program includes a door to door visit by the Mayor and an informal gathering of neighbors and city officials at the home of a host resident. Other achievements include the creation of the Economic Development Fund to encourage private investment in the community, protect and create jobs, and prevent the deterioration of commercial and industrial areas.

Cain also served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, where she au-

thored one of the nation's first anti-stalking laws and sponsored various bills regarding children and the disabled. While in the House of Representatives, Cain also served in leadership of the Ohio House Democratic Caucus as Chair of Policy and Research.

Mayor Cain is also active with a number of organizations, including serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for Lakewood Hospital and the Advisory Board of Malachi House (a home for terminally ill homeless).

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the accomplishments of a dedicated public official, Mayor Madeline A. Cain. Her work is greatly appreciated by her constituents and I wish her continued success.

TRIBUTE TO GINA CASANOVA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to other people, and acquisition of skills. This award is a strong reflection of these youngsters' ability to set goals, to put value into action, to plan, and to relate to the needs of the community.

I wish to recognize Gina Casanova of Troop 439 in Brea, CA.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate and thank Karin Carlson, Director of Program Services for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County for notifying me of their achievements. On behalf of the people of the 41st Congressional District of California, let me say that we are all proud of you.

SETON HALL VOLUNTEERS—
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as National Volunteer Week approaches, it is with great pride that I rise to commend a dedicated group of individuals from my alma mater, Seton Hall University, who are making a real difference in lives every day—on campus, in their local community, and internationally. Known as the Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE), this volunteer service component of Campus Ministry is actively engaged in the promotion of social justice.

DOVE volunteers work to ensure that graduates of Seton Hall, in addition to being well-educated academically, also develop a keen awareness of social problems and a compassionate approach to resolving them.

Putting their faith into action, members of DOVE, which include Seton Hall graduates, undergraduates, staff and faculty, number 2,000 strong and contribute an average of 10,000 hours of service each academic year.

DOVE is involved in a wide range of volunteer activities, including Adopt a Grandparent

Month; American Red Cross Disaster Response Team; Tutoring for English as a Second Language; visits to hospitals, soup kitchens and community food banks; Carnival of Fun and Camp Fatima for the mentally and physically disabled; New Jersey Special Olympics; SHU 500; Day of Community Service; AIDS Walkathon and Softball Tournament; and The Literacy Volunteers of America. DOVE is also involved in a number of mentoring programs to address the needs of at-risk youth; efforts to aid victims of natural disasters; and an international service project for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives join me in sending the members of DOVE our congratulations on their outstanding community service and our very best wishes for continued success in their important mission.

THE TERRORIST ELIMINATION ACT
OF 1999

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Terrorist Elimination Act of 1999 that would end a decades old ban on U.S. government involvement in killing foreign military and terrorist leaders.

The ban has been in place since the late 1970s by Executive Orders, and the legislation I am introducing, would nullify the provisions of several Executive Orders that created the ban.

In several recent cases, the United States has committed extensive force to operations designed to remove a handful of elite political rulers, or military or terrorist leaders. This was our basic military goal in strikes directed at Libya, Iraq, and other sites in the Middle East and North Africa in recent years. It also appears to be the motivation behind American involvement against Slobodan Milosevic's forces in the former Yugoslavia.

It is dishonest, costly and dangerous to use massive military force to remove those leaders who threaten American lives, commit terrorist acts or war crimes, or who destabilize regions of the world. Our federal government should never put the lives of our troops at risk when there is an alternative method of accomplishing the same goals.

Terrorists leaders or war criminals should rarely be directly targeted, and any such steps should only be considered after very careful and comprehensive consideration involving our military, intelligence, and policy leaders. However, when a foreign dictator or terrorist leader threatens the lives of Americans, I believe it is entirely appropriate for us to remove that threat by any means necessary, without arbitrarily limiting our options.

Mr. Speaker I wrote to President Bill Clinton with regard to this issue on August 24, 1998. Below is a copy of the letter I sent to the President:

August 24, 1998.

In re assassination ban.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Ever since the Ford Administration, the Executive branch has

operated under a wide-ranging and ambiguous ban on "assassination." Most recently, the ban was reiterated in Executive Order 12333, which states that, "[n]o person employed or acting on behalf of the United States government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination."

As you know, the debate about what does and does not constitute "assassination" remains unsettled. However, the practical result of this ban is that United States forces are allowed to bomb military targets, hoping to kill terrorist leaders collaterally, but are prevented from designing surgical strikes for that purpose or working with others to do so.

I urge you to consider lifting this ban and designing a new system so that the threat posed by individuals proven to be directly responsible for the deaths of American citizens—such as Osama bin Laden or Saddam Hussein—can be eliminated in cases where it is simply impossible to capture them by ordinary means. I firmly believe such a system should be put into place, and that it should also include strong and effective safeguards against abuse, such as a requirement for limited consultation with Congress.

Taking action against a foreign leader posing a direct threat to our armed forces or civilian citizens is a power you already possess under the Constitution as commander-in-chief. Arbitrarily, and somewhat disingenuously purporting to deny a President such a power by Executive Order reduces credibility and hampers your role as commander-in-chief.

As the threat posed to American citizens by terrorist organizations continues to grow, it is important we use every tool at hand to block those who would destroy our lives and property from doing so. While final removal of terrorist leaders is a draconian measure that should be used only sparingly, there are, unfortunately, cases where it is clearly warranted. I believe we should fashion a mechanism for making such action possible, and would welcome the opportunity to work with you in that endeavor.

With kind regards, I am,
Very truly yours,

BOB BARR,
Member of Congress.

At this time the Administration has not revoked these Executive Orders. So in turn I am introducing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Terrorist Elimination Act of 1999.

A TRIBUTE TO CORKY ROW

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from Mae Greeley of Fall River, Massachusetts, enclosing an article that had been written by James Holland, a former resident of the city. Mr. Holland's article is a warm reminiscence of what life was like in that neighborhood decades ago, and presents an excellent picture of American urban history. I agree with Mrs. Greeley that it is the kind of reminiscence that ought to be shared so that people get an understanding of the positive aspects of our urban history, and I ask that the article be printed here.

First of all, it was a place with a rich ethnic heritage—the first American home of many immigrants from that part of Ireland from which the name Corky Row derives.

I recall at an early age being told proudly by relatives and older neighbors that a certain person who became a priest, or a judge, or a doctor, or other prominent member of the community once lived in this tenement (they were never called apartments) on Branch Street or was born in that house on Third Street. Most of these successful men and women were reared in large families by hard-working parents, living side-by-side with others of the same cultural background without the social problems prevalent today.

Corky Row meant to me St. Mary's Cathedral, the veritable soul of the neighborhood! Most of the boys and girls received their early training in the parish school where the values inculcated in the home were reinforced and codified by the Sisters of Mercy. I recall the streams of men, women and children, who literally poured out of their yards on Sunday mornings to fill the church at the hourly Masses as the bells from the lofty tower sent forth their familiar sounds up and down the street.

It meant going to South Park to aspire for the parish baseball team in the then flourishing and highly competitive Catholic League. The team was then under the dedicated tutelage of the young Reverend Francis McCarthy and was made up of such talented players as Billy Sullivan, Eddie Callahan and Jimmy Padden.

Or it meant practicing basketball with a peach basket nailed to my Uncle Jerry's barn on Fourth Street with fellows like Ted Devitt, because someday you might be asked to play for St. Mary's under the hart twins just as Ray Greeley and Tommy Sullivan were then doing.

It meant spending endless hours on Saturday afternoon playing "peggy ball," truly a Depression game, which required the lusty swing to try to drive it over the north fence of the Davenport School yard.

It also meant belonging to a "gang," being accepted by "the guys" such as Mike Kearns and Jeff O'Brien. This meant being allowed to "hang around" the corner with them, not to molest or harass others, but just to be together to enjoy the banter and the camaraderie which such gatherings provided.

I recall that a certain unwritten code of conduct prevailed among the gang and you were accepted if you complied.

Corky Row meant for me personally a very special place with a peculiarly warm neighborhood feeling. The house where I lived at the southeast corner of Fourth and Branch streets was in a yard with two others—10 tenements in all. The door to each was as open to me as my own—baked beans from Maggie Sullivan every Saturday, homemade rolls from Julia Devitte, rich fudge from Esther Harrington.

I visited one of these tenements daily as a boy because they always had the Boston Post which I would read, spread out on the kitchen floor in front of the Glenwood coal range—the front room was always closed off, of course, in the winter.

And on the first floor of our house at 486 Fourth St. lived my Uncle Jerry and Aunt Be, who were like second parents to me. Jerry was a familiar figure in Corky Row as he drove or rode his spirited horse through this high-density neighborhood.

It meant a place of family stability. Seldom, if ever, did I hear of a divorce or separation in those days. The same families, it seemed, occupied the same tenements forever. Even today as I ride through Fourth and Fifth streets, I can recall the names of the families who lived in certain tenements so many years ago.

These lessons were translated into political action in the form of youthful parades through the streets of the neighborhood in behalf of Jeff O'Brien's father—Representa-

tive James A. O'Brien, Sr., then of Second Street.

Corky Row meant the Davenports Schoolyard, now the Griffin Playground, with its superb softball league and teams from every corner of the neighborhood—Corky Rows, Davenports, Mitchells, Hodnetts, Levin's pets, Trojans, etc. Nightly, young and old would gather in and around the school yard to watch such great players as "Red" McGuinness, George Newberry, Johnny Cabral, Mark Bell and Tom Harrington, to name but a few.

It meant the proximity to South Park and the old Grid League on Sunday afternoons, where the two keenest rivals were the Royals of Mark Sullivan from the corner of Fifth and Branch and the Corky Rows of Joe DePaola from Third and Branch to blocks away.

It meant playing touch football on the cinder-like surface of the Davenport School yard where two complete passes in a row made a first down and where players like Henry Paul and George Bolger made it awfully difficult to complete one. Or, it meant playing the game on Branch Street when there were only two players around, with the curbs forming the sidelines and the Fourth and Fifth Street intersections being the end zones.

It meant playing marbles, "pickers," we called them, with Eddie Myles under the street pickers—most of them formerly mine.

It meant all the kids in the neighborhood sliding down Third Street in the winter when sometimes you could make it from Lyon to Rodman Street if the surface was good and icy. Of course, you had to get out of the way of the "bulltops" steered by one of the big guys seated bravely on the front with an ice skate for a rudder.

I could go on and on with similar recollections of the joys of growing up in Corky Row. I often ask myself what made it such a happy place? The answer has to be—the people.

There was, in a word, a neighborhood spirit evidenced by pride in the achievement of friends and concern for their adversity and sorrow. Remember the wakes and funerals? But they are a story in themselves.

The women standing at the gates talking or going to St. Mary's on "rosary nights" greeted you by your first name. The older men, many of who belonged to the Corky Row Club, were always ready to encourage you in your athletic or scholastic pursuits. It was, in a way, like belonging to a very large family.

When you returned from the show at the Capitol or Plaza Theaters, or from a walk "down street," as we always called Main Street, and when you turned the corner of Fourth and Morgan streets and saw the closely packed houses, and as you hurried to get to the game whatever it might be, then going on in the school yard, there was a feeling of being home and with your own—you were back it Corky Row.

TRIBUTE TO TOM MORELLI

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of Colorado's exceptional volunteer fire fighters, Tom Morelli. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to a man who has shown, time and again, that it pays to give a little back to the community.

Tom Morelli is a resident of Colorado who has made a large impact on his community

through his generous contributions. Aside from being a model citizen, Mr. Morelli contributes his time as a volunteer firefighter in Glenwood Springs. Tom Morelli responded to 447 calls in 1998. In recognition of his many years of dedicated public-service, he has recently been awarded the "1998 Adult Humanitarian Volunteer of the Year Award" in Garfield County. This award given to special volunteers, who give their time and energy to the community.

It is said by those who are privileged to know him, that Tom Morelli is a quiet and modest man who would rather be fighting fires than accepting awards. In my view, this makes him all the more deserving of this award—he has truly earned it.

Individuals such as Tom Morelli, who volunteer their time to a good cause, are a rare breed. Fellow citizens have gained immensely by knowing Tom Morelli, and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude.

DAN QUAYLE: A HOOSIER
CANDIDATE

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, today is a proud day for Northeast Indiana. One of our own, former Vice President Dan Quayle came home to Huntington to announce his campaign for President of the United States.

In Huntington, we are proud of the Dan Quayle Museum, the only museum in the United States devoted to Vice Presidents. In Indiana, we have had many Vice Presidents—in addition to Dan Quayle, Thomas Marshall, Thomas Hendricks, Charles Fairbanks, and Schuyler Colfax are Hoosier Vice Presidents.

While William Henry Harrison, who was a Territorial Governor based in Vincennes before Indiana was a state; and his cousin Benjamin Harrison, who lived in Indianapolis at the time of his election. And there's Abraham Lincoln. We Hoosiers say that Indiana made Lincoln and then Lincoln made Illinois.

But Dan Quayle will be our first really Hoosier President. And I'm proud he's from my district, and I'm honored to hold the same congressional seat he did.

My friend Mike Perkins wrote the following article in the Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette that summarizes our feelings.

[From the Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette, April 11, 1999]

WHY QUAYLE ALWAYS RETURNS
(By Mike Perkins)

A few minutes after noon Wednesday, Dan Quayle will step to the microphone in a packed gymnasium at Huntington North High School and make history by announcing he is a candidate for president of the United States.

It will be a big story on a national basis and a very big story for the small town of Huntington, the place Dan Quayle still considers his hometown.

As it first did in the summer of 1988, the national media spotlight will again fall on the community. It will focus on the place, the people and the attitudes that helped shape Dan Quayle. That's one of the reasons he's coming back here on such an important day in his life.

While we've hardly used to such attention, it can't be quite as bewildering as it was in

August 1988, when Huntington became, for a day or two, the center of the political universe.

When George Bush surprised nearly everyone by naming Dan Quayle his running mate on the Republican ticket, editors, producers and reporters everywhere scrambled to find Huntington on their Indiana maps. There they hoped to find people who could help them unravel the mystery of just who this Quayle fellow was.

What the reporters discovered when they got here was that Dan Quayle was anything but a mystery to the people of Huntington. His family had lived here for years. He'd graduated from high school here, spent a few summers at home during college, then moved back to Huntington with his wife, Marilyn, after law school. He went to work at his family's newspaper—where I am employed—and he and Marilyn even hung out a Quayle & Quayle law shingle on the second floor of the newspaper building. They bought a house, settled in and began a family. They made friends they're still on a first-name basis with. Small-town life agreed with them.

As did big-time politics.

The Quayles moved from Huntington not long after Dan Quayle took his oath as a member of the House of Representatives in 1977. The Quayles have not spent more than a few days at a time in Huntington since then. Dan Quayle last voted at his Huntington Precinct 1A polling place in 1992. He has returned a few times since for ceremonies and fund-raisers.

It is significant that Dan Quayle, who lives in Phoenix after calling Indianapolis home, chooses to return to Huntington for Wednesday's announcement. There's no strategic reason to do so. He does not need to work against a rural Midwest backdrop; he'll be spending much of the coming year in towns smaller than Huntington as he stumps through Iowa. He does not need to curry votes; Huntington County and all of Indiana have been kind to him that way over the years, and the Republican nomination should be decided by the time the Indiana primary rolls around in May 2000.

Dan Quayle is coming back to Huntington because his successful journeys always seem to start from here. In 1976, as a political unknown, he launched his first campaign for Congress from the Huntington College student union. He returned there in 1980 to announce his ambitions for the Senate. He and George Bush began their quest for the White House in 1988 from the south steps of the Huntington County Courthouse.

Dan Quayle was not supposed to have a prayer against the popular J. Edward Roush in 1976. But he won. Birch Bayh was thought to be all but unbeatable when the 1980 campaign began. Quayle beat him. George Bush had to overcome Michael Dukakis' early lead while Dan Quayle stood up under a withering media barrage in the fateful first weeks of the 1988 campaign. And they won.

Quayle is not the early favorite for the Republican nomination in 2000. Sound familiar?

Dan Quayle knows he can expect a warm reception from the people in his hometown. Community pride in having sent a congressman, senator, then vice president into the political arena transcends party affiliation for most people in Huntington County. Even those who disagree with Dan Quayle's politics can admire the man behind the issues and the way he reflects their values and their beliefs.

In large part Wednesday's rally will be a local production. Hundreds of volunteers have been mobilized. Work has been under way for weeks. The person at the eye of the organizational hurricane is Marj Hiner, co-owner of a Huntington trucking company.

She has been a volunteer for Dan Quayle since his earliest House campaigns and she passed her trial by fire when she helped put together the 1988 Bush-Quayle rally on three days' notice.

Quayle knows Hiner and the Huntington County people she has enlisted to help. He trusts them to play a pivotal role in a watershed event in his political career. Quayle's friendships, as well as his roots, run deep here.

It's impossible to know where Dan Quayle's personal journey will take him in the months and year to come.

In political terms he's still a young man, likely to be a force in the Republican Party for many years to come. His path might not often lead him back to Huntington, but when he does return he'll be welcomed with kind words and understanding hearts.

You shouldn't expect anything less when you come home.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES
GUELFF BODY ARMOR ACT OF
1999 AND THE BODY ARMOR RE-
STRICTION ACT OF 1999

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce two bills to take body armor out of the hands of criminals and give law enforcement greater access to body armor.

My first bill is entitled the James Gueff Body Armor Act of 1999, and is named for San Francisco Police Officer James Gueff, who was killed in 1994 by a gunman wearing a bulletproof vest and a Kevlar helmet. More than one hundred officers of the San Francisco Police Department were called to the residential area where the gunman fired in excess of 200 rounds of ammunition. Several officers actually ran out of ammunition in their attempt to stop the heavily-protected gunman.

This bill criminalizes the use of body armor in conjunction with another crime, prohibits the purchase or possession of body armor by violent felons, and enables Federal agencies to donate surplus body armor to local law enforcement officers. This bill will begin to address the imbalance between the numbers of criminals who possess body armor and law enforcement officers, who do not possess body armor. Today, nearly 25% of all local law enforcement officers are not issued body armor. The FBI, DEA, ATF, INS, and U.S. Marshals are just a few of the federal agencies that have surplus body armor and would be able to donate it to local jurisdictions.

My second bill, titled the Body Armor Restriction Act of 1999, prohibits the mail order sale of body armor. I introduced this bill in the 104th and 105th Congresses and hope we can pass it this year to keep body armor out of the hands of criminals. I have heard from law enforcement officers all across America about the increasing occurrences of drug dealers and other suspects possessing body armor. Criminal elements are being transformed into unstoppable "terminators" with virtually no fear of police and other crime fighters. These heavily-protected criminals are capable of unleashing total devastation on civilians and police officers alike, and the increasing availability of body armor in the wrong

hands forecasts a future of greater danger to America, greater danger to the American people and growing threats to our institutions.

As a former law enforcement officer, I know all too well the challenges confronting those who serve to protect public safety and fight crime. We have all seen vivid television footage of "shoot outs" between criminals and law enforcement. For example, just two years ago, a botched bank robbery in California was captured and displayed on national television. This gun battle highlighted how body armor gives criminals an unfair advantage during gun fights with police. Eleven police officers and six civilians were injured in that 20 minute gunfight with the Los Angeles Police Department. Thousands of rounds were fired by the two criminals, both of whom were wearing full protective body armor. Witnesses from the crime scene reported that the bullets fired from the police officers 9mm guns "bounced off" the bank robbers, and mushroomed as they fell to the ground.

I urge my colleagues to support and co-sponsor both the James Guelff Body Armor Act of 1999 and the Body Armor Restriction Act of 1999. They both take another step toward making our streets safer for America and for our law enforcement community. Let's quickly pass these bills and prevent these kinds of gunfights from happening in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LIZETTE BROWN

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to other people, and acquisition of skills. This award is a strong reflection of these youngsters' ability to set goals, to put value into action, to plan, and to relate to the needs of the community.

I wish to recognize Lizette Brown of Troop 286 in Placentia, CA.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate and thank Karin Carlson, Director of Program Services for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County for notifying me of their achievements. On behalf of the people of the 41st Congressional District of California, let me say that we are all proud of you.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY AND RITA JALETTE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, Henry and Rita Jalette will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 11, 1999. They were married in Woonsocket, Rhode Island at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Jalette are long-time residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. Mr. Jalette

worked as an Administrative Law Judge with the National Labor Relations Board until his retirement in 1982. They are both active in their church and community, with Mr. Jalette serving on the board of Mother of God Community in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Mrs. Jalette has always been, and still is a full-time mother for all of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Henry and Rita have six caring children: Joan Pritchard, Claire Dant, Michael Jalette, Henry Jalette, Joyce Shotts and Connie Kirby. They also have 14 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

I wish to extend my sincerest congratulations to Henry and Rita and to read a message from their children: "We are extremely proud of this milestone in our parent's lives. We want to take this time to honor them and thank them for being role models of real love and for always being there for us. Thanks Mom and Dad!"

TRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA STUDENTS FOR OPERATION DAY'S WORK

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an important program called Operation Day's Work and to the hard work of members of a ninth grade class at St. Louis Park High School in Minnesota who are implementing this excellent program in our country to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Operation Day's Work is a youth-operated fund-raising program started in Norway 35 years ago. Last year alone, the hard work of student in Norway generated \$3,000,000 in grants for those in need.

I'm pleased that this fantastic program has moved across the ocean to the U.S. to eight enlightened high schools, including St. Louis Park High School in Minnesota.

These motivated ninth graders have committed the time and energy to start and organize this program. They have decided to volunteer a full day to work at area businesses, doing odd jobs and other work. In exchange, their employers will donate the wages earned by these students to an important livestock training and responsibility plan for Haitian youths. The Haitian families will receive dairy products and eventually return one offspring of the goat to the program, which will then be awarded to another youth.

Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate to meet with four students who are working on the program during the recent district work period. Their motivation, commitment and generosity of spirit were truly impressive.

Charles Warthington, Zvi Geffen, Ashley Ericson, Elizabeth Stapleton and their classmates deserve to be honored here on the House floor for their vigorous efforts on behalf of those who are less fortunate through Operation Day's Work.

I also want to pay tribute to Kristin King Stapleton, a good friend of mine who's also a newspaper columnist and highly respected advocate for people in need, for her role as parent advisor.

I hope all Americans will support the important efforts of Operation Day's Work.

AN APPROPRIATE CLARIFICATION

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, in December, a group of Microsoft's competitors and their consultants convened a briefing for congressional staff here on Capitol Hill. I was alarmed to learn recently that they used the occasion to allege that Microsoft's software posed a national security risk, and I want to take this opportunity to set the record straight. At this time when the Justice Department is pursuing Microsoft in federal court over alleged anti-trust violations, there has been a lot of misinformation promulgated by the company's competitors, and I believe it is appropriate to provide a clarification.

In this instance, reference was made to an incident on the Navy's Aegis cruiser, U.S.S. *Yorktown*, in which the vessel's computers crashed, leaving the ship dead in the water. The allegation was made during this congressional briefing that the computers' operating system, Microsoft Windows NT, was the cause of the outage.

This allegation was false, and the Navy had conceded publicly at least one month before this briefing that human error, not Windows NT, caused the failure.

Mr. Speaker, while I am concerned that this incident happened at all, I commend the Navy for quickly pinpointing the problem, accepting responsibility, and taking action to prevent a recurrence. What concerns me more at this point are the specious, deceptive and irresponsible accusations which Microsoft's competitors are clearly willing to make to congressional staff and the public.

Lately, Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress have seen media reports about accusations against Microsoft and proposals to break up the company or force it to relinquish its intellectual property. Much of this attention has been generated or fueled by this same group of the company's competitors. At this point I would like to urge my colleagues and their staffs to be careful, to listen to such discussions with a skeptical ear, and to seek out both sides when such allegations are made.

And for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert a copy of an article from the trade publication, Government Computer News, published November 9, 1998—more than a month before the congressional staff briefing was held. The story details the Navy's investigation and the full story behind the human error that caused the U.S.S. *Yorktown's* computer problem.

NAVY: CALIBRATION FLAW CRASHED
YORKTOWN LAN

(By Gregory Slabodkin, GCN Staff)

Pascagoula, Miss.—Human error, not Microsoft Windows NT, was the cause of a LAN failure aboard the Aegis cruiser USS *Yorktown* that left the Smart Ship dead in the water for nearly three hours last fall during maneuvers near Cape Charles, Va., Navy officials said.

The *Yorktown* last September suffered an engineering LAN casualty when a petty officer calibrating a fuel valve entered a zero into a shipboard database, officials said. The resulting database overload caused the ship's LAN, including 27 dual 200-MHz Pentium Pro miniature remote terminal units, to crash, they said.

The petty officer, who has since left the Navy, fed the bad data into the Remote Data Base Manager, a Standard Monitoring Control System application. SMCS, developed by Canadian Aviation Electronics Inc. of Toronto, allows sailors to monitor the ship's engineering and propulsion plant for potential casualties.

The system provides troubleshooting data and normally indicates whether a valve is open or closed without requiring calibration. But something went wrong.

"There was a problem in that this one valve was closed, but SMCS wasn't indicating it as such," said Cmdr. Eric Sweigard, the Yorktown's commanding officer. "So this petty officer started playing with the data.

"This was the only time it occurred, and since then there have been some changes made to prevent it from happening again," he said.

SMCS managers are now aware of the problem of entering zero into database fields and are trained to bypass a bad data field and change the value if such a problem were to occur again, Sweigard said.

"Now that we know what can happen, we've realized how to bring the system back

quickly," Petty Officer 1st Class Phillip Cramer said. "All we have to do is change the zero to any number, and everything comes right back up."

The Yorktown was not towed into port as a result of this incident, Sweigard said. The ship restored the LAN in about two hours as it made its way to the Naval base at Norfolk, VA., under its own power, he said.

"It's not something that we desire, but ships do go dead in the water," Sweigard said. "People sometimes make mistakes and systems break. The trick is we have trained our crew to react to those situations."

The Office of the Navy's Chief Information Officer is conducting a detailed inquiry of the Yorktown incident, Navy officials said. A report from the Navy CIO is expected later this month, officials said.

POINT OF NO RETURN

Regardless of who or what was at fault for the Yorktown LAN failure, the stakes for the Navy are high. The service plans to install Smart Ship technology on all its cruisers.

The Navy selected NT 4.0 as the standard operating system aboard the Yorktown for its reliability, functionality, low cost and

ease of integration, said Lt. Danny Bethel, Yorktown's electronics material officer. NT runs the Yorktown's integrated bridge, engineering, condition assessment and damage control systems.

The Yorktown uses dual 200-MHz Pentium Pro systems from Intergraph Corp. of Huntsville, Ala., to run NT over a fiber-optic, asynchronous transfer mode LAN. Shipboard users can access computers from 15 locations so that the Yorktown can be driven from virtually anywhere on the ship.

The Navy has reduced the Yorktown's crew from about 350 sailors to 307 personnel by adopting new policies and procedures, as well as through the use of commercial products, Sweigard said.

The Navy's Western Hemisphere Group will begin installing Smart Ship technologies aboard the USS Ticonderoga and USS Thomas S. Gates early next year, said Lt. Danny Hernandez, public affairs officer for the group in Mayport, Fla.

Smart Ship was the brainchild of Adm. Jeremy Boorda, the late chief of Naval operations who wanted to save money by reducing personnel aboard Navy ships while maintaining safety.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 20

9:30 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings on S. 25, to provide Coastal Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; S. 446, to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond; and S. 532, to provide increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Programs, to resume the funding of the State grants program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide for the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation facilities and programs in urban areas. SD-366

Indian Affairs
 To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. SR-485

Environment and Public Works
 To hold hearings on the nomination of George T. Frampton, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality. SD-406

Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine the current and growing missile threats to the United States. SD-562

10 a.m.
 Judiciary
 To hold hearings on S.J. Res. 14, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. SD-226

10:30 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings on the nominations of Eric T. Washington, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; Stephen H. Glickman, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; and Hiram E. Puig-Lugo, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. SD-342

2 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Youth Violence Subcommittee
 Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee
 To hold joint hearings on domestic preparedness in the next generation. SD-226

Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine NATO's 50th anniversary summit. SD-562

2:30 p.m.
 Armed Services
 Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the science and technology program and the Future Years Defense Program. SR-222

APRIL 21

9:30 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings on S. 401, to provide for business development and trade promotion for native Americans, and for other purposes. SR-485

Energy and Natural Resources
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings on issues relating to telecommunications and internet access. SR-253

Armed Services
 Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on the readiness of the United States Navy and Marines operating forces. SR-222

10 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings on S. 746, to provide for analysis of major rules, to promote the public's right to know the costs and benefits of major rules, and to increase the accountability of quality of Government. SD-342

Foreign Relations
 Business meeting to markup proposed legislation for fiscal year 2000-2001 for foreign assistance programs. SD-562

1 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights Subcommittee
 Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 14, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. SD-226

2 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
 To hold oversight hearings to review the Memorandum of Understanding signed by multiple agencies regarding the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration. SH-216

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
 To hold hearings on the threat of corruption to United States Law Enforcement along the Southwest border. SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2000 for Technology Administration, Department of Commerce. SR-253

APRIL 22

9:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings to examine boxing industry regulations. SR-253

10 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings on S. 59, to provide Government-wide accounting of regulatory costs and benefits, and other regulatory reform legislation. SD-342

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 International Trade and Finance Subcommittee
 Economic Policy Subcommittee
 To hold joint hearings on issues relating to the official dollarization in emerging-market countries. SD-538

2 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on S. 441, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the War of 1812 British invasion of Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia, and the route of the American defense, for study for potential addition to the national trails system; S. 548, to establish the Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historical Site in the State of Ohio; S. 581, to protect the Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields in Pennsylvania, to authorize a Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historical Park; and S. 700, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Ala Kahakai Trail as a National Historic Trail. SD-366

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| <p>APRIL 27</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources To resume hearings on S. 25, to provide Coastal Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; S. 446, to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond; and S. 532, to provide increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Programs, to resume the funding of the State grants program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide for the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation facilities and programs in urban areas. SD-366</p> | <p>APRIL 29</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Appropriations Interior Subcommittee Energy and Natural Resources National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee To hold joint oversight hearings to review the report of the Government Accounting Office on the Everglades National Park Restoration Project. SD-366</p> <p>Environment and Public Works Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee To hold hearings on project delivery and streamlining of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. SD-406</p> | <p>Indian Affairs To hold oversight hearings on Census 2000, implementation in Indian Country. SR-485</p> |
| <p>APRIL 28</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold oversight hearings on Bureau of Indian Affairs capacity and mission. SR-485</p> <p>2 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee To hold hearings on S. 415, to protect the permanent trust funds of the State of Arizona from erosion due to inflation and modify the basis on which distributions are made from those funds; and S. 607, reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992. SD-366</p> | <p>MAY 4</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources To resume hearings on S. 25, to provide Coastal Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; S. 446, to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond; and S. 532, to provide increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Programs, to resume the funding of the State grants program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide for the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation facilities and programs in urban areas. SD-366</p> | <p>MAY 5</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold oversight hearings on Tribal Priority Allocations and Contract Support Costs Report. SR-485</p> <p>MAY 6</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine the results of the December 1998 plebiscite on Puerto Rico. SH-216</p> <p>MAY 12</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold oversight hearings on HUB zones implementation. SR-485</p> <p>MAY 19</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold hearings on S. 614, to provide for regulatory reform in order to encourage investment, business, and economic development with respect to activities conducted on Indian lands. SR-485</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 28</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Veterans' Affairs To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion. 345 Cannon Building</p> |