

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING IRENE FERREIRA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Irene Ferreira, the current State President of the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California. The Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California is comprised of fourteen nonprofit Portuguese-American civic clubs whose principles are Americanization, Civic Affairs and Scholarship.

Irene was born in Merced and raised in Fresno, California. As a child, Irene was fortunate enough to learn the Portuguese language and the Portuguese culture.

Irene was an active member of the Fresno County Cabrillo Civic Club No. 10 for several years. In 1989 and 1990 she served as the Fresno County Cabrillo Civic Club No. 10 President. She has also served as the District Governor of District No. 6 for the organization. At the local level, she has served as Chairperson for many various functions. She also served as the State Civic Affairs Chairperson for seven years.

Irene has been married to her husband, Frank, for 36 years. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irene Ferreira for her leadership roles in the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Irene Ferreira many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE FRANK H. RIDDICK OF MADISON COUNTY, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served Madison County for many years, Probate Judge Frank Riddick. I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of Judge Riddick to our community and to the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit of Alabama.

Judge Riddick has made the Huntsville-Madison County Courthouse a better place with his service to the families and the mentally ill across the county. He has preserved important legal records for our county. His commitment to justice and efficiency is unparalleled.

For his hard work, vision and dedication to the people of Madison County, I feel this is an apt honor. Over his long career both in the courthouse and in the Alabama legislature, he has become a role model for his work ethic. Now as he retires, I wish to thank Judge Riddick for his extraordinary service to his community and this nation.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I pay tribute to Judge Riddick and thank him for a job

well done. I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating him on his retirement. I wish him a well-deserved rest.

IN HONOR OF WATSON RICE LLP
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
FIRM'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 30th anniversary of Watson Rice LLP, an accounting and consulting firm in the heart of my district that exemplifies the benefits of affirmative action. Today, Watson Rice is one of the nation's largest and oldest firms owned and managed by diverse partners, with 125 professionals operating in four states and the District of Columbia.

Few would have predicted that back in 1971, in downtown Cleveland, two fledgling accountants operating in one room, at a shared desk sitting face to face, with a single adding machine and one telephone line, would develop a firm that now earns annual billings approaching \$9 million.

Tom Watson and Bob Rice, however, share this American success story. Garnering their first fees from a dry cleaning establishment, a grocery store, and a funeral home, they now operate a formidable enterprise well known today as Watson Rice LLP.

The African-American founders of Watson Rice LLP found opportunity in the pro-active policies of President Carter's administration that welcomed the services of qualified firms staffed with multicultural professionals. Mr. Watson and Mr. Rice first and foremost reached out to the regional offices of established accounting firms to learn from experienced senior professionals. Mr. Rice recalls that period for the exceptionally generous mentors at Big 8 firms like Deloitte Haskins.

Watson Rice's first sizable contract, from the U.S. Department of Labor, enabled the firm to move to their own offices in downtown Cleveland and to start adding staff. Business from the U.S. Department of Commerce and from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency followed, and then from several other Washington agencies.

In 1976, Tom Watson met Ron Thompkins, a Florida-based professional partner in a firm which developed a considerable practice specializing in health care services. This firm later was merged into Watson Rice to mutually strengthen operations in government, nonprofit and joint venture practices. The Miami branch since has doubled its number of staff professionals.

The late 1970s also were a time when Tom Watson first met Bennie Hadnott, a specialist in quality control and training for government audits. That meeting led to another merger, with Hadnott fully blending into Watson Rice—ultimately to become its Managing Partner

based in New York. The firm's government practice grew rapidly, generating \$1 million in fees during the first two years of the new affiliation. Contracts with the Departments of Labor and Energy provided substantial revenue, especially from reviews of oil company pricing practices during the Mideast embargo of petroleum.

The growing New York practice generated an impressive and diverse client roster, including the New York City Health & Hospital Services, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the NYC Department of Aging, and eight McDonald's franchises. Hadnott also served on the Mayor's Financial Committee during the Dinkins Administration of New York City.

In 1982, Watson Rice contracted with the Resolution Trust Corporation to help close Carteret Savings, one of New Jersey's largest banks. The firm opened offices in Rutherford, NJ, at first for the 60 members of its staff assigned to the program, and later to represent prestigious regional operations, such as the Newark Public Schools, the Urban League, and statewide long term care facilities. Bennie Hadnott, while still active in the firm, recently passed its leadership to a new and dynamic managing partner, Raymond P. Jones. The emphasis at the firm continues to be training and excellence, with Watson Rice at the cutting edge of establishing a paperless accounting practice, a leader in its industry. Mr. Speaker, I salute Watson Rice LLP and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing this firm's 30th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
ENTITLED, "REPEALING TAXES
ON FAMILY VALUES ACT OF
2001"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by Representatives PHIL CRANE, PORTER GOSS, LEE TERRY, and Majority Leader DICK ARMEY in the introduction of legislation that will repeal certain hidden taxes imposed on our American families and values.

In the past two reports to Congress, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate has urged us to eliminate hidden taxes in the Internal Revenue Code. The National Taxpayer Advocate, unlike any top official at the IRS or Treasury, reports his findings and recommendations directly to Congress without review or revision within the agency or department. In one of our greatest legislative achievements, the "IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998," Congress strengthened the National Taxpayer Advocate's independence from the IRS in order to help address taxpayers' concerns.

The National Taxpayer Advocate can now recommend legislative changes to the tax

• 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.

code in cases where current law creates inequitable treatment or where change will alleviate barriers to compliance. For the third year in a row, tax code complexity tops the list of taxpayer concerns. Accordingly, the National Taxpayer Advocate has singled out two hidden taxes in the Internal Revenue Code that should be repealed.

The first of these hidden taxes is the phaseout of itemized deductions and personal exemptions. With regard to this hidden tax on our American families and values, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate has stated in the past that "[n]o other tax issues are taken so personally. As a result, the phaseouts of itemized deductions and the personal exemptions are often seen by taxpayers as being especially unfair, creating a certain amount of resentment and cynicism. "[A]llowing all taxpayers to retain these deductions and exemptions would go a long way toward reducing burden, increasing fairness, and restoring faith in the tax system."

The second of these hidden taxes is the "Alternative Minimum Tax" or AMT. With regard to this hidden tax on our American families and values, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate has described the AMT as "unnecessarily complex and burdensome," effectively operating "as a separate or 'parallel' tax system with many rules that differ from the regular tax system." In this year's report to Congress, the National Taxpayer Advocate describes the AMT as our nation's ticking tax time bomb—"Just three years ago, only 600,000 taxpayers were affected by the Alternative Minimum Tax. Over 17 million taxpayers will be subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax by the year 2010. Taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$100,000 will owe 60% of the nation's Alternative Minimum tax by the year 2010."

Many taxpayers are required to make several computations just to see if they must figure out their tax under the AMT. Additionally, AMT presents significant compliance and administrative problems for the IRS. Finally, many taxpayers are subject to the AMT "without being aware of its existence. Often, the way that many individuals first hear of the Alternative Minimum Tax is when they receive a notice from the IRS. *Outright elimination of the Alternative Minimum Tax would do a great deal for simplification and burden reduction of the tax system* (emphasis added)."

I strongly support the work and conclusions of the National Taxpayer Advocate. This legislation will repeal both of these hidden taxes on American families and values.

Additionally, this legislation will go one step further and repeal another hidden tax—the phaseout of the Child Tax Credit. In 1997, this Congress enacted legislation to return \$500 in tax credits for every child under the age of 17. Unfortunately, budget constraints and opponents of this pro-family idea forced us to phaseout the Child Tax Credit in a complicated and unfair manner. We should not penalize any family who chooses to have children. All children should be treated equally as they are in the eyes of their Maker. Consequently, this legislation will also repeal this arbitrary hidden tax on American families.

I urge my colleagues to join me in repealing these hidden taxes and restore freedom to American families.

TRIBUTE TO MILTON W. HINTON, A
GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Milton W. Hinton, a community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnati by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce on February 9, 2001. He was selected for his outstanding community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

Milton was born and raised in Glassboro, New Jersey, and he has spent the last thirty years in Cincinnati. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Glassboro State College, and, in 1969, he received his doctorate in education from Columbia University.

Throughout his life, Milton has been deeply committed to education and to efforts promoting civil rights and improved race relations. He began his teaching career in the Philadelphia and Glassboro public school systems. He then went on to become Head of the Department of Special Education at Virginia State University. He moved to our area in 1970 after the University of Cincinnati offered him a teaching position. At the University, he has served as a Professor, Department head and Vice Provost.

Milton also has had a strong presence at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). While in New Jersey he served for five years as President of the Glassboro branch of the NAACP and for an additional eight years as President of the Gloucester County branch. At the Cincinnati chapter of the NAACP, he served as President from 1994 until his recent retirement this past December. Because of his leadership and hard work, the chapter has seen its membership grow from 700 to approximately 3,500, and, with it, the effectiveness of the chapter also has tremendously increased. One of his most noteworthy accomplishments at the chapter is the development of a Citizens Review Panel for the Cincinnati Police Division.

He and his wife, Betti, continue to live in Cincinnati. They have one son, one daughter and two grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Milton on being named a Great Living Cincinnati, and we look forward to his continued leadership in our area.

GUAM FOREIGN INVESTMENT EQUITY ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to reintroduce the Guam Foreign Investment Equity Act, which passed the House of Representatives during the 106th Congress. While an agreement was reached with the Treasury Department on the provisions of the bill, the Senate was unable to act on this important legislation before sine die adjournment.

At the outset, I would like to say that this legislation is direly needed, given Guam's struggling economy and 15 percent unemployment rate. Unlike the rest of the nation, which has experienced unprecedented economic growth and low unemployment rates the last few years, Guam's economy and tourism industry continues to recover from the Asian financial crisis, given our island's close proximity to Asia. Guam is only three flying hours from Japan.

My legislation provides the Government of Guam with the authority to tax foreign investors at the same rates as states under U.S. tax treaties with foreign countries since Guam cannot change the withholding tax rate on its own under current law. Since the U.S. cannot unilaterally amend treaties to include Guam in its definition of United States, the legislation amends Guam's Organic Act, which has an entire tax section that mirrors the U.S. tax code. The legislation does not cost the federal government any money. It simply allows the Government of Guam to lower its withholding rate for foreign investors. While the Congressional Budget Office last year estimated that the bill will result in the loss of revenue for the Government of Guam in the short term, those losses are expected to be offset by the generation of increased tax revenues through increased foreign investments in the long term. Seventy-five percent of Guam's commercial development is funded by foreign investors.

Currently, under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, there is a 30 percent withholding tax rate for foreign investors in the United States. Since Guam's tax law "mirrors" the rate established under the U.S. Code, the standard rate for foreign investors in Guam is 30 percent. Under U.S. tax treaties, it is a common feature for countries to negotiate lower withholding rates on investment returns. Unfortunately, while there are different definitions for the term "United States" under these treaties, Guam is not included. As an example, with Japan, the U.S. rate for foreign investors is 10 percent. That means while Japanese investors are taxed at a 10 percent withholding tax rate on their investments in the fifty states, those same investors are taxed at a 30 percent withholding rate on Guam.

While the long term solution is for U.S. negotiators to include Guam in the definition of the term "United States" for all future tax treaties, the immediate solution is to amend the Organic Act of Guam and authorize the Government of Guam to tax foreign investors at the same rates as the fifty states.

Other territories under U.S. jurisdiction have already remedied this problem through delinkage, their unique covenant agreements with the federal government, or through federal statute. Guam, therefore, is the only state or territory in the United States which is unable to take advantage of this tax benefit.

The bill I am introducing today incorporates changes recommended by the Treasury Department to ensure that a foreign investor who benefits from this new tax benefit cannot simultaneously benefit from tax rebates under Guam territorial law. My legislation is supported by the Governor of Guam, the Guam Legislature, and the Guam business community. During the 106th Congress, I also worked closely with the House Resources Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the

Interior Department, the Treasury Department, and the White House National Economic Council. I am hopeful that all of the progress that was undertaken on this issue last year will continue, and that the Congress and the Bush Administration will move quickly on this legislation this Congress.

**ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN: "MATTHEW'S LAW"**

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "Matthew's Law."

Aimee Willard, Polly Klaas, Megan Kanka, and Matthew Cecchi, have one thing in common. They were children struck down by killers. Mr. Speaker, I believe that every Member in the House is tired of having to name bills after murdered children. We must work to prevent the killing by severely punishing those who take young lives.

In November 1998, 9-year-old Matthew Cecchi was brutally murdered in Oceanside, CA. Matthew was not a troubled runaway. He was not a child that was allowed to wander far from his parents. He was not abducted or stolen. He simply walked into a public restroom alone. While his aunt waited outside, he was brutally murdered. His killer Brandon Wilson carefully stalked and hunted down this young and helpless child. This crime shocked our community and struck fear in the hearts of parents. Even today, communities in my district are building co-ed bathrooms for parents to use with children to ensure that this does not happen again. Nevertheless, parents should not fear taking their children to the park. They should not fear letting their children go to the bathroom. Our parks and public lands should be free from crime, free from fear and free from terror.

That is why I am reintroducing "Matthew's Law," to ensure that those who seek to harm the helpless are met with severe punishment, and to prevent crime by increasing the certainty of justice.

"Matthew's Law," will increase sentencing requirements for those individuals who commit federal violent crimes against children under 13 years of age. It directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to increase by five levels the punishment for a crime of violence against a child. In most cases, this will result in a doubling of the punishment, and in the most violent cases increase the chance for life in prison or the death penalty.

I believe that this additional punishment is important to deter violence against our children.

"Matthew's Law" also directs the FBI to make available, when possible, assistance if requested by local law enforcement when a child is killed. In the case of Matthew Cecchi, it was not until his killer made another attack that he was captured. When a killer takes one of our children, we must mobilize our resources to stop that killer before he strikes again.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation tells killers and violent felons that our parks and public lands are for families and children, not for murderers.

This legislation is about national leadership. It shows the States and local communities that the Federal Government will not tolerate violence against our children. And hopefully, they will follow our lead on this issue.

This legislation is supported by the National Office of the Fraternal Order of Police, the Law Enforcement Association of America, and the family of Matthew Cecchi who never wants another family to face the tragedy they have seen.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation and a similar measure both passed with more than 400 votes on the House floor. On June 16, 1999, it passed as an amendment to juvenile justice, and similar bill passed on May 7, 1996. This is sound legislation that will protect our children, and this Congress should pass it right away.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting "Matthew's Law."

DEATH OF JERRY LEE YEAGLEY

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today, I am deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of Jerry Lee Yeagley.

Jerry Lee Yeagley was born on May 30, 1943 to Arthur J. and LaRue Mellott Yeagley. He married Rebecca Jones and together they had two sons, Trent and Corey.

Jerry Lee Yeagley was deeply involved in civic affairs. He served as Green Township, Ohio trustee and was in charge of record keeping for Green Township Cemetery. A dedicated individual, he had perfect attendance at Greenford Ruritan Club meetings for 29 years, where he served as director. He was employed at Salem Fruit Growers in Greenford, Ohio and was a former member of the Green Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Jerry Lee Yeagley will be sorely missed in the Greenford community. He was a fine man, thoroughly dedicated to his family and his community. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

HONORING MIRIAM COSTELLO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Miriam Costello for receiving the honor of Businesswoman of the Year 2000 by the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce.

Miriam was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her family moved to California and in 1945 she graduated from Oakland High School. She spent her first summer in California working in the Yosemite Lodge Cafeteria during World War II. In the fall of 1945, she enrolled at U.C. Berkeley and married her high school sweetheart, Kevin Costello, soon thereafter. Miriam then decided to dedicate her time, love, and energy to raising the wonderful family she boasts today.

After her children matured, Miriam returned to college and became an interior designer, earning her degree at U.C.L.A. and the New York School of Interior Design. She then joined the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

Miriam's first shop, one of eleven, was in Montrose, CA. After Montrose, shops were established in La Canada, Solana Beach, San Diego, Encinitas, and Mariposa.

When her husband retired from his teaching career in 1991, she opened "Jailhouse Square" and made her permanent home in Mariposa. Three years ago Miriam opened "Miriam & Co." She was joined in this venture by Trish Nady of "Artistic Creations" and Sue Dole of "Frankie Sues Antiques and Stuff." Miriam recently opened the "Patent Leather Tea/Coffee Room," also in Mariposa.

Miriam is now a proud grandmother of eleven.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Miriam Costello for being named Businesswoman of the Year 2000. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Miriam Costello many more years of continued success.

**TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C.
DERAMUS OF PRATTVILLE, AL**

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has set the standard for public service serving as a role model for Alabama and the greater housing community. Charles C. DeRamus has been responsible for housing almost 25,000 low and moderate income Alabamians helping them to achieve the American Dream. As he retires from his almost 40 year career with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Charles leaves a legacy of good works and responsible governing.

Charles began his career with USDA when it was known as the Farmers Home Administration. He has been directly involved in the supervision of the Administration in several Alabama counties including Etowah, Choctaw, Randolph, and Dallas. He knows Alabama well and has become an expert in rural housing serving as the Rural Housing Chief for the state office from 1983 to 1994. Most recently, he has served as the Single Family Housing Program Director for Alabama overseeing thousands of loans and grants.

Charles' hard work has made a real difference for families trying to get on their feet and become self-sufficient. I wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his exemplary role as a leader in our community. As he retires though, I do want to warn the wildlife of Alabama that DeRamus is a free man, since I know he will spend a great deal of time enjoying hunting and fishing.

I join USDA in commending him for making Alabama a better place to live and raise a family. I share their pride in and gratitude for the accomplishments of Charles C. DeRamus. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I thank him for a job well done and wish him a well-deserved rest.

IN HONOR OF M. BARRY SCHNEIDER, FOR HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD EIGHT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to M. Barry Schneider, who recently completed his two-year term as Chairman of Manhattan Community Board Eight, which serves the Upper East Side, Lenox Hill, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island neighborhoods of Manhattan.

Mr. Schneider has dedicated his effective leadership to serving his community for the last ten years, both as a cofounder of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association, Inc., a community group directed toward improving the quality of life for neighborhood residents, and as a member of Community Board Eight, to which he was appointed by the Manhattan Borough President in 1991.

Within my district in New York City, Community Boards serve a tremendously beneficial advisory role in ensuring that the opinions of members of the community are recognized by the city government when reviewing prospective neighborhood changes dealing with land use and zoning matters. Among other responsibilities, Community Boards also have the important role of making recommendations to the city government in the allocation of the city budget.

In his service to Community Board Eight, Mr. Schneider has consistently and enthusiastically demonstrated his willingness to strive for the improvement of his neighborhood. Prior to becoming Chairman of the Community Board in 1998, Mr. Schneider served as the 2nd Vice Chairman of the Board from 1994–1995, Transportation Committee Chairman from 1994–1997, and as 1st Vice Chairman from 1996–1997.

As the Chairman of Community Board Eight, Mr. Schneider has overseen the realization of many notable community developments. From the dedication of the Central Park Children's Zoo to saving the Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital, Mr. Schneider's term can be described as nothing short of a true success.

A former officer in the United States Army and the current owner and president of a successful advertising company, M. Barry Schneider represents the ideal model of leadership and truly demonstrates the honorable American tradition of service to one's community.

Although his Community Board Eight colleagues can no longer refer to him as "Mr. Chairman," I have no doubt that Mr. Schneider's service to his community will continue for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. KEATING, A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William J. Keating, a dear friend and community leader who will be honored as

a Great Living Cincinnati by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce on February 9, 2001. He was selected for this honor because of his outstanding civic and business accomplishments, his awareness of the needs of others and his contributions that have increased the quality of life in Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio.

Bill is a native Cincinnati, and he has tirelessly worked to make our area a better place to live. He graduated from St. Xavier High School in 1945 where he was an All-American swimmer. Shortly thereafter, he served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and later was a first lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve, J.A.G. When Bill returned home after World War II, it took him only 4 years to earn his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Cincinnati.

Bill has had a most distinguished and successful career. In 1954, he helped to establish one of Cincinnati's premier law firms, Keating, Muething & Klekamp, P.L.L.; he was elected and served as a judge for the Hamilton County municipal and common pleas courts for nearly a decade; he was elected to Cincinnati City Council for two terms from 1967 to 1970; and he represented the First Congressional District of Ohio from 1970 to 1973.

After two distinguished terms in the U.S. Congress, Bill returned to Cincinnati to run our largest daily newspaper. He was chairman of the Cincinnati Enquirer from 1973 to 1992. During that tenure, he was alternately publisher of the Enquirer, chief executive officer of the Detroit Newspaper Agency, president of the Newspaper Division of Gannett Co., Inc., and Gannett's executive vice president and general counsel. In addition, Bill served as chairman of the Associated Press from 1987 to 1992.

Bill also as given a great deal of his time to serve on the board of directors for several successful local companies and nonprofits, including Fifth Third Bancorp and Fifth Third Bank; The Midland Company; Metropolitan Growth Alliance; and the Cincinnati Arts Association. Other current and past leadership roles include: former chairman of the board of trustees, University of Cincinnati; board of trustees, Xavier University; former cochairman, Cincinnati Business Committee; and former chairman of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

Always keeping busy, Bill most recently became chairman of the bid development for Cincinnati 2012, Inc., to help bring the Olympics to Cincinnati in 2012. He is a proud and devoted family man. He and his wife, Nancy, have 5 sons, 2 daughters and 27 grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area thank him for his outstanding service, and we wish him the very best on his current and future endeavors.

PROTECT CALIFORNIA'S COASTLINE WITH A MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation to extend the moratorium on oil and gas development in the

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off the coast of California. This legislation is similar to H.R. 112 from the 106th Congress.

Californians strongly favor continuing this moratorium. The State of California has enacted a permanent ban on all new offshore oil development in state coastal waters. In addition, former Governor Peter Wilson, Governor Gray Davis, and state and local community leaders up and down California's coast have endorsed the continuation of this moratorium.

I believe that the environmental sensitivities along the entire California coastline make the region an inappropriate place to drill for oil using current technology. A 1989 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study confirmed that new exploration and drilling on existing leases and on undeveloped leases in the same area would be detrimental to the environment. Cultivation of oil and gas off the coast of California could have a negative impact on California's \$27 billion a year tourism and fishing industries.

This legislation focuses on the entire state of California, and would prohibit the sale of new offshore leases in the Southern California, Central California, and Northern California planning areas through the year 2011. New exploration and drilling on existing active leases and on undeveloped leases in the same areas would be prohibited until the environmental concerns raised by the 1989 National Academy of Sciences study are addressed, resolved and approved by an independent scientific peer review. This measure ensures that there will be no drilling or exploration along the California coast unless the most knowledgeable scientists inform us that it is absolutely safe to do so.

I am proud to be working to protect the beaches, tourism, and the will of the people of California. I ask my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

EDITORIAL BY FORMER SENATOR CHARLES PERCY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, former Senator Charles Percy, who lives in Georgetown here in the District of Columbia, is well remembered in the country, and especially here in the District and in Illinois, for very distinguished service in the U.S. Senate during three terms. Senator Percy has resided in Washington, DC, since leaving the Senate. He has served this city as a resident in ways that have made an important difference to his Georgetown community and to the city itself. Senator Percy has also supported the city as an advocate of congressional voting rights and local self government. He has given outstanding personal service and countless hours of energy and wisdom to his community and has secured funding for his community from Congress. Some of the details of his service are cited in an op ed article by Senator Percy that appeared in the Washington Times on Sunday, January 7, 2001.

The occasion for this Washington Times article arose at a time when I was seeking the return of the vote of D.C. residents in the Committee of the Whole. Senator Percy called

my office and offered to write an op ed article in support of D.C. voting rights. We are pleased and honored to have the support of a distinguished former Senator of the United States. It give me great pleasure to submit Senator Percy's op ed article as it appeared in the Washington Times to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, Jan. 7, 2001]

D.C. RESIDENTS DESERVE A WHOLE
COMMITTEE HEARING

On January 20th, I will be proud to see an outstanding man and leader of the Republican party occupy the White House as President of the United States. On January 20th, my party will begin the first year, since 1965, almost half a century, with a Republican majority in both houses and a Republican President, but with the pledge from our leadership that issues will be dealt with in a Bipartisan way. This is an opportunity for the new Republican government to pay its respects to hometown Washington, D.C. The House is now writing its rules for the 107th Congress. One of those rules should restore the vote in the Committee of the Whole on the House floor to the taxpaying residents of the District of Columbia. As of 1998, the District population was 523,000 which is larger than the population of Wyoming (481,000) and close to that of Alaska (614,000), North Dakota (638,000), and Vermont (591,000), each of whom have votes in the House of Representatives and two votes in the Senate. We're asking for a vote in the house not the Senate.

Why should a man who served Illinois in the U.S. Senate for 18 years care deeply about Congressional voting rights for D.C. residents? Living here for 33 years and loving it has a lot to do with it.

My wife Loraine and I have lived in Georgetown since January 1967 and pay our federal and D.C. taxes like our neighbors and fellow citizens. Nine of our ten grandchildren and one great grandchild live in the D.C. area. While in the U.S. Senate I was elected The Founding Vice Chairman of The Kennedy Center with my across the street neighbor in Georgetown, the gifted Roger L. Stevens serving as Founding Chairman. We staired with a vacant lot overlooking the Potomac river and created, with wonderful help, one of the greatest centers for performing arts in the world.

Now I am proud to serve in a volunteer capacity as Founding Chairman of The Georgetown Waterfront Park Commission. This is what General Colin Powell, now designated as our new Secretary of State in the George W. Bush administration said in a letter to me:

DEAR CHUCK: Congratulations to you for accepting the chairmanship of the Georgetown Waterfront Park Commission. I am confident that under your leadership and with the help of your colleagues and partners, you will bring about a restoration of the Georgetown Waterfront that removes an eyesore and adds a place of beauty to the nation's capitol.

Best of luck,
Sincerely,

COLIN.

I have shared the problems and successes of this great city, and I have shared the anguish of the Americans who live here, who cannot accept disenfranchisement in the Congress simply because they happened to live in the capitol of their country.

I was among the two-thirds of the Senate who voted for the Voting Rights Amendment to give the District full congressional voting rights in 1978. Unfortunately, the amendment did not receive the required three quarters of the state legislatures.

However, when the district's delegate to Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton, submitted a legal memorandum in 1993, the House their government and the service in the armed services they have always given to their country, but not a vote on the floor of the House.

In 1994, some Republicans disagreed when the Democratic House voted to allow all five delegates to vote. However, the District was not considered separately, and many Republicans believed then and believe now that D.C. residents are in a unique position, as District residents are the only Americans who pay federal income taxes but have no congressional voting representation to give them a say in how their taxes are used. Today, only the District is seeking the return of its vote in the 107th Congress and future congresses.

Immense credit is due to Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.), Chair of the D.C. Subcommittee, and its Vice-Chair, Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.), who have both testified before the House Rules Committee in favor of D.C.'s vote in the Committee of the Whole.

At the House Rules Committee hearing in September 2000, Rep. Davis said: "The District of Columbia's citizens pay federal taxes . . . it is the capitol of democracy. They operate in every other way like recognized that it could grant the District voting rights in the Committee of the Whole, where most business on the House floor is conducted, and the courts later agreed. The District had long voted in committees, and the logic for the vote in the Committee of the Whole is compelling. Notwithstanding some limitation, the vote was almost always the equivalent of every House member's vote. Most important, it gave D.C. residents the opportunity to have an elected member of Congress register their views on the House floor, or if the representative voted contrary to their views, to respond as well. After 200 years, at least in the House, D.C. residents were on their way. They now have a vote in committees most of the time in exchange for the taxes they pay every other citizen in any district, and they ought to have the vote on the floor of the House. We have the opportunity as Republicans to step up and do the right thing . . ." Rep. Morella agreed and testified "why I feel very strongly that as we put together the . . . rules . . . that we do give . . . voting right in the Committee of the Whole to the delegate from our Nation's Capitol."

I join Representatives Davis, Morella and other Republicans in asking the Congressional leadership and members, to "do the right thing" for taxpaying D.C. residents. And I join Mayor Williams, the City Council, religious leaders and D.C. residents who are actively seeking the return of the vote in the Committee of the Whole on the House floor when the House returns in January 2001, and also complete its financial assistance that is greatly needed by the Georgetown Waterfront Park Commission, and National Park Foundation and I also hope will have the support of our Washington, D.C. area media including D.C. voting rights.

AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL
TERLECKY

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today, I am submitting an affidavit by Michael Terlecky of Mahoning County for the record. The affidavit,

signed and sworn on the fourth of January, 2000, alleges Federal Bureau of Investigation corruption in the Youngstown, Ohio area.

Terlecky, as a Mahoning County Deputy Sheriff, worked exclusively with the Youngstown Police Department Special Investigations Unit (SIU) to raid and eliminate illegal gambling rings in the Mahoning Valley. He was removed from active duty in 1988 because of a physical disability.

The affidavit alleges gross misconduct on the part of FBI agents Robert Kroner and Larry Lynch. As the affidavit illustrates, Terlecky was manipulated and neutralized by the local FBI agents' efforts to protect the FBI's participation in illegal activities. Michael Terlecky was dangerous to the local FBI. He was also an unlucky man for having stumbled upon the connections of the Prato/Naples faction and the FBI.

The Terlecky affidavit is being submitted today to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as supporting documentation for my bill H.R. 4105, The Fair Justice Act. This bill would create an agency to oversee the U.S. Department of Justice and prosecute those involved in any wrongdoing. Today, when something is amiss in the Justice Department, it investigates itself, much like the fox guarding the henhouse. An independent oversight agency would eliminate the conflict of interest that exists today when wrongdoing occurs in the Justice Department.

STATE OF OHIO, COUNTY OF MAHONING

Affidavit of Michael S. Terlecky

After having been duly sworn in accordance with law, I, Michael S. Terlecky hereby depose and say:

1. The purpose of this affidavit is to give notice that I am in fear of losing my freedom and or my life because of the reasons set forth below.

2. On December 28, 2000 Congressman James A. Traficant, Jr. hosted the Dan Ryan Talk Radio Show. Congressman Traficant interviewed me on this talk radio show. During this interview I revealed the wrongdoings of FBI SA Robert Kroner, FBI SA Larry Lynch, Mahoning County Sheriff Randall Wellington and others. I allowed Congressman Traficant to interview me so that the truth of what took place over 12 years ago could be revealed.

3. FBI SA Robert Kroner, using his special influence, neutralized me over twelve years ago so I could not reveal the truth about his criminal wrongdoing. I feel he may attempt to do the same again by more drastic tactics. The more drastic tactics are now available to him because Mahoning County Sheriff Randall Wellington and his second in command, newly appointed Major Mike Budd fall directly under his corrupt influence.

4. Sheriff Wellington knows that I know he is corrupt. Newly appointed Major Mike Budd knows I know he is corrupt, and a dangerous man with a gun. Therefore, all three have motive to neutralize me.

5. Congressman James A. Traficant, Jr. has my permission to use this affidavit in any way he deems appropriate.

Further affiant sayeth naught.

Michael S. Terlecky.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a notary public, in and for the County of Mahoning, this 4th day of January 2001.

M. Suzanne Falcon, Notary Public, State of Ohio. My commission expires Sept. 13, 2005.

HONORING AUSTIN HERRIN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Austin Herrin for saving the life of my constituent and cousin, Tom Radanovich. Mr. Herrin's courage and composure during an emergency situation exemplified heroism.

On the evening of September 19, 2000, Tom Radanovich and a friend were dining at an Applebee's Restaurant in Clovis, CA. Tom was enjoying a steak. Unexpectedly, a piece of the meat became lodged in Tom's throat. Tom began to panic and indicate that he was unable to breathe. Austin Herrin, the waiter who had been serving Tom, noticed the commotion and quickly approached Tom. Mr. Herrin calmly performed the Heimlich maneuver, which successfully removed the meat from Tom's throat. Austin's actions likely saved Tom Radanovich's life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Austin Herrin for his quick action in helping save a life. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing deep gratitude to Mr. Herrin.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ALEXANDER
CAMP AU**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for his outstanding service to the community, that I ask my colleagues in Congress to recognize John Alexander Campau for receiving the Jackson County Small Business Person of the Year Award.

John Campau is the ultimate entrepreneur. He took the risk, and accepted the challenge of running Comtronics. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate him on his past 12 seasons of service.

Under his leadership, sales revenue has more than doubled. Comtronics has added 27 employees and almost 1,000 customers and has expanded into seven states. Gross profits have increased, net profits have increased, and net worth of the corporation has increased over 300 percent. Today, the company is larger, stronger, more diverse, and financially more sound than ever before in its 42-year history. As president and chief executive officer, John Campau rose to the occasion and exceeded all projections of growth. He has a life long history of being a leader and a 14-year track record of outstanding business success. John Campau is a true entrepreneur. He had a vision and a relentless passion to create and succeed.

Not only has John been a industry leader, but more importantly he has continued a family tradition of being an active member of his community. Supporting community organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Hot Air Jubilee, Family Service and Children's Aid, Junior Achievement and the United Way, John understands the importance of giving back to his community.

John Campau's devotion and determination to both Comtronics and his community is to be

applauded and I am honored to join the Greater Jackson community in recognizing him and wishing continued success in his future endeavors.

AS PROFITS ON A DRUG GO UP, SO DOES UTILIZATION. IS THIS A FORM OF PATIENT ABUSE?

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Medicare and many others pay for prescription drugs on the basis of the average wholesale price (AWP). Unfortunately, the AWP is a completely fictitious price which has been manipulated by a number of drug companies in ways the companies believe will influence physician prescribing practices. Have they succeeded?

While the AWP payment loophole is an abuse of taxpayers, I am concerned that it may be causing unnecessary utilization and prescribing of drugs in a way that can be an abuse of the patient. I would appreciate hearing from medical experts whether the following data can be explained by good medical practice, or whether it is another example of pharmaceutical company success in using price differentials to shape prescribing patterns, which may, or may not, be good for the patient.

For example, in 1995, Medicare paid \$3.11 a unit for the inhalation drug Ipratropium Bromide. That's exactly what it cost the doctor at wholesale, and total Medicare usage and expenditure on the drug was only \$14,426,108.

In 1996, a 'spread' developed between what Medicare paid (\$3.75 a unit) and what the doctor paid, \$3.26 a unit, and utilization went to \$47,388,622.

In 1997, Medicare paid \$3.50 but doctors only paid \$2.15 and utilization doubled, to \$96,204,639.

In 1998, the spread increased as Medicare paid \$3.34 but doctors could get the drug for \$1.70, and utilization doubled again, to \$176,887,868. Does anyone really believe that the need for this drug doubled in one year?

The data is just in for 1999, and shows that the spread and usage widened again: Medicare paid \$3.34 a unit. Doctors could get the drug for \$1.60 a unit, and Medicare spent \$201,470,288 for Ipratropium Bromide.

The abuse of the taxpayer in this situation is serious. But what is even more serious is the question that must be raised about the doctor-patient relationship and whether patients can trust doctors to prescribe appropriately when they can make 108% profit on the prescription of a drug?

ELECTION REFORM ACT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my fellow colleagues, Representatives STEVE ROTHMAN, PATRICK KENNEDY and HEATHER WILSON, DAVID DRIER and ALCEE HASTINGS are pleased to introduce meaningful,

bipartisan legislation to reform the administration of our nation's elections. The Election Reform Act will ensure that our nation's electoral process is brought up to twenty-first century standards.

The Election Reform Act will establish an Election Administration Commission to study federal, state and local voting procedures and election administration and provide grants to update voting systems. The legislation combines the Federal Election Commission's Election Clearinghouse and the Department of Defense's Office of Voting Assistance, which facilitates voting by American civilians and servicemen overseas, into the Election Administration Commission, creating one permanent commission charged with electoral administration.

The Commission will be comprised of four individuals appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commission will conduct an ongoing study and make recommendations on the "best practices" relating to voting technology, ballot design and polling place accessibility. Under this legislation, the Commission will recommend ways to improve voter registration, verification of registration, and the maintenance and accuracy of voter rolls.

It is vital that we establish this Commission as a permanent body. Many issues and concerns surrounding elections necessitate a continual review of ever-changing technologies. A permanent Commission will be best suited to facilitate the sharing of information about new, cost-effective technologies that can improve the way we administer elections in America.

HONORING REV. FRED CORNELL'S
FIFTY YEARS IN THE MINISTRY**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the fifty years of ministry for the Reverend Fred Cornell, pastor of the Concordia Church of Christ in Belleville, Illinois.

This month, Reverend Cornell is celebrating 50 years in the ministry. Rev. Cornell was ordained on December 27, 1950 and went on to establish himself as a progressive religious leader with a willingness to get involved in the community and speak out on important issues. He was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Belleville in 1964, when he was arrested in Mississippi with 26 others helping to register African American voters.

Reverend Cornell grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. His great-great-grandfather served as a Presbyterian Missionary to native Americans in Maine and Pennsylvania in the early 1800's. Reverend Cornell served three years in the navy and earned a business degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He also worked for Ralston-Purina of St. Louis, but found that work to be unsatisfying. He attended McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago for three years and got his first job as a minister in Mountainburg, Arkansas. Two years later he became pastor of two small churches in Owensville and Gerald, Missouri.

In 1956, he began as the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian in Belleville and became

its pastor three years later. His social activism was rooted in the Church philosophy that led the fight against slavery in the 1800's. His travels to Mississippi were in response to a church call for help with voter registration drives. Reverend Cornell was also active in promoting meetings between people. During the Vietnam War he formed a local group of concerned citizens about the War.

Throughout his time at First Presbyterian, he was also busy with numerous building projects having assisted with the construction of the new First Presbyterian church and the creation of First United Presbyterian Church in 1982. Reverend Cornell also served as the President of the Belleville Ministerial Alliance in the 50's and moderator of the Alton Presbytery in the 1960's. He also helped found the Belleville Clergy Association.

Reverend Cornell married his wife Barbara in 1994. His son John is an artist who lives in Belleville. He also has two grandchildren. Reverend Cornell also was no stranger to adversity himself, his other son Paul, who was only 24 years old, died in 1977 after a blockage was discovered in his brain. Reverend Cornell also suffered a heart attack that same year and underwent by-pass surgery in 1987. After "retiring" from First United Presbyterian in 1988 he went to Concordia United Church of Christ. This place, he thought, would be perfect for him. The little country church, founded by German immigrants in 1845, had just lost its pastor of 19 years. Reverend Cornell now ministers its 90 members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Reverend Fred Cornell and to recognize his commitment for service to the community.

HONORING RICHARD "DICK"
JOHANSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present the following Opinion-Editorial that was written by Deborah Nankivell, executive director of the Fresno Business Council. The Opinion-Editorial, printed in the Fresno Bee on December 20, 2000, reads as follows:

JOHANSON'S "GIFT" HAS BEEN SERVICE TO
PUBLIC

We all make decisions everyday based upon external signals and usually motivated by achieving specific goals. Much of life is about taking care of daily tasks and making plans for the future.

Then there are those whose path is determined from the inside. Their commitment is to serving and improving the lives of others. Usually these people are invisible in a community. They are the ones who work tirelessly in service professions, the healing arts and serving on countless committees. However, in times of crisis, these people make what is for them a difficult sacrifice, they assume public leadership positions.

For the past five years, such a public servant, Richard Johanson, has led the Fresno Business Council. When he was asked to assume this position he was bewildered. He could not understand why community leaders would turn to him to lead the organization. Time has made obvious what the wise among us already knew.

Fresno desperately needed to witness a new kind of leader, a community steward, someone who could inspire others to contribute their very highest talents to addressing a myriad of community problems.

SPECIAL TOUCH

It has been often asked how Dick does what he does. How does he take a table full of people who disagree and don't much like each other to come to consensus in less than an hour with hardly saying anything? Why have boards canceled or postponed meetings upon knowing Dick could not attend because they knew without him unproductive conflict would ensue. Why is it that Dick is the one everybody trusts?

I believe it is not about what he does at all; it is about who he is. His presence reminds us all of the noble impulses we would love to act upon, but so often choose to ignore in order to satisfy the desires of the ego. Dick has been a role model simply by living his life according to his inner code of honor. In doing so, he has created a culture of stewardship within the Business Council that has begun to spread throughout the community.

Six years ago, the lack of civility was painfully obvious in the public arena. Today, those in the public affairs community are learning one of the responsibilities of public service is to be positive role models. Five years ago, the different sectors of the community operated in internal and external vacuums, often in competition with one another. Today, seeking collaborative partners is becoming the norm.

Four years ago, expecting merit-based decisions was considered naive. Today, seeking the views of all the stakeholders and deliberating on the merits of an issue is becoming the new standard for decision-making.

Three years ago, an expectation of excellence was seen as a criticism in a community defending the status quo. Today, the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, which Dick chairs, is a national example of excellence and the process of its creation has inspired people throughout the Valley to dream new dreams fully expecting fruition.

UNIQUE ROLE

While certainly many people have had a hand in the steady transformation of the Fresno area, Dick has played a unique and essential role. His ability to love, to care so deeply about his community and everyone who lives here, has melted the hearts and loosened the resources of everyone who is needed to help create a healthier and more prosperous home for us all.

As Dick steps down as president of the Business Council and passes the new leadership mantle to Ken Newby, it is the appropriate time to publicly thank him for the gift of himself.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard "Dick" Johanson for his years of dedicated and distinguished service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Johanson many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BILLY D. HARBIN
OF MADISON COUNTY, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served Madison County for 30 years, Mr. Billy Harbin. I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions

of Mr. Harbin to our community and to the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit of Alabama.

Mr. Harbin's roots are deep within North Alabama. After growing up in Huntsville and graduating from Hazel Green High School, Mr. Harbin played basketball and baseball on scholarship at the University of North Alabama in Florence. After serving the Army on active duty between 1956-58, Mr. Harbin went to work with them at Redstone Arsenal as an instructor with the Ordnance Guided Missile School and Missile Munitions Center and School. Mr. Harbin's love for his country found a different path when he first ran for Circuit Clerk in 1970. His commitment to justice and efficiency were recognized by the people he served. He ran for re-election four times, each time without opposition. His colleagues appreciated his service as well selecting him to receive the first "Outstanding Circuit Clerk" State of Alabama award. He is also the recipient of the Huntsville/Madison County Jaycee's "Good Government Award" and the Huntsville/Madison County Bar Association's "Liberty Bell Award".

His dedication to his community extends beyond his professional duties. He has given of his time and talents to several civic boards of directors including the Salvation Army, Community Bank of North Alabama and Huntsville Hospital. Former Chief Justices of the Alabama Supreme Court including the Hon. Howell Heflin and the Hon. C.C. "Bo" Torbert, Jr. have nominated him to several state commissions and to the Board of Directors of the Alabama Judicial College.

For his hard work, vision and dedication to the people of Madison County, I feel this is an apt honor. Now as he retires, I wish to thank Mr. Harbin for his extraordinary service for his community and this nation. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I pay tribute to Mr. Harbin and thank him for a job well done. I join his wife Joyce, his two children Danny and Sandy, and his three granddaughters in congratulating him on his retirement. I wish him a well-deserved rest.

IN HONOR OF ALICE OSTROW
RENT CONTROL AND UNION AC-
TIVIST, ON HER PASSING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Alice Ostrow, a longtime union supporter and housing activist, who passed away on January 4, 2001. Ms. Ostrow, a onetime Socialist candidate for Congress in New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, was a cofounder of the Textile Workers' Organizing Committee. In her capacity as a union leader, Ms. Ostrow served as an effective and compassionate leader throughout the organized labor movement of the 20th Century.

Alice Ostrow was born in Philadelphia in 1915, honed her leadership skills as class president at South Philadelphia High School, and attended Stroussberg State Teachers' College. Pushing aside the limitations American society placed upon women, she began her foray into politics when she joined the Philadelphia Chapter of the Young Peoples' Socialist League.

Throughout her career, Ms. Ostrow worked for the IRS, served as a legislative representative of the Federation of Federal Employees, and worked for the Communications Workers of America. In the late 1940s and 1950s, during the birth of rent control, Ms. Ostrow organized the group New Jersey Tenants for Rent Control and fought for tenants' rights for many years afterwards.

After moving to Burlington, Vermont in 1955, Ms. Ostrow became involved in numerous local liberal organizations, including the Vermont ACLU. After her husband's death in 1967, she moved to my district in New York City, where she became heavily involved in the NAACP, the ACLU, the Workers Defense League, and Americans for Democratic Action.

Even in her 80s, Ms. Ostrow was a tireless activist for the rights of the elderly, poor, oppressed, and otherwise downtrodden. She traveled to the New York State Capitol in Albany to lobby for tenant rights. She also staffed a homeless center and circulated political petitions.

A vibrant and caring woman who viewed public service in the same regard as Robert F. Kennedy—she "saw wrong and tried to right it." I am confident that her legacy will continue through the many individuals she personally touched during her extraordinary life.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
FEDERAL JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2001

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Southern California Federal Judgeship Act of 2001. I am proud to be joined in this effort by my colleagues from San Diego, Representative DUNCAN HUNTER, and Representative DARRELL ISSA. This important legislation will authorize eight additional federal district court judges, five permanent and three temporary, to the Southern District of California.

A recent judicial survey ranks the Southern District of California as the busiest court in the nation by number of criminal felony cases filed and total number of weighted cases per judge. In 1998, the Southern District had a weighted caseload of 1,006 cases per judge. By comparison, the Central District of California had a weighted filing of 424 cases per judge; the Eastern District of California had a weighted filing of 601 cases per judge; and the Northern District of California had a weighted filing of 464 cases per judge.

The Southern District consists of the San Diego and Imperial Counties of California, and shares a 200-mile border with Mexico. According to the U.S. Customs Service, as much as 33 percent of the illegal drugs and 50 percent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States from Mexico enters through this court district. Additionally, the court faces a substantial number of our nation's immigration cases. Further multiplying the district's caseload is an agreement between the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State of California that calls for criminal aliens to be transferred to prison facilities in this district upon nearing the end of their state sentences. All these factors combine to create a tremendous need for additional district court judges.

I hope that all my colleagues will join those of us from San Diego and help the people of Southern California by authorizing additional district court judges for the Southern District of California.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE NILDA
MORALES HOROWITZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to pay tribute to Nilda Morales Horowitz, and outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service. She was inducted on January 18 as a Family Court Judge for Westchester County in New York.

Mr. Speaker, from April 1998 until her recent appointment, Judge Horowitz served as deputy county attorney and family court bureau chief. She was in charge of and responsible for twenty-four attorneys who handled all matters before the Family Courts of Westchester County. She handled the daily review and assignment of all cases involving the Department of Social Services, such as the county's neglect and abuse referrals, and all juvenile delinquency referrals from the Department of Probation. She was also the supervisor of specialized Domestic Violence Unit within the Family Court Bureau.

Her distinguished career also includes service as a hearing examiner for the New York State Family Court, a Senior Law Judge and Supervising Judge for the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, and adjunct professor of Public Administration at Hostos Community College, and a lawyer in private practice specializing in public interest law.

Judge Horowitz is well known and highly respected by her peers and the different communities she has served for her sensitivity, professionalism, integrity and sound judgment. Her induction brings to the Court an outstanding judge.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Nilda Morales Horowitz for her outstanding achievements and in wishing her continued success as Family Court Judge for Westchester County.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POST-
MASTERS FAIRNESS AND
RIGHTS ACT OF 2001

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I support our nation's 28,000 Postmasters by introducing the Postmasters Fairness and Rights Act of 2001.

Under current law, Postmasters are denied the basic right to discuss fundamental issues which impact the quality of mail services provided to your constituents, the management of your local Post Office, and their own compensation. Postmasters suffer from a dysfunctional "consultation process" whereby Postal Headquarters may unilaterally mandate local Post Office operational changes.

The Postmasters Fairness and Rights Act of 2001 seeks to remedy this inequality by enabling Postmasters to take an active and constructive role in managing their Post Office and discussing compensation issues. If the Postmasters and Postal Headquarters are unable to reach an understanding, the Act provides for a neutral outside party to resolve the disagreement. If enacted, the Postmasters Fairness and Rights Act would foster better mail services by allowing Postmasters greater input in operational decision-making, improving Postmaster morale, and making it possible to attract and retain exemplary Postmasters.

This legislation had 238 cosponsors last year. With the support of my colleagues in the 107th Congress, we will be able to move this legislation and finally restore fairness to our nation's Postmasters.

HONORING MARILYN RIGG

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce President Marilyn Rigg for her years of dedicated service to the community.

Marilyn is a graduate of St. Aloysius Academy, the University of Ohio and the Stonier School of Banking, where her thesis was copyrighted and accepted for inclusion in the National Library.

Ms. Rigg taught school in Virginia for 2 years before moving to Oakhurst in 1970. Marilyn worked for 21 years at Security Pacific Bank, where she held numerous jobs, including branch manager, vice-president of planning and marketing, and vice-president of corporate lending. In 1992, she left Security Pacific to begin a State Farm Agency in Oakhurst.

Marilyn has served as a member and past president of Soroptimist International of the Sierra, chairman of the Oakhurst Fall Festival, chairman of "Oakhurst Goes to the Oscars," and past board member and treasurer of the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Marilyn Rigg for her active and distinguished community involvement. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Marilyn Rigg many more years of continued success.

SOCIAL SECURITY BURIAL
BENEFIT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill that would expand eligibility for the Social Security burial benefit.

As you may be aware, prior to 1981, any individual could receive the burial benefit lump sum of \$255 in order to pay funeral expenses. Today, the surviving spouse receives a burial benefit only if the deceased spouse is insured by Social Security.

However, I do not think it is particularly fair to deny this benefit to the spouse of the deceased. It is this person who is most likely to be responsible for the funeral expenses if there is no estate to handle this financial matter. Obviously, these expenses can be very costly.

I was not in Congress at the time, but this change was made when Congress was attempting to make as many cost cuts in the Social Security system as possible because of projected financial problems. In retrospect, the fund has generated healthy surpluses.

This legislation would correct this problem so that any surviving spouse, as long as one of the spouses is insured through Social Security, would be eligible to receive the burial benefit.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and improve the Social Security death benefit for those who deserve it most.

BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS ACT

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Broadband Internet Access Act, which is a bipartisan bill to encourage the spread of high-speed Internet technology in rural and low-income communities.

Much in the role that canals played at the turn of the 19th century and the railroad played later in the century, the Internet is the critical infrastructure of our age. Communities without access will suffer as jobs and investment moves to connected communities. People in the rural or low-income communities are excluded from the personal and economic benefits of a high-speed information flow—a digital divide. The Broadband Internet Access Act of 2001 addresses the disparity in the availability of high-speed Internet access, also known as broadband services, in the United States.

Underserved communities—typically rural and low-income areas—are lagging seriously behind. The digital divide compromises the enormous gains that could be achieved by the Internet economy. The Internet is a valuable tool and every American should have the opportunity to get up to speed on the information superhighway.

I am submitting a technical explanation of the bill that is designed to stimulate the growth of high-speed Internet services.

BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS TAX CREDIT (New Sec. 48A of the Code)

PRESENT LAW

Present law does not provide a credit for investments in telecommunications infrastructure.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

The bill provides a credit equal to 10 percent of the qualified expenditures incurred by the taxpayer with respect to qualified equipment with which “current generation” broadband services are delivered to subscribers in rural and underserved areas. In addition, the bill provides a credit equal to 20 percent of the qualified expenditures incurred by the taxpayer with respect to qualified equipment with which “next genera-

tion” broadband services are delivered to subscribers in rural areas, underserved areas, and to residential subscribers.

Current generation broadband services is defined as the transmission of signals at a rate of at least 1.5 million bits per second to the subscriber and at a rate of at least 200,000 bits per second from the subscriber. Next generation broadband services is defined as the transmission of signals at a rate of at least 22 million bits per second to the subscriber and at a rate of at least 5 million bits per second from the subscriber. Taxpayers will be permitted to substantiate their satisfaction of the required transmission rates through statistically significant test data demonstrating satisfaction of the required transmission rates, by providing evidence that all relevant subscribers were provided with a written guarantee that the required transmission rates would be satisfied, or through any other reasonable method. For this purpose, the fact that certain subscribers are not able to access such services at the required transmission rates due to limitations in equipment outside of the control of the provider, or in equipment other than qualified equipment, shall not be taken into account.

A rural area is any census tract which is not within 10 miles of any incorporated or census designated place with a population of more than 25,000 and which is not within a county with a population density of more than 500 people per square mile. An underserved area is any census tract which is located in an empowerment zone, enterprise community, renewal zone or low-income community. A residential subscriber is any individual who purchases broadband service to be delivered to his or her dwelling.

QUALIFIED EXPENDITURES

Qualified expenditures are those amounts otherwise chargeable to the capital account with respect to the purchase and installation of qualified equipment for which depreciation is allowable under section 168. Qualified expenditures are those that are incurred by the taxpayer after December 31, 2001, and before January 1, 2006.

The expenditures are taken into account for purposes of claiming the credit in the first taxable year in which broadband service is delivered to at least 10 percent of the specified type of subscribers which the qualified equipment is capable of serving in an area in which the provider has legal or contractual area access rights or obligations. For this purpose, it is intended that the subscribers which the equipment is capable of serving will be determined by the least capable link in the system. For example, if a system has a packet switch capable of serving 10,000 subscribers, followed by a digital subscriber line access multiplexer (“DSLAM”) capable of serving only 2,000 subscribers, then the area which the equipment is capable of serving is the area served by the 2,000 DSLAM lines.

Although the credit only applies with respect to qualified expenditures incurred during specified periods, the fact that the expenditures are not taken into account until a later period will not affect the taxpayer’s eligibility for the credit. For example, if a taxpayer incurs qualified expenditures with respect to equipment providing next generation broadband services in 2004, but the taxpayer does not satisfy the 10 percent subscription threshold until 2005, the taxpayer will be eligible for the credit in 2005 (assuming the other requirements of the bill are satisfied). To substantiate their satisfaction of the 10 percent subscription threshold, taxpayers will be required to provide such information as is required by the Secretary, which may include relevant customer data or evidence of independent certification.

In the case of a taxpayer that incurs expenditures for equipment capable of serving both subscribers in qualifying areas and other areas, qualified expenditures are determined by multiplying otherwise qualified expenditures by the ratio of the number of potential qualifying subscribers to all potential subscribers the qualified equipment would be capable of serving, as determined by the least capable link in the system. Taxpayers may use any reasonable method to determine the relevant total potential subscriber population, based on the most recently published census data. In addition, for purposes of substantiating the total potential subscriber population which equipment is capable of serving, taxpayers will be required to provide such information as is required by the Secretary, which may include manufacturer’s equipment ratings or evidence of independent certification.

QUALIFIED EQUIPMENT

Qualified equipment must be capable of providing broadband services at any time to each subscriber who is utilizing such services. It is intended that this standard would be satisfied if a subscriber utilizing broadband services through the equipment is able to receive the specified transmission rates in at least 99 out of 100 attempts.

In the case of a telecommunications carrier, qualified equipment is equipment that extends from the last point of switching to the outside of the building in which the subscriber is located. In the case of a commercial mobile service carrier, qualified equipment is equipment that extends from the customer side of a mobile telephone switching office to a transmission/reception antenna (including the antenna) of the subscriber. In the case of a cable operator or open video system operator, qualified equipment is equipment that extends from the customer side of the headend to the outside of the building in which the subscriber is located. In the case of a satellite carrier or other wireless carrier (other than a telecommunications carrier), qualified equipment is equipment that extends from a transmission/reception antenna (including the antenna) to a transmission/reception antenna on the outside of the building used by the subscriber. In addition, any packet switching equipment deployed in connection with other qualified equipment is qualified equipment, regardless of location, provided that it is the last such equipment in a series as part of transmission of a signal to a subscriber or the first in a series in the transmission of a signal from a subscriber. Finally, multiplexing and demultiplexing equipment and other equipment making associated applications deployed in connection with other qualified equipment is qualified equipment only if it is located between qualified packet switching equipment and the subscriber’s premises.

Although a taxpayer must incur the expenditures directly in order to qualify for the credit, the taxpayer may provide the requisite broadband services either directly or indirectly. For example, if a partnership constructs qualified equipment or otherwise incurs qualified expenditures, but the requisite services are provided by one or more of its partners, the partnership will be eligible for the credit (assuming the other requirements of the bill are satisfied). It is anticipated that the Secretary will issue regulations or other published guidance demonstrating how the requirements of the bill are satisfied in such situations.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective for expenditures incurred after December 31, 2001.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TIMOTHY P. RYAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special leader in my district. Timothy P. Ryan has served the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District for over two decades. Mr. Ryan has successfully worked for the betterment of the entire school community as President of the Livermore Board of Trustees, Board Clerk, member of President of the Alameda County School Boards Association, member and President of the Tri-Valley Special Education Local Plan Area Board, and the Regional Occupational Program Board.

Timothy Ryan has served admirably as a leader and advocate for our children and our community. He has helped Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District through some of the most difficult times. Mr. Ryan has proven to be an effective member of the Board, always seeking resolution to Board differences by discovering the wide areas of agreement. His fairness and his Irish humor continues to win over groups.

I take great pride in honoring Timothy P. Ryan's dedication and leadership. His hard work has improved the opportunities for all students throughout the District. Under his direction, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District has served as a model for schools in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and throughout the State of California. I believe that school districts across the country should follow Timothy Ryan's example and take the opportunity to learn from his successful and innovative ways.

A TRIBUTE TO HAROLD H. GRAY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, It is my privilege to stand before this great House to honor a man from Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. On January 30, 2001, Mr. Harold H. Gray, of Brush, Colorado, will celebrate his 100th birthday.

Born in the small farming town of Braddyville, Iowa, Mr. Gray and his family moved to the Eastern Plains of Colorado while he was just a small boy, to accommodate for his ailing mother's respiratory problems. During his young and formative years, Harold learned many valuable lessons while helping out with his family's businesses. These lessons prepared him for an active community role of prudent leadership. Whether working at his father's grocery store in Loveland, or at the Riverdale Ranch, near the South Platte River, Harold learned to meet the challenges of small-town commerce along with the difficulties of ranch life.

As an adult living in Brush, Colorado, Harold became a business man, whose dedication to community was marked by great accomplishment. Owner of the Carroll Motor and Carroll Oil companies, Harold was an active participant in the Colorado Auto Dealers Association, Colorado Auto Dealers Insurance Trust along with the Colorado Ford Dealers Advertising Association. Furthermore, he was part of a committee for the Brush Rodeo and the Brush Racing Association. As a result, he joined the Board of Directors and was voted President of the Centennial Race Track. Harold's other community activities have included the Brush Chamber of Commerce, Highway 71 committee, Brush Industrial Park, Rotary Club and the Brush Methodist Church.

Mr. Gray's contributions have been significant. Truly he represents the rural values of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District—hard-work and commitment to the community. Please join me in wishing Harold H. Gray a magnificent 100th birthday. May he enjoy this day and those to come with his family and friends.

JANUARY SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Mineola High School in Garden City Park as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for January 2001. I am a proud graduate of Mineola High School in 1962.

I especially want to commend John R. Lewis, Principal of Mineola High, and Dr. Harry Jaroslaw, the Superintendent of Schools for the Mineola School District.

I loved my time at Mineola High and my solid education there prepared me for the rest of my life. I still use the lessons I learned at Mineola.

Unique opportunities await Mineola High students. They can participate in the Work Experience Program for school credit, while simultaneously earning a paycheck. The Student Service Center harnesses the energy and devotion of students to their community. Within the center, they can volunteer at the Children's Museum, the Ronald McDonald House and nursing homes, just to name a few. Also, programs such as the leadership council and peer support and mediation foster student-to-student involvement.

Each year, I present an award in the name of my late husband, Dennis McCarthy, to a Mineola High School student who has struggled through adversity and difficult times and made the best of it. This award is one of the things I do to keep Dennis' memory alive. At Mineola High, there are so many special students it's so hard to choose!

Mineola High has received numerous awards in recognition of the school's excellence, including the Eleanor Roosevelt Community Service Award, Newsday's Long Island High School of the Year for Community Service and the New York State Governor's Commendation. All of the awards demonstrate the

school's dedication to involving students in the community.

In 2000, 84 percent of Mineola's senior class went to college, 57 percent to 4-year colleges. Of the last graduating class, 55 percent of all students received Regents seals on their diplomas, including 14 students who earned Regents diplomas with honors.

The outstanding academic record and the dedication of Mineola's administrators and staff demonstrate it is indeed a school of the month and a school vital to Long Island's future.

HONORING EDNA GARABEDIAN,
BORIS NIXON, AND DIANE NIXON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edna Garabedian, Boris Nixon, and Diane Nixon for their contributions to the California Opera Association.

The California Opera Association was incorporated as a California non-profit corporation May 4, 2000. The association is dedicated to enhance public awareness of the role of arts in California through activities and services in the field. In addition to forming partnerships with community organizations, California Opera Association will participate in local, regional, national and international events designed to enhance good will and to support and encourage civic and community growth.

Edna Garabedian is one of the founding directors of the California Opera Association. She is a world-renowned Mezzo-Soprano who has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe. Ms. Garabedian was the founder of the Fresno International Grand Opera and has held the distinction of chairperson of voice and opera at several major universities.

Boris Nixon is a featured cellist with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra. He has performed with various symphony orchestras throughout the United States and he is also one of the founding directors of the California Opera Association. Mr. Nixon has collaborated with the Music Performance Trust Fund of America and Young Audiences of America to stress the importance of keeping music in the schools and expanding work and career opportunities for professional musicians.

Diane Nixon is an educator and musician, who is currently completing her pre-med requirements to become a physician. Ms. Nixon is also a founding director of the California Opera Association and has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe attending and studying International Operas and Special Arts Festivals for the disabled. Her goal is to focus on integrating and embracing the often-neglected populations, such as the disabled, disadvantaged and elderly, into the creation and consumption of the performing arts.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Edna Garabedian, Boris Nixon and Diane Nixon for their contributions to the California Opera Association. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Garabedian, Mr. Nixon and Ms. Nixon many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK JUNIOR LEAGUE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the New York Junior League (NYJL) on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

The NYJL is a remarkable organization, dedicated to training women for leadership in serving their communities. The Junior League is committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

The NYJL was founded by Mary Harriman, a 19-year-old New Yorker and Barnard College student, to unite young women and provide an organized means for them to give back to their communities. Originally called the Junior League for the Promotion of Settlement Movements, the organization was inspired by the settlement movement started by Jane Addams 13 years earlier. The NYJL quickly boasted 80 members. The new organization's first beneficiaries were residents of the New York College Settlement on the Lower East Side. Recognizing the success of NYJL, other areas of the country began to form their own Junior Leagues. Today there are 296 Junior Leagues in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

Eleanor Roosevelt joined the NYJL at the age 19. Her volunteer activities included serving as a dance teacher for young girls living in a Lower East Side settlement house. She later acknowledged that the experience played an important role in developing her social conscience and her commitment to public service.

Today, Junior League volunteers are engaged in helping a wide range of New Yorkers, including children, the elderly, victims of domestic abuse and prisoners. The NYJL teamed up with the Legal Aid Society Community Law Offices in East Harlem to help domestic violence survivors obtain divorces. As its 85th Anniversary project, NYJL created Milbank Houses, which provides transitional housing for homeless families. Junior League volunteers continue to provide education on subjects including living skills, nutrition and job-hunting. NYJL volunteers paired up with Victim Services to provide temporary emergency shelter victims of domestic violence through Project Debby. Volunteers recruit hotels to donate unused rooms for one to three nights to women and children in need of a safe haven until permanent arrangements can be made.

Ms. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate the New York Junior League on its 100th Anniversary and I wish them many more years of successful service to my community.

TRIBUTE TO BILL EASTERLING OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CRAMER Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mr. Bill

Easterling of Huntsville, Alabama. On December 29, 2000, Bill Easterling, a Huntsville Times columnist and friend of our larger community succumbed to his 18-month struggle with cancer. Our community mourned the loss of this man respected throughout North Alabama for his generosity, talented writing and love of his fellow man.

The blessed life of Bill Easterling was filled to the brim with his writing. For 22 years, he shared his talents with the Huntsville Times in the capacities of sports writer, editor, and columnist. When he began writing the Times community column, his stories opened up new people and places and a lot of old ones too for all the community to learn from and take pride in. Lee Roop, one of Bill's colleagues, had this to say about Bill, "Bill Easterling had a talent for people, too. He was gifted with the ability to touch them. He was comfortable being up close where life is shared in all its emotions." John Pruett, a sports writer for the Times, expressed that Bill "commanded respect without seeking it, inspired loyalty without demanding it and exuded self-assurance without making a show of it." Mrs. Christine Richard eloquently wrote "Bill Easterling's death leaves a void in the lives and hearts of so many people—those who knew him personally and those who only knew him through his columns."

Bill Easterling's words of wisdom and insight will live on in his columns and books. During his prolific career, Bill wrote an award-winning children's book, *Prize in the Show* and published two collections of his columns, *Voices on an Cold Day* and *A Locust Leaves its Shell*. I extend my sympathy to Bill's family, his wife Pat, his children, Leigh and Mike, step-children, Victor and Natalie and grandchildren Caroline and Ellie.

On behalf of the people of Alabama's 5th Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary life and honoring the memory of a man who filled his 60-years with a love of God, his community, and his family. I send my condolences to his family, colleagues and friends.

GUAM WAR CLAIMS REVIEW COMMISSION ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I'd like to reintroduce a bill which passed the House of Representatives during the 106th Congress dealing with equity for the people of Guam during World War II. While the bill received bi-partisan support, the Senate was unable to act on the bill before sine die adjournment.

Legislation regarding Guam war restitution has been introduced by every Guam Delegate to Congress, beginning with Guam's first Delegate Antonio Won Pat, and including my predecessor, General Ben Blaz. The measure I introduce today is a careful compromise that incorporates many Congressional and Department of Interior recommendations that have been made over the years. The legislation amends the Organic Act of Guam and provides a process for U.S. restitution to Guamanians who suffered compensable injury during

the occupation of Guam by Japan during World War II. Compensable injury includes death, personal injury, or forced labor, forced march, or internment. The bill establishes a federal commission to review the relevant historical facts and determine the eligible claimants, the eligibility requirements, and the total amount necessary for compensation.

There is a lot of historical information available to show that the United States had every intention of remedying the issue of war restitution for the people of Guam. In 1945, at the urging of the Acting Secretary of the Navy to the House of Representatives, the Guam Meritorious Claims Act was enacted which authorized the Navy to adjudicate and settle war claims in Guam for property damage for a period of one year. Claims in excess of \$5,000 for personal injury or death were to be forwarded to Congress. Unfortunately, the act never fulfilled its intended purposes due to the limited time frame for claims and the pre-occupation with the local population to recover from the war, resettle their homes, and rebuild their lives.

On March 25, 1947, the Hopkins Commission, a civilian commission appointed by the U.S. Navy Secretary, issued a report which revealed the flaws of the 1945 Guam Meritorious Claims Act and recommended that the Act be amended to provide on the spot settlement and payment of all claims, both property and for death and personal injury.

Despite the recommendations of the Hopkins Commission, the U.S. government failed to remedy the flaws of the Guam Meritorious Act when it enacted the War Claims Act of 1948, legislation which provided compensation for U.S. citizens who were victims of the Japanese war effort during World War II. Because Guamanians were not U.S. citizens when the act was enacted, but were U.S. nationals, they were not eligible for compensation. Guamanians finally became U.S. citizens in 1950 under the Organic Act of Guam.

In 1962, there was another attempt by Congress to address the remaining U.S. citizens and nationals that had not received reparations from previous enacted laws. Once again, however, Guamanians were inadvertently made ineligible because policymakers assumed that the War Claims Act of 1948 included them. Thus, Guam was left out of the 1962 act.

The reason the legislation involves the U.S. government is because under the 1951 Treaty of Peace between the U.S. and Japan, the treaty effectively barred claims by U.S. citizens against Japan. As a consequence, the U.S. inherited these claims, which was acknowledged by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles when the issue was raised during consideration of the treaty before the Committee on Foreign Relations in 1952.

My legislation does not provide compensation. It simply establishes a federal process to review the relevant historical facts and determine the eligible claimants, the eligibility requirements, and the total amount necessary for compensation arising from the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II. Last year, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the cost of my bill would be minimal and would not affect direct spending or receipts. Moreover, considering that the island of Guam had a small population of 22,290 during the nearly 3 years of occupation during the war, and given the available territorial and federal records on this matter, I anticipate that

any federal commission that is established under my bill would be able to complete its work expeditiously and provide the Congress with the necessary recommendations to resolve this longstanding issue in a timely fashion.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR ALBERT V.
CLEMENT

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 2000, in a ceremony held at Ft. Benning, Georgia, Ranger Albert V. Clement (Major Ret. Deceased) of Fall River, Massachusetts, was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

The Ranger Hall of Fame was formed to honor and preserve the spirit and contribution of America's most extraordinary Rangers. The members of the Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Board take particular care to ensure that only the most extraordinary Rangers are inducted. By any standard, Major Albert Clement was an outstanding choice to receive this honor.

Major Clement joined the U.S. Army in June 1941 in response to ominous signs of a pending world conflict. He fought for forty-one months in the Pacific Islands as a machine gunner and expert demolitionist. Shortly after the Korean War started, he volunteered to fight there as a Ranger, but was promoted and selected to remain at Fort Benning as an instructor. Shortly thereafter, he volunteered again, was assigned to the 32nd Infantry, and was chosen to organize and lead a raider platoon against menacing enemy forces entrenched in the Iron Triangle. Major Clement's Raiders turned the enemy tide and filled a critical void left by the formerly assigned 2nd Ranger Company. Within four months he was awarded two Silver Stars and one Bronze Star for heroism, received two Purple Hearts, was promoted to master sergeant and granted a battlefield commission.

In 1960, Major Clement and two Special Forces professionals were called to affect a daring rescue in the Congo. The country had just won its independence and was in a state of crisis. Mutiny and rebellion were rampant, and hundreds of missionaries and doctors were being held hostage and threatened with rape, torture and death. In three weeks, 239 people were rescued and safely evacuated from various tribal areas, with Major Clement leading the way. The mission ranks as a huge special operations success story.

Following retirement, Major Clement worked for the local school board and later entered into a commercial fishing venture. As a machine gunner in the Pacific, a Ranger at Fort Benning, a Raider in Korea or a Green Beret in the Congo, he was destined to live his retired life as he had served—in the adventurous outdoors. He died on Friday, October 16, 1998, after suffering for several years with cancer. He concluded his life of selfless service in quiet dignity.

IN HONOR OF THE McLEAN
HIGHLANDERS MARCHING BAND

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the McLean Highlanders Marching Band for winning first place in the Class IV Open Championship competition sponsored by the U.S. Scholastic Band Association.

On November 3, 2000, the Highlanders not only delivered the overall winning performance within their grouping, but they also were given the best music award and the Marine Corps "Expirtit de Corps" award for best team spirit and discipline.

During the month of August when most high school students were still enjoying their summer vacations, every member of the Highlander Band and their dedicated parents began preparations for this competition.

Under the guidance of band director Kirchenbauer and his support staff, the group devoted countless hours of practice throughout the year to learn and perfect their award-winning musical program and marching routine.

Mr. Speaker, a tribute to the McLean Highlander Band would not be complete without mentioning the support of Dr. Donald Weinheimer, McLean High School Principal, and the tireless efforts of the McLean High School Band Parents Association.

The McLean community is proud of every member of the high school band that contributed to their award-winning performance. Accordingly, I join the students of McLean High School and the U.S. Scholastic Band Association in saluting the McLean Highlander Marching Band on a job well done.

HONORING JEANIE MILLER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeanie Miller for being voted "Affiliate of the Year" by the Fresno Association of Realtors for the year 2000. The "Affiliate of the Year" is awarded to an individual who promotes the professionalism of the Fresno Association of Realtors and has made available the programs and services that allow members to conduct their business with integrity and competency.

Jeanie began her career as an account executive at Pacific Telephone Company and AT&T. In 1986 she became an area production manager at First Interstate Mortgage. In 1990 Jeanie started working at All Pacific Mortgage Company, where she served as vice-president and branch manager. Currently, Jeanie is the area production manager at Union Planters Mortgage in Fresno, CA.

Throughout her career, Ms. Miller has maintained involvement in the community. She has been active in several organizations, including: Fresno Realtors Association, Association of Professional Mortgage Women, president of the Central Valley Executive Association, and

Finance and Stewardship Committee at St. Luke's Church. She is currently the affiliate chairperson for the Fresno Association of Realtors. She was also voted "Affiliate of the Year" by the Fresno Association of Realtors in 1987. Jeanie's personal mission is to feed the hungry through Love, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jeanie Miller for being named "Affiliate of the Year" by the Fresno Association of Realtors. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jeanie many more years of continued success.

HONORING HUGH MCDIARMID ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I speak on behalf of myself and my colleague, Mr. UPTON, to recognize honor and salute my dear friend Hugh McDiarmid on his retirement from the The Detroit Free Press and for his many years of dedicated political reporting.

Hugh stated his career in journalism more than 40 years ago at the Journal Herald in Ohio and has covered politics ever since. For the past 25 years, Hugh has written for The Free Press. In short, he has become an institution in Michigan politics.

Hugh's columns are legendary for their keen political insights. Indeed, few reporters can hold a candle to Hugh's skills as a journalist, much less match his unflappable wit—which I have born the brunt of upon occasion.

Hugh's retirement does not mean that those of us who love his columns will be completely bereft of his voice altogether. Hugh will continue to contribute articles to The Free Press, and for that we are grateful.

Mr. Speaker, as Hugh leaves behind a long and rich history at The Free Press to spend time with his family, I would ask that all of my colleagues salute Hugh, his good reporting, biting wit and above all his earnest good will and compassion for his fellow man.

CROSBY KAZARIAN HONORED

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the life-long contributions of Crosby Kazarian to his community and church. Due to his record of service. Mr. Kazarian was honored recently with the Pontifical Medal of St. Nersess Shnorhali by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, at St. David Armenian Church of Boca Raton, Florida. The presentation of the medal and the Patriarchal Encyclical, reached here from Holy Etchmiadzin, the Holy See of the Armenian Church, were made by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Crosby Kazarian was praised for his widespread services in the Armenian Church, the Dioces, the

Knights of Vartan, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, and the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New York.

As an American born Armenian, Crosby was one of the rare members who was very fluent in Armenian, both liturgical and conversational, whose participation as an ordained deacon in the Armenian Church, and a member of the church choir in Providence since 1944, was an outstanding accomplishment.

Mr. Kazarian was a member of the Parish Council, and a Diocesan Delegate. He was chairman of the Diocesan Assembly in 1976–78, and was on the Diocesan Council from 1979–83. He has been a member of the St. Nersess Theological Seminary Board of Directors, and since 1985 has served on the Armenian Church Endowment Fund's Board of Trustees.

A phenomenon in an individual's life was Crosby Kazarian's election as the Grand Commander of the Knights of Vartan, an International Armenian Fraternal organization, which was hailed as the youngest among his predecessors during 1983–85. Presently an active member of the Brotherhood, Crosby is also a member of St. David Armenian Church, being one of its Godfathers on the consecration day in 1988, and still serving the same church as an Archdeacon. Mr. Kazarian and his wife of forty-years, Araxie, are the parents of two sons, Gregory and Ara.

IN HONOR OF NOBEL WINNING
POET GEORGE SEFERIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to George Seferis (nom de plume of George Seferiadis), on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

On December 5, 2000 the Consulate Generals of Greece and Cyprus, the Hon. Dimitris Platis and the Hon. Vasilis Philippou will host an evening of celebration of the works of George Seferiadis. This cultural event will provide an opportunity for many individuals to appreciate the works of George Seferis, statesman, fighter for democracy, and poet.

George Seferis was born on the 29th of February 1900 in Smyrna. The family moved to Athens in 1914. From 1918–1924 he studied law in Paris and in 1926 joined the diplomatic service. His career took him to London and Albania. From the 28th of October 1940, when Mussolini attacked Greece, every evening he held foreign press briefings in Athens. These press conferences are still remembered.

During WWII he served in Beirut and Alexandria. After the war he continued to serve in the diplomatic core and was stationed in Ankara, London, and Beirut. In 1963 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. George Seferis' poetry shows his search for clarification. His striving toward the lights that stands for life, hope, and salvation in what gives his poetry its anguished tone but also its sense of immediacy. The clarity of his precisely controlled style, his complex symbolism, his powerful understatement, with the intensity of his suppressed emotions, compactness of nuance and wealth of allusions create an effect of dramatic density.

Lord, help us to keep in mind the causes of this slaughter: greed, dishonesty, selfishness.

The desecration of love;

Lord, help us to root these out . . .

As we celebrate the hundred years since his birth and mourn his death (September 20th, 1971), Hellenes have been singing Seferis' stanza of hope put to music by Theodorakis:

A little farther

We will see the almond trees blossoming

The marble gleaming in the sun

The sea breaking into waves

A little farther

Let us rise a little higher.

He died during the time of the brutal military dictatorship in Greece. Having denounced the regime on March 28, 1969, he became a symbol for millions of Greeks who hated the junta and knew of his poetry.

We truly thank the Honorable Vasilis Philippou and the Honorable Dimitris Platis for sharing with us the wonderful works and history of George Seferis.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BEN W.
STUTTS OF CHEROKEE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from my district, Maj. Ben W. Stutts. Major Stutts is a true hero of our district and I am pleased that his family will receive the Purple Heart in his honor today for his extraordinary acts of bravery and his lifetime commitment to our armed services.

Born in Cherokee, Alabama, Major Stutts first entered the Army Reserves after finishing Florence State College and the ROTC program. He served as a military police officer before traveling to Ft. Hood, Ft. Devens, Korea and finally Redstone Arsenal as an infantry officer.

Major Stutts' bravery was put to the test in May of 1963 when his helicopter on a routine mission along the Korean Demilitarized Zone inadvertently landed in North Korea. Held captive for a year in North Korea, Major (then Captain) Stutts courageously endured his situation and held onto his faith, his patriotism and his love of his family.

While his family met with the Army and their representatives in Congress and his fate was uncertain, Major Stutts' perseverance served as inspiration for his family and friends anxiously awaiting his home-coming. Stutts' widow Mary and his sons Gregory, Michael and Bruce deserve our recognition for the sacrifices they have endured these many years. As his family accepts this Purple Heart today in honor of their beloved husband and father, I would like to express my appreciation for Major Stutts' actions to keep this country the home of the free.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I would like to pay tribute to Major Stutts and his loving family. We can never afford to forget the victories and sacrifices of our veterans like Major Stutts lest we take for granted the precious freedoms we enjoy every minute of every day.

PELTIER'S PARDON

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask his colleagues to consider carefully the following editorial from the December 27, 2000, edition of the Norfolk Daily News, entitled "Peltier Pardon Would Be Wrong."

PELTIER PARDON WOULD BE WRONG—PINE RIDGE MURDERER OF TWO FBI AGENTS NOT DESERVING OF CLEMENCY

Not since Gerald Ford ascended to the presidency and promptly pardoned former President Richard Nixon for any Watergate crimes has an American president been faced with as important a test of the unique constitutional powers of clemency. The U.S. Constitution makes it possible for a president to forgive otherwise unpardonable acts. The power is absolute with the exception of impeachment: "He shall have the power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States."

That makes it possible for President Clinton to follow his pardoning decisions in 62 cases announced recently and provide clemency for Leonard Peltier, 56. Peltier is serving two life sentences in federal prison in Leavenworth, Kan., for the murder of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1975. The agents, Ron Williams and Jack Coler, were attempting to arrest robbery suspects on the Pine Ridge reservation. The agents were injured, then shot in the head repeatedly, at point blank range. The guilty verdict, rendered in 1977 after Peltier had been returned from Canada where he fled after the crime, has withstood multiple appeals.

His time in prison has found him playing the role of a victim, innocent not by reason of having no association with the crime but because of the injustice done American Indians. Injustices of the past, however, should not be allowed to excuse vicious crimes of the present.

There is now the possibility that President Clinton might agree to the demand of today's activists. They claim (1) that Peltier was a victim of overzealous agents of the federal government, (2) that if he, in fact, committed the crimes for which he was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt, mistreatment of American Indians justified the slayings and (3) that he has become a changed man in prison, and written useful books about the plight of reservation Indians.

There is no question that for many, and especially on the Pine Ridge, conditions were harsh and still are. Murder is still not justified, however, and that must apply especially to those responsible for law enforcement.

While we do not believe in the propriety of demonstration—either against Peltier's incarceration as have taken place repeatedly over the years, or against clemency as the FBI agents did in an orderly way in Washington several days ago—they have served to highlight this unusual and tragic case.

In reaching his last-minute decision, Mr. Clinton needs to look especially at what are the incontrovertible facts of a vicious crime, and the importance to the American system of justice of not treating lightly the cold-blooded murder of federal agents acting to uphold the law.

HONORING TERRY MEEHAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry Meehan for being named "Realtor of the Year" by the Fresno Association of Realtors for the year 2000. The "Realtor of the Year" is awarded to an individual who promotes the professionalism of the Fresno Association of Realtors and has made available the programs and services that allow members to conduct their business with integrity and competency.

Ms. Meehan led the Fresno Association of Realtors and Fresno Multiple Listing Service into the future with an Internet based M.L.S. system allowing realtors to use the latest technology for their clients.

Terry is a graduate of Cal State Fullerton and holds the two highest real estate designations: Graduate of the Realtor Institute and Certified Residential Specialist.

Terry has been a full-time real estate broker for over 20 years in Fresno and Clovis, CA. She specializes in residential real estate sales and serves as relocation director at Realty Concepts.

She is currently the Fresno Association of Realtors M.L.S. chairperson and serves as a State Director for the California Association of Realtors.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Terry Meehan for being named "Realtor of the Year" by the Fresno Association of Realtors. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Meehan many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCING THE NATURAL GAS RESERVE ACT OF 2001

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation titled the Natural Gas Reserve Act of 2001, to create a natural gas reserve to help stabilize the supply and price of natural gas. This reserve will be modeled after the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.

Natural gas prices have risen sharply this winter because of low supplies and increased demand. This in turn has caused hardship for many families in the Dayton area and across the country who are receiving significantly increased utility bills.

A natural gas reserve is part of the long-term solution to the current low supplies and high prices of natural gas. A reserve would enable the federal government to buy when supplies are cheap and plentiful, and make it available during times of shortages. I believe if the United States had such a reserve today, natural gas prices would be lower.

Supplies are at a historic low, in part because of the new gas-fired electric power generators which many utilities are now using, and because of the unexpected cold weather. The Energy Information Administration projects that in March 2001, U.S. natural gas

in storage will be 40 percent below the last 5-year average.

The national gas reserve could be drawn down when there is a supply shortage such as one we are now experiencing. This release of additional natural gas into the market will help keep prices down.

Under this legislation, the Secretary of Energy would determine the size of the natural gas reserve. The Secretary would be authorized to sell oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to cover the administration and acquisition costs of the reserve, and Congress could appropriate additional funds as well.

The Natural Gas Reserve Act of 2001 is an insurance policy for American consumers because it will provide relief during national shortages. I would urge my colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 13, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the recent earthquake in the Indian state of Gujarat.

It is with a heavy heart that my colleagues and India Caucus co-chairman, ED ROYCE, and I have introduced this bill. Early on India's Republic Day, January 26th, a strong earthquake, registering 7.9 on the Richter scale, ripped through the industrial state of Gujarat. Early estimates indicated that this was a particularly bad earthquake, but I doubt that anyone could have thought that it would turn out to be the most devastating natural disaster in India for several centuries. Several high ranking Government of India officials have already said that the death toll may rise above 100,000.

The resolution that we have introduced simply expresses our sympathies for the victims and supports the continued relief efforts. The physical destruction in Gujarat will not be erased for many years, and the psychological scars may never be eliminated. It is in this time of tragedy that we must stand by our friend India and the Indian people and offer all we can to aid their efforts.

In recent years, we have grown increasingly closer to India and the Indian people because of common interests and values, as well as a strong Indian-American community who have made an amazing impact on our nation in the past several decades. It has been this community that has come together to truly lead the American people's response to this natural disaster, and I wish to thank them for that. Indian has become a trading partner, a strategic partner in various international issues, and a true partner for stability and democracy in Asia. I truly hope that our token of support is received by India and the people of India with our deepest sympathies.

This resolution has strong support on both sides of the aisle as well as both bodies of Congress. I am happy that this body will quickly pass this resolution. I urge my colleagues to voice their strong support of the

resolution, and by doing so, voice their support for the people of Gujarat.

HARRY WAYNE CASEY'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Harry Wayne Casey of KC & the Sunshine Band on his fiftieth birthday, January 31, 2001. KC's music has not only enhanced the cultural vibrance of the Miami community, but has become an important part of 20th century American music.

During the course of his remarkably successful career, KC has made a profound impact on popular music as we appreciate it today. His influence helped to shape an entire decade of music; one which has continued to excite fans and earn critical acclaim for the past twenty years.

A native of Hialeah, Florida, KC began his career at age 17 when he began working at Miami's T.K. Records/Studios. By 1973 he had formed the Sunshine Band and embarked upon his meteoric rise to stardom. The Band's second album, released in 1975, went triple platinum and third album, released in 1977, also went triple platinum. KC & The Sunshine Band had amassed an amazing nine Grammy nominations, three Grammy Awards, an American Music Award, four number one singles in the span of one year, and nine Top 10 singles.

KC has maintained an active philanthropic presence in South Florida where he continues to give back to his community. His many charitable acts include the purchase of thousands of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for poor families in the Miami area and regular guest appearances on Radio Y100 in Miami to support child abuse prevention. In addition, he performed in a major benefit concert for the victims of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

I am proud to recognize KC for his outstanding contributions to our community and to our nation's rich music history. I join his family and friends in honoring him on this very special occasion. My best wishes for a wonderful birthday and many more to come.

HONORING ROBERTO PEREZ

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Roberto Perez for his years of dedicated service to the community.

Roberto grew up in Atwater, CA and graduated from Atwater High School in 1973. He studied accounting and business administration at Merced Junior College. After college, he served for six years as a security specialist in the U.S. Air Force. After leaving the military, Roberto became secretary and financial officer for his family's business working alongside his father, Joe Perez, owner of the Atwater Tile Company and La Nita's Restaurants.

Roberto's interest in the community has led him to become involved in several organizations. In 1978, he became a member of Livingston Lodge and was elected as the worshipful master in 1993. In 1979, he became a member of the Scottish Rite of Fresno and Shriners of Fresno, where he rose to assistant executive director general Tehran Temple. He joined the Merced/Mariposa Shiner Club in 1979 and served as president in 1998. After many years as a member of the Mariposa Masonic Lodge he was elected as worshipful master in 1998 and reelected in 1999. He is a former Grand Bible Bearer of the State of California Freemasonry for the year 1999–2000. Roberto has been active in his local Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the board of directors and was elected in 2000 as president of the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce.

Roberto is married to Amy. They have two children, Katrina and Roberto Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Roberto Perez for his active and distinguished community involvement. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Roberto Perez many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY J. SPIKER'S
RETIREMENT

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Nancy J. Spiker, who recently retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ms. Spiker is the State Director for USDA's Rural Development Mission Area in Pennsylvania. That appointment by President Clinton caps a nearly 40-year career of service dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural America.

While most of Ms. Spiker's career in USDA was spent in her native Maryland, I have had the good fortune to work with her since she came to the Pennsylvania state office in February 1993. She arrived as the Chief of Community and Business Programs, and among her accomplishments is the complete turnaround of the state's performance in the programs under her leadership. These programs were critical to rural Pennsylvanians, especially in my district. Yet, before he arrived, Pennsylvania had been regularly turning back much of its funding allocations for programs that provided clean water and safe waste disposal and rural communities, created and saved rural jobs, and financed essential community facilities, such as hospitals, schools, and emergency services. As a direct result of Ms. Spiker's leadership, Pennsylvanians now receive the full benefit of funding available, plus additional funds derived from national reserves. Many rural communities, including my district, have benefitted from her resolve and her hard work.

Nancy Spiker has exemplified "public service" in the finest sense of the term. She has vigorously protected taxpayers' interests. At the same time, she ensured that those who most needed financial assistance learned of USDA's programs and got whatever help they needed to navigate the application process. Whether it was starting the first minority-owned steel business in Pennsylvania, open-

ing a shelter for battered women in a rural community, or helping the residents of a small town ravaged by acid mine drainage get clean drinking water for the first time in decades, Ms. Spiker has consistently gone the extra mile. She didn't just spend taxpayers' money, she invested it wisely in projects that have touched thousands of lives over her career.

As Assistant State Director, Ms. Spiker helped the Pennsylvania Rural Development staff successfully implement a major reorganization, and was instrumental in retraining staff to maintain service to the public. As State Director, she led what has become one of the most robust state operations in Rural Development, and completed a personal journey that began in 1961 as a file clerk.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Nancy for her exemplary career in civil service, and a lifetime of lasting achievements in rural America.

TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRED
ROBERT T. HEALEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert T. Healey of Burlington County, New Jersey. Mr. Healey is a son of the Great Depression and like the great souls that showed America a better way during that time, his life has been one of resiliency. In 1954, Mr. Healey received his Jurist Doctor degree from University of Pennsylvania Law School. Mr. Healey was admitted to the bar in all state and federal courts in New Jersey. He was also admitted to the practice of law in the U.S. Supreme Court and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He recently retired as senior partner of Healey, Mueller and Tyler to give full time interest to several "Viking" business ventures in which he serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. He has chaired the National Coalition to Save Jobs in Boating, the Atlantic City Marine Expo and is the President of the New Jersey Boat Builders Association.

Mr. Healey has also worked in several philanthropic ventures throughout his life. He is the President and principal benefactor of Living Bridges International, a nonprofit foundation working to assist needy-at-risk children. The foundation has helped build two schools in Mexico and helps provide 2400 hot meals per day for Mexican children. Mr. Healey has also been very active in his church and civic duties and has served as the vice-chairman of the Lumberton Township Economic Development Authority.

The honorable Mr. Robert Healey is now a hearty retired grandfather with seven grandchildren and resides with his wife and three children at Gleneayre Farms in Lumberton, New Jersey. The wise philosopher Socrates once asserted that an unexamined life is not worth living. Mr. Healey, I salute you in saying that your examined life, dear sir, was truly worth living.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
CLARIFY THAT NATURAL GAS
GATHERING LINES ARE 7-YEAR
PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF
DEPRECIATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by Representatives MCCREY and WATKINS in the introduction of legislation that will clarify the proper tax treatment of natural gas gathering lines for purposes of depreciation.

For several years, a level of uncertainty has hampered the natural gas processing industry as well as imposed significant costs on the energy industry as a whole. Of course, these costs are ultimately passed on to American consumers in the form of higher heating prices. Consequently, I have been working to bring certainty to the tax treatment of natural gas gathering lines. During this time, I have corresponded and meet with a variety of people from the Department of Treasury in an effort to secure the issuance of much needed guidance for the members of the natural gas processing industry regarding the treatment of these assets.

Unfortunately, I have not received satisfactory responses. Protracted Internal Revenue Service audits and litigation on this issue continue without any end in sight. As a result, I chose to introduce legislation in the 105th and the 106th Congress in order to clarify that, under current law, natural gas gathering lines are properly treated as seven-year assets for purposes of depreciation.

This bill specifically provides that natural gas gathering lines are subject to a seven-year cost recovery period. In addition, the legislation includes a proper definition of a "natural gas gathering line" in order to distinguish these assets from pipeline transportation lines for depreciation purposes. While I believe this result is clearly the correct result under current law, my bill will eliminate any remaining uncertainty regarding the treatment of natural gas gathering lines.

The need for certainty regarding the tax treatment of such a substantial investment is obvious in the face of the IRS's and Treasury's refusal to properly classify these assets. The Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS), the current depreciation system, includes "gathering pipelines and related production facilities" in the Asset Class for assets used in the exploration for and production of natural gas subject to a seven-year cost recovery period. Despite the plain language of the Asset Class description, the IRS and Treasury have repeatedly asserted that only gathering systems owned by producers are eligible for seven-year cost recovery and all other gathering systems should be treated as transmission pipeline assets subject to a fifteen-year cost recovery period.

The IRS's and the Treasury's position creates the absurd result of the same asset receiving disparate tax treatment based solely on who owns it. The distinction between gathering and transmission is well-established and recognized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other regulatory agencies. Their attempt to treat natural gas gathering

lines as transmission pipelines ignores the integral role of gathering systems in production and the different functional and physical attributes of gathering lines as compared to transmission pipelines.

Not surprisingly, the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit has held that natural gas gathering systems are subject to a seven-year cost recovery period under current law regardless of ownership. The potential for costly audits and litigation, however, still remains in other areas of the country. Given that even a midsize gathering system can consist of 1,200 miles of natural gas gathering lines, and that some companies own as much as 18,000 miles of natural gas gathering lines, these assets represent a substantial investment and expense.

The IRS should not force business to incur any more additional expenses as well. My bill will ensure that these assets are properly treated under our country's tax laws.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING MR. HENRY L. (HANK) HECK, JR. FOR HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ASSOCIATED PENNSYLVANIA CONSTRUCTORS

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize a man from my home State of Pennsylvania who has dedicated 32 years of his life to enhancing the quality of life of all Pennsylvanians by working to improve the safety and reliability of the Nation's surface transportation network. Henry L. (Hank) Heck, Jr. has been with the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors since 1969 and has been executive vice president of the association since 1980. Over these past many years, both Hank and I have worked toward similar goals and fought similar battles—myself in the U.S. Congress and Hank on behalf of his association's members throughout the Keystone State. Anyone who knows Hank holds a great respect and admiration for his distinguished career—spanning more than three decades. Now that his well-earned retirement is upon us, Hank will be remembered as both a leader and friend by the many individuals throughout Pennsylvania's transportation construction industry who have had the privilege of working with him.

Although Hank has spent most of his career with the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, his leadership has benefited several other organizations as well. As past chairman of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association's (ARTBA) Council of State Executives, Hank led the association's State chapter affiliates in supporting ARTBA's pursuit to increase federal investment in our Nation's transportation infrastructure. Hank's accomplishments also include service as past president of the Pennsylvania Society of Association Executives, the American Society of Highway Engineers (Harrisburg Chapter), and the Harrisburg Trade Association Executives. He also currently serves as treasurer of the Pennsylvania Highway Information Associa-

tion. A man does not simply lead by his title alone, and Hank has exemplified what it means to be a true leader and a strong advocate for transportation infrastructure throughout Pennsylvania.

Over the years, I have considered Hank to be both a trusted friend and a knowledgeable advisor. Although many will most certainly miss Hank's everyday presence, his impact on the construction industry will be felt for many years to come. I would like to thank Hank for his commitment and service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania over the past 32 years and I respectfully request that the House join me in wishing Hank the very best as he begins his retirement with his wife, Jody, and their family at his side.

JANUARY CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Joseph DiGiorgio, Army veteran and co-founder of the Mineola Volunteer Ambulance Corps as Citizen of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for January 2001.

Joseph exemplifies the American spirit of patriotism and community activism. He served his country and came home to serve his community.

A resident of Mineola for 50 years—since 1955—Joseph served in the Army during World War II with distinction, receiving many commendations for courage under fire in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Joe has a strong interest in veterans' issues and is an active member of Disabled American Vets (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Never one to slow down, Joe's service to his country carried over to his community. He and his wife Louise stated the Mineola Volunteer Ambulance Corps in 1977 at their kitchen table at 116 Jerome Avenue, known as the "Mineola White House." Together they raised funding through citizen contributions and grants.

In the beginning, calls to the ambulance service were answered from homes. Today, the Mineola Ambulance Corps responds to over 1,300 calls per year.

The Mineola Ambulance Corps has grown from one basic life support ambulance to three Advanced Life Support Ambulances, equipped with modern life-saving equipment, administered by over 70 paramedics, EMT's and other emergency-trained people.

I congratulate and thank Joseph, his wife Louise, his daughter Joanne for their community activism and loyal service to Long Island.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JACK MACKEY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a man who has, throughout his entire career as a physician, embodied the values of

rural America—hard work and dedication. On December 1, 2000, Dr. Jack Mackey of Sterling, CO, after more than four decades of ardent service, retired and closed his medical practice.

As a young man, Jack Mackey joined the Army entering corpsman's school. Shortly thereafter, he was stationed in Denver, at Fitzsimmons Army Base, for a stint of three years. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, he attended and ultimately graduated from the University of Denver and University of Colorado Medical School.

While completing his education, Jack gained valuable experience as an intern at St. Lukes Hospital in Denver. Afterwards he launched into a private practice in Nebraska. Dr. Mackey then moved to Sterling, CO, where he established a glowing reputation for his devotion, care and concern for humanity. He traveled long distances throughout the eastern plains, treating many patients on numerous house-calls.

Dr. Jack Mackey has provided excellent care and the gift of good health to many residents of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. I ask my colleagues of this great House to join me in extending a special "thanks" to Dr. Mackey. May God's Blessings continue to be with him as he begins what we all hope will be a long and certainly a well deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING EDWARD AND PEGGY PESTANA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RANDANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edward and Peggy Pestana as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Edward and Peggy Pestana were married on December 16, 1950 in Riverside, California.

In 1949, after graduating from San Leandro High School, Edward enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he proudly served as a gunner, boom operator, instructor/evaluator, and recruiter until he retired in 1971 as senior master sergeant. In 1975, Edward earned his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from LaVerne College. Then, for 14 years he worked as a social worker and conservator investigator for Merced County.

Peggy graduated from Hayward High School in 1949. In 1965 she began her career as a textbook clerk, which she continued for 25 years at three different school districts.

Edward and Peggy Pestana retired together in 1991 and live at home in Mariposa. Since their retirement, the couple has traveled extensively around the world. They are still active docents at the Mariposa History Center. Peggy also participates in two programs to help the underprivileged: the Brown Bag and the Commodities programs.

Edward and Peggy have three sons and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Edward and Peggy Pestana on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them many more years of continued happiness.

IMPROVE, DON'T RE-REGULATE OUR NATION'S AVIATION SYSTEM—THESE REMARKS APPEARED AS A "GUEST COLUMN" IN THE ALTOONA MIRROR ON JANUARY 29, 2001

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this month, I am retiring from Congress after being fortunate enough to represent the 9th District of Pennsylvania for 28 years, most recently as chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am proudest of my efforts to improve the nation's transportation system, especially highways, transit, and airports.

In 1998, I introduced the Transportation, Equity Act for the 21st Century, which guaranteed that revenue from highway users will be used to fund transportation improvements. This landmark legislation, TEA-21, will result in a \$219 billion investment in highway and transit systems by 2003.

And last April, President Clinton signed into law my Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21), which will unlock revenue from taxes on airline tickets to enhance aviation safety and improve infrastructure by providing more money for terminals, gates, taxiways and other improvements. Overall funding for Federal Aviation Administration programs will increase from about \$10 billion in fiscal 2000 to more than \$13 billion annually over the next three years.

However, I believe this bipartisan measure should be regarded as only a first step. The FAA still lacks funding to modernize the air traffic control system, and we remain woefully short of airport capacity to serve the 660 million passengers who fly each year, a number that has more than doubled since 1978.

In recent months, there has been considerable discussion about how consolidation in the airline industry will affect the future of air travel, particularly in the wake of proposed mergers between United Airlines and US Airways, initiated last May, and the American Airlines takeover of TWA, announced this month. In my opinion, much of the concern about these developments is misplaced.

The United-US Airways merger, for example, will create more than 500 new airport-to-airport routes, including 64 new domestic nonstop flights. But more importantly, it will preserve and expand access by US Airways passengers to a convenient, seamless, national and international airline network—the kind of air travel that is essential for companies doing business in today's global economy. Without this merger, US Airways is almost certain to fade away, costing tens of thousands of jobs and reducing air service—especially for smaller cities on less-profitable routes that usually are the first to lose flights and the last to get them back.

Many of the same benefits apply to the American Airlines purchase of TWA, which has lost money for a decade and is now in its third visit to bankruptcy court. American gains a strong hub in St. Louis, allowing it to increase competition by adding capacity. But more significantly, the deal will preserve access to a competitive, comprehensive airline network for the cities now served by TWA.

Certainly, these mergers raise some issues, which are being handled by the Justice Department. United has proposed to increase competitiveness by operating the Boston-New York-Washington shuttle with American. DC Air, the spin-off airline created by the merger, will preserve service from Reagan National Airport to the 43 cities now served by US Airways. In addition, American is buying 49 percent of DC Air (thus giving the new airline access to American's planes, capital and operating expertise), and has agreed to maintain nonstop service on five key hub-to-hub flights where both United and US Airways currently operate for at least 10 years to ensure competition.

I believe Justice is quite capable of ensuring that these mergers will benefit the traveling public. But I think it would be a mistake to re-regulate the airlines, as suggested by some well-meaning lawmakers. The airline industry does not need federally mandated competition "guidelines"—it needs the gates, terminals, runways and traffic control systems that will allow it to grow. Even though many carriers have come and gone in the 20-plus years since airlines were deregulated, average fares have dropped 40 percent in constant dollars—proof of healthy competition in the skies.

Half a century ago, the president and Congress launched what became the world's greatest road network, America's Interstate highway system. I am proud that we have taken steps to preserve that network. And I hope that the new Administration and Congress will make the same effort to enhance our nation's system of air travel.

NEW BEDFORD MAKES PROGRESS ON CLEAN WATER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we often hear tales of woe from local officials and it is important that we remain cognizant of these, so that we can act to correct policy mistakes and other circumstances that cause undue stress to the people who have the important job of administering our municipalities. But it is also important to note when as a result of cooperation among the various offices of government, we get something right. I was pleased to receive from the Mayor of New Bedford, MA, Fred Kalisz, an interesting discussion of how cooperation at all three levels has resulted in a policy involving the cleaning of New Bedford Harbor which has had beneficial environmental and economic effects, without having an excessively harsh financial impact on the citizens of that area. I submit the following instructive discussion from Mayor Kalisz into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the City of New Bedford, Office of the Mayor]

THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING HISTORY

The City of New Bedford is an old coastal community located on the South Coast of Massachusetts, approximately 50 miles south of Boston. Considered by many as the gateway to Cap Cod, Marth's Vineyard and the Islands.

New Bedford's colorful history is intimately tied to the sea. As one of three deep-

water ports in the State of Massachusetts, and home to the second largest fishing fleet in the country, New Bedford's history, past and future is tied to the sea and the stewardship of its resources.

The City occupies a land area of 19 square miles and has a mean elevation of 50 feet above sea level. Established in 1787, New Bedford was incorporated as a City in 1847.

The New Bedford wastewater collection system was originally constructed in the middle 1800's as a system of sewers that discharged wastewater directly into the City's inner harbor and Clark's Cove. Between 1910 and 1920, the City expanded the system by adding a main interceptor, conveying wastewater through a now abandoned screen house, into an outfall, discharging into Buzards Bay.

In 1972, the City added a primary treatment facility located on Fort Rodman, at the southern most tip of New Bedford, to provide primary treatment to the outfall discharged to the Bay. In 1986, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued joint permits to the City requiring immediate compliance with the secondary wastewater treatment requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 (the "CWA") and the Massachusetts Clean Water Act (the "Massachusetts Act").

In 1987, the City entered into a Consent Decree and began implementation of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP designed to comply with regulatory mandates of the CWA and the Massachusetts Act. Capital improvement costs identified by the Decree totaled nearly \$225 million and were projected to increase typical household sewer bills from less than \$70 per year to over \$1000 per household. This court action put the City on schedule to improve its collection and treatment systems through the planning, design, and construction of approved collection and treatment facilities.

The cost of complying with the mandates of the Consent Order represented a major economic and financial burden for the City and its citizens. The City entered into negotiations with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts State Revolving Fund. Those negotiations resulted in the Commonwealth agreeing to finance the City's total obligation through the SRF on a subsidized basis, in effect, at a zero percent interest rate. This financial structure enabled the City to move forward.

In total, the City of New Bedford completed twelve major wastewater related infrastructure projects totaling 177 million dollars, to comply with Federal and State clean water mandates ending decades of deferred maintenance and environmental neglect. Today, New Bedford boasts its heritage of the sea with renewed commitment to the stewardship of its resource.

Thousands of acres of shellfish beds, closed for decades, are now open, creating jobs and providing tangible evidence to the success of a community committed to environmental progress.

However, these efforts came at great cost for resident shord pressed to afford the resources necessary to end these decades of neglect. To a community that experienced double digit unemployment, and a blue-collar workforce with a median family income of less than \$28,000 per year, New Bedford initiated and raised sewer fees in a depressed economy to support this Herculean effort.

The community viewed original rate projections in the initial phases of the projects timetable with despair. They could ill afford the enormous expense of the commitment before them, help was needed, and New Bedford could not do it alone.

In July of 1988, the City of New Bedford established and adopted the first sewer fee in

the municipalities' history, equal to 34 cents per thousand gallons of water discharged into the sewer system. By January 1994 this rate had increased to \$3.55 for the same thousand gallons, a 1000% increase. Based on project engineering estimates and financial considerations, rates were expected to approach \$6.00 per thousand gallons by the year 1999.

The Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (The Trust) was established in March 1993. Utilizing Federal grant money, the Trust established a State Revolving Fund that provided zero interest loans for sewer related infrastructure improvements for municipalities faced with mandates to meet environmental regulations.

This form of Federal and State support of capital improvement project has become a critical component for municipalities to move progressively forward in achieving environmental goals.

In the case of the City of New Bedford, this support has enabled the community to complete every project outlined in their facilities plan to provide infrastructure capabilities for industrial, commercial and residential growth, while meeting clean water mandates and environmental commitments.

As a result of our efforts, New Bedford is the first community to take advantage of extending State Revolving Fund debt and amortizing these commitments out over 30 years. Thus extending the term of the SRF debt to reflect the useful life of the financed projects again minimizing impacts to rates. A community that once faced sewer fees that were unaffordable has completed the largest sewer related capitol improvement program in its history, without breaking the back of the ratepayers.

This is testament to Federal, State and Local governments forming partnerships to solve problems.

ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR
AWARDS CEREMONY—NECO
CHAIRMAN WILLIAM DENIS
FUGAZY LEADS DRAMATIC
CEREMONY ON ELLIS ISLAND,
NY, MAY 6

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, standing on the hallowed grounds of Ellis Island—the portal through which 17 million immigrants entered the United States—a cast of ethnic Americans who have made significant contributions to the life of this nation were presented with the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor at an emotionally uplifting ceremony.

NECO's annual medal ceremony and reception on Ellis Island in New York Harbor is the Nation's largest celebration of ethnic pride. Representing a rainbow of ethnic origins, this year's recipients received their awards in the shadow of the historic Great Hall, where the first footsteps were taken by the millions of immigrants who entered the U.S. in the latter part of the nineteenth century. "Today we honor great ethnic Americans who, through their achievements and contributions, and in the spirit of their ethnic origins, have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations," said NECO Chairman William Denis Fugazy. "In addition, we honor the immigrant experience—those who passed through this Great Hall decades ago, and the

new immigrants who arrive on American soil seeking opportunity."

Mr. Fugazy added, It doesn't matter how you got here or if you already were here. Ellis Island is a symbol of the freedom, diversity and opportunity—ingredients inherent in the fabric of this nation. Although many recipients have no familial ties to Ellis Island, their ancestors share similar histories of struggle and hope for a better life here.

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. To date, approximately 1,300 American citizens have received medals.

NECO is the largest organization of its kind in the U.S. serving as an umbrella group for over 250 ethnic organizations and whose mandate is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote ethnic and religious equality, tolerance and harmony, and to combat injustice, hatred and bigotry. NECO has a new goal in its humanitarian mission: saving the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions. NECO has founded the Forum's Children Foundation, which brings children from developing nations needing life-saving surgery to the Untied States for treatment. This year alone, NECO's efforts have helped save the lives of twelve infants from around the world.

Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients are selected each year through a national nomination process. Screening committees from NECO's member organizations select the final nominees, who are then considered by the Board of Directors.

Past Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients have included several U.S. Presidents, entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs, religious leaders and business executive, such as William Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, George Bush, Richard Nixon, George Pataki, Mario Cuomo, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Michael Douglas, Gloria Estefan, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Elie Wiesel, Muhammad Ali, Mickey Mantel, General Norman Schwarzkopf, Barbara Walters, Terry Anderson and Dr. Michael DeBakey.

Congratulation to the 2000 Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients.

MEDALIST LIST: ELLIS ISLAND 2000

Richard A. Abdo, Business Leader, Lebanese.

Anthony R. Abraham, Business/Community Leader, Lebanese.

Dr. William A. Athens, Physician/Surgeon, Hellenic.

Nelson Viriato Baptista, Business Leader, Portuguese.

Amin J. Barakat M.D., Physician, Lebanese.

Edward J. Bergassi, Business Leader, Italian.

Bharat B. Bhatt, Business Leader, Indian.

Norman P. Blake, Jr., Business Leader, English/German.

Gunter Blobel, M.D., PhD, Scientist, German.

Jules J. Bonavolonta, Business Leader, Italian.

Patricia R. Brandrup, Business Leader, English.

Hon. Jesse Brown, Business Leader, African.

Art Buchwald, Syndicated Columnist, Austrian/Hungarian.

Gerard L. Cafesjian, Investor/Philanthropist, Armenian.

Dr. Vincent J. Calamia, Physician & Business Leader, Italian.

Charles V. Campisi, Chief of Internal Affairs, Italian.

Carlos H. Cantu, Business Leader, Mexican.
Elvira M. Carota, M.D., Physician/Educator/Humanitarian, Italian.

David E.A. Carson, Business Leader, English.

Frank Carucci, Educator, Italian.

Margo Catsimatidis, Advertising Exec./Philanthropist, Russian.

Leonard A. Cecere, Attorney, Italian.

Michael Chakeres, Business Leader, Hellenic.

Alvah H. Chapman, Jr., Business/Community Leader, English.

Dr. Ben John Chen, Community/Business Leader, Chinese.

George C. Chryssis, Community/Business Leader, Hellenic.

Sam C. Chung, Banker, Korean.

John R. Climaco, Attorney, Italian.

Vance D. Coffman, Business Leader, German/English.

Paul F. Cole, Labor Leader, Irish/German.
Evanthea Condakes, Community Leader, Hellenic.

James Costaras, Educator, Hellenic.

Stephen J. Dannhauser, Esq., Attorney, German/Irish.

James DeCuzzi, NYC Commissioner, Italian/British.

James F. Demos, Community Leader, Hellenic.

James L. Doti, Educator, Italian.

Hon. Dennis C. Droushiotis, International Business Leader, Cypriot.

Walter E. Dunn, Jr., Labor Leader, Irish.

Joseph P. Dunne, Law Enforcement Officer, Irish.

Jean C. Emond, M.D., Surgeon/Humanitarian, Canadian.

Gaetana Enders, Author/Community Leader, Italian.

Jack W. Eugster, Business Leader, Swiss.

John D. Feerick, Lawyer, Irish.

Steven Fisher, Business Leader, Russian.

John S.T. Gallagher, CEO Healthsystem, Columbian/Irish.

John E. Callagher, Sr., Business Leader, Irish.

Laurance W. Gay, Business Leader, Italian/Irish.

Louis C. Generali, Business Leader, Italian.

Liz Giordano, Business/Community Leader, Italian.

Robert C. Golden, Business Leader, Irish.

Alan Harvey Goldfield, Business Leader, Austrian.

Hon. Norman Goodman, Attorney/Government Official, Russian/English.

Milton Gralla, Publisher, Polish.

Hans G. Hachmann, Attorney, German.

Michael Haratunian, Business Leader, Armenian.

Dr. L.P. Hinterbuchner, Educator/Physician, Slovak.

Dr. Eugene M. Holuka, Dip. of Internal Medicine, Ukrainian.

James J. Houlihan, Business Leader, Irish.

Raffy A. Hovanessian M.D., Community Leader, Armenian/Lebanese.

Henry J. Humphreys, Community Leader, Irish/English.

Hon. Charles J. Hynes, District Attorney, Irish.

James S. Isray, Business Leader, Polish/Hungarian.

Mjr. Gen. Robert R. Ivany, Maj. Gen.—United States Army, Hungarian.

Jay S. Jacobs, Business/Civic Leader, English/German.

Dr. William A. Athens, Physician/Surgeon, Hellenic.

Thomas H. Jacobsen, Business Leader, Norwegian.

Willie James, Labor Leader, African.

Albert Joseph, Business Leader, Lebanese.

William H. Joyce, Business Leader, Swedish/Irish.

Dr. Kirk P. Kalemkeris, Doctor/Author/Community Leader, Hellenic.
 Sok Hui Kang, Community Leader/Activist, Korean.
 Mike Kojaian, Business Leader, Armenian.
 George P. Kokalis, Community Leader, Hellenic.
 Elyse Kroll, Business Leader, Russian/English.
 Glenn Kummer, Business Leader, Swiss/German.
 Leonard A. Lauder, Business Leader, Hungarian/Czech/Austrian.
 Hon. Peter K. Leisure, Sr. District Judge, English/French.
 Alfred Lerner, Business Leader, Russian.
 Leo Liebowitz, Business Leader, Romanian/Polish.
 Anthony J. Limberakis M.D., Nat'l Cmdr Order of St. Andrew, Hellenic.
 Dr. Herbert London, Educator, Russian/Polish.
 Robert Lopez, Business Leader, Puerto Rican.
 Susan Lucci, Emmy Award Winning Actress, Italian/Swedish.
 Robert W. Mahoney, Business Leader, Irish.
 Gerald F. Mahoney, Business Leader, Irish/Scottish.
 Hon. Guy James Mangano, Presiding Justice, Italian.
 Colonel William J. Martinez, Commander, Spanish/Mexican.
 James S. Mavromatis, Special Agent, Hellenic/Yugoslavian.
 Hon. John McCain, United States Senator, Scottish/Irish.
 Royce Neil McNeill, FSA Scot, Scottish Clan Leader, Scottish.
 C. Dean Metropoulos, Business Leader, Hellenic.
 William D. Modell, Business Leader, Hungarian.
 Zena, Mucha, Government Relations Specialist, Ukrainian.
 Hon. Michael B. Mukasey, Chief Judge, So. District NY, Russian/Polish.
 Joseph P. Nacchio, Business Leader, Italian.
 Fred Nauman, Labor Leader, German.
 Joseph Neubauer, Business Leader, Israeli.
 Peter M. Nicholas, Business Leader, Hellenic.
 Hugh O'Brien, Philanthropist/Educator/Performer, Irish/German/Scottish.
 John Pappajohn, Business Leader, Hellenic.
 Ike Pappas, Television Journalist, Hellenic.
 Nazario Paragano Sr., Builder/Real Estate Broker/Banker, Italian.
 Hon. Michael L. Pesce, Adm. Judge, Italian.
 Thomas M. Reich, Attorney, Russian.
 Hon. Janet Reno, Attorney General of the U.S., Danish.
 Chita Rivera, Entertainer, Puerto Rican.
 Douglas L. Rock, Business Leader, Austrian.
 John Roland, TV News Anchorman, German.
 Hon. Eugene T. Rossides, Business/Community Leader, Cypriot/Hellenic.
 John P. Rousakis, Community Leader, Hellenic.
 T. Timothy Ryan, Jr., Investment Banker, Irish.
 George E. Safiol, Business Leader, Hellenic.
 Edward M. Salem, Community Leader/Humanitarian, Lebanese.
 Tamir Sapir, Business Leader, Russian.
 Albert Schwartzberg, Business Leader, Russian.
 Cristina Schwarz, Spanish Language TV Executive, Argentina/Austria/Chile/Croatia.
 Irving J. Shulman, Business Leader, Russian.

Nathaniel L. Sillis, Business Leader, Lithuanian/Polish.
 Sam Simonian, Business Leader, Lebanese/Armenian.
 Louis H. Siracusano, Sr., Entrepreneur, Italian.
 David S. Slackman, Business Leader, Polish.
 Richard A. Smith, Business Leader, German/Dutch/English.
 Salvatore F. Sodano, Business/Community Leader, Italian.
 Taraneh Sohrab, Banker, Persian.
 Harold A. Sorgenti, Business Leader, Italian.
 Hon. Eliot Spitzer, NYS Attorney General, Austrian/French.
 Robert G. Stanton, Conservation Leader, African.
 Jerry Stiller, Polish.
 Thomas C. Sullivan, Business Leader, Irish.
 Dr. William A. Athens, Physician/Surgeon, Hellenic.
 Sidney Taurel, Business Leader, Spanish.
 W.R. Timken, Jr., Business Leader, German.
 Joe Torre, New York Yankees Manager, Italian.
 William Ungar, Business Leader, Polish.
 Hon. Thomas Von Essen, NYC Fire Commissioner, German.
 Michael Wach, Television Executive, Polish/Russian.
 LaDane Williamson, Business Leader, English/Italian.
 Gary Winnick, Global Financier/Philanthropist, Eastern European.
 Barry Zorhian, Communications Consultant, Armenian.

our nation because it reminds me of the deep wells of compassion that many people shelter in their hearts. So today, I honor Scott Chase, who did not flinch and who did not brag—he merely did what any Good Samaritan would do. Scott is a model citizen, and we all can learn from his example.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAMON CASTILLO, JR., OUTGOING 2000 PRESIDENT, GREATER RIVERSIDE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a man who has given time and time again to the children, parents and communities of Riverside, CA. An individual whose dedication and unselfish public service has made Riverside a better place to live and work. Dr. Damon Castillo, Jr. is one of these individuals and much, much more.

On January 20, 2001 Dr. Castillo was honored as the outgoing 2000 President of the Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In his capacity as President, Damon brought his belief that in partnership with the local businesses and the communities our schools can build a solid foundation of literacy knowledge permitting all students to succeed well into the next millennium.

Dr. Damon Castillo, Jr. has 29 years of experience in the field of education, including teaching, administration, personnel management and district superintendent. As Superintendent of the Alford Unified School District in Riverside, a district serving almost 17,000 students, Damon oversaw the passage of a school bond in the amount of \$57 million. That school bond measure, combined with state funds, allowed the Alford Unified School District to receive a total of \$100 million for modernization and growth needs. Additionally, during his position as superintendent, the district continuation school was recognized by the state as a "Model Continuation School." One elementary school was also recognized as a California Distinguished School—the first in the district's history.

Damon's history of involvement in the community have also included: Member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Inland Valleys, President-elect of the Arlington Rotary Club, Member of the Riverside City Council's Downtown Specific Plan Committee and as a member of my Hispanic Task Force. Recognitions have included the 1998 Inland Empire Hispanic Image Awards, 1998 Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, 1999 Minority Male Award and the 1999 Presidential Citation for Educational leadership.

His outstanding work to promote Hispanic businesses, community organizations and students of the Inland Empire make me proud to call him a community member and fellow American. I know that all of the Inland Empire, including myself, are grateful for his contributions to the betterment of the community and salute Damon as the outgoing 2000 President. I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of the Inland Empire in the future.

HONORING SCOTT CHASE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Good Samaritan named Scott Chase. Scott braved the freezing cold temperatures to save the life of an older woman, who was involved in a tragic accident on January 17.

On that fateful Wednesday afternoon, long-time friends Shirley Maris and Mary Belle Hamm were meeting other friends for lunch at a popular restaurant in Southeast Denver. Ms. Maris parked in a space that appeared to be on a parking lot. In reality, she drove her car onto a 9-foot-deep pond that was covered with ice and 3 inches of snow. When the two women parked on the ice, their vehicle plunged into the water. Several onlookers witnessed this horrible incident. One of these witnesses was Scott Chase, who ran out of his company's boardroom and to the site where he saw Ms. Hamm in the vehicle's rear window. An employee from the restaurant broke the rear window with a propane tank and Scott dove into the water and rescued Ms. Hamm from the frigid water. Tragically, officers and rescue teams could not save Ms. Maris, who drowned after being trapped underwater for 20 minutes. However, Ms. Hamm was treated for hypothermia and released from the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the entire state of Colorado was saddened by Shirley Maris' untimely death. But we were also encouraged by Scott Chase's heroic efforts. When I hear of such courageous acts, it gives me great hope for

H.R. 134 WILL PROVIDE COMPENSA-
TION FOR VETERANS EXPOSED
TO RADIATION

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2001, I introduced H.R. 134 to enable veterans exposed to radiation to be considered for medical assistance without regard to their particular level of exposure. The bill also expands the definition of radiation-risk activity to include veterans exposed to residual contamination.

The destroyer U.S.S. *Brush* entered the waters of the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, an area contaminated with radiation from a large number of ships that had served as targets during two atmospheric nuclear tests. Crew members of the U.S.S. *Brush* ate fish and drank water distilled from the bay and crew members made trips to the target vessels to retrieve souvenirs. There was no dosimetry data collected on the U.S.S. *Brush* or at the Kwajalein Atoll to determine levels of exposure. No safety precautions were taken to prevent exposure and the crew was unaware of the dangers of ionizing radiation.

Veterans who served on the U.S.S. *Brush* now suffer from a number of diseases that can be linked to radiation exposure. However, their disability claims have repeatedly been denied because they were not onsite participants in an atmospheric nuclear test and they were exposed to low levels of ionizing radiation.

Congress has assisted veterans exposed to radiation in the past. In 1988 Congress passed the Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act (Pub. L. 100-321). This law covered veterans which participated in a radiation risk activity. The law has three definitions of radiation risk activity. They include: Onsite participation in a nuclear detonation, occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, by United States forces during the period beginning on August 6, 1945 and ending on July 1, 1946, and internment as a prisoner of war in Japan during WWII which resulted in the opportunity for exposure to ionizing radiation comparable to that of veterans occupying Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Clearly, this language does not cover those veterans exposed to radiation while in the service of their country.

VA claims that lab tests on these veterans show that levels of residual radiation are not sufficient to sustain their claims for disability. However, these dose levels were based on lab tests, not data collected on sight at the Kwajalein Atoll. This is important because Congress has previously concluded that determining the level of exposure, unless collected onsite, is a futile exercise. Disability claims must be considered without regard to whether any particular level of radiation was measured for that individual especially when exposure is not denied.

Congress must ensure that veterans exposed to ionizing radiation either on site or residually be eligible for benefits. Without H.R. 134 radiation-exposed veterans do not have a realistic chance of proving their disability claim. I urge my colleagues to support our veterans by co-sponsoring H.R. 134.

HONORING MR. SCOTT FLORES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Scott Flores, the outgoing chairman of the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, who has made significant contributions to the Hispanic community and to Colorado as a whole.

The Denver Hispanic Chamber flourished under his leadership. It has been recognized not only as the Regional Hispanic Chamber of the Year for a nine-state region, but also as the leading large Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in the country, highlighting its important leadership role in the local and national Hispanic community.

During the past year, Scott Flores has been the individual most responsible for uniting the seven Hispanic Chambers throughout Colorado into a single Colorado Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Alliance. Although this alliance is still in the development phase, it has the potential to unite Colorado Hispanics economically and socially. This new organization could help strengthen existing businesses and establish new ones. Additionally, this new organization will likely be partnered with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which could help to foster cultural unity and stimulate further achievements on the part of the Hispanic community in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Scott Flores for his efforts. I have no doubt that his work with the Denver Hispanic Chamber will continue to benefit our economy and improve American equality and social justice.

HONORING BILL NORTH, PRESI-
DENT, JURUPA VALLEY CHAM-
BER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of California's Inland Empire and the nation is unparalleled. The Inland Empire has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Mr. Bill North is one of these individuals.

On January 27, 2001, Bill North was honored by the Jurupa Valley Chamber of Commerce during his installation dinner, not only for being the singular individual in the Chamber's history to serve three consecutive terms but also for his life-long service to the community and our country. In 1989, Bill and his wife, Debbie, joined the Chamber of Commerce as the owners of Eagle One Security. In those 12 years they have given time and time again, and are still at it.

Bill North's life is a testament to the founding principles of our great nation. One of twelve children born in Cawood, Kentucky, Bill grew up working in tobacco fields and on his

family farm. At only seventeen he enlisted in the United States Army, training with the British Commandos to become an Airborne Ranger. As a soldier he fought in more than his share of battles, including: Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the Rhineland, Northern Europe and Central Europe Campaigns. His bravery and heroism earned him a Silver Star, five Bronze Stars, a Presidential Citation, two Purple Hearts and many other citations. The war not only introduced him to seemingly impossible challenges—such as when his outfit mistakenly parachuted behind enemy lines and landed in a concentration camp, engaging in heavy combat, and liberating the victims—but also afforded him the opportunity to share a meal with Winston Churchill and having General Patton remark to him, "You'll Make It Kid," while riding on the General's tank.

After the war, Bill's long and prosperous career included a stint in the steel mills of Detroit and government work in California, welding titanium heat shields for the first manned orbital space flight. However, it is his community involvement that has set Bill apart, including: fifty-seven years as a Shriner within the Masonic Order, the Elk & Moose, Junior Mechanics, Odd Fellows, Red Man and numerous others. These groups have allowed him to continue to express his care for humanity by delivering meals to those in need and visiting terminally ill children in the hospital. Bill is also a co-founder of the Concerned Citizens on Patrol and currently volunteers as a Social Investigator with the Riverside County Probation Department's Youth Accountability Board Program.

Bill North's incredible devotion to our nation and his outstanding work to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations of the Jurupa Valley Chamber of Commerce make me proud to call him a community member and fellow American. I know that all of the Inland Empire, including myself, are grateful for his contribution to the betterment of our community and salute Bill as he commences his fourth term (third consecutive term) as President of the Jurupa Valley Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of the community well into the future.

A SALUTE TO JACK MCLAUGHLIN
HONORING HIS YEARS OF SERV-
ICE WITH THE BERKELEY UNI-
FIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor today to salute Berkeley Unified School District's Superintendent, Jack McLaughlin, for his years of service to the school district and city of Berkeley.

Superintendent McLaughlin has thirty-seven years of service in California's public school system to his credit, with twenty-six of those years as a district superintendent throughout the state. Additionally, he has also served as a teacher, Principal and Assistant Superintendent. Dr. McLaughlin is leaving Berkeley Unified to become Nevada State's Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Dr. McLaughlin has made a positive and profound impact on the students and faculty of

Berkeley during his six-year tenure as its Superintendent. These impacts include implementation of a full scale class size reduction, implementation of an Early Literacy Plan, creation of small school academies at Berkeley High School, conversion of the continuation school to an alternative high school, implementation of a rigorous promotion and retention policy, extension of the day program for additional academic student support, construction of five new school buildings, four magnet schools and one new elementary school, replacement of over half of the district's bus fleet with more energy efficient and low emission vehicles, implementation of a classroom technology program and creation of Healthy Start programs throughout the district to extend support for the school district's families and students.

While this list is just a fraction of his accomplishments in an active six-year tenure, it is no surprise that Dr. McLaughlin was named as California's Superintendent of the Year in 1999.

I proudly join his friends and colleagues in thanking and saluting him for his years of service and commitment to education and wishing him much success on his new career in Nevada. Thank you Jack.

PROTECTING THE MILITARY
HEALTH CARE BENEFITS OF
LONG-MARRIED MILITARY
SPOUSES FOLLOWING DIVORCE

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation extending eligibility to use the military health care system and commissary stores to un-remarried former spouses of a member of the uniformed services in certain circumstances. The legislation is identical to H.R. 475 which I introduced in the 106th Congress.

Current law provides health and commissary benefits to un-remarried former spouses who meet the 20/20/20 rule—those who were married to military personnel for at least 20 years, whose spouse served in the military for at least 20 years, and whose marriage and spouse's military service overlapped for 20 years.

A problem that frequently arises is that many members who retire upon attaining 20 years of service were married a year or two after entering active duty. The overlap of their service and marriage is just short of 20 years. Thus regardless of the subsequent length of marriage the spouse can never meet the criteria requiring the 20 year overlap.

The bill would eliminate this current inequity by extending to un-remarried former spouse's medical care and commissary benefits if the member performed at least 20 years of service which is creditable in determining the member's eligibility for retired pay and the former spouse was married to the member for a period of at least 17 years during those years of service.

This inequity affects not only individuals in my district, but spouses in every district across the Nation. Since the introduction of H.R. 475 last Congress, I have received letters and

phone calls from Massachusetts, Idaho, California, Ohio, Arizona, Florida, Washington, Maryland, Kansas, and Utah.

The Department of Defense has stated that by providing a more liberal entitlement to these individuals, we would "tax" the Department's resources thus increasing the budgetary requirements. Well, I say it is worth it when I read about a woman from Arizona who was married to her husband for 36 years, but because she married him 1 year after his initial enlistment, she missed the 20-20-20 rule by 11 months. These stories are tragic, and we must correct this unfairness.

I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA NIEHOUSE,
OUTGOING PRESIDENT, LAKE
ELSINORE VALLEY CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of Lake Elsinore is exceptional. Lake Elsinore has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Donna Niehouse is one of these individuals.

On January 20, 2001, Donna Niehouse was honored as the outgoing 1999–2000 President of the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce. Donna's efforts over the past two years as President of the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce led to the Chamber's financial stability through her sound judgement and leadership. Additionally, Lake Elsinore has seen the growth of the monthly Street Fairs and Cruise Nights held in the historic downtown Lake Elsinore—leading the Chamber's ability to turn over the operation of these events to the Downtown Merchants Association.

The leadership of Donna Niehouse has also led to the Economic Development Committee's returning to their original concept of monthly luncheons, now one of the most highly attended events in the community, and the establishment of the Chamber website. Donna has been instrumental in strengthening the bonds between the Chamber, City and business community.

Donna's work to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations of the City of Lake Elsinore make me proud to call her a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Lake Elsinore is grateful for her contribution to the betterment of the community and salute her as she departs the Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce after two years of service. I look forward to continuing to work with her for the good of our community in the future.

PEACE AND QUIET OF THE PARKS
NEED CONTINUED PROTECTION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the new Administration is reviewing some of the actions of their predecessors. That is understandable and in some cases may be appropriate.

But I am concerned about reports that the review may lead to actions to delay or undo important recent initiatives to protect the public health and safety and the quality of our environment.

For example, the Forest Service recently completed development of new rules for the management of the remaining roadless areas in the national forests. They are sound, balanced rules to protect these areas that are so important for fish and wildlife, clean water, recreation, and other values. They should be allowed to stand.

Similarly, the National Park Service has acted to reduce the noise and other adverse effects on some parks for snowmobiles and aircraft. Here again, it would be a mistake to simply discard the work that has been done to respond to some very real problems.

As the Denver Post noted in a recent editorial, "the Park Service didn't react arbitrarily. The agency held extensive public hearings, conducted numerous scientific studies, and invited tens of thousands of written citizen comments. . . . the Park Service was responding to a public outcry, so the new policies in fact largely emerged from the grassroots. . . . Our beloved national parks must be preserved for future generations. . . . the ban on loud, intrusive machines in these awe-inspiring wonderlands should remain."

Mr. Speaker, I agree, and for the benefit of our colleagues, I am submitting the full Denver Post editorial for inclusion in the RECORD.

[From the Denver Post, Jan. 23, 2001]

DON'T DISRUPT PARKS POLICY

President Bush should stand up to the narrow political interests who would wreck the tranquility of our national parks.

For years, visitors at Yellowstone and Grand Canyon National parks often complained about snowmobiles in Yellowstone, and airplane and helicopter flights over the Grand Canyon. Clearly, the National Park Service had to craft a new policy responding to numerous citizens infuriated by the noise, pollution, wildlife harrassment and inappropriate machine use. In Yellowstone, for instance, visitors couldn't even hear Old Faithful's great roar over the constant whine of hundreds of snowmobiles.

But the Park Service didn't react arbitrarily. The agency held extensive public hearings, conducted numerous scientific studies and invited tens of thousands of written citizen comments.

Based on that input, the Park Service imposed the bans on Grand Canyon aircraft flights and snowmobiles in Yellowstone.

However, some conservative Western politicians want President Bush to discard these thoughtful policies. In a Dec. 27 letter, U.S. Rep. Jim Hansen, a Utah Republican, told Bush he should overturn a host of Clinton administration public land policies. At the top of Hansen's promachine wish list: the ban on Grand Canyon aircraft flights and snowmobiles in Yellowstone and other national parks.

Hansen wrongly asserts that these policies were imposed top-down and would harm good stewardship of our public lands. Nothing could be further from the truth. IN both the Yellowstone and Grand Canyon cases, the Park Service was responding to a public outcry, so the new policies in fact largely emerged from the grassroots.

Moreover, most people who visit either park don't use the machines. Instead, they walk, hike, ski, ride horses or mules, or take the family car, public transportation or, in Yellowstone, the quieter snow coach tours.

By contrast, of the 130,000 miles of snowmobile trails in the continental United States, only 670 miles are in the national parks. So Hansen's assertion that efforts to protect the parks' tranquility somehow restrict public access are just plain bizarre.

Our beloved national parks must be preserved for future generations, not sacrificed for short-term political gamesmanship.

Mr. President, as a Texan you know one of the greatest qualities about the West is the pockets of public land where it's still possible to find a little peace and quiet. Please don't ruin that irreplaceable experience at our national parks. The ban on loud, intrusive machines in these awe-inspiring wonderlands should remain.

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF DR. BENJAMIN MAJOR, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Benjamin Major, a prominent Bay Area physician, who passed on January 4, 2001, in Kensington, California.

Dr. Major was a graduate of Fisk University and graduated from Meharry Medical College at the age of 21. After completing an internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis, he served honorably as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corp.

Dr. Major began his private practice in Oakland in 1953 and eventually opened The Arlington Medical Group in 1957.

Dr. Major was active in the community and the field of medicine locally, nationally and internationally. During his career, he was a consultant Obstetrician to the City of Nairobi and the Family Planning Association of Kenya through the World Health Organization, was a diplomat of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

He later received a Ford Foundation mid-career scholarship in 1969 and obtained a Masters of Public Health in Maternal Child Health and Family Planning from UC Berkeley in 1970.

Even though he retired from practice in 1987, he continued to serve as a consultant and instructor in family planning at several agencies and facilities throughout Northern California.

Additionally, Dr. Major served the community by being a member of several organizations. These organizations include the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the National Medical Association, the California Medical Association, the Golden State

Medical Association, the Sinkler-Miller Medical Association, the St. Luke's Society, the National Family Planning Council, the NAACP, and the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Dr. Major's contributions throughout the world and at home will remain his lasting legacy. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, patients and colleagues this day.

COMPENSATION FOR VETS
DISABLED WHILE IN VA CARE

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of legislation to allow veterans disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation to receive compensation from the day they were disabled while under VA care.

The occurrence of medical malpractice in which veterans are disabled while under Veterans Affairs' care is rare compared with the total number of veterans served every year. In 1997, the last year in which data was available, there were 826,846 inpatients treated and 32,640,000 outpatient visits at VA medical centers at a cost of \$17.149 billion. There are 173 VA medical centers, more than 391 outpatient and outreach clinics, 131 nursing home care units and 39 domiciliaries.

Without this network of government run VA hospitals, clinics and nursing care units, many veterans would never receive the care available to them. However, it is clear that the care provided is not always of the highest quality. Worse than inadequate care are the instances in which veterans receive care that leaves them further disabled.

Since 1990, 9,597 administrative malpractice claims were filed by veterans with VA and 2,134 were settled. The total amount paid in claims settled was nearly \$1.73 million. During the same time period, 2,064 veterans filed court claims against VA. 626 of these court claims were dismissed, the U.S. won 272, and plaintiffs won 129 court claims for a total of \$65,858,110. The VA settled 1,315 VA cases out of court by VA, in the amount of \$253,464,632.

In 1958 Congress established section 1151 of title 38, United States Code, Benefits for Persons Disabled by Treatment or Vocational Rehabilitation. Along with section 1151, section 5110 of the same title established the effective date of an award for disability incurred during treatment or vocational rehabilitation. These two sections ensured that veterans disabled by their treatment received compensation. This was the fair and right thing to do.

A close review of these sections reveals an inconsistency. While the United States Code allowed compensation for veterans disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation, it established an arbitrary cut off date of one year to deny individuals full compensation. Individuals who are unable or not aware of this arbitrary application date for medical malpractice claims should not be denied full compensation for administrative reasons. Statutes of limitations like this are important for preserving the rights of individuals but the VA should be held to a different standard.

Veterans who prove that they were disabled while under the care of Veterans Affairs should be compensated from the day of their injury regardless of their date of application. This bill will repeal United State Code section 5110 which allows Veterans Affairs to avoid its responsibility to veterans it disables during treatment or vocational rehabilitation. The bill also allows veterans who did not receive full and fair compensation from the date of their injury to receive this compensation upon enactment of this bill.

I urge my colleagues to end this unfair practice by cosponsoring this bill.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ROBIE, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of California's Inland Empire is unparalleled. The Inland Empire has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Mr. Robert Robie is one of these individuals.

On January 20, 2001, Robert Robie was honored as the outgoing 2000 Chairman of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP). Through Mr. Robie's efforts over the past year at the IEEP the Inland Empire has seen: The creation of 1,360 jobs and retention of 390 jobs, which resulted in a \$133,039,011 financial investment into the local communities; the implementation of "CallPoint," a one-stop workforce recruiting program that helps employers find and train qualified workers; the implementation of a new Bio-Tech/High-Tech program, which supports the high technology industry; the development of a Tourism Brochure and a Regional Visitor's Guide; the issuance of 306 film permits that resulted in 993 film related projects in the Inland Empire; the addition of twenty-six IEEP members; and the development of an Inland Empire supplement to the May 2001 Forbes Magazine U.S. and Global Issues edition.

As IEEP's 2000 Chairman, Robert brought his 38 years in the banking industry to the table for the Inland Empire. He is currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer for the Bank of Hemet in Riverside, Chairman of the Directors' Loan Committee, Director of the Banklink Corporation, Director of the Hemet Service Corporation and Director of Florida Avenue Investment, Inc. Robert Robie's contributions to the nation's positive perception of the Inland Empire as a viable business location has been sizeable.

Robert's activities in the community also include being on the board of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, the Children's Fund of San Bernardino County Children's Network, and the Riverside Community Hospital Foundation. Additionally, he was the 2000 Chairman of the Executive 2000 Council of the Riverside County Community Hospital Foundation.

His outstanding work to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations

of the Inland Empire make me proud to call him a community member and fellow American. I know that all of the Inland Empire, including myself, are grateful for his contribution to the betterment of our community and salute Robert as IEEP's outgoing 2000 Chairman. I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of our community in the future.

IN MEMORY OF HENRY B.
GONZALEZ

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, last November I heard with great regret of the death of the father of our colleague from Texas, Representative GONZALEZ. And I listened with great interest to the remarks of the many Members who spoke about their memories of the days when our colleague's father had served here in the House of Representatives.

The accomplishments, the character, the leadership of Henry B. Gonzalez are also well known to many Coloradans—as is shown by a column, entitled, "America Lost a Visionary Leader in Henry B." in a recent edition of the Colorado Daily, a newspaper published in Boulder, Colorado.

For the benefit of our colleagues, I am submitting a copy of that column, for inclusion in the RECORD.

[From the Colorado Daily, Jan. 19, 2001]

AMERICA LOST A VISIONARY LEADER IN HENRY B.

(By Yolanda Chavez Leyva)

Henry B. Gonzalez, 84 died on Nov. 28 in a San Antonio hospital.

Henry B., as he was affectionately known, was a fierce fighter for the poor. Throughout almost half a century of public service, he dedicated himself to civil rights and social justice.

Gonzalez, who served 37 years in the House of Representatives before retiring in 1998, was the first Mexican American from Texas elected to that position. Although he stated that his politics were not shaped by his ethnicity, his championing of issues such as voting rights and economic opportunity made him a hero to many Mexican Americans.

His career helped open the door to other Mexican-American politicians. According to political scientist Rodolfo Rosales, Gonzalez' election was "a cornerstone" in the creation of a middle-class Mexican-American leadership.

Gonzalez was known for his controversial stands. He was willing to take on Republicans and members of his own Democratic Party to defend his principles. He advocated the impeachment of Presidents Reagan and Bush for the 1983 invasion of Grenada and the Iran-Contra scandal, respectively. He also investigated their friendly dealings with Iraq and Saddam Hussien prior to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

During his tenure on the powerful House Banking Committee, he led the investigation into the savings and loan scandals of the 1980s, which implicated five Democratic senators. In 1993, he was one of two Mexican-American representatives who voted against NAFTA. The other one was Rep. Matthew Martinez, D-Calif.

Over the years, Henry B. survived many challenges to his political leadership. His po-

litical astuteness was unquestioned, his charisma obvious.

As significant as his individual achievements were, however, it is important to understand the community from which Henry B. emerged. Gonzalez was a much a product of the Mexican-American community's dream of justice as a champion of its cause.

Henry B. was born in 1916 to immigrant Mexican parents. He graduated from St. Mary's Law School in 1943. After working as a probation officer and deputy director of the Bexar County Housing Authority, he was elected to the San Antonio City Council in 1953 as a result of a grassroots campaign.

Henry B. came of age in a Texas that regarded Mexican Americans as second-class citizens. Texas Rangers and other law-enforcement agencies kept Mexican Americans "in line" through intimidation and violence. The Southern legacy of segregation was still thriving, although both African Americans and Mexican Americans continually challenged the status quo. The poll tax worked to keep the poor from participating in the political process. Education was but a dream to many. In 1950, only one in 10 Mexican Americans graduated from high school in Texas. Less than one in 100 finished college, according to historian Rodolfo Acuna. Poverty and racism had closed the school door to the majority of Mexican-American children.

In San Antonio, where Henry B. grew up, the streets of the barrios remained unpaved. Health care for the poor was negligible. Tuberculosis and other diseases were rampant.

Despite the poverty and second-class citizenship, a dream of justice lived. In the 1930s, thousands of Mexican-American workers took to the San Antonio streets demanding better working conditions.

In the 1940s and '50s, Mexican Americans used the Texas courts to demand equality. In the 1948 Delgado vs. Bastrop Independent School District case, the court ruled that the segregation of Mexican-American children in schools violated the 14th Amendment. In the 1954 case of Hernandez vs. The State of Texas, the court ruled that qualified Mexican Americans could not be excluded from juries.

Gonzalez built on these victories. Following election of the state Senate in 1956, he opposed efforts by other Texas legislators to maintain segregated schools. When legislators introduced bills to withhold funds from integrated schools following the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision, Gonzalez responded with a now-famous filibuster.

Henry B. was often called "a man of the people," and his defense of the common folk is well-known. He was, however, also a man who emerged from the people with a dream: a dream of social justice and equality.

A SALUTE TO MARY KING HONORING HER YEARS OF SERVICE AS AN ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor today to salute Mary King for her years of service to the citizens of Alameda County and in honor of her retirement as a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Mary King served three terms on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and was

the first African-American woman to serve on this governing body. Prior to joining the Board of Supervisors, King was an Independent Consultant to the Board managing the ground operation for the County's sales tax initiative campaign—Measure B. Previously, she served as an Assistant to Oakland's City Manager, Henry Gardner, Chief of Staff to Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, and was an aide and later Chief of Staff to California State Legislator Bill Lockyer, California's current Attorney General.

During her tenure as a county Supervisor, Mary King served on a diverse and impressive array of boards and commissions. These bodies include California Attorney General's Commission on Hate Crimes, Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Alameda County Transportation Authority, Public Protection Committee, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Joint Powers Authority of the Network Associates Coliseum (formerly the Alameda County-Oakland Coliseum), the MTC's Bay Bridge Task Force, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, Democratic National Platform Committee, and the Center for Ethics and Social Policy of the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley.

In addition, during her tenure as Supervisor, Mary King worked to save health care services for residents by creating a hospital authority model, implemented the Model Neighborhood Program, and developed a major land use approach to the County General Plan. I proudly join her many friends and colleagues in thanking and saluting Mary King for her years of service to the community and her commitment to bettering the lives of the citizens she served. Thank you Mary.

SOFT MONEY BAN

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would prohibit the use of soft money to influence any campaign for election to federal office.

Since 1907, it has been illegal for corporations to donate money for campaigns for federal office. Since 1947, labor unions have not been allowed to donate money directly for campaigns. Finally, since 1974, individuals have not been allowed to contribute more than \$1,000 to a federal candidate.

Soft money emerged as a vehicle to get around these campaign finance laws. Political parties now receive unlimited contributions by corporations, labor unions, and wealthy individuals. Huge amounts of soft money have invaded our political system. My bill places the same limits on the contributions to the National Parties as is currently in effect for contributions made to all candidates for federal office. We should ban soft money this year and restore the people's faith in our political process.

RECOGNIZING LOIS B. KRIEGER FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE—WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take to the floor today to recognize the outstanding career of Lois Krieger, who retired after 25 years as Western Municipal Water District's representative on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors on January 1. Throughout the towns and cities across our nation, there are individuals who are willing to step forward to dedicate their talents and energies to make life better for their friends and neighbors. The citizens of Riverside, CA, are fortunate to have had such an individual in Lois.

Lois began her career in 1976, when she was appointed to succeed her father, Howard Boylan. At that time Lois Krieger already possessed a deep understanding and dedication to the region's complex water affairs from her years traveling with her father to public utility hearings and water affairs meetings. It was precisely Lois' commitment to these issues that spurred her election as the first woman, in the district's 60-year history, to chair the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board, serving from 1989 to 1993.

MWD imports water from the Colorado River and northern California, to supplement the local supplies within southern California, and provides it safely and reliably to the public. Western Municipal Water District is one of the 27 member agencies to make up MWD and provides water, waste water disposal and water resources management to the communities within a 510 square mile area of western Riverside County.

In addition to her work on the MWD's Board of Directors, Lois also served as the first woman president of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), a California statewide association of 435 public water agencies responsible for the delivery of most of the water in the state. In that capacity, Krieger considers Water for All Californians, the governing policy of ACWA, as her chief accomplishment while President. Additionally, Lois has served as: a member on boards of directors of the Water Education Foundation, the California Water Resources Association, the Colorado River Resources Coalition; a western delegate to the municipal caucus of the National Water Resources Association; and a member of the University of California at Riverside Chancellor's agricultural advisory council and Women's Hall of Fame.

Lois Krieger's leadership has led to numerous awards and recognitions. The highlights include: the Los Angeles YWCA's Silver Achievement Award for public service in 1990; the Riverside YMCA's Women in Achievement Award for public and community service in 1990; and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Citizen Award for her commitment to the needs of the water community in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Lois' work to preserve and strengthen southern California's water resources has been critical to the future viability of our communities, region and state. I know

that all of the Inland Empire is grateful for her contributions to the betterment of the community and salute Lois as she retires from the Municipal Water District's Board of Directors. I look forward to continuing to work with her for the good of the Inland Empire and southern California in the future.

HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

America is a country of many faces and we take pride in our nation's diversity. America is known as the "great melting pot" because it has welcomed many people from all over the world to share in living the American dream. Unfortunately, reality is often different than the dream for many Americans.

The reality has often been ugly. Segregation was a blight on our nation that deprived millions of people equality in this country and was often used as a tool to oppress people and keep them from living up to their full potential. The system kept many people in the shackles of poverty. America needed a bold leader who, despite hardships and violent attacks, would continue to fight for justice.

In 1955 frustration at the system of segregation boiled over in Montgomery, Alabama when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger. She was consequentially arrested. Her act sparked a citywide boycott of the bus system by African-Americans that lasted more than a year. The boycott elevated an unknown clergyman named Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence and resulted in the end to segregation on city buses. Dr. King continued to promote peaceful protest and inspired a generation of Americans to work to end segregation and to fight for equality. His dedication to the cause of ending a broken system and bringing America's reality closer to the dream won him the Nobel Peace Prize and empowered many Americans.

But his work is not done. Barriers to racial equality must still be torn down and many hearts still need to be healed. We cannot let Martin Luther King's work go unfinished; we have not reached the mountaintop yet. Even today, ethnic minorities, women, gays and lesbians, the disabled and others are often treated as if they are second class citizens. This must not stand. There is no reason why our nation, which prides itself in being the home of the free, should continue to treat people unequally. It is time to make the dream fully real. We must challenge ourselves to reach across divides and embrace and celebrate our nation's diversity. We as a country and as a people will be stronger because of it.

CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE PAYS TRIBUTE TO WOMEN FROM UGANDA AND THE UNITED STATES AS THEY GATHER TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE "CALLING THE CIRCLE FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of extraordinary women leaders from Uganda, who, as part of a globally-focused program entitled CALLING THE CIRCLE, are currently on a 12-day visit to the great state of California.

These women leaders, who come from various regions of Uganda, represent two of the largest Ugandan NGOs that are focused on women's issues and leadership building: Action for Women in Development (or ACFODE) and the Forum for Women in Democracy (or FOWODE). In collaboration with ACFODE and FOWODE and other community organizations in Uganda, the Women's Intercultural Network, a Northern California-based NGO, is CALLING THE CIRCLE between women of Uganda and the U.S. to strengthen democratic values throughout civil society. The goal of this collaboration is to develop mechanisms and models for joint advocacy, leadership development, and democracy building across cultural and digital divides. Their vision is to build a "virtual grassroots network" between Ugandan and U.S. women for on-going discussion, information exchange, and worldwide collaboration.

There are already some important highlights from this trip, not the least of which was a welcome tea that was hosted by the Japanese Consul-General at his official residence. At this truly multi-cultural and international gathering, the women from Uganda were able to meet and talk with Japanese and Japanese-American women who represented a wide range of organizations, professions, and experiences. Consul-General Tanaka, gave a gracious welcome to the women and expressed his country's commitment and interest in the continent of Africa. Along with Mr. Tanaka's welcome, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., of San Francisco, proclaimed Sunday, January 21 as "Uganda Women's Day" in the city and county of San Francisco.

Furthermore, while here in the United States, the Uganda women will join their American sisters at issue forums, roundtable meetings and social gatherings to discuss and deliberate on issues that impact women across the globe. Some of these topics included health, mentoring women for leadership, democracy building, as well as economic and environmental justice.

In closing Mr. Speaker, let me say how proud I am that one of the Bay Area's own NGOs, the Women's Intercultural Network, has been the force behind this global effort to link grassroots women leaders and organizations across digital and cultural divides. We often think of the Bay Area and Silicon Valley as the world's leader in producing technology, but now we must also recognize that the Bay Area is playing an important role in producing the next generation of women leaders throughout the world.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH AMERICAN RADIO PROGRAM OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize an important milestone honoring a valuable service to the Polish American community in Philadelphia, PA and its surrounding region. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Polish American Radio Program of the Philadelphia area. This radio broadcast has served as an invaluable communication tool for the Polish American community. It serves as an important medium in which to share common views and ethnic pride.

The first broadcast took place in April 1925 on Broad Street in Philadelphia on 860 AM Radio. Since that time there have been many daily and weekly hosts of the program who offered various types of entertainment to Polonia. Many in Philadelphia remember the long time daily radio program host Theodore Przybyla, who passed away in 1982 at the time martial law was imposed in Poland and the Solidarity Union was crushed.

Following Mr. Przybyla's death, Michael Blichasz and Barbara Ilnicka worked tirelessly with radio management at WTEL 860 AM Radio to maintain the daily radio program. They gathered the support and hard work of the Polish religious community, the Polish American organizations, fraternal organizations, veterans groups, local businesses and individual supporters who recognized the valuable service provided to the Polish American community. After 72 years of programming at WTEL 860 AM, a programming change shifted broadcast of the Polish American Radio program to its current home on station WNWR 1540 AM, where it proudly serves as the only Polish American broadcast program heard 7 days a week.

The program can also be heard live over the Internet during regular broadcast times at www.WNWR.COM.

Sustaining a radio program for 75 years is a wonderful achievement marked by strong dedication to purpose. Longtime hosts Michael Blichasz and Barbara Ilnicka, are to be commended for their expertise in hosting a radio program that fulfills its mission to inform, unite, entertain and present news and information about activities taking place in the Polish American community and in Poland.

Mr. Speaker, as a Polish American, I too have felt personal pride in the struggles of Poles who have fought oppression and witnessed democracy return to their native land. For the thousands of Polish Americans who live in Philadelphia, this Polish American broadcast has been a wonderful resource to follow developments in the homeland and share in the ethnic pride of strong people who fought communism and won.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Polish American Radio Program of Philadelphia for its 75 years of outstanding service to the community.

LEGISLATION REGARDING THE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. Companion legislation is also being introduced today in the other body by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is the lead agency in providing health care to the more than 550 Indian tribes in the United States. Services ranging from facility construction to pediatrics assist approximately 1.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives each year. The IHS currently falls under the authority of the Public Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The IHS Director is the top administration official charged with carrying out the federal trust responsibility for IHS, but he does not report to the HHS Secretary.

Designating the IHS Director as an Assistant Secretary of Indian Health would afford IHS a stronger advocacy function within HHS, and allow for increased representation during the budget process. Currently the ability of the IHS to affect budgetary policy is limited, in part by the Director's inability to directly participate in budget negotiations. It is also important to note that an Assistant Secretary leads the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) although the IHS budget exceeds that of BIA.

This legislation has the strong support of the American Indian and Alaska Native community. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DENVER, OUTGOING PRESIDENT, PERRIS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of the City of Perris is exceptional. The City of Perris has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. John Denver is one of these individuals.

On January 26, 2001, John Denver was honored as the outgoing 1999–2000 President of the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce. Most significantly, John's leadership over the past two years as President of the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce led to tremendous strides in reunifying the Chamber. Additionally, Mr. Denver put enumerable hours into the Perris community's re-development, Student of the Month and Wake Up Perris programs.

John Denver's dedication to promoting the businesses, schools and community organizations of the Perris Valley make me proud to call him a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Perris Valley are grateful for his contribution to the betterment of the community and salute him as he departs the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce after two years of service. I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of our community in the future.

REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF COURT FACILITIES, H.R. 254

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide for the review by Congress of proposed construction of court facilities.

I am introducing this measure in response to my frustrating experience with a proposed Federal courthouse project for Orange County, New York.

In April of this year, the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit voted to rescind its prior 1992 approval for construction of a Federal courthouse in Orange County, New York.

This project began in 1991, when then chief judge of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York, the Honorable Charles L. Brient, requested the Board of Judges to study future planning for court facilities west of the Hudson River. Subsequently, in June 1992, the Board of Judges of the Southern District found that there was a need for a courthouse to meet the growing demands in the mid-Hudson valley region of New York, and voted unanimously to authorize the chief judge to apply to the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit for approval of a Federal district courthouse west of the Hudson.

Following approval of the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit on July 28, 1992, the matter was referred to the Court Administration and Case Management Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. The committee reported favorably and voted unanimously in a March 1993 session of the Judicial Conference of the United States to "seek legislation on the court's behalf to amend title 28 of the U.S. Code, section 112(B) to establish a place for holding court in the Middletown/Walkkill Area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be deemed appropriate."

Accordingly, during the 104th Congress, Public Law 104–317 was approved designating that "Court for the Southern District shall be held at New York, White Plains, and in Middletown-Walkkill area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be appropriate."

In an attempt to proceed forward in an expeditious manner the Administrative Office of the Courts and the U.S. General Services Administration, both concurring with the need for a courthouse in Orange County, determined that a facility could and should be constructed and paid through GSA's current funding.

This project had and still has clear evidence denoting the growth population and economic

activity in Dutchess, Orange, and Sullivan Counties in New York State, as well as steady increases in caseload from the Mid-Hudson Valley Region. In fact, current statistics suggests that the need is even greater now than previously ascertained by Congress in 1996. The number of cases in 1999 that could have gone to an Orange County Courthouse, based on the location of the litigants or the attorney's residence, increased to 312, up from 290 in 1996. Moreover, the population for the region has increased to 671,767, up from 656,740 in 1996 and the total labor force has risen to 309,100, up from 301,800 in 1996.

Furthermore, it should be noted that while Congress may have acquiesced in the closure of some courthouses which have become redundant, based on considerations of economy and efficiency, I know of no situation where a court has refused to provide judicial services at a location designated by statute, where both the need exists and there is strong local support for the service. Such was and still is clearly the case with regard to the Orange County courthouse project.

Accordingly, while it is now current practice, as denoted by title 28 of the U.S. Code, for the U.S. Administrative Office of the Courts and the GSA to develop a rolling five year plan denoting the need for courthouse construction, I believe it is important for Congress to have a say in this important matter.

The legislation which I am introducing today will require the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to submit for approval to the Congress a report setting forth the court's plans for proposed construction. Thereafter, Congress will have 30 legislative days to disapprove of the proposed construction.

It has become apparent to me after the experience I have had with both the Board of Judges of the Southern District and the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit that an imperialistic attitude among many of our Federal judges prevail.

The decision as to whether or not to move forward with construction of a court facility is no longer being based upon existing evidence and data attesting to need, but instead on the personal thoughts of the judges involved.

This legislation will end that practice by enabling Congress to properly assert its role in the construction of needed new courts.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a full copy of the text of H.R. 254 to be included at this point in the RECORD:

H.R. 254

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR FEDERAL COURTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 462 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g)(1) Facilities for holding court may not be constructed unless—

“(A) the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts submits to the Congress a report setting forth the plans for the proposed construction; and

“(B) 30 days have elapsed and the Congress has not, before the end of that 30-day period, enacted a provision of law stating in substance that the Congress disapproved the proposed construction.

“(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), construction of facilities includes the alter-

ation, improvement, remodeling, reconstruction, or enlargement of any building for purposes of holding court.

“(3) The 30-day period referred to in paragraph (1) shall be computed by excluding—

“(A) the days on which either House is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 3 days to a day certain or an adjournment of the Congress sine die; and

“(B) any Saturday and Sunday, not excluded under subparagraph (A), when either House is not in session.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 462 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and subject to subsection (g)”;

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and subject to subsection (g)”;

(3) in subsection (f), by inserting “subject to subsection (g),” after “Director requests.”

SUPPORT FOR FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I praise President George W. Bush's proposal to assist faith-based and community organizations as a promising way of encouraging them to help battle hunger, poverty, and other social ills. I was pleased to meet with the President today at the Fishing School as he announced the legislative initiative of his proposal.

Faith has been a defining characteristic of our communities' life throughout our nation's history, and people who serve God by serving those in need remain one of America's greatest strengths. This initiative will draw on these traditions and bring them to bear on some of our most difficult social problems. It also will leverage private funds and give a wider circle of donors a stake in the success of these projects.

I am particularly encouraged that this initiative will give some well-deserved support to the legions of people trying to end poverty in our prosperous nation, and I hope it will extend to those working in faith-based organizations that fight hunger. In recent years, growing numbers of hungry people have been turning to food pantries and soup kitchens for help each month. Nationwide, requests for help were up 18 percent nationwide, and three in five came from families with children. More than 70 percent of these pantries and kitchens are operated by faith-based organizations that work hard to collect donations—but have not been able to keep their shelves stocked. These are creative and resourceful projects whose dedicated employees and volunteers deserve support.

To those who worry that we are in uncharted territory, I would point out the work American charities do overseas, coping with this month's terrible earthquakes in India and El Salvador, easing famine in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and promoting development around the world. Many of these organizations are closely affiliated with religious groups; many of their projects grew from missionary roots. This work leverages private funds and achieves results that often last generations.

To those who charge this initiative will open the door to taxpayer-funded religion, I would say that every faith tradition emphasizes helping the poor. The Bible, for example, contains some 2,500 verses about caring for those in need. The 'Golden Rule' is echoed in all religions' teachings, and is something virtually all can agree upon. This initiative's focus on results will ensure that Constitutional safeguards—both of religious freedom and for taxpayers—remain in place.

This is a common-sense approach that deals with the challenges many Americans face head on. It deserves a chance, and I commend President Bush for giving it one.

I also submit for the RECORD a piece that my good friend Jim Wallis recently wrote for the Washington Post. As editor of Sojourners magazine and convener of the Call to Renewal, he has been actively involved in having the faith community address problems like poverty and racism for decades.

[From the Washington Post, January 8, 2001]
A CHURCH-STATE PRIORITY

When the phone call came from Austin, I was surprised. Just two days after his election was secured, President-elect Bush wanted a meeting with religious leaders to discuss faith-based initiatives in solving poverty. He was reaching well beyond his base of conservative evangelicals; would I come and suggest others who should be invited?

The subject was already on my mind. The U.S. Conference of Mayors just had released its annual survey on hunger and homelessness in U.S. cities. In the past year, it showed, requests for emergency food increased by 17 percent. Two-thirds of the people requesting assistance were members of families, and 32 percent of the adults requesting food were employed.

Demand for emergency shelter increased 15 percent, and of those 36 percent were families with children. Thirteen percent of the requests for food and nearly one-quarter of the requests for housing went unmet because of lack of resources.

The leading causes of these increases? Low-paying jobs, lack of affordable housing, unemployment or other employment-related issues, and poverty or lack of income. Just before the holidays, Catholic Charities also released its annual report showing a “startling” 22 percent increase in the use of its emergency services of shelter, clothing, food and medicine.

The latest U.S. Census poverty statistics report that despite this time of record prosperity, one in every six American children is poor; one in three children of color. No other developed country has anything approaching U.S. child poverty rates.

So it seemed appropriate, just a few days before Christmas, to be in a Sunday school classroom in Austin's First Baptist Church with a diverse group of religious leaders, having a conversation with George W. Bush. The president-elect listened and asked questions for more than an hour, then stayed to mingle and talk to us individually. He believes in faith-based organizations and the important role they can play in solving social problems, and he wants to make support for such efforts an important part of his administration.

He asked us how to speak to the nation's soul. We suggested starting with our children, who embody our best hopes and reveal our worst failures as a society. I thanked him for being willing to include people in the meeting who hadn't supported his election and pledged to work with him if he chose to do something significant to reduce child poverty. We suggested that Bush use his inaugural address to call the nation to cut the

child poverty rate by half in five years; a task that would require both political will and creativity.

We said that ideological warfare had allowed too many children to fall between the cracks of our faulty political discourse; liberal and conservative false choices about whether family values or living family incomes are more central to the causes and cures for poverty. I noted that churches across a broad spectrum are finding remarkable unity on these issues, and maybe it was time to try it on a political level. Evangelical and liberal, Catholic and Protestant, black and white church leaders have been motivated by prosperity's contradictions and united by the biblical imperatives of compassion and justice. Around the country, faith-based initiatives to overcome poverty show remarkable progress. But the president-elect needs to send an early signal about poor children and families being high on his agenda.

Bush asked theological questions such as, "What is justice?" That is a key question, especially amid fears that an emphasis on faith-based initiatives will be used to substitute for governmental responsibilities. We told him that in forging new partnerships to reduce poverty, the religious community will not only be service providers but prophetic interrogators. Our vocation is to ask why people are poor, and not just to care for the forgotten. Shelters and food banks aren't enough. We need solutions to the many problems of poverty, a pragmatic approach that produces results.

Could our divided political leaders rally around the moral cause of using our prosperity to finally address this nation's shamefully high poverty levels, especially among children? Could this divided nation find common ground if politicians would collaborate across old barriers, as religious leaders have begun to do?

Since neither party has succeeded in breaking the grip of persistent poverty, isn't a bipartisan effort called for? Republicans preaching compassionate conservatism and family values, Democrats fighting for poor working families and a religious community ready to lead by example; these forces could do something significant about poverty.

It is an encouraging sign that the president-elect is reaching out to begin discussions with leaders of faith-based initiatives. "I hope you surprise us," I told him afterward. We'll see; for now, the ball is in both our courts.

INTRODUCTION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to abolish the electoral college and provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States.

Until our recent national crash course in the federal election process, most Americans saw the Electoral College as a harmless anachronism. But 10 days ago, for the first time in over a century, the nation watched as the oath of office was administered to an elected president who failed to secure a plurality of the

votes cast. The Constitution is clear, and I do not question the lawfulness or legitimacy of electing a president under these circumstances. Indeed, I join all patriotic citizens in wishing our new president well. But we must also ask—as many of my constituents have—whether an electoral system that negates the votes of half a million citizens is compatible with democratic values. This is not a partisan question. Indeed, I first raised it on the eve of the election, when it looked as though the shoe might be on the other foot—when many were predicting that the candidate of my own party might prevail with a minority of the popular vote. And the answer to that question is far more important than the political fortunes of any one candidate or party.

The Electoral College presents a troubling contradiction for our democracy in at least two respects. First, and most obviously, it cannot be squared with the principle of majority rule. To award the presidency to the loser of the popular vote undermines respect for the system and compromises the new president's mandate to govern.

Second, the Electoral College is inconsistent with the principle of "one person, one vote". This is because the system by which electors are assigned gives disproportionate weight to less populous states. Massachusetts has one electoral vote for every 500,000 people, while Wyoming has one for every 160,000. In other words, a vote cast in Wyoming counts three times as much as a vote cast in Massachusetts.

Some defend the Electoral College because it carries the weight of constitutional authority. I agree that the Constitution should be amended only rarely and with great care. But the system designed by the framers for electing the president has already been amended, by the 12th and 22nd Amendments. And until ratification of the 17th Amendment in 1913, the U.S. Senate was elected not by the people, but by state legislatures. Few would argue that the original purpose of the Electoral College retains any relevance today. It reflected a mistrust of the electorate which we no longer endorse—the same mistrust that denied the people the right to elect their senators, and withheld the vote altogether from women, African-Americans and persons who did not own property.

Far from embodying some essential constitutional principle, the Electoral College was a political compromise, born of an era in which the states were 13 separate sovereignties determined to defend their interests. While regional differences have not disappeared, they have been greatly diluted by the growth of a common national identity. After 200 years of migration of people and ideas, the states themselves are far more heterogeneous, and far more similar, than when the compromise was struck.

While admitting that the original justification for the Electoral College no longer exists, its defenders claim that it serves some other, modern purpose. They argue, for example, that without the Electoral College, candidates will campaign only in major population centers, ignoring more sparsely populated regions. Yet even the residents of rural states tend to live within close proximity to a major metropolitan area. And even if their fears were to materialize, it is hard to see how this would be worse than the targeted campaigning in which the candidates recently engaged, writing off

whole sections of the country and concentrating only on the so-called "battleground states." With every vote in play, candidates would no longer have an incentive to take anyone for granted. Others contend that abolishing the Electoral College would further undermine the stability and finality of the electoral process. They point out that Florida's was not the only state race to be decided by a very small margin, and argue that if every vote were to count equally, recounts and court challenges would proliferate. Yet wouldn't this be likelier to happen if the Electoral College is retained? Without it, state wins and losses would no longer have electoral significance. All that would matter is the nationwide count.

Let's not forget that what happened in Florida was only a glimpse of the problems the Electoral College can cause. Had neither candidate received the required 270 electoral votes, the election would have been thrown into the House of Representatives—where the controversy could have taken weeks or months longer to resolve. I am under no illusion about the difficulty of enacting a constitutional amendment. But now is the time to act—while the memory of our recent experience is fresh. Congress has considered Electoral College reform before—but only when spurred on by electoral crises. The Senate held hearings in 1992, when it seemed that the Perot candidacy might deadlock the Electoral College. After George Wallace ran as a third-party candidate in 1968, the House actually approved a constitutional amendment, but it fell victim to a Senate filibuster.

We shouldn't wait for the next crisis before confronting the problem. There have been several thoughtful proposals to reform the Electoral College without a constitutional amendment, and they deserve a hearing. My own view, however, is that halfway measures cannot address the fundamental contradiction which the Electoral College represents in a mature democracy. That's why the bill I am introducing today would abolish it outright. Public officials, from selectmen to senators, are chosen by majority vote. That's the way it's supposed to work in a democracy. And that's how we should elect the president of the greatest democracy on earth.

CHRISTIANS THANKS SIKH IN INDIA: DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH COMMENDED

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on January 17 a group of Christians in India known as the Persecuted Church of India issued a statement commending the protection that Sikhs have provided to Christians in India from Indian government persecution.

Father Dominic Immanuel appeared on Star News to thank the Sikhs community for protecting Christians from Indian government persecution. As you know, the Christians in India have undergone a wave of violence and terror by militant Hindu nationalists associated with the pro-Fascist RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP. This violence has taken the form of church burnings, rape of nuns, murders of priests, and attacks on Christian

schools and prayer halls. Graham Staines and his two little boys were burned to death in their jeep while they slept. Earlier, in 1997, police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. No one has ever been punished for these activities. Instead, there have been Indian officials who have been quoted as saying that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism. Last year RSS leader Kuppa Halli Sitharamaiya called for a ban on foreign churches.

Interestingly, the article mentions Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the President of the Council of Khalistan, for his lobbying efforts here on Capitol Hill. The Sikhs and Christians are suffering from the same kind of terror. More than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government since 1984, according to Inderjit Singh Jaijee's "The Politics of Genocide". The Indian government has also killed more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland. According to Amnesty International, there are about 50,000 Sikhs held in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial. In November, Indian police with heavy sticks called lathis attacked 3,200 Sikh religious pilgrims at a railroad station on the Indian-Pakistani border. These pilgrims were attempting to get to Nankana Sahib in Pakistan to celebrate the birthday of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak. Only 800 managed to get to the celebration. In July, police arrested Rajiv Singh Randhawa, the only witness to the September 1995 kidnapping of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, while he was trying to give a petition to the British Home Minister in front of the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine that the Indian government brutally attacked in June 1984. Mr. Khalra was killed in police custody about six weeks after he was kidnapped. More than five years later, no one has been punished. Now the Indian police are harassing the only witness. In March, according to the findings of two independent investigations, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithi Singhpora.

In addition to its persecution of Christians, Sikhs, and other minorities, India has worked aggressively to thwart several U.S. foreign policy goals around the world. Not only does it vote against the United States at the United Nations more often than any country except Cuba, but in 1999 the Indian Defense Minister led a meeting with the Ambassadors from Iraq, Cuba, Libya, Russia, Serbia, and China in which the parties discussed setting up a security alliance "to stop the U.S."

We should stop U.S. aid to India until the oppression of Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities ends and human rights are observed. We must also put the United States on record in support for the freedom movements in Khalistan, Nagalim, Kashmir, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India, through a free and fair plebiscite. That is the democratic way and the way that world powers do things. These measures will help bring peace, freedom, stability, prosperity and dignity to all the people of the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a statement issued by the Persecuted Church of India that discusses the efforts that Sikhs have made on behalf of India's Christian community. I commend this statement to anyone who would like to better understand the plight of minorities in India.

PERSECUTED CHURCH OF INDIA—JANUARY 17, 2001—THE SIKHS RUSH TO PROTECT THE CHRISTIANS

A few days ago when the attacks against the Christian missionaries in Rajasthan took place, Fr Dominic Immanuel went on record on Star News to acknowledge the protection that the Sikh community was providing to the persecuted Christians of Haryana and elsewhere. That was a belated recognition to the much maligned Sikh minorities. We had earlier reported the incidents wherein the nuns were protected by the Sikhs at the time of attacks. However almost all the cases have gone unreported. Fr Dominic did great justice to the Sikhs when he underlined incidents in rural Haryana where the helpless Christians had none to help but the Sikhs during the attacks by the Hindu fascists. He quoted the incidents in Panipat, Sonapat and Gannore where the Christians have been saved by the Sikhs, many a time risking their own lives as the Hindu terrorists struck. The recognition is too little for the community whose plight was ignored by the Christians as they too had been under the influence of the Hindu nationalist lies against the Sikhs.

THE LEGACY OF SADHOO SUNDER SINGH

Sadhu Sunder Singh was one of the greatest Christian missionaries India has known. Punjab, more particularly the districts like Ludhiana has a considerable concentration of Christians. The Sikhs themselves have been victims of Hindu majoritarianism and ethnic cleansing. A vast number of their youth had been annihilated in the anti-Sikh riots and fake encounters. Thousands of innocent Sikh youth are persecuted in jails as undertrials. The anti-Sikh crackdown saw the flight of thousands of Sikhs abroad. When the recent wave of anti-Christian persecution started, at least one Christian bishop recognized the injustice done to the Sikh minority by the Christians. Bishop Philipose Mar Chysystem, the Mar Thoma Metropolitan, wrote that it was due to our apathy during the earliest atrocities against other (minorities) that this danger has befallen us. The community which we did injustice to has now become our saviors. In fact Gurmeet Singh Aulakh, the Sikh leader in the U.S. was one of the first persons to lobby against the Christian persecution in the U.S. Congress by the Hindu fundamentalists.

THE ANTI-SIKH MOVEMENT

One of the reasons for the insurrection in Punjab was the attempt by the Hinduists to brand Sikhism as a part (or panth) of Hinduism. The RSS went on to call the Sikhs "Kesadhari Hindus". History says that the no Sikh participated in the drafting of the Constitution, and as they were away, the Hindu nationalists branded them as "Hindus". The governments finally accepted the independent identity of the Sikhs apart from the Hindus. Recently the Hindu majoritarians revived the old tension by once again branding the Sikhs as part of Hinduism. The Sikhs are idol-haters and do not like to be linked to it's worship forms. The Sikh community warned with one voice that any attempt by the Hinduists to carry the Guru Granth Sahib to the temples will be met with stiff resistance. The tension in Punjab has increased manifold due to the upsurge in the activities of RSS, VHP and the Bajrang Dal. There are reports of the raising of a Bajrang Dal army of 30,000 cadres from Punjab. As per an article that appeared in the Hindu, the Bajrang Dal is giving fierce arms training to their cadre. They have the blessings of the rulers of Delhi. The formation of the new organization Rashtriya Sikh Sangatana (RSS) by the Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have angered the Sikhs and this has once again brought most Sikhs to a single platform. The majoritarian ambitions of the Hindutva forces in Punjab are sure to lead to doom.

CONCLUSION

At this instance we can only pray for peace in Punjab. We pray that good sense prevails with the majoritarians and they do not do anything harmful to the interests of the nation. We also thank the valiant but unsung Sikh heroes and heroines who have and are risking their own lives to save the defenseless Christians in Haryana, Punjab and elsewhere from the atrocities of the Hindu organizations.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF TEXAS COMMUNITY LEADER SAM FLORES UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant and long-time colleague, Mr. Sam Flores of Seguin, TX. After 36 years of working for the Seguin City Council, Mr. Flores retired the beginning of this year after devoting half of his life to the council and most of his life in the service of others. He is an inspiration for us all.

Mr. Flores was born in San Marcos, TX, during the Roaring Twenties, but grew up during the difficult years of the Great Depression. A young Flores soon learned the value of hard work as the middle child of seven raised during this trying time. As soon as he was physically capable of manual labor, Flores was thrust into the life of an adult migrant worker, traveling from California to Minnesota as the seasons changed. When only 17, he dropped out of school to join the Marines. His six-year career was distinguished, and included serving as a Platoon Sergeant in the Korean War and aiding in the evacuation of Shanghai by Americans during the communist revolution in China.

After finishing his time with the Marines, Flores continued his formal education and earned a degree in education from Southwest Texas State University in 1955. Four years later Sam Flores had earned his Master's degree in school administration, was married to Velia Flores, and moved to her hometown of Seguin, TX. For the next 35 years Flores would serve the Harlandale ISD. He taught regular and special education classes to elementary and secondary school students. He distinguished himself as the first Hispanic Principal for the Harlandale ISD. He then became the Director for Special Education for six school districts. Even after this extensive career, Mr. Flores, knowing the value of education, works for the Seguin school district as the Attendance Officer.

Flores did not limit himself to his teaching vocation, but also took an active interest in other aspects of the community. Flores helped others. And it was both the small and large things that made an impact, everything from helping a single mother fill out a college application to working for the establishment of the Seguin Housing Authority, from assisting an elderly widow with her Social Security to helping establish the Seguin Boys Club. We owe

Sam Flores a great deal of gratitude for his work to build a new Seguin Post Office, establish the Health Unit Project, and provide the leadership needed to complete the Walnut Creek Flood project.

Sam Flores led the fight against discrimination. In the Sixties he helped form the Seguin Biracial Committee, which successfully worked to end discrimination in public places. He also helped to end segregation in the Seguin Independent School District. Beyond merely ending discrimination, Flores worked to expand cultural understanding. Today, for example, because of his dedication, Texas Lutheran University now has Mexican American Studies program for the benefit of our students.

The contributions made by Sam Flores to the City of Seguin are felt not only by those in direct contact with him, but by all the contributions made by the people he touched. His tremendous work and accomplishments is inspiring. His example of sincere dedication to others is a blueprint for all of us to follow.

THE LATE CONGRESSMAN
WILLIAM H. AYRES

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, William H. Ayres represented the 14th Congressional District of Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives for 20 years. Congressman Ayres, who died on December 27, defined his political philosophy with typical succinctness. He said, "Most of the fellows today are issue-oriented. They're trying to save the world, while I was trying to save a paycheck."

A direct statement—modest, self-effacing, and misleading. Bill Ayres did much more than "save paychecks."

Congressman Ayres was the son of a Methodist minister and a missionary nurse. Before serving in the Army, he worked as a salesman for a heating equipment company. After the Second World War, he started his own company selling gas furnaces. His priorities were made evident when he hired 15 men—all World War II veterans—to work for him.

Bill Ayres also showed his independent streak by challenging restrictions on heating contractors. That crusade ended in victory in the Ohio Supreme Court.

Those two characteristics—fierce independence and loyalty to veterans—marked his public service, especially in the House of Representatives. Committed to constituent service, Bill Ayres was an energetic and innovative campaigner, who was re-elected nine times, including the 1964 landslide for Lyndon Johnson.

His daughter, Virginia, touched on those tireless efforts as she recalled, "Every weekend, he was at the Polish picnic and the Hungarian picnic and the Kiwanis. Those are my memories of childhood."

After leaving the House, Bill Ayres continued his dedicated work for veterans, running the Jobs for Veterans program in the Department of Labor under President Nixon.

Bill Ayres had as a campaign slogan, "Ayres Cares." His approach to work, to people, and to life, proved clearly that it was no empty slogan, but an apt description of the man, and his model for public service.

Congressman Ayres now rests in Arlington National Cemetery, among the men and women he supported and served. It is a fitting resting place for a tireless fighter for his fellow veterans, for a true public servant.

HONORING THE KOSCIUSZKO
HOUSE IN HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize an important milestone in Polish-American history, the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Kosciuszko House in historic Philadelphia. The house, at 3rd and Pine Streets, serves as a National Historic Site and a National Memorial to American Revolutionary War hero and Polish freedom fighter, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

In the mid-1960s, Edward Pinkowski, a Philadelphia historian, after hours of research, discovered that the house was Kosciuszko's home during the Revolutionary War. In October 1967, the Pennsylvania Historical Commission officially recognized the residence of Kosciuszko by placing a marker on the building and designating it as a historic site. Between 1967 and 1970, Polish American Congress Eastern Pennsylvania District President Henry Wyszynski, coordinated a national campaign among Polish American Congress state divisions to designate the Kosciuszko House as a National Memorial. In 1970, philanthropist Edward Piszek joined the effort by purchasing the building and successfully helping to persuade the 91st Congress to introduce legislation establishing the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Home as a National Historic Site.

In October 1972, after a long, well-organized national campaign, a federal law was passed for the nation to accept the house from Mr. Piszek as a gift. At that time, the government appropriated \$592,000 to develop the site as a National Memorial Site to be administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

After three years of historical restoration work was completed, the adjoining house was purchased by Mr. Piszek and donated to the U.S. Government to provide space to accommodate tourist.

On February 4, 1976—the 230th anniversary of Thaddeus Kosciuszko's birth—the Kosciuszko House was open to the public and became an official site of the United States National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, since its opening 25 years ago, the Kosciuszko House has been open to thousands of people who have gained a valuable insight into the role this Polish freedom fighter played in America's fight for freedom. It stands along with Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell as a stirring symbol of Philadelphia's honored role as the birthplace of America.

Since 1967, the Polish American Congress has sponsored a tribute ceremony to honor Kosciuszko on the first Saturday of February so all people can pay tribute to this Revolutionary War hero.

This year, on the 25th anniversary of the Kosciuszko House and the 255th anniversary

of Kosciuszko's birth, I am proud to recognize the dedication of proud Polish Americans whose efforts led to the preservation of this important historic treasure as a National Historic Site.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ABANDONED MINE LANDS RECLAMATION REFORM ACT OF 2001

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Reform Act of 2001" in recognition of the pressing need to make continued progress in restoring the environment in coalfield communities throughout the Nation.

Originally authorized as part of the landmark Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, to date over \$1.7 billion has been appropriated under the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program to restore lands and waters adversely affected by past coal mining practices. These restoration projects normally involve threats to the public health and safety from dangerous highwalls, subsidence, refuse piles and open mine portals. They also include the construction of new water supply systems to coalfield communities where water supplies have been contaminated by past coal mining practices. Over the years, other amounts have been appropriated under the program for emergency coal reclamation projects, the Rural Abandoned Mine Program, the Small Operators Assistance Program, certain non-coal mining reclamation projects and the administration of the program for a total \$4 billion in appropriations.

The primary delivery mechanism for these funds is through annual grants made through the annual appropriations process to 26 eligible States and Indian tribes. This effort is augmented by funds expended by the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in States and tribes without approved reclamation programs. By most accounts, this effort has been a success achieving far more in real on-the-ground environmental restoration than programs such as the Superfund.

Yet, the mission of this program has not yet fully been accomplished which is the reason for the legislation I am introducing today. As it stands, there currently exists about \$2.5 billion worth of high priority human health and safety threatening abandoned coal mine reclamation costs in this country. There are other costs as well, associated with lower priority abandoned coal mine sites. The fundamental purpose of the "Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Reform Act of 2001" is to raise sufficient revenues which, when coupled with the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and the reforms proposed by the legislation, to finance the reclamation of the remaining \$2.5 billion inventory of high priority coal reclamation sites and draw this effort to a successful conclusion.

In this regard, it is essential to note that this program is not financed by the general taxpayer but rather through a fee assessed on every ton of coal mined. The unreclaimed coal sites eligible for expenditures under the program were primarily abandoned prior to the

enactment of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 which placed stringent mining and reclamation standards in place. The authority to collect these fees was originally for a 15-year period. However, on two prior occasions through legislation I sponsored the Congress extended those fee collections in recognition of the continued need to address health, safety and environmental threats in the Nation's coalfield communities.

A central feature of this legislation then is to extend that fee collection authority for an additional seven years to 2011. This is the period the OSM estimates will be necessary to generate the additional revenue to complete the high priority coal site inventory. However, that alone will not allow us to achieve that goal which is the reason for the reforms proposed by this bill.

Simply put, in my view over the years there has been a hemorrhaging of some of the funding made available under this program to lower priority projects. Almost \$200 million, for instance, for coal priority 3 projects which do not involve protecting the public health and safety. One of the reasons this reduction in focus on health and safety threatening projects has occurred is due to a late 1994 OSM policy shift that corrupted what is known as the general welfare standard in the coal reclamation priority rankings. This new policy has had the affect of allowing States to bootstrap what would normally have been lower priority 3 projects into the higher priority 1 and 2 rankings. To be clear, not all States or even a majority of States have taken advantage of this new policy and I commend them for that. Yet it is a fact that as a result of this new policy the bona fide \$2.5 billion inventory of unfunded priority 1 and 2 projects has swollen to over \$6 billion. I do not recognize this \$6 billion figure and neither does this legislation.

The reforms proposed by this bill include eliminating the general welfare standard and restricting the use of State/tribal share grants and supplemental federal share grants to bona fide coal priority 1 and 2 projects involving threats to human health and safety. Once those projects are completed and only when those projects are completed, with two minor exceptions, can a State or tribe undertake the lower priority coal projects under the certification program with their State/tribal share grants. The exceptions to this rule involve situations where a priority 3 site is undertaken in conjunction with a priority 1 or 2 site, or where a priority 3 site is addressed in association with a coal remaining operation. In effect, this legislation seeks to target the lion's share of available funding to coal priority 1 or 2 keeping faith with the original mission of the program. Among other reforms envisioned are federal approval of any additions made to the official Abandoned Mine Reclamation Inventory and a review of those additions made since the OSM policy shift on the general welfare standard.

The purposes of these reforms are intended, as previously noted, to complete those projects which are necessary to complete for the sake of protecting the health and safety of coalfield residents. At the same time, they are also intended to give the coal industry which finances this program reasonable assurances that the fees it pays will not be squandered but put to good use, and to give the industry a time frame which it can count on when the assessment of those fees will no longer be necessary.

I would like to make note of two additional changes to current law proposed by this bill. As already noted, in the past appropriations were made available from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP), an Agriculture Department program. No such appropriations have been forthcoming for six fiscal years now. I find this disappointing. While the Interior Department and the States from the very beginning were against RAMP funding, contending it was duplicative of their efforts, this in my view and in that of many others was not the case. RAMP served a distinctly different purpose involving a closer working relationship with landowners and sought to address reclamation projects on a more holistic basis. Another problem that also dogged RAMP was the fact that while it is an Agriculture Department program, its appropriations were being made out of an Interior Department trust fund by the Interior Appropriations bill. Obviously, Interior officials had little interest in this arrangement and so beginning in 1995 we have not been able to obtain funding for RAMP. In my view, this situation will not change if the status quo is maintained. For that reason, the legislation I am introducing today would authorize RAMP for general fund appropriations rather than out of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund so that funding can be pursued through the Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service's budget.

Finally, this legislation also seeks to lift the restriction that interest accrued in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund can only be transferred to what is known as the Combined Benefits Fund for unassigned beneficiaries. Under this bill, all accrued interest would be available to keep faith with the promise made by the federal government many years ago to guarantee health care benefit for certain retired coal miners.

In introducing this legislation I do not purport to suggest it offers perfect solutions. It is a fact that the draft bill has been available for review by the affected States and tribes for 10 months now and I thank them for their comments. It has also been reviewed by the Citizens Coal Council, a coalfield-based environmental group. And, it has been reviewed by segments of the coal industry. Certainly, though, we have a long legislative process ahead of us and I look forward to working with interested Members of Congress on this matter.

I submit the following detailed section-by-section analysis of the "Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Reform Act of 2001" for inclusion in the RECORD.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE "ABANDONED MINE LANDS RECLAMATION REFORM ACT OF 2001"

Section 1 provides for a short title.

Section 2, amendments to title IV—

Subsection (a)(1) strikes from the purposes of Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund the transfer of amounts to the Secretary of Agriculture for use under the Rural Abandoned Mine Program and the use of funds for abandoned mine land research projects conducted by the Bureau of Mines. The bureau no longer is in existence.

Subsection (a)(2) clarifies that all interest accrued to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund is for the purpose of making transfers to the Combined Benefit Fund.

Subsection (b)(1) extends the authorization to assess reclamation fees from 2004 to 2011.

Subsection (b)(2) modifies the provision of current law requiring the redistribution of grant amounts not expended within three years after being awarded. Amounts redistributed would be expended under the historic coal production supplemental grant program rather than any funding category as under current law. [Note: this provision has never been enforced].

Subsection (b)(3) strikes the reservation of reclamation fees and interest for the Rural Abandoned Mine Program. An amendment made by this subsection requires the Secretary to insure strict compliance with the priorities set forth in section 403(a) in the expenditure of funds until certification of the completion of all eligible coal abandoned mine reclamation projects is made.

Subsection (b)(4) contains two technical and conforming amendments.

Subsection (b)(5) rewrites section 402(g)(4) relating to the eligibility of certain post August 4, 1977, sites for expenditure of funds under the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Current law allows such expenditures on certain sites abandoned after August 4, 1977, but prior to a State or Tribe receiving approval of this permanent program or where a surety company insolvency resulted in abandoned coal mine lands and waters. The amendment made by this subsection primarily strikes the latter situation as such sites are no longer prevalent.

Subsection (b)(6) increases the amount of reclamation fees dedicated to the historic coal production supplemental grant program from 40% to 60% of the Secretary's 50% share of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation fund (30% of the total). This subsection also includes a technical and conforming amendment.

Subsection (b)(7) eliminates the set-aside of 10% of annual grants for purposes of expenditure after September 30, 1995, as the provision is no longer relevant. Amendments in this subsection also streamline provisions relating to the 10% set-aside for acid mine drainage abatement and treatment by eliminating Secretarial approval of such expenditures and provisions requiring consultation with the Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau of Mines.

Subsection (b)(8) provides that the expenditure of funds for projects formerly identified as priority 3 may only be made in conjunction with the expenditure of funds for priority 1 or 2 projects or in association with coal remaining operations prior to the certification of the completion of all eligible coal abandoned mine reclamation projects is made (other amendments eliminate priority 3 from section 403 and transfers it to the post-certification program).

Subsection (b)(9) extends the authorization level for minimum program States to post-certification priority 3 coal sites.

Subsection (b)(10) lifts restrictions relating to the transfer of interest to the Combined Benefit Fund.

Subsection (b)(11) is a technical and conforming amendment relating to the amendment made by subsection (b)(9).

Subsection (c)(1) strikes the term "general welfare" from priority 1 and 2 and strikes priorities 3 thru 5.

Subsection (c)(2) makes a technical and conforming amendment and includes a requirement that amendments to the AML Inventory are subject to the approval of the Secretary.

Subsection (d) makes a technical and conforming amendment.

Subsection (e) authorizes the Rural Abandoned Mine Program to receive general fund appropriations.

Subsection (f) updates requirements relating to the filing of liens.

Subsection (g) updates section 409 primarily by including references to Indian

tribes, clarifying that annual grants may be used for projects under the section excluding amounts received under the historic coal production supplemental grant program, and clarifying that States and Tribes rather than the Secretary make expenditures under the section subject to the approval of the Secretary. Provision is made allowing continued eligibility under section 409 after a State or tribe has certified the completion of all coal priority 1 and 2 projects but has not yet completed other remaining coal projects under section 411.

Subsection (h) rewrites the section 411 certification program in two significant ways. First, it allows the Secretary or a third party (in addition to a State or Tribe as under current law) to seek the certification of the completion of all coal priorities on eligible lands and waters. Second, provision is made to require certification after the completion of coal priority 1 and 2 projects. Once this occurs, a State or Tribe would commence other remaining coal projects eligible under section 404 (former priority 3 projects) prior to undertaking non-coal projects. Provisions relating to non-coal projects remain unchanged from current law.

Subsection (i) strikes a moribund provision in section 413.

Section 3, free-standing provisions—

Subsection (a) provides that reclamation fees credited to the Rural Abandoned Mine Program but not appropriated in the past be available for historic coal production supplemental grants. An amendment also provides for the transfer of interest not transferred in the past to the Combined Benefit Fund.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to review all additions to the AML Inventory made since December 31, 1998. Provision is made deeming projects listed in the inventory under the "general welfare" standard as being ineligible under section 403(a) and may only be carried out under section 411(c)(1). Provision is made for the Inspector General to evaluate the review and together with the Secretary report the results to committees of the House and Senate. Provision is also made requiring the Inspector General to conduct an annual review of any amendments to the inventory.

Subsection (c) is a savings clause noting that nothing in the legislation affects any State or Tribal certification made before the date of enactment of the bill.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE DEPENDENT
CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
H.R. 252

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, which will benefit Federal

employees around the country. This bill will provide our Federal employees with a benefit that many of their counterparts in the private sector enjoy.

The time has finally arrived for the Federal Government to become more competitive with the private sector to help gain and retain qualified employees. The private sector has been able to hire the best and brightest employees and offer competitive benefits and pay while the Federal Government has seen its top workers flee for the higher paying jobs of the private sector.

By providing employees with the opportunity to participate in the Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP), we are giving parents more flexibility and choices when it comes to paying for child care. DCAP is similar to a medical savings account in that an employee can choose to set aside a portion of their income without it being taxed, for the sole purpose of paying for child care expenses. This type of program is used widely in the public sector and it is high time for Federal Employees to be able to use this program as well.

Moreover, this legislation sets an example for those businesses that do not offer similar benefits to their employees. For years, the Federal government has been a model for the private sector especially in the area of employee provided health care benefits and coverage of medical procedures and it is our hope that this legislation will inspire more businesses to offer similar benefits to their employees.

Accordingly, I am pleased to be sponsoring this legislation and I am confident that by affording our Federal employees their benefit, we will help to create a more family friendly Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a full copy of this Text of H.R. 252 to be inserting at this point in the RECORD:

H.R. 252

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

Subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 87 the following:

"CHAPTER 88—DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

"§ 8801. Definitions

"(a) For the purpose of this chapter, 'employee' means—

"(1) an employee as defined by section 2105 of this title;

"(2) a Member of Congress as defined by section 2106 of this title;

"(3) a Congressional employee as defined by section 2107 of this title;

"(4) the President;

"(5) a justice or judge of the United States appointed to hold office during good behavior (i) who is in regular active judicial service, or (ii) who is retired from regular active service under section 371(b) or 372(a) of title 28, United States Code, or (iii) who has resigned the judicial office under section 371(a) of title 28 with the continued right during the remainder of his lifetime to receive the salary of the office at the time of his resignation;

"(6) an individual first employed by the government of the District of Columbia before October 1, 1987;

"(7) an individual employed by Gallaudet College;

"(8) an individual employed by a county committee established under section 590h(b) of title 16;

"(9) an individual appointed to a position on the office staff of a former President under section 1(b) of the Act of August 25, 1958 (72 Stat. 838); and

"(10) an individual appointed to a position on the office staff of a former President, or a former Vice President under section 4 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended (78 Stat. 153), who immediately before the date of such appointment was an employee as defined under any other paragraph of this subsection;

but does not include—

"(A) an employee of a corporation supervised by the Farm Credit Administration if private interests elect or appoint a member of the board of directors;

"(B) an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States and whose permanent duty station is outside the United States, unless the individual was an employee for the purpose of this chapter on September 30, 1979, by reason of service in an Executive agency, the United States Postal Service, or the Smithsonian Institution in the area which was then known as the Canal Zone; or

"(C) an employee excluded by regulation of the Office of Personnel Management under section 8716(b) of this title.

"(b) For the purpose of this chapter, 'dependent care assistance program' has the meaning given such term by section 129(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

§ 8802. Dependent care assistance program

"The Office of Personnel Management shall establish and maintain a dependent care assistance program for the benefit of employees."