

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CHP 11-99 FOUNDATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the CHP 11-99 Foundation for their continuous support of their fellow officers. The CHP 11-99 Foundation provides assistance, benefits, and scholarships for the families of California Highway Patrolmen who need the help.

The CHP 11-99 Foundation was founded in 1981 by businessman Bob Weinberg. He started the Foundation when he discovered that there was no organized community support for California Highway Patrol families in times of crisis. Today, more than 3,000 special individuals from all walks of life are providing financial assistance as members of the CHP 11-99 Foundation.

The CHP 11-99 Foundation has awarded nearly \$1 million in scholarships for educational opportunities to the children and spouses of CHP employees. The Foundation hopes to raise sufficient funds to assure a quality education for all CHP children and spouses who wish to continue their schooling. When tragedy befalls a California Highway Patrolman, CHP 11-99 Foundation can deliver funds to the family within hours.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the CHP 11-99 Foundation and its Board of Directors for their dedication to providing support to the family members of California Highway Patrolmen during their time of need. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the CHP 11-99 Foundation many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF MR. JACK KRISE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man and public servant, Mr. Jack Krise, for his years of dedication to the City of Parma, Ohio, on his retirement from the Municipal Treasurer's Association.

Mr. Jack Krise has served his local community for many years. In 1985, Mr. Krise was elected to his first term as Treasurer of the City of Parma, defeating the incumbent. After just a few months into office, he quickly reorganized the Income Tax Division of the Treasurer's Office. He directed much needed personnel into tasks and reduced personal costs by \$35,000. He immediately began an aggressive approach to collect overdue Municipal Income Taxes owed to the City of Parma. In 1987, Mr. Krise initiated a lock box collection system through a Cleveland bank that increased not only efficiency, but also reduced employee costs by \$25,000.

Mr. Krise continued to implement programs that improved efficiency in the City of Parma and quickly earned the respect and admiration of his co-workers and constituency. In 1989, Krise was re-elected Treasurer without opposition and found himself in the Parma Schools "Hall of Fame" of graduates. In 1987, after re-election in the City of Parma, Mr. Krise was elected Treasurer of the Municipal Treasurer's Association of the United States and Canada, an esteemed honor.

His kind smile and gentle demeanor earned him the respect and admiration of residents from the City of Parma. He has worked his entire life toward bettering his community through public service, and has touched countless people through his tenure as City Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a man that has dedicated his life to public service, Mr. Jack Krise. His dedication, hard-work, and generosity has improved the City of Parma in countless ways.

INCOME EQUITY ACT OF 2001

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, analysis of recent Congressional Budget office data on income trends show alarming evidence of the widening gap between America's highest- and lowest-paid workers. Between 1979 and 1997, the income of the lowest 20 percent of U.S. households, in constant dollars, fell by \$100. In contrast, the household income of those in the top 1 percent increased an average of \$414,000. Despite the unprecedented economic growth of the past decade, America's lowest-paid workers are not catching up.

The outlook appears as dim. With passage of President Bush's tax cut earlier this year, the disparity between low- and high-income households will only widen. When fully phased in, the top 1 percent of households would see their income grow 6-7 percent, or \$46,000-\$53,000. However, the household income of the lowest 20 percent would rise only 0.8 percent, and the income of those in the middle fifth would rise only 2.2 percent.

To combat this troubling growth of economic inequality in America, I am again introducing the Income Equity Act. This legislation addresses the problem by encouraging corporate responsibility. For too many years, the trend in corporate America has been to pay top executives lavishly, while thinking of other employees as an expense or not thinking of them at all. My legislation will encourage companies to take a closer look at how they compensate their employees at both ends of the income ladder.

The Income Equity Act would place a new limit on our government's practice of subsidizing executive compensation through the tax code. My bill would enhance the current

\$1,000,000 cap on the tax deduction for executive compensation with a cap set at 25 times the company's lowest full-time salary. For example, if a filing clerk at a firm earns \$18,000, then any amount of executive compensation over \$450,000 would no longer be tax deductible as a business expense.

I have revised the Income Equity Act for 2001 to include non-cash compensation such as stock options, memberships to premier health and sporting facilities, and higher education for executives' children. More and more executives are receiving compensation in forms other than cash, and my revised legislation addresses this trend to ensure that taxpayers do not inappropriately subsidize these forms of compensation.

This bill would not restrict the freedom of companies to pay their workers and executives as they please. It would send a strong message, however, that in return for tax deductions, the American taxpayer expects companies to compensate their lowest-paid workers fairly.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation alone will not completely close the ever-widening income gap in America. However, it is an important step in resolving this growing problem that imposes monetary and social costs on all of us.

HONORING JOHN STRAUB, DEPUTY
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Mr. John Straub has recently finished three and one-half years of service to the House of Representatives as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. I rise today to recognize and salute Mr. Straub as that service has been of a very high standard and filled with accomplishment.

During his tenure as Deputy CAO, John also served as acting head of the Office of Finance. It was during this time that the House of Representatives received its first clean audit of its financial statements by outside auditors, PriceWaterhouse Coopers. While the entire Finance Office team was responsible for this achievement, John played a significant role in leading the House to a high level of financial management.

John has also served as the point man working with the House Inspector General to guide and coach improvement of a number of House services. He was successful in assisting CAO personnel to take actions that have met the standards called for in several hundred audit recommendations issued by the House IG. Clearly, the Members, House staff and the public have benefited from the enhanced level of service and efficiencies that these improvements have made possible.

The Appropriations Committee has relied on the CAO's office for assistance with the House

• 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.

budget as the annual Legislative appropriations bill makes its way through Congress. John frequently served as point man in making sure that we had accurate information and figures as our legislation was constructed.

All too often, Mr. Speaker, in the rush of day to day activities, we elected Members of the House forget the hard work and dedication of House employees other than those in our personal offices. The American people are fortunate to have hard working public servants such as John Straub. In a hundred ways, John has made the House a better, fairer place to work and serve for literally thousands of other public servants.

In closing, besides his many practical accomplishments, Mr. Straub brought to the House a personal style that is both professional and refreshing. He always had a kind word and a smile, and applied boundless energy to every task.

While we in the House are disappointed to lose a person of his caliber, we're pleased that he'll be able to support one of the Nation's pre-eminent education institutions, Harvard University, as Associate Dean for administration of the Kennedy School of Government. On behalf of the members and the institution, we thank John Straub for his service and dedication, and wish him best of luck in his future endeavors.

RETHINKING FIRE IN THE WAKE OF FIREFIGHTER DEATHS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2001, four of Washington State's young firefighters died battling a forest fire on the Okanogan National Forest. As I have had time to reflect on this tragic event, I have come to realize that wildland fire suppression continues to be a dangerous and risky operation.

As in previous tragedies such as the Mann Gulch fire in Montana and the Storm King Mountain fire in Colorado, our hearts pour out to the families, friends, and colleagues of those who perished fighting wildland fires. The deaths of Tom L. Craven, Jessica L. Johnson, Karen L. Fitzpatrick, and Devin A. Weaver is a disturbing reminder of Mother Nature's powerful forces and unrelenting risks faced by our dedicated firefighters. Although seventeen firefighters lived, as did two campers caught in the explosive fire, I am grieved by the deaths of these four young people and I do not want this to happen again.

Their tragic deaths raise significant questions—questions that may likely go unasked in the Forest Service investigation: Could these deaths have been prevented through a different systemic response to fire? Should the Forest Service have been expending hundreds of thousands of dollars and risking the lives of dozens of firefighters to fight a fire in a remote canyon that threatened no houses or resources? Would a fire management plan have ensured that the fire would have been handled differently?

The Okanogan fire started in remote backcountry adjacent to a Wilderness Area. The nearest house was at least ten miles

away, the nearest town twenty miles away. While the cause of the fire is not yet known, we do know that the fire began in a designated roadless area. If the forest had a fire management plan in place—as is required by countless agency directives—it is likely that such a plan for the area would have provided alternative strategy options for the Forest Service.

The Okanogan fire underscores the need to re-examine our nation's approach to forest fire and to reframe the terms of debate. In the wake of this fire will come calls to reduce fire risks through aggressive thinning and full funding for fire preparedness. However, this approach merely perpetuates the culture of fire suppression that operates with few fiscal or social constraints. It also serves to exacerbate the risks of fire through fire exclusion. It perpetuates the illusion that we can and should control all fire, regardless of location and ecosystem. These suppression efforts make little sense fiscally or environmentally. A different approach would have the agency stop putting out fires in remote backcountry.

Last year, Congress allocated \$1.6 billion to the Forest Service for implementation of its national fire plan. In addition to working with homeowners to reduce vegetation around their homes, these dollars should be spent on returning fire to its natural role in the ecosystem. We can do this through targeting thinning, prescribed burns, and fire-use policies. We also should be spending money on fire management planning and sensible suppression efforts—ones that do not needlessly endanger lives.

Putting out all fires regardless of location and ecosystem simply puts off the inevitable. The West's forests have burned for thousands of years and will continue to do so. We must learn to live with fire, rather than stepping up the assault on what is still perceived by many as "the enemy." We must stop sacrificing our young people in this futile effort.

I would like to enter into the record the following op ed from the Portland Oregonian that highlights these issues:

[From the Portland Oregonian, July 17, 2001]

DEAD FIREFIGHTERS WERE SENT WHERE THEY
DIDN'T BELONG

(By Andy Stahl)

I write this not long after four young men and women died battling the Thirty Mile fire in the remote Chewuch River canyon of the Okanogan National Forest.

Tom Craven, Karen Fitzpatrick, Devin Weaver and Jessica Johnson were sent by the Forest Service to do a job. They died in the performance of that duty.

But was the job they were doing worth their lives? Did this fire, in a steep, remote canyon that threatened no houses or valuable resources, need to be battled? During its investigation into these tragic deaths, the U.S. Forest Service had better answer these questions.

The Thirty Mile fire started in roadless, backcountry land immediately adjacent to the remote Pasayten wilderness. Perhaps the fire started from an unattended campfire; the investigation has yet to pin down the cause.

The fire began in a designated Research Natural Area, at 6,000 acres, one of the largest RNAs in the nation.

This is important in what happened next: It appears fire managers did not even know the fire was in a Research Natural Area. Had they known, they would not have aggress-

sively attacked the fire with aerial retardants and firelines, which are banned in RNAs. Instead, they would have held back and taken a more cautious approach to fighting this fire—an approach that sought to allow the fire to mimic natural processes within this fire-dependent ecosystem.

Admittedly, hindsight can be 20-20, but it is worth considering that a more cautious approach to fighting this fire might also have saved lives.

The Thirty Mile fire exemplifies the need to take a hard look at our nation's approach to wildland fires. A century of aggressive fire suppression, combined with logging of the biggest and most fire-resistant trees, has damaged ecosystems throughout the West. Continuing to put out every fire in the remote backcountry makes little sense economically or environmentally. We must carefully restore fire to its prominent role as nature's cleansing agent in our public forests.

Last year the Congress allocated a record amount, \$1.6 billion, to the Forest Service for its national fire plan. The first priority should be to help private homeowners who live near fire-prone national forests to manage the vegetation within several hundred feet of their houses. That's where the biggest difference is made between a home burning up in a forest fire and a home surviving. The next priority should be to return fire to its natural role in the environment.

Putting out all fires simply puts off the day of reckoning. Burn today or burn tomorrow, the West's forests have burned for thousands of years and will continue to do so.

We must learn to live with fire just as we live with the weather. And we must stop sacrificing our best and brightest young people in this futile war against an implacable enemy.

COMMEMORATING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND ITS NEW PRESIDENT, RICHARD KING

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2001, Richard King, of Fremont, California, was officially named the 2001–2002 president of Rotary International, one of the largest volunteer organizations in the world. Mr. King is a trial lawyer and a member of the Rotary Club of Niles. A Rotary club member since 1968, Mr. King has served as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation and director and chairman of the Executive Committee of Rotary International's board of directors. He has been an active spokesperson at Rotary functions in more than 75 countries.

Rotarians are represented in more than 160 countries worldwide and approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 29,000 Rotary Clubs. The main objective of Rotary is service in the community, in the workplace and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many critical issues, such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, the environment, violence and children at risk. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchange for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development.

The Rotary motto is Service Above Self. As Richard King assumes the helm of leadership,

I am confident he will completely exemplify the Rotary motto. I join Rotarians throughout the world in congratulating Mr. King on the presidency and wishing him every success.

HONORING MAJOR CHARLES
"CHUCK" MONGES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Major Charles "Chuck" Monges. Major Monges died of a massive heart attack at the age of 79 on July 24, 2001, in Fresno, CA.

Major Monges joined the United States Marines Corps after graduating from high school in 1940. He served for nine years during and after World War II, earning the rank of Sergeant. In 1952, Monges joined the United States Army where he served in the Korean War. After eleven years with the Army, he retired with the rank of Major.

Major Monges earned several distinguished awards for his service in the United States Military. During intense combat in World War II, Major Monges risked his own life by dragging a wounded soldier from the battlefield to safety. After his platoon came to his aid, they managed to annihilate the enemy. This extraordinary bravery earned him the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

In the Korean War, Major Monges earned the Bronze Star and the Soldier's Medal for Bravery. Again, he dragged wounded soldiers away from a dangerous area, even though his own life was in danger. Once they were in a safe location, Monges proceeded to treat the wounds of the injured soldiers. Monges' actions during combat defined him as a true American hero.

After his retirement from the military in 1963, Major Monges began his charge to establish a national museum to honor members of the Legion of Valor. The Legion of Valor was established in 1890 to honor recipients of the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, the Air Force Cross, and the Distinguished Service Cross. With help from other veterans and the Fresno City Council, Major Monges' dream became reality in 1991. The 10,000 square foot Legion of Valor Museum was put together by a staff of volunteers and is one of the most unique and inspiring military museums in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and life of Major Chuck Monges. I wish to send my condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING THOMAS L. BERKLEY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas L. Berkley for his contributions to the community and to the Nation.

Mr. Berkley was born in Illinois in 1915. At the age of four, he and his family moved to Southern California. In 1936, he attended Ful-

lerton Junior College, where he would later earn an Associate of Arts Degree. He went on to UCLA and completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and Finance. Mr. Berkley was accepted into Hastings Law School in the San Francisco Bay Area, and became active in the NAACP. He received his Juris Doctor in 1942 and was admitted to the California State Bar a year later.

After finishing his academic career, Mr. Berkley proudly joined the United States Army. He fought bravely in World War II and achieved the rank of Second Lieutenant.

At the end of the war, Mr. Berkley came back to Oakland and became the head of one of the Nation's largest integrated, bilingual law firms. He helped established the careers of notable men such as Judge Clinton White and Allen Broussard, and former Mayors of Oakland, Elihu Harris and Lionel Wilson.

Mr. Berkley was not only active in law, but also active in business and in the media. He was the president of Berkley International Ltd., Berkley Technical Services and CEO of Berkley Financial Services. Mr. Berkley also was the publisher of the Alameda Publishing Corporation, which publishes the Oakland, San Francisco, and Richmond Post newspapers.

Mr. Berkley is a visionary and a motivator. He helped turn the Port of Oakland to a world-class facility. He saw the need for guidance to our children, so he served as a director for the Oakland Unified School District. He saw the need for social and economic improvement in some of Oakland's neighborhoods, so he became an advisor to the Greater Acorn Community Improvement Association.

Mr. Berkley has led a tireless and committed crusade to better our society. He not only helped spur business development, but he also helped individuals achieve their goals and dreams.

I am honored to salute and take great pride in celebrating with his family, friends and colleagues the distinguished accomplishments of Thomas L. Berkley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber when roll call votes number 257, 258, and 259 were cast. I want the record to show that had I been present in this chamber at the time these votes were cast, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 257, "yes" on roll call vote 258, "yes" on roll call vote 259.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CENTRAL ASIA
A DECADE AFTER INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we head into our August recess, we should recall that almost ten years have passed since a group of conspirators attempted to topple

Soviet President Gorbachev. The failure of that putsch precipitated declarations of independence by numerous Soviet republics, including those in Central Asia, and led several months later to the formal dissolution of the USSR. Today, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan remain independent, a definite plus. But in other respects, we have witnessed regression from levels reached at the end of the Soviet era, when Gorbachev's programs of glasnost and perestroika mandated a certain level of tolerance for opposing viewpoints and organized opposition activity.

Specifically, with respect to democratization, human rights and the rule of law, overall trends in the region are extremely discouraging. In 1992, these countries unreservedly accepted the commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). But despite the carefully crafted claims of Central Asian leaders and their spokesmen, in the region and in Washington, the trend is toward consolidation of authoritarian control and increased repression, not gradual democratization. The Helsinki Commission, which I have chaired and now co-chair, has held three hearings on Central Asia since 1999. Partly on the basis of testimony during those hearings, I introduced H. Con. Res. 397, which expressed the Congress' concern about the lack of democratization and violations of fundamental human rights throughout Central Asia. The measure was passed last November by an overwhelming majority (362-3) of the House.

In floor statements introducing the resolution, I argued that the main cause of authoritarian government and repression in Central Asia was the determination of the region's leaders to perpetuate themselves in power by any means necessary. This desire, in turn, is fueled by their corruption, which they strive to conceal from their impoverished publics. The pattern is infuriating: rulers enrich themselves, their families and favored few, while the rest of the population struggles to eke out a miserable existence. In turn, the authoritarian leaders suppress freedom of the press and the right to engage in political activity. Dissidents are harassed and jailed. Human rights defenders are tortured while being held in incommunicado detention.

Indeed, one of the greatest challenges facing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is the emergence in Central Asia of an entire region where basic OSCE principles and commitments are ignored—in fact, flouted, with increasing brazenness. Turkmenistan's President Niyazov made himself virtual president for life in December 1999. Kazakhstan's President Nazarbaev—who has extended his tenure in office through referenda, canceling elections, and staging deeply flawed elections—last summer arranged to receive lifelong privileges and perks. In Kyrgyzstan, President Akaev, who was once considered democracy's best hope, has already rigged two elections in order to keep serious contenders from running against him. He is now reportedly planning to stage a referendum on extending his tenure in office from five years to seven. Welcome to the club, President Akaev. I continue to suspect that some of these leaders who already head what are, for all intents and purposes, royal families are planning to establish family dynasties.

The latest developments in the region provide even more cause for alarm. Kyrgyz authorities have just brought new charges against opposition leader Felix Kulov, who is already serving a seven-year jail sentence. Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Imanaliev told me on a recent visit to Washington he thought Kulov would be freed—the Minister must have misread President Akaev's intentions.

Truly appalling is the situation in Uzbekistan, where literally thousands of people have been arrested, allegedly for belonging to radical Islamic groups or for involvement in terrorist activity. According to international human rights organizations, police planting of evidence is routine, as is torture in detention and in prison. I was horrified to learn of the death—or should I say the murder—of human rights activist Shovrug Ruzimuradov. After being detained on June 15, he was held incommunicado by the Ministry of Internal Affairs until July 7, when his severely bruised, lifeless body was delivered to his family, including seven children. Some internal organs had been removed, probably to conceal internal lesions from the torture. But that did not stop the Uzbek authorities from claiming he had committed suicide. The ensuing international uproar surrounding this case has apparently forced even the Uzbek authorities to take heed and change tactics. Former Ambassador to Washington, Sadyk Safaev, now Uzbekistan's First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, said last week that those who killed Mr. Ruzimuradov would be held legally accountable.

Maybe in this case, some policemen will actually be charged. But even more important, this pattern of brutality must stop. At the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Paris earlier this month, I introduced an anti-torture resolution which calls on participating States to exclude in courts of law or legal proceedings evidence obtained through the use of torture, or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. It also calls for a complete ban, in law and in practice, on incommunicado detention.

In Kazakhstan, the nexus between corruption and control of the media has come to the fore with particular force, considering the recent publication in the *New Yorker* of an article about alleged high-level malfeasance. Independent and opposition media in that country have been intimidated practically out of existence, with editors of opposition publications risking charges of "insulting the honor and dignity of the president." Kazakhstan's authorities prevented two oppositionists from traveling to Washington to testify July 18 at congressional hearings on Central Asia, a violation of the right to freedom of movement that further damaged the government's already tarnished reputation. To make matters even worse, at the July 18 hearing, Kazakhstani officials attempted to serve papers to former Prime Minister and opposition leader in exile, Akezhan Kazhegeldin, who had come to Washington for the hearing. The Deputy Chief of Mission at Kazakhstan's Embassy had to come to the Hill to explain this public relations blunder to offended Members. One can only conclude that Kazakhstan's leaders are either getting poor counsel from their expensive imagemakers or they're not clever enough to take good advice.

Words fail us when speaking about Turkmenistan, a nightmare kingdom run by a

world-class megalomaniac, Saparmurat Niyazov. He has carefully isolated his country from the outside world and proceeded to violate every human right imaginable, including freedom of conscience. Along with fellow Helsinki Commissioners Congressman PITTS and Congressman ADERHOLT, I have twice met with Turkmenistan's Ambassador, seeking to facilitate the release from prison of Shageldy Atakov, a Baptist pastor who has been in jail since 1999 on trumped-up charges. We also sent Turkmen President Niyazov a letter about this case but we have never received any response. Even the international financial institutions have had enough: the head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)—which has a mandate to promote both economic reform and multiparty democracy—recently warned Niyazov that he faces a possible cutoff of business with the bank unless he implements economic reform and multiparty democracy within a year.

In fact, only in Tajikistan have the authorities and opposition parties come to an arrangement of sorts—but only after a military stalemate ended an armed conflict that left scores of thousands dead. Though a coalition government has been established, clashes continue and the government does not control all of the country's territory.

Mr. Speaker, the last ten years have stripped Western optimists of their illusions about the nature of Central Asian regimes. Almost nobody today will speak out on behalf of Turkmenistan's regime, despite that country's vast energy resources. Mercurial, bombastic President-for-life Niyazov has irritated Western capitals and companies too deeply, and made doing business too difficult. True, some analysts defend Uzbekistan's iron fist, claiming to see a genuine threat of Islamic fundamentalism. But even the U.S. Government and the OSCE maintain President Karimov's domestic policies have greatly exacerbated the danger posed by radicals who fill their ranks with embittered relatives of the unjustly arrested or tortured.

Most often, we hear arguments defending Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan—especially the former, which boasts huge oil supplies. Backers claim, first, that they are more democratic than their neighbors. True enough: it would be difficult to be less democratic than Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, which literally do not allow opposition or dissent in any form. But more insidious is the contention that things in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are slowly getting better. This is simply not true, as anyone familiar with those countries ten and five years ago knows. In the past, political activity was far freer and a wide range of viewpoints were represented in the press, before Kazakhstan's parliament was dismissed and both presidents made clear their resolve to remain in power indefinitely, while silencing critical voices. One need only read the reports of the OSCE's Missions to these countries today, or the reports of OSCE's Representative on Freedom of the Media, to see how the possibilities for freedom of expression have narrowed, almost to the point of disappearance in Kazakhstan. That is clearly the trend in Kyrgyzstan, where the Ministry of Justice intends to require re-registration of the media—an old, obvious ploy, with equally obvious intent.

Throughout the region, this intensified repression has evoked growing desperation and we are already witnessing the consequences:

armed insurgents of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan invaded Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in 1999 and 2000. Though they have not yet launched any major assault this year, there were reports of clashes last week and in any case, we should not expect them to go away. Impoverishment of the populace will provide new recruits, threatening to create a chronic problem. The Central Asian leaders' marriage of corruption and repression has created an explosive brew. Indeed, in Uzbekistan, in late June and early July, there were political protests remarkable events for such a tightly run police state—with important implications for future stability in that country and in the region.

Should we infer from Tajikistan's unhappy experience that only violence can bring governments and opposition in Central Asia to the bargaining table? I hope not. But ten years after independence, I see precious little evidence anywhere in the region of leaders' desire for a peaceful accommodation of interests or a willingness to allow normal politics. And as leaders become even more entrenched and wealthier, why should anyone expect matters to improve?

As delineated in H. Con. Res. 397, passed by the House last year, I urge the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and other United States officials to raise consistently with the leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, our concern about serious violations of human rights and the rule of law. Central Asian leaders, like the heads of every other OSCE State, are accountable to their citizens to establish conditions for independent and opposition media to function without constraint, limitation, or fear of harassment, and to repeal criminal laws which impose prison sentences for alleged defamation of the state or public officials. The United States must continue to call upon political leaders to condemn and take effective steps to cease the systematic use of torture and other inhuman treatment by authorities against political opponents and others, and to allow the registration of independent human rights monitoring organizations. Those governments of Central Asia which are engaged in military campaigns against violent insurgents must observe international law regulating such actions, keep civilians and other noncombatants from harm, and should not to use such campaigns to justify further crackdowns on political opposition or violations of human rights commitments.

Mr. Speaker, all OSCE countries agreed, as part of the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Charter, to be accountable to our citizens and responsible to each other for our implementation of OSCE commitments, which are matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States. The OSCE Council of Ministers meeting in Prague, in fact, agreed by consensus that appropriate actions—including political declarations and other political steps—should be undertaken in cases of "clear, gross and uncorrected violations of relevant [OSCE] commitments." Nine years have passed since the Prague document was signed by the OSCE countries. With the trend of clear, gross and uncorrected violations which have been described above, all participating States are obliged to respond.

THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) which is being reintroduced today. This bill will make sure that individuals have protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Today, there is no federal law to fight discrimination of this kind. This is unacceptable. Under current law, law-abiding, hard-working Americans can be denied a job, fired or discriminated against in other ways simply because they are or are perceived to be gay or lesbian.

ENDA will extend the promise of equal opportunity and civil rights to more Americans. Twelve states have such laws on the books. The private sector realizes the need and value of these workplace protections; in fact, more than 50 percent of Fortune 500 companies have nondiscrimination policies which include sexual orientation. And an overwhelming number of Americans support equal workplace rights for gay and lesbian Americans.

This legislation says simply that discrimination in employment because of sexual orientation is illegal, and will not be tolerated. This is strong, badly-needed legislation for countless Americans who have suffered, or who are vulnerable to discrimination because they do not have protections similar to those afforded millions of their fellow citizens. I strongly hope that we will debate and pass this bill this year.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2590) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Hastings amendment to the bill, and I commend my neighbor and colleague for bringing this issue to the Floor of the House.

America is the freest and most prosperous nation on earth. We are the strongest and most resilient democracy on the planet. Yet last November, we failed our citizens in the most fundamental way.

The right to vote cuts to the very bone of our democracy. When tens of thousands of Americans cast their ballots—only to have them thrown out—whether you like the results of the Presidential election or not—it is undeniable that something is wrong in America. If we fail to learn from this tragic experience then shame on us.

What happened in Palm Beach County, Florida on election day is personal to me. I

saw it with my own eyes. I experienced it myself. I stood in front of voting precincts and witnessed a horrible state of confusion.

I rise today representing the citizens of my district who went to vote on election day only to be confronted with a puzzle rather than a ballot. I watched the dismay and felt the anger of patriotic Americans, many of whom fought in World War II and Korea, and haven't missed an election in over 50 years, as their votes were rendered meaningless.

I support the Hastings electoral reform amendment to give a voice to those Floridians whose votes were callously discarded due to a ballot that was so confusing intelligent men and women unknowingly cast two votes for President, or one vote for the wrong man.

I support the Hastings electoral reform amendment because the collapse of the election system in Florida was not color-blind. The facts speak for themselves. Fifty-four percent of Florida's discarded ballots were cast by African-Americans, even though African-Americans only comprise eleven percent of Florida's voters.

Think about that. African-American voters were ten times more likely than white voters to have their ballots rejected in Florida. This reality is indefensible and we must act now to repair our citizens' faith in the system.

Have no doubt about it, this is not just a Florida problem. It stretches coast to coast. Many of the problems that confronted Florida on election day occurred in other states. In fact, more votes were thrown out in Illinois than in Florida. This is a federal problem that demands federal attention.

What happened in Florida on election day highlighted for the entire world that in America, even for a Presidential election, we have no national standards for the design of ballots—we have no national standards for the counting of ballots—we have no national standards for voting machinery—we have no national standards to prevent thousands of Americans from being purged from voter roles—and we have no reliable way to count the overseas ballots of the men and women in the military.

The good news is—this problem can be solved, but we must commit the necessary resources. I strongly support the amendment sponsored by Representative HASTINGS which makes a substantial down payment on our obligation to help state and local governments modernize their election equipment and renew the integrity of our democracy. Electoral reform must not be a partisan cause. It is our national obligation.

Election 2000 was a wake-up call to all Americans that we must not take our democracy for granted. We must commit the money, the resources and the energy to fix our election process once and for all. To do anything less is unforgivable.

I urge you to support the amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE ESCORT CARRIER SAILORS AND AIRMEN ASSOCIATION

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to rise and speak in recognition

of the Escort Aircraft Carrier Sailors and Airmen Association. Members of the ECSAA served our country in both World War II and the Korean Conflict aboard the CVE Aircraft Carriers, better known as "Baby Flattops." Through their acts of bravery, these Veterans helped to bring World War II to an early conclusion and saved numerous lives. Until now, they have gone unrecognized for their invaluable contributions to the military successes of our nation. It is time for our Government to make its appreciation evident to these brave Veterans and recognize them, as a whole, for their valor and dedication to the preservation of our great country and its people.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment being offered by my colleague, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, to prohibit any funds from being used to implement the veterans equity resource allocation system.

VERA was created to correct a perceived inequity in the manner in which veterans health care dollars were being distributed across the country.

While a noble effort, VERA was fundamentally flawed in that it did not look at the type of care being delivered to veterans in a given region. Furthermore, it also failed to consider the effect of regional costs of providing health care in its calculations.

Under VERA, the watchword was efficiency. Deliver the most care at the least cost. While ideal for outpatient care, VERA has unfairly penalized those VISNs that provide vital services such as substance abuse treatment, services for homeless veterans, mental health services, and spinal cord injury treatments. Under VERA, these services are all deemed too expensive and "inefficient."

VERA was also implemented at a time when the VA budget was essentially flat-lined. Thus, VISN directors were not provided additional funds to offset the costs of annual pay raises for VA staff, and annual medical inflation costs. This was not a problem for those directors of VISNs that received money under VERA. However, for those directors in VISNs, that were losing money under VERA, it was a double hit that crowded out additional funds needed for other vital services.

It is commendable that the subcommittee was able to find an additional \$1.2 billion for veterans medical care. Yet, thanks to VERA, very little of that money will find its way to the

Northeast, where it is vitally needed. Instead, it will be sent to those VISNs that have already seen increases in funding due to VERA.

Mr. Chairman, this is simply wrong. The veterans of the Northeast, who are older, sicker and less mobile than their counterparts in the sun belt should not be unfairly penalized for where they choose to live. This amendment starts to correct this problem by terminating VERA, a well-intentioned, but poorly executed system that blatantly discriminates against those veterans who reside in the Northeast.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING
OF THE EMERY-WEINER SCHOOL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the new Emery-Weiner School in southwest Houston. This \$14 million educational facility combines the 23-year-old I. Weiner Jewish Secondary School and the brand new Emery High School to form the Emery-Weiner School. This expansion combines the quality education offered at the I. Weiner Jewish Secondary School with the cutting edge facility of the new campus.

This fall as classrooms fill for the first time at the Emery-Weiner School students will benefit from the formation of these two institutions. The state-of-the-art facilities at the new campus will include art and music rooms, as well as a theater, emphasizing the important role the arts play in education. The campus also houses a multi-court gymnasium, cultural arts facility, computer and science labs. The twelve acres in southwest Houston on which the campus sits is surrounded by several more acres of accessible playing fields. The campus will provide tremendous opportunities to students.

On Thursday, September 20, 2001, the Emery-Weiner School will celebrate the opening of this new campus with a special event honoring two of its many benefactors, Mr. Joe Kaplan and Mr. Joe Kornfeld. The proceeds from this celebration will benefit the "Joe Fund," a fund appropriately named for these two founding fathers. Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Kornfeld contributed countless hours to seeing this project come to fruition. Their selfless offerings make them role models for the students who will benefit from their efforts.

The "Joe Fund" was created to bolster teacher enhancement programs and projects. It will be used to purchase materials to provide teachers the necessary means to incorporate creativity and ingenuity into their everyday classroom. I applaud the leadership of the countless teachers and volunteers who contributed to the erection of this new campus and recognize the commitment of these individuals to providing opportunities through education to our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the many people who contributed to the construction of the Emery-Weiner School, and I look forward to seeing the many ways in which the innovative voice of this institution will help to educate and shape the minds of Houstonians. There is no doubt, this school will soon serve as a model for other schools across the nation.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
THAT WORLD CONFERENCE
AGAINST RACISM PRESENTS
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO AD-
DRESS GLOBAL DISCRIMINATION

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 212, sponsored by myself and my good friend from California, the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee, Mr. LANTOS.

It is easy to believe that in the twenty-first century, racism, like a rabbit under a magician's hat, has simply disappeared with the abracadabra of superficial legislation and the convenience of turning a blind eye. But for those of us who prefer to see the truth rather than a prefabricated illusion, we must recognize the need for international cooperation to address racism at the U.N. World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It is wrong, however, to combat racism with provisions that are racist themselves. Without a doubt, it is unacceptable for anti-Semitic language to be used in the conference's Program of Action to address the Arab-Israeli conflict. The notion of equating Zionism with racism is one that we rejected over twenty years ago when we spoke out vehemently against a U.N. resolution that made such an insidious claim. Thus, it is critical that we carefully consider the consequences of attending a conference that promotes a tenet we simply cannot accept. At the same time, we must reaffirm our commitment to working together with the international community to eradicate global discrimination and establish ourselves as a leader in this cause. We cannot let our silence speak for us now.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, promotes U.S. support of the World Conference Against Racism and encourages us to take action in a manner consistent with our American values of racial and religious tolerance. It is essential that we support such legislation and not allow our global fight against racism to vanish into thin air or be diminished by language that exacerbates the problem rather than fixing it. I urge my colleagues to support this unique opportunity to address global discrimination and to support House Resolution 212.

IN HONOR OF GARY KRUPP OF
LONG BEACH, NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mr. Gary Krupp of Long Beach, New York.

On July 29, 2000, Pope John Paul II named Gary a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great, in recognition of his work with Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, a health care facility in Italy. Through Mr.

Krupp's generosity and commitment, the hospital acquired highly advanced medical equipment, benefitting countless men, women and children.

The Order of Saint Gregory was founded by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831, who named it after his predecessor, Pope Saint Gregory the Great. The Order frequently honors those who have distinguished themselves through service to the Catholic Church and accomplishments benefitting society. Gary is the seventh Jewish person since 1831 to be awarded this honor.

It is not every day that an honor such as this is given to one of our neighbors. I congratulate Gary for receiving this outstanding and unique honor. I believe he is an exemplary Long Islander and American, and I have no doubt Gary will continue his work on behalf of Long Island, the Catholic Church, and Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza.

MAGEE RIETER HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the outstanding achievement of the employees of Magee Rieter Automotive Systems of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, which has won General Motors' prestigious "Supplier of the Year Award" for the ninth consecutive year. Of GM's 30,000 suppliers, Magee Rieter Automotive Systems is the only nine-time winner in North America and one of only six suppliers globally to be honored every year since the award was established.

Magee Rieter, the leading supplier of carpets to General Motors in America, will celebrate this accomplishment on August 28, 2001. The company has been in business in Bloomsburg since 1889 and has been supplying General Motors for more than 90 years, first with hand-draped tapestries or Fisher Body carriages, through today's production of fully molded carpet floors and integrated acoustical systems.

Through the past 112 years, the company has endured and overcome numerous challenges, including floods, fires and the rapidly changing business environment. The company received the Army/Navy "E" Award for Excellence after World War II in recognition of its production of high-quality materials for the war effort. As demonstrated by the more recent awards, the current employees have carried on the tradition of pride and success handed down by their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who worked at Magee Rieter. Under the leadership of President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Katerman, Magee Rieter continues to be a cornerstone of the Bloomsburg community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the hard work and impressive achievement of the people of Magee Rieter, and I wish them all the best.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of Weldon Amendment which would increase the Fire Assistance Grant Program by \$50 million.

This past Monday, it was my honor to announce the awarding of a Federal grant to the Davis Park Fire Department in my district. This grant was one of only 108 that were awarded to fire departments across this country under the FEMA's Fire Assistance Grant Program.

The Davis Park Fire Department along with nearly 20,000 other fire companies applied for grants—that is almost two-thirds of all fire companies in America. In the coming months, more than \$100 million in grants will be rewarded to fire companies for vehicles, fire prevention programs, equipment and training.

The Davis Park Fire Department will use its \$30,000 in funds to train its firefighters in the most recent firefighting and rescue techniques. When I spoke with the department's chief he expressed his excitement over how the grant would help to strengthen the safety of not just the citizens of Davis Park but also the brave men and women who serve them.

By supporting the Weldon Amendment we can guarantee that Fire Departments like the Davis Park will be able to benefit from this vital program next year. In doing so we can increase the safety of countless communities throughout our nation.

I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in providing our nation's local fire departments with the opportunity to improve the quality of both services they offer and safety standards under which they serve.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICARDO MONTERO DUQUE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Ricardo Montero Duque for his efforts to fight the communist threat, and later communist dictatorship, in Cuba, and his commitment to Cuban immigrants throughout America.

Ricardo Montero Duque was born in Matanzas, Cuba on July 4, 1925. In 1950, he graduated from the Military Academy of the Cuban Army with the rank of Second Lieutenant. As a result of his hard work and dedica-

tion, he quickly climbed through the ranks of the military hierarchy, eventually assuming the rank of Major.

Major Duque's extensive military career can be traced to battles against the guerrilla forces of Fidel Castro. In 1956, Major Duque was instrumental in leading the Cuban Army against Fidel Castro and his rebel forces in the province of Oriente. During the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, he commanded the No. 5 Infantry Battalion of the 2506 Brigade, was captured by Castro's forces, and later imprisoned for 25 years. On June 8, 1986, Major Duque was released from prison in Cuba and reunited with his family in Union City, New Jersey.

Over the past two decades, Major Duque has remained actively involved in the Cuban American community. Former New Jersey Governor Christie Todd Whitman appointed Major Duque to serve as a member of the "Cuban Task Force" of New Jersey. He has served as Director and Editor of the newspapers "El Cuba Libre" and "La Semana." In addition, he has twice been elected to serve as President of the Union of Former Cuban Political Prisoners.

Beyond his services to the community, Major Duque has been a real estate agent since 1987. He is happily married to Esther, his wife of fifty years.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ricardo Montero Duque for his unfaltering commitment to fighting the terror and repression of communism in Cuba, and for his outstanding contributions to the Cuban American community.

PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, small business participation in government procurement is dropping. While the dollar value of procurement opportunities is relatively constant, the absolute number of small businesses winning government contracts has dramatically decreased over the past four years.

One possible solution to this problem can be to enhance the role of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs). During the 1980's, Congress created local PTACs around the country to increase small business participation in defense procurement. Modeled after Small Business Development Centers (SDBCs) run by the Small Business Administration (SBA), these centers offer free advice and help to small businesses both in educating them about how to get involved in government procurement and also how to obtain contracts. Most of the PTACs are co-located in a local higher education institution or a Chamber of Commerce. About half of the funding for most of the PTACs comes from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The remainder comes from the state government and/or the local host (i.e., the community college). States currently have a choice: they can either ask for up to \$300,000 to run a state-wide program or regional centers can ask for up to \$150,000 to run a program locally.

Some states have decided to run a state-wide program in order to have continuity of service throughout the state. However, some states do not care and have allowed regional or city PTACs to operate. Currently, 15 states have regional or city PTACs that receive an excess of \$300,000. This penalizes states like my home state of Illinois who have opted for a "good government" solution—a seamless delivery of procurement assistance services throughout the state.

I have introduced the Procurement Technical Assistance Improvement Act to increase the DLA grant match to states that run a state-wide PTAC program so that they would be able to receive up to \$600,000 in funding, double the current level of \$300,000. This would potentially benefit the 29 states and the one territory that have a state-wide PTAC program and the six states and the four other territories that do not have any PTAC program. It is important to remember that each state with a state-wide run PTAC program would not automatically receive a \$600,000 grant from the DLA because each proposal would have to stand on its own merits. Currently, 10 states and one territory do not even receive the full \$300,000 in grant funds from the DLA for a state-wide PTAC program. Thus, this proposal does not necessarily mean that the cost of the program would balloon. Only those states that submit a sound proposal who serve a large population would qualify for a maximum of \$600,000. Finally, this proposal would not mean that states with regional centers would receive less funding. This proposal is silent on the match received from DLA to regional PTACs.

With the criticism of recent Pentagon procurements that disadvantage small businesses, this is one way to remedy the problem. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING TRACEE EVANS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, August 3, 2001, one of Houston's prized reporters will be recognized for her top notch work by the Association for Women in Communications and the 2001 Clarion Awards at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. Ms. Tracee Evans, of KTRH radio in Houston, Texas, will be awarded this prestigious award for her documentary on the struggle in Kosovo.

The Association for Women in Communications is a professional organization which champions the advancement of women across all communication disciplines by recognizing excellence and promoting leadership. The Clarion Awards is a renowned competition recognizing excellence in many fields of communications. One Clarion Award is given in each field of communications to an exemplary entry and it is judged on quality, substance, style, originality and achievement of the objective.

Ms. Tracee Evans' hard work and creativity distinguish her in the field of communications. Her documentary on Kosovo is just one example of the many creative and insightful pieces she has created. Her ingenuity serves as a

guide for future generations of communication professionals and more notably, her personal accomplishments serve as a model for women wishing to follow in her path.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Association for Women in Communication, the Clarion Awards, Ms. Evans' family, and her colleagues at KTRH in applauding Ms. Evans' diligence in the field of communications and I look forward to sharing in her future work.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
CHARLES SPENCER POMPEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of an inspirational leader and a truly committed social activist, my good friend, the late Charles Spencer Pompey. At a time when Martin Luther King Jr. had not yet shared his dream of racial equality with America, Mr. Pompey challenged the injustices of segregation with his work ethic and his passion. "If you are ever fired from a job," Spencer Pompey would say, "let it not be because of the color of your skin, or the lack of preparedness to do the job." Today, Congress must be prepared to do its job, and continue to tear down the barriers of racial inequity that linger within our nation.

When Mr. Pompey came to Palm Beach County in 1939, as one of five teachers at Washington Junior High School, it was clear that separate but equal was more of a rhetorical myth than a reality. Black students were taught in dilapidated buildings, using supplies that white schools had discarded. To make matters worse, black teachers could not join the only teachers' union of the time, the Florida Education Association. Always a crusader, Mr. Pompey organized black teachers to form the Palm Beach County Teachers Association and served as the group's first president. Twenty-four years later, he was named to the board of the Florida Education Association, which had once made the mistake of judging him by his skin color rather than the content of his character.

Perhaps the most inspirational aspect of Mr. Pompey's life was his unwavering dedication to helping youth in his community. He was the first individual, white or black, to develop a program of organized recreation for young people, working through the Naciremas Club. In addition, Mr. Pompey served as a coach of several champion football teams, emphasizing the importance of being a scholar as well as an athlete. As a principal, teacher, and coach, as well as a religious leader, Mr. Pompey taught a generation of young black Floridians to dream, to aspire, and to persevere.

Mr. Speaker, in proper tribute to the legendary activist, Charles Spencer Pompey, I urge Congress to recommit to the goal of promoting improved race relations. We cannot allow the specter of segregation to haunt our institutions, and we cannot allow glass ceilings or lack of resources to impede the progress of our growing minority communities. Let us guarantee that an individual's right to vote is held sacred, regardless of his or her race. Let us not forget the past and abandon policies of affirmative action, which will ensure that our

history of discrimination can be overcome and replaced by success for all in the twenty-first century. We have a duty to all American citizens to preserve the legacy and teachings of Charles Spencer Pompey, a true friend and a true American hero.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2620, the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2002.

On balance, this bill adequately addresses our national priorities and funding needs for housing, veterans' benefits and scientific research. H.R. 2620 provides modest increases for HUD programs and activities—\$1.4 billion more than last year. These increases will help address the most basic housing needs of our low- and moderate-income citizens.

This measure fully funds VA medical health care for our veterans and provides a \$1 billion increase over spending levels for FY2001, while almost tripling the funding provided for major VA construction projects. A separate provision appropriates \$300 million for safety and seismic repairs to VA medical facilities and the rehabilitation of VA research facilities. One important aspect of the bill is the extra \$128 million over FY01 for the Veterans Benefits Administration to expedite claims processing, which is a growing concern among veterans.

Additionally, I have been concerned about proposals to require military retirees to choose between military or VA health care systems, but this measure includes an amendment prohibiting the VA from using funds in FY2002 to force military retirees to permanently choose between the VA or military health care systems.

Finally, H.R. 2620 prioritizes funding for our essential research needs by increasing funds for the National Science Foundation to \$4.8 billion, \$414 million more than the current appropriation and \$368 million more than the President's request. As a member of the House Science Subcommittee on Research, I am pleased that this appropriation will allow the NSF to go forward with substantial new and ongoing initiatives in information technology, biodiversity, nanotechnology, the mathematical sciences and the social and behavioral sciences.

Mr. Chairman, while all of these programs are funded at levels that warrant the support of every single member of Congress, I have

serious concerns about one provision in this bill—a \$1.3 billion emergency designation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Designating these funds an emergency is a clear violation of our budget rules and violates all principles of fiscal responsibility.

While I agree that the request for \$1.3 billion in emergency relief for the damage created by Tropical Storm Allison is a true emergency, the budget resolution does not allow for the allocation of emergency designations in regular appropriations bills unless those funds are offset. Under this Congress' budget rules, this bill requires a waiver from the Rules Committee as well as clearance from the Budget Committee because of this emergency designation. These waivers were provided, which irresponsibly circumvents our budget process.

More worrisome, however, is the fact that this Congress is perilously close to spending Medicare and Social Security surplus funds. I am concerned that by releasing these funds under the emergency designation—without offsets—this Congress sets an early precedent in the FY '02 appropriations process to spend more than budget resolution allocations.

As you are aware, recent press reports suggest that the updated economic forecast the Congressional Budget Office will release in August is likely to show no available surplus beyond the Social Security and Medicare trust funds in fiscal year 2002 and that Congress may have to dip into those trust funds by nearly \$41 billion in FY 2003. More troublesome is the fact that these shortfalls do not even account for many of our other stated needs like a comprehensive energy policy, a prescription drug benefit, and the President's request for additional defense spending.

This Congress made a commitment to the American people that we would not vote to spend one single penny of the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds. I will honor that commitment. Spending restraint, fiscal responsibility, and honoring our commitments do not come about by good intentions, but by resolute actions.

Mr. Chairman, in an effort to honor that commitment, I will adhere to the levels in the budget resolution enacted by a majority of this Congress. I will oppose any efforts to increase spending beyond those levels without offsets. This includes any emergency designation, regardless of its merit.

The VA-HUD appropriations bill violated the budget resolution and, despite the many good programs contained in this bill, it busts the budget and threatens the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. I urge my colleagues to honor their commitment to protect these funds; I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 2620.

THE UKRAINE CELEBRATES 10
YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AND
PROMOTION OF DEMOCRATIC
IDEALS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on August 26, 2001, the Wisconsin Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Cooperation of Ukrainian Churches and Civic Organizations will commemorate 10 years of

Ukrainian independence from the United Soviet Socialist Republics.

For over a thousand years, the Ukraine nation and the Ukrainian people have bravely faced adversity and have struggled to gain independence as a sovereign nation.

The Ukraine was a country constantly under siege, suffering onslaughts from Muscovy, Poland, Lithuania and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the 13th century, the empire gradually began to disintegrate into city-states that would become the modern-day countries of Russia and Belarus. The Ukraine was able to gain independence for a very brief period in the mid 1600's and again achieved a brief independence following WWI, from 1917–1918. However, during the inter-war period, the Ukraine was partitioned between the Soviet Union and Poland and remained under the communist regime until 1991.

The 20th century history of the Ukraine is marked by the repression of the Soviet regime. In 1986 Americans watched in horror along with the rest of the world as the tragedy of Chernobyl unfolded before our eyes. The Chernobyl disaster, along with the USSR's mishandling of the environmental cleanup, sparked a new spirit of nationalism in the form of "Rukh," the Ukrainian People's Movement for Restructuring. Rukh nationalism and increased freedom brought about by Gorbachev's "glasnost" policy led to the declaration of Ukrainian independence on August 24, 1991.

The years of exploitation by the communist government left the Ukraine struggling to establish a viable socio-economic infrastructure. The residents of the Ukraine, with the assistance of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) are committed to help strengthen Ukraine's development as a democratic, market-orientated state.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit educational and charitable institution that seeks to preserve and disseminate the rich intellectual and cultural heritage of Ukrainian Americans. The UCCA also serves as a vehicle by which Ukrainian Americans provide humanitarian aid and assistance to the residents of the Ukraine and Ukrainians throughout the former Soviet Union.

So, it is with a spirit of hope for the future of the nation of the Ukraine, that I join with the Wisconsin branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Cooperation of Ukrainian Churches and Civic Organizations to congratulate the Ukrainian people on 10 years of independence. May the Ukraine prosper and enjoy many more decades of independence, freedom and democracy.

REMEMBERING PROF. LAWRENCE
P. KING

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues Representative CONYERS and Representative WATT, to fondly remember Prof. Lawrence P. King who passed away on April 1, after a long and courageous struggle with cancer.

Prof. King was the most widely renowned bankruptcy scholar of our time, and had

served as an invaluable advisor to Congress and the Courts regarding Bankruptcy Law. For years, Prof. King generously gave of his time through his involvement with the National Bankruptcy Conference, which has served as the leading non-partisan adviser on the nation's bankruptcy laws since the 1930's. Prof. King has frequently testified on the bankruptcy laws, and was particularly valuable in offering advice in connection with the seminal Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978. As a result of his tireless assistance, it is no understatement to say that Prof. King has had as significant an impact on our bankruptcy laws—which are the envy of the world—as any other individual.

I first came into contact with Prof. King when I became the Ranking Democratic Member of the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law. Prof. King's knowledge of the law, compassion for the common man, and extraordinary sense of humor continued to be a tremendous help to the work of the committee especially during the very challenging struggles over the past few years to maintain the integrity of the Code. He both lived and taught in the Eighth Congressional District of New York, a fact about which I remain especially proud. My colleague, the distinguished Ranking Member from Michigan, met Prof. King while still a student at Wayne State School of Law, and like many other lawyers, whether starting out or seasoned, was touched by Prof. King's personal and professional greatness.

Time and space do not permit me to recite all of Prof. King's accomplishments, but a few highlights deserve notice. He taught at New York University School of Law from 1959 until his death. For the last 22 years, he was the Charles Seligson Professor of Law. He also served as a member of the Judicial Conference's Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules; as a consultant to the Commission on Bankruptcy Laws of the United States, which produced what ultimately became the 1978 Bankruptcy Code; as a Senior Advisor to the National Bankruptcy Review Commission, established by Congress as part of the Bankruptcy Act of 1994; and, perhaps most importantly, as the editor-in-chief of the authoritative treatise "Collier on Bankruptcy." In addition to serving as a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, Prof. King has been honored as a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and had received the College's Distinguished Service Award and the Law School's Alumni Achievement Award.

He was the founder and driving force behind the NYU Workshop on Bankruptcy and Business Reorganization which, for 26 years, has trained attorneys in the field of bankruptcy and insolvency law, keeping experienced practitioners up to date with the latest developments in the law, and giving those just beginning in this complex and highly technical area a firm foundation in its basics. I am proud to note that staff from the Judiciary Committee, from both sides of the aisle, have attended this program and their service to the Congress and the American people have been greatly improved by it. The workshop has also raised sufficient funds to endow two chairs at the law school.

Prof. King's remarkable professional achievements and intellect are only part of the story. He understood the ethical and moral underpinnings of the fresh start and the rehabilitation of debtors. Everything he did was in-

fused with his personal compassion and ethical standards. In his final speech to the American College of Bankruptcy, just two days before his death, Prof. King made an impassioned plea for the preservation of the fresh start and the coherence, fairness and balance of the current Code. The Code, a model of fairness, is in peril right now. Prof. King, who did so much to build the system we have now, who contributed so much to bankruptcy scholarship, articulated the many concerns with the pending legislation better than anyone. I can think of no more fitting tribute than to commend his final comments to the attention of my colleagues in the hope that they will help us to remember this great man and take heed and work for fair and balanced legislation.

REMARKS BY PROF. LAWRENCE KING TO THE
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF BANKRUPTCY

I appreciate very much the honor of being asked to deliver the keynote address at this induction ceremony, which itself is a very auspicious occasion. It marks with emphasis the regard in which each of your peers hold you all and you are entitled to be very proud of this accomplishment. Of course, as a member of the College, I agree with everything I just said.

In considering what the focus of my remarks should be, the first thought was something having to do with the philosophy of the bankruptcy law. But that would be too short of a speech because, after all, that philosophy could be summed up as granting a new financial life to a financially distressed debtor and providing for an equitable distribution of the debtor's nonexempt assets among the debtor's unsecured creditors.

At least that was the philosophy until the advent of the 105th, 106th and the current 107th Congresses. It seems that today's philosophy is to damn the poor and struggling in order to pay the rich, who will not get paid anyway. So it is not worth heaping further ridicule on these past Congresses, the members are beyond caring, having pocketed the largess offered them and gone home to count what is in their campaign coffers. So, on to another theme.

Particularly as a member of the College, although not by virtue of that fact alone, we all have responsibilities to our profession and to our community, however that may be defined. Over a number of years of long and hard work, we have achieved a modicum of success and a time comes when some of our efforts should be used to return some good to the communities from which we come. Naturally, as all good sayings go, that is easier to state than to accomplish. Nevertheless, I want to plant some ideas by way of example.

When I was in law school, I decided that my careers should encompass three aspects. I wanted to practice law in order to help people with their problems, people being defined to include all legal entities. I wanted to teach law in order to educate others on how to help people through the practice of law as well as to help fashion the law by research and writing. And, thirdly, I wanted to be a judge in order to help make and interpret the law.

Those were pretty lofty dreams, perhaps subject even to a charge of naivete. Interestingly, as I reminisce, it seems to me that I did accomplish two of those desires, that is, the actual working at them. Whether or not it was of help to others is not for me to say. I have found, however, that within my work in whichever capacity, I have been able to accomplish all of my goals. That has occurred because throughout my career, I was involved in, let's say, extracurricular activities, almost always for no recompense whatsoever.

As I was thinking about this part of my speech, I thought of saying to you that there were two of such activities that highlighted my career in the sense of the personal enjoyment and satisfaction that I got out of them. But, as I thought of that notion, I concluded that I could say the same thing with regard to everything I have done and such joy and satisfaction was not limited to a mere two or three endeavors. But a brief review of two will serve my purpose tonight.

For about 22 years, in addition to full time teaching, part time practicing as counsel to a firm, and serving as associate dean of the law school, I was the first associate reporter, then reporter, and then a member of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the U.S. This was not totally fun, but overall, it was quite an interesting challenge.

One incident, that one would think is unrelated to that work, involved a partial shredding of both of my trousers' legs, starting at the lower thigh, and appearing with cloth flapping before a Congressional committee to testify. The reason for the shredding was a mind bending state of frustration in listening and having to accede to suggestions to change the Chapter X Rules being made by members of the Standing Committee on Practice and Procedure, that is, the oversight committee which had no one on it who knew a whit about bankruptcy, and Chapter X in particular. During the discussion, my hands were under the table and basically, subconsciously, were clutching my pants legs and, at one point of extreme aggravation, they pulled back, tearing the pants.

Another extracurricular activity that took a great deal of time, and, in looking back, I do not quite understand where the time came from, was on the legislative front. I first got involved in that through the legislation committee of the National Bankruptcy Conference and the first excursion in drafting legislation for congress and testifying with respect to it was the 1970 Nondischargeability Amendments, which gave the bankruptcy court jurisdiction to determine the effect of a discharge.

An interesting aspect of that task was working with the National Association of Referees in Bankruptcy to come up with a joint bill and, at each turn, having members of the House subcommittee complain that the draft was not strong enough to prohibit further abuses of the discharge system by consumer credit companies. One of the most interesting days was when I received a call from Senator Quentin Burdick of North Dakota asking me to come to his office.

I was there very quickly. He ushered me into his office, told me to put my feet on the desk, offered me a shot of bourbon (9 a.m.), and he started talking. He had gotten interested in the bankruptcy jurisdiction of the referee in bankruptcy and wondered out loud whether it made sense to create a commission to study the bankruptcy laws with a view to updating them. I, of course, was in 100 [percent] ecstatic agreement, and, from that moment, the 1970 Commission was born not without some problems, but that is a story for another day.

In the mid-1970s, I was called to the House subcommittee, which was considering amending Chapter IX of the former [Bankruptcy] Act, the municipality chapter, because of the New York City financial crisis. At first, all I was asked to conduct [was] an afternoon's seminar for the members of the subcommittee and their staffs on the topic of executory contracts under the Bankruptcy Act. This was becoming a big issue in the legislation because of the power of the city's labor unions and their bargaining agreements.

But, at the conclusion, the chairman of the subcommittee, Congressman Don Edwards,

asked me to show up the next morning at the start of the markup of the Chapter IX bill. Now, no one can speak at a markup session except the members and their staff, so I had to remain silent. At the markup, Congressman Butler, the ranking minority member, had a list of about 50 amendments to the proffered bill which were being read, one by one, by his minority counsel, Ken Klee, and then voted upon.

As an amendment was read, Don Edwards looked in my direction and I quickly realized he was seeking a reaction to the amendment from me by way of a nod or shake of the head. And I complied.

After a while, Congressman Butler asked for a recess and he came over to me, asking, "Am I seeing right? Are you reacting to my amendments as they are read without even having seen them before?" I replied in the affirmative, and he then asked if I would study the remainder of them overnight and meet with him the next morning to offer my reaction.

The next day I showed him the lists that I had made of the amendments: in one group I placed the ones I agreed with; in the next group I placed the ones I disagreed with; and in the third group, I placed the ones I did not take a position on because I believed them to be purely political, which was within his expertise and not mine.

At the markup session, Butler offered to Edwards the group one amendments with the statement that they had passed muster with the NYU law school. He did not offer group two, and the discussion was limited to Group 3. The markup continued for several days although it was serially announced that it would conclude at the end of that days' session. That did not happen. In the morning, I would check out of my hotel and, in the evening, I would check back in.

During the 1970s and '80s, I spent a fair amount of time testifying before Congressional committees and subcommittees, which was very time consuming and, also, fairly expensive. Congress invites you to work for it, but it does not offer to pay, even expenses.

In addition, I did a fair amount of continuing education work all over the country, on behalf of state and local bar associations and other suppliers of such programs. I considered appearing on these programs to be part of my job as a teacher, whether I received any compensation (which I did not) for the work.

I now think appearing on such programs is more than a teacher's job. I believe that it is incumbent on all of us, practitioners and judges alike, to participate in these programs, if we have something to offer. Judges are a bit problematic because of their position and having to decide issues but, with care as to the type of participation, they can share their gathered wisdom with the bar and public generally.

Another area in which lawyers, particularly, can serve beyond their everyday role is through their local bar associations. Active membership should be considered a must. There are many things the local bar can do in a very constructive manner. Very important is its ability to present its views to legislatures regarding bankruptcy and related legislation.

Either through bar association work or on an independent basis, pro bono work is of utmost importance, particularly in view of the new legislation. The costs to debtors filing for bankruptcy go up and up and up and no one in Washington seems to understand that the poor are being asked to support the system.

Help is needed all over the country. Go to your local courts and volunteer to serve. Create formal programs in your district to

help the unfortunate. I know there are established programs in some parts of the country. Get involved in them. Give something back. That is the rallying cry.

Some have suggested programs to get lawyers and judges into the classrooms around the country. I have not been enamored of that idea. I do not believe you can pick someone out of his or her office or from the bench and say, here, teach, even if that individual has volunteered with enthusiasm to do so. Not everyone can be an effective teacher. It takes a good deal more than merely standing in front of a group and talking. Again, that is a separate subject for a talk, and I will not belabor it here.

But there is a lot out there that can be done. Legislative work is always timely. Keep in touch with your members of Congress. If you are not known, find someone in your firm, or roster of friends or clients who is. Include Representatives and Senators. If you have a string to the White House, use it and turn it into a rope. Plan in advance.

Share your expertise by writing sensible articles. The key word is sensible.

Participate in bar association functions. Be active. Volunteer to do work.

Get involved in pro bono work. You will get a lot of satisfaction in helping people.

In whatever form you wish to express yourself, remember, give something back.

HONORING SHIRLEY HELLER

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifetime achievements of one of South Florida's most active and charitable volunteers. Shirley Heller, who passed away on July 16, 2001 at the age of 72, was an inspiring leader who left a legacy of commitment and devotion for the South Florida community.

Shirley Heller grew up on the north side of Chicago. She attended the National College of Education and, after receiving her degree, became a teacher who was greatly loved and admired by her students. Her love for teaching led her to volunteer for the Great Books program in Chicago, which promotes classic pieces of literature.

Shirley's love of politics and public service also began during her time in Chicago, where her lifetime of activism can be traced back to the Truman years. Shirley would serve as a national delegate for the Democratic Convention, a duty she would fulfill twice more after moving to Florida. However, Shirley was best known for her dedication to her community. She was an active member of various women's groups, and had the honor of serving as the President of Hadassah for three consecutive terms. She also founded the local B'nai B'rith organization for girls in the greater Chicago area.

Shirley was an extremely giving person who always worked for others and not herself. Immediately after moving to Florida in 1979, Shirley became involved in numerous civic and community organizations. Residents at once recognized the value of her enthusiasm for and commitment to her community; characteristics which made her a natural leader. She served as president of the Pembroke Pines Democratic Club, as well as president of the Hollybrook Golf and Tennis Condominium.

Mr. Speaker, Shirley Heller was both well-loved and widely respected by all those blessed to have known her, especially her husband and three sons, whom she cherished. She selflessly served her community throughout her life's work. Today, Mr. Speaker, we celebrate Shirley's life, which serves as a wonderful example to all who follow in her footsteps.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASTORIA CENTER OF ISRAEL

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 75th anniversary of The Astoria Center of Israel, one of the oldest and most venerable Conservative synagogues in my district.

Since its inception in 1926 the Astoria Center of Israel has been a bulwark of the Conservative Jewish community, as it provides a center for civic leadership, spiritual enrichment, and cultural relations.

Mr. Speaker, this congregation has always been a vibrant one.

In May of 1926, Financial, House, Membership, and Junior League committees had been established, a mere month after the building first opened its doors.

Those doors open into a sanctuary that is magnificent to behold even when the services have yet to commence. The beautiful canvasses of Mr. Louis Pierre Rigal, winner of the prestigious Grande Prix de Rome award in 1919, adorn the walls with glorious Biblical imagery.

Even today the synagogue continues to enrich the community's culture and spirit by offering plays, concerts, lectures, and civic meetings to any that wish to attend.

It would be impossible for me to separate the merits of this institution from those of its first spiritual leader, Rabbi Joshua Goldberg.

Rabbi Goldberg was the first Jewish chaplain of the United States Navy. When knowledge of the Holocaust became public, he, together with Rabbi Stephen Wise, was an active leader in the effort to save European Jews from Hitler's relentless persecution.

Rabbi Goldberg was stationed in Europe during World War II, and thus began his distinguished fifty-year-long career of Navy chaplaincy.

As a Rabbi, he reached out to other members of the clergy, both in local neighborhoods and throughout greater New York area. Rabbi Goldberg would often use radio broadcasts as a means of delivering his message of universal love and unity. Additionally, his efforts were integral to the formation of Queens College, my esteemed Alma Mater.

He made great contributions to the establishment of other Jewish communities such as Rego Park and Forest Hills.

Many prominent members of the Astoria Center for Israel continued to follow in Rabbi Goldberg's footsteps, such as Rabbi Alvin Class, the current chaplain of the New York Police Department.

I also must acknowledge the Center's many congregants that proudly pursue active ca-

reers in public service in both the governmental and private sectors.

It is my hope that we can fulfill the clause that concludes the Astoria Congregation of Israel synagogue charter—

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity"

RAILROAD RETIREMENT AND SURVIVORS' IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for his effort to address the problem of the railroad retirement system's solvency and to improve the benefits of railroad retirees and their surviving spouses. The fundamental problem is that there is currently only one railroad worker for every three beneficiaries, and that ratio is only getting worse. I agree that steps need to be taken to ensure the long term solvency of the railroad retirement system.

However, I must share with my colleagues an important concern regarding this bill's potential impact on the federal budget. As Chairman of the House Budget Committee, I worked with the Committee Chairmen, House Leadership and the Administration to alleviate this same concern, which may have been incorrectly perceived as delaying its consideration on the floor.

This bill raises a technical question about how the government should treat the transfer of financial assets from the railroad retirement account to a new trust fund for the purchase of private securities. Under the existing rules for estimating the cost of legislation, the investment of railroad retirement funds in private securities is considered by the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget as an expenditure and would result in \$15.6 billion in new government spending in fiscal year 2002. This is because the funds would no longer be held or controlled by the U.S. Treasury.

There is another view held by many budget analysts that this transaction should simply be considered a means of financing the federal debt, and not as government spending. In other words, the investment of these assets would be considered a transfer of funds from one part of the federal government to another. Under this view, the investment of these bonds, which are currently in government securities, in private securities would have no net effect on the budget. I believe that this view is not unreasonable if the benefits of any return on investment accrue to a government-administered trust fund; that they are not used to finance new federal spending programs; and the investment decisions are walled off from political considerations or manipulation.

I am, however, opposed to a provision in the bill that directs OMB and CBO to estimate the cost of this bill, not on the basis of what they objectively think it actually costs, but what the Congress thinks it should cost. I do not believe that Congress should arbitrarily substitute its judgment for that of our budget experts.

As I support the overarching goal of restoring solvency to the railroad retirement system, I voted in favor of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001. Nevertheless, I strongly believe that the bill requires additional work if it is to both serve the important needs of our country's hard working railroad employees and ensure that we maintain a balanced federal budget. Thus, I urge the President and the Congress to continue to work toward producing a final bill that does not tell OMB and CBO how much it costs, and which incorporates provisions that will protect our hard earned budget surplus.

TRIBUTE TO ISAAC HORN, OF THE SAN BERNARDINO CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Isaac Horn, of the San Bernardino City Fire Department, for his selfless bravery in rescuing three fishermen, whose small boat was left adrift in the Pacific Ocean, buffeted by wind gales. Isaac and his colleague, Ben Alexander, demonstrated courage and commitment and the highest duties of their profession, in their off-duty rescue of these individuals in need.

Isaac and Ben were filming whale sharks in October for a television series in Bahia de Los Angeles, a small fishing village about 400 miles south of the Mexican border, when they were approached by a woman frantic about fishermen who were lost. The fishing boat lacked an engine, and had been swept in a wind-tossed sea. Isaac and Ben searched for the boat in their 21-foot craft, while braving a heavy windstorm with winds reaching about 50 to 60 miles per hour.

When they spotted the fishing boat, it was in immediate peril, in danger of being swept onto the treacherous shores of an island. The boat was only 150 yards away from shore. Using a 12-foot line, the firefighters were able to pull the boat to safety, in a courageous effort that took about an hour. In gratitude, the fishermen offered them money, but Isaac and Ben refused.

Mr. Speaker, Isaac is a leading firefighter in our community. He has served as a paramedic firefighter, and because of his great labors and professionalism, has been promoted to the rank of engineer. He is a very dedicated worker, one who always makes sure that citizens come first. If one ever needed a firefighter to pull someone out of a fire, Isaac would be the one. He is extremely strong, brave, and dedicated in his work. He has a sense of fun about him, even though he approaches his duties with great seriousness and duty.

Isaac and Ben's co-workers have nothing but praise for them, describing them as "dedicated," "great workers," "you couldn't find nicer people," "they do an excellent job." Their supervisors are equally laudatory, noting their deep commitment to help other people. It is not surprising that they would go out of their way to help someone when they are off duty.

Mr. Speaker, our fire fighters put themselves in harm's way, time and time again. They are

the line of defense that keeps our communities safe. As a husband, father, and grandparent, I am proud to entrust the safety of my loved ones to such fine individuals. The heroism displayed in Bahia de Los Angeles is the highest example of a calling that exists twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A firefighter's work is never done, and even off duty, or on vacation, we can rely on these brave individuals to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, many fire fighters toil anonymously, in a quiet and heroic manner. Their loved ones are faced with the prospect of a knock on the door, cap in hand, as they are informed that their spouse, brother, sister, son or daughter has made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting the public. Our firefighters jump into burning buildings, brave smoke and falling debris, make daring rescues, and save children. In honoring Isaac, we honor all of his co-workers, the entire San Bernardino city fire department, indeed all firefighters. There are many other firefighters and public safety personnel who also labor day in and day out, putting themselves in harm's way. So in giving this honor, we are honoring them all.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we salute Isaac Horn, and those like him, who serve the public and keep our communities safe.

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY
OF WALTER AND LOTTIE
KACZMAREK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two wonderful people, Walter and Lottie Kaczmarek, on their 70th anniversary.

It is truly a joyous occasion to celebrate the anniversary of a marriage. A marriage joins two people in true love, unity, respect, and trust. Walter and Lottie have a special bond together that has brought joy and happiness into the lives of all they have touched, and love for each other that transcends all material barriers. Their relationship has cultivated and grown over the past 70 years, and their love for each other has only become stronger.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this very special 70th anniversary of Walter and Lottie Kaczmarek. Their love and devotion for each other bonds them together in a very special relationship, and I wish them many more happy and healthy years together.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment offered by my colleague from Michigan. The Combined Sewer Overflow control grant program invests desperately needed funds into our local communities to upgrade dilapidated waste water treatment facilities. We can all agree that protecting the safety of our local communities' water supply is of vital importance. Unfortunately, many cities and towns lack the necessary funds to improve their wastewater treatment plans to ensure clean drinking water. Without additional funds for the Combined Sewer Overflow control grant program, local governments will be forced to curtail critically needed improvements to their sewer infrastructure.

My constituents are contacting me for help to address wastewater infrastructure problems in the 4th District of Michigan. This is not, however, only a Michigan issue, it is also a problem in many states including Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois, among others. Given this great need for wastewater infrastructure improvements, we must not sit idle on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, adequate funding for sewer overflow systems is essential particularly since the Committee has lowered funds for the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund from \$1.35 billion last year to \$1.2 billion this year. I believe the goal of clean water can further be realized if communities have the much-needed federal support to fix their sewer infrastructure problems. Local governments are facing staggering costs that range in the billions of dollars to sustain and improve sewer infrastructure. They are calling on us for help. This is an important investment in ensuring environmental quality and I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

IN MEMORY OF DETECTIVE JOHN
GIBSON AND OFFICER JACOB
CHESTNUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut, both members of the Capitol Security Force, who were killed in the line of fire on July 24, 1998.

Three years ago, both Gibson and Chestnut fell victim to one of the most horrific crimes in the Capitol building in recent years. Crazy gunman Russell Weston entered through what used to be known as the Document Door, and fittingly renamed the Memorial Door, and terrorized tourists, staffers, and eventually shot Gibson and Chestnut.

Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut were identified as two 18-year veterans of the force. Both were married and had children.

This outbreak of violence caught everyone off guard and security measures quickly

heightened. The latest add-ons to this new effort for increased security are completion of a new Capitol Police training facility and a pilot program that would allow Congressional Staffers to enter buildings with electronic I.Ds. Increased security has now become a high priority in the Capitol and has increased the safety of not only Capitol employees, but the thousands of tourists that visit this glorious structure year after year.

The Capitol Security Officers put their lives on the line day after day for the safety of not only the elected officials that work within the Capitol, but for the thousands of tourists that visit this glorious building year after year. Their dedications, hard-work, and courage have kept hundreds of thousands of people safe throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of two dedicated men, Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut, for their dedicated service to the Capitol and our country.

TRIBUTE TO BEN ALEXANDER, OF
THE SAN BERNARDINO CITY
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ben Alexander, of the San Bernardino City Fire Department, for his selfless bravery in rescuing three fishermen, whose small boat was left adrift in the Pacific Ocean, buffeted by wind gales. Ben and his colleague, Isaac Horn, demonstrated courage and commitment and the highest duties of their profession, in their off-duty rescue of these individuals in need.

Ben and Isaac were filming whale sharks in October for a television series in Bahia de Los Angeles, a small fishing village about 400 miles south of the Mexican border, when they were approached by a woman frantic about fishermen who were lost. The fishing boat lacked an engine and had been swept in a wind tossed sea. Ben and Isaac searched for the boat in their 21-foot craft, while braving a heavy windstorm with winds reaching about 50 to 60 miles per hour.

When they spotted the fishing boat, it was in immediate peril, in danger of being swept onto the treacherous shores of an island. The boat was only 150 yards away from shore. Using a 12-foot line, the firefighters were able to pull the boat to safety, in a courageous effort that took about an hour. In gratitude, the fishermen offered them money, but Ben and Isaac refused.

Mr. Speaker, Ben is a leading firefighter in our community. He has served as a firefighter/paramedic and a member of the tactical medical team. The team is part of a police swat team, which goes in armed to treat downed officers. Ben was instrumental in getting it started. His chosen occupation takes him to work in the busiest areas of the city. He is deeply committed to his work, and has a great sense

of adventure, displaying a great attitude at all times, as well as an excellent sense of humor.

Ben's wife, Natalie, and his daughter, Taylor, are very proud of him as we honor him today.

Ben and Isaac's co-workers have nothing but praise for them, describing them as "dedicated," "great workers," "you couldn't find nicer people," "they do an excellent job." Their supervisors are equally laudatory, noting their deep commitment to help other people. It is not surprising that they would go out of their way to help someone when they are off duty.

Mr. Speaker, our fire fighters put themselves in harm's way, time and time again. They are the line of defense that keeps our communities safe. As a husband, father, and grandparent, I am proud to entrust the safety of my loved ones to such fine individuals. The heroism displayed in Bahia de Los Angeles is the highest example of a calling that exists twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A firefighter's work is never done, and even off duty, or on vacation, we can rely on these brave individuals to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, many fire fighters toil anonymously, in a quiet and heroic manner. Their loved ones are faced with the prospect of a knock on the door, cap in hand, as they are informed that their spouse, brother, sister, son or daughter has made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting the public. Our firefighters jump into burning buildings, brave smoke and falling debris, make daring rescues, and save children. In honoring Ben, we honor all of his co-workers, the entire San Bernardino city fire department, indeed all firefighters. There are many other firefighters and public safety personnel who also labor day in and day out, putting themselves in harm's way. So in giving this honor, we are honoring them all.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we salute Ben Alexander, and those like him, who serve the public and keep our communities safe.

HONORING SCOTT PRESTIDGE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both honor and thank Scott Prestidge. I first met Scott when he came to one of my town hall meetings. He approached a member of my staff with a resume and within a few weeks was working in my district office.

Scott graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in Political Science. He has been a caseworker in my Colorado office dealing primarily with the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and the Small Business Administration. He has demonstrated exceptional professionalism

and knowledge in dealing with business, technology and veterans issues. His patience, understanding, and sense of humor have made him a great asset to my staff.

One of Scott's most meaningful accomplishments was helping me to obtain World War II medals for a woman whose husband died in the war. Her son had never met his father and was overjoyed at finally receiving the medals for his father's bravery and courage.

This is just one of the many examples of the excellent constituent services Scott has helped me provide to the people in my district. He has been invaluable in communicating with Spanish-speaking constituents and is always compassionate and understanding to those in need.

Scott is moving to Boston, Massachusetts to be with his wife, Abbey, while she attends graduate school. I wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MY GRANDDAD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, since I was a young boy, chasing more chickens than girls, I watched my granddad Wilferd and my dad, Samuel Graves Sr., account for loose parts on tractors, missing pieces on planters, and nearly anything else that needed fixing with a good, straight piece of baling wire. Every year, we would go down to Tarkio Pelleting, the local feed store, and buy a new bundle of baling wire. We all called it Number 9 wire, but it really wasn't. Number 9 is much heavier and doesn't bend so easily. As I got older, it didn't take long until I was using the baling wire on things of my own. The barn door to my show heifer, the fender on my first bicycle, and half my G.I. Joe Collection needed some mending of one sort or another. As a young man, I didn't think a thing about it. When I needed it, I used it.

Today when I walk around the farm, I still think of Granddad. His 1968 John Deere 4020 that he bought brand new still has baling wire holding the air cleaner on. Every where you look, baling wire holds something together on the old home place—the 1983 John Deere 6630 Sidehill Combine and even the new (well, relatively new) John Deere 7200 vacuum planter has its fair share of the trusty ol' wire keeping it together.

In life, only friendship can hold things together like a bundle of baling wire. As I think back on my good days, my bad days, the days when I was a proud father, and the days when I was a grandson mourning the loss of my granddad, there was always a friend there to comfort and share their concerns with me.

Just like climbing onto the old 4020, I often have taken for granted that the baling wire will hold or that my friends will be there for me. I want to thank my friend, Scott Eckard, for being there for me when I needed him; and I want him to know that I am with him now—for whatever he needs from me. Granddad always told me that baling wire would even hold back time, if we could just catch it. My friend, I am not sure that we can ever hold onto time, but I am ever grateful that we have held onto our friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 298 and 299, I was detained at a meeting called by the administration at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on Tuesday, July 31, 2001, the record would reflect that I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 297, H.R. 2620, Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations for 2002, "yea".

On rollcall No. 298, H.R. 2647, Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY 2002, "yea".

On rollcall No. 299, on approving the Journal, "yea".

On rollcall No. 300, H. Res. 214, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 2505; Human Cloning Prohibition Act, "nay".

On rollcall No. 301, H.R. 2540, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, Veterans Benefits Act, "yea".

On rollcall No. 302, H.R. 2505, on agreeing to the amendment, Greenwood of Pennsylvania substitute amendment, "yea".

On rollcall No. 303, H.R. 2505, on motion to recommit with instructions, Human Cloning Prohibition Act, "yea".

On rollcall No. 304, H.R. 2505, on passage, Human Cloning Prohibition Act, "nay".

On rollcall No. 305, H.R. 1140, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, amended, Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act, "yea".

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

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2001 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 3

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the nomination of J. Richard Blankenship, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas; the nomination of Hans H. Hertell, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic; and the nomination of Martin J. Sil-

verstein, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

SD-419

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for July, 2001. 1334, Longworth Building

10 a.m.

Finance

International Trade Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the Andean Trade Preferences Act.

SD-215

SEPTEMBER 19

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings on S.702, for the relief of Gao Zhan.

SD-226