

Last and not least, the Service-Disabled Veterans' Small Business Federal Procurement Preference Act of 2002, requires all Federal agencies to establish agency-specific procurement goals for small businesses, and each category of small businesses, that are at least equal to legislatively specified government-wide goals. Currently, all goals specified for the award of Federal contracts under the Small Business Program are to be achieved collectively by all Federal agencies on a government-wide basis. Each Federal agency, on the other hand, is only required to establish goals which reflect the maximum practicable opportunity for small business concerns to participate in the contracts that it awards. It is therefore of little surprise that the achievement of SBA procurement goals, both across government and by individual Federal agencies, are significantly less than those specified in existing statute.

Again, this legislation will benefit service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals without adversely impacting any other preference group. This legislation can help open the door to opportunity for service-disabled veterans which has been closed too long. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I also gratefully acknowledge the assistance Pam Corsini has provided with the development of this legislation. A Brookings Institution LEGIS Fellow, Pam has been working with the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and has made many invaluable contributions to the work of the Committee and Congress. We are fortunate to have received her contributions and assistance. Thank you, Pam, for a job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB CHAFFIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep appreciation that I rise and pay tribute to the life and passing of Mr. Bob Chaffin of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Mr. Chaffin recently passed away in September and as his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to his life and memory and the outstanding way in which he lived it.

Mr. Chaffin served the Glenwood Springs community as an attorney specializing in corporate and real estate law. As a lawyer, Mr. Chaffin served his clients and his profession with honor, dignity, and sincerity. He was voted by residents throughout the community as the best honest attorney and was either the winner or the runner up, from 1999 through 2002. Many citizens throughout the community believed his heartfelt intentions were based out of genuine respect and regard for those whom he served and who sought his counsel.

Despite the time constraints of a very demanding career, Mr. Chaffin found the time to give back to his community through many types of volunteer activities. Mr. Chaffin was one of the founding members of Defiance Community Players, a local theatrical group that performed plays for the residents of Glenwood Springs. He participated in the group by painting and moving sets, managing the schol-

arship fund and serving on the board of directors. He was also a very talented actor, the most noticeable role he played was Teddy Roosevelt and he was able to capture personality of our 26th president to perfection. Mr. Chaffin was also active in other volunteer activities including the Glenwood Springs Lions Club, the Frontier Historical Society, the Mountain Valley Weavers and many others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with respect that I recognize the life and passing of Mr. Bob Chaffin before this body of Congress and this nation for all the wonderful contributions he has made to the community of Glenwood Springs. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Joan and his son David during this trying period. Mr. Chaffin truly was a unique and remarkable person and his years of service as both a lawyer and a community activist has touched the lives of countless individuals throughout the Glenwood community and the entire state of Colorado.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN LARRY F. LUCAS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Captain Larry F. Lucas, United States Army. Captain Lucas, originally from Marmet, West Virginia, served his country bravely in Vietnam as an Army Pilot. Sadly, while on a reconnaissance mission over Laos, Captain Lucas' plane was shot from the sky by anti-aircraft fire in December of 1966. Following military regulations, Captain Lucas ordered his co-pilot to eject from the plane first. Regrettably, other pilots who witnesses the crash saw only one parachute. Despite appearing to have remained in the plane, the Army would not conclude that Captain Lucas had perished.

Captain Lucas never returned to the United States alive. After many years his remains were miraculously found near the crash site a few months ago. His remains have been transported back to the United States and on November 1, 2002 he will receive a full military burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that our nation's strength as a world power comes from citizens like Captain Lucas. From an early age, he displayed signs of strong leadership. As an eagle scout in his childhood and then as an ROTC cadet at West Virginia University, Captain Lucas further developed these strong qualities. Captain Lucas' service to his nation will never be forgotten.

It is an honor to commend Captain Lucas on his service to the United States and to the state of West Virginia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2002, I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes Nos. 442-444. For the

record, had I been present, I would have voted: No. 442—"yea;" No. 443—"yea;" and No. 444—"yea."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE THOMAS-DALE BLOCK CLUB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the immeasurable contributions made by the Thomas-Dale Block Club to the Thomas-Dale neighborhood throughout its twelve years of service. The Block Club encouraged neighbors to get to know one another, to welcome and respect each others' differences, and to work together to make the neighborhood safe and clean. Through coordinating individual block clubs, organizing community meetings, facilitating communication between residents and local government, and developing programs for youth and seniors, the Thomas-Dale Block Club helped transform a once neglected neighborhood into one of the most vibrant communities in Saint Paul, Minnesota. It is my sincere pleasure to extend congratulations to the Thomas-Dale Block Club on its numerous accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LELAND PAT DURAND, JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the life and passing of Mr. Leland Durand Jr. of Cortez, Colorado. Mr. Durand, known to his family as Pat, recently passed away in September and as his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to his achievements and the irreplaceable contributions he made to his community and to his country.

Mr. Durand was born on February 14, 1923 in Bozeman, Montana. As a young man, Mr. Durand enlisted in the United States Army and served in our nation's military with honor, courage, and distinction. Mr. Durand was one of the first of those heroic individuals who stormed the beach at Normandy on D-Day in 1944. He was later wounded in Germany in another engagement and received a purple heart in recognition for the service and sacrifice he had made to his country. Mr. Durand also received the Medal of Freedom from the French Government just two years ago at a ceremony in Cortez, Colorado.

After the war, Pat continued to serve his country in a variety of other ways. In 1949, he began working in oil explorations and in 1966 opened his own oil and uranium exploration business, the Durand Drilling Company. He was a member of the American Legion for 50 years and was a member of the NRA throughout his entire life. A lifetime gun enthusiast, Mr. Durand became a skilled gunsmith and built and repaired guns at his own business in Cortez, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that I recognize the life and passing of Mr. Leland Pat Durand before this body of Congress and this nation for the sacrifices he has made to his country, for the protection of freedom and democracy throughout the world. My sincere condolences go out to his former wife Harriet Durand, their two children Harry and Theresa, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mr. Durand truly was an American hero, his loss will be deeply felt and a grateful nation will be forever in his debt.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4085, legislation to increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

As we debate the validity of committing young Americans to another conflict overseas I feel it is important to support legislation honoring our commitment to care for those disabled in past service to our country.

Many of our disabled veterans find themselves unable to keep pace with the cost of living as they advance in age. This is especially true for those who must rely on prescription drugs to mitigate the effects of their service-connected disabilities. These veterans must often choose between food, shelter, and medication. I support the provisions of this bill designed to mitigate these adverse economic conditions experienced by our disabled veterans.

It is extremely important that we support those who have secured our freedom in the past. As we debate the possibility of war we most honor past obligations.

HONORING CONGREGATION
TEPHERETH ISRAEL OF NEW
BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, ON ITS
SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY,
AND RABBI HENRY OKOLICA,
FOR HIS FORTY-TWO YEARS OF
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO
TEPHERETH ISRAEL

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 76th Anniversary of Congregation Tephareth Israel in New Britain, Connecticut, and the achievements of Rabbi Henry Okolica, who is celebrating 42 years of dedicated service to the congregation. I congratulate Rabbi Okolica, the congregation and all their friends. We are proud of their dedication and grateful for their many decades of service to our community and acknowledge with gratitude their successful refurbishment of their beloved temple, one of our city's landmarks.

It was 76 years ago that Governor John H. Trumbull laid the cornerstone at 76 Winter Street. Since that time, Tephareth Israel has been a center of rich, spiritual devotion and always encouraged and recognized service to the community. The congregation became the first in Greater Hartford to make religious education available to students regardless of their financial circumstances, and over many years provided an environment for spiritual growth that gave our city many valued leaders. Perhaps the most famous was Governor Abraham Ribicoff. Governor Ribicoff, whose father was one of the early presidents of Tephareth Israel Synagogue, became the first Jewish governor of the state of Connecticut, and served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare as well as a United States Senator.

When the sanctuary's interior was destroyed by fire in 1963, the New Britain community was moved to help rebuild it, so great was their admiration for Rabbi Okolica and Tephareth Israel. Today, 370 people are memorialized upon the walls of the Synagogue, a fitting tribute to past members and a reminder to the congregation's contribution to our community.

Since 1960, Rabbi Henry Okolica has been devoted to his faith, his congregation and to helping countless people in need. He has been a friend to innumerable individuals and an inspiration to families throughout the state. For 40 years, Rabbi Okolica hosted the television show, "Jewish Life," welcoming as his guests all religious persuasions on a wide variety of topics. The conversations reflected his thoughtful, generous character. He would conclude each broadcast with a plea to viewers to be generous in their contributions and mindful of those less fortunate. I am proud to share my hometown with Rabbi Okolica and Congregation Tephareth Israel, and honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

On October 13, 2002, the congregation and community will be celebrating their history and a dramatic renovation of their temple with a ceremony at Tephareth Israel. Past and present clergy will be honored at the celebration, including Reverend Elias Rosenbeger, Rabbi Joseph Aronson, Rabbi Jacob Weitzman, Cantor Sholom Nelson, Reverend Max Prager, Reverend Elifant Rabbi Arnold Heisler and Cantor Melvin Etra.

This special event will be more than a celebration for the congregation. It will be a remembrance by the whole community of the history of New Britain, for the founders of Tephareth Israel represent some of New Britain's most active citizens and friends of the community. Many came to America in search of relief from persecution in their native lands in Eastern Europe and Russia. These were highly learned individuals, having studied in acclaimed Talmudic schools throughout Russia, Poland and Lithuania. One such early New Britain resident was Benjamin Marholin, a grocery store owner and man of culture who was the uncle of celebrated American composer Irving Berlin. Another was Jonas Goldsmith, whose daughter Anna would become one of the organizers of the New Britain Chapter of Hadassah. Dr. Morris Dunn became a tireless advocate on behalf of Zionist causes, helping New Britain to become one of the most active centers of Zionism in the nation. All of these men and women overcame the odds through their belief in this country and their unflinching faith.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rabbi Henry Okolica and Congregation Tephareth Israel on their respective anniversaries and the renovation of their spiritual home. I ask the House to join me in wishing them the very best for the future.

HONORING THE TWENTY-SIX
TEACHERS FROM THE PITTS-
BURGH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
WHO COMPLETED THE RE-
SEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR AN
URBAN TEACHERS INSTITUTE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my most sincere congratulations to the twenty-six teachers from the Pittsburgh Public School System who completed the Research Experience for an Urban Teachers Institute (REUTI) this summer, which was hosted in part by Carnegie Mellon University. These teachers in an effort to improve the quality of education they provide to the students of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, received valuable training that they will implement in their classrooms this fall.

Their successful completion of this five-week program which instructs middle and high school teachers to become more proficient in the teaching of math, science, and engineering, clearly demonstrates their dedication to their field and to the children that they impact on a daily basis. This knowledge will improve the educational experience of students across the Pittsburgh School System and help provide them the tools they will need as they continue their education and move into careers of their own.

At a time when our Federal Government has recommitted itself to improving our nation's schools and increasing our student's proficiency in math, science, and engineering, these teachers have proven themselves to be leaders in their field. Their efforts, together with other dedicated teachers across our nation, will help our students to again be among the top scoring student in the world. I encourage them to bring these new skills to not only their students, but to their colleagues so they may work together to provide the best education possible.

The partnership that was formed between Carnegie Mellon University and the City of Pittsburgh Schools through REUTI demonstrates the importance of all levels of education working toward the common goal of providing a higher quality education to the students in our community. Through this collaborative effort, Carnegie Mellon researchers opened their laboratories and offices to provide a welcoming environment for the teachers who were able to participate fully in ongoing research activities. As a result of the cooperation from Carnegie Mellon University, these teachers were able to get a better understanding of the culture of scientific research. This experience is something that will assist these teachers in educating their students about the daily work of a scientist.

Once again, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to each of the twenty-six teachers from the Pittsburgh area who have