

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING MASTER SERGEANT
GERARD G. BABAUTA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the military service of Master Sergeant Gerard G. Babauta, who will be retiring on April 1, 2004. MSgt. Babauta has honorably served in the U.S. Air Force since March 1984. In the past 3 years he has selflessly deployed to Saudi Arabia twice so others would not have to leave their families. This is indicative of his service and attitude. He has always given his utmost in service to others, dedication to country, and honor to the U.S. Air Force.

As a native son of Guam, MSgt. Babauta continues a proud history of military service to our country. He stands alongside other proud Chamorros who have answered the call of duty to defend our Nation and its ideals. We thank MSgt. Babauta for his two decades of service to his country and wish him well as he pursues other endeavors. We also recognize his wife Theresa, daughter Sara, and son Matthew, who have stood by MSgt. Babauta as he has dutifully served his Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MEDRAD, INC.

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate Medrad, Inc. for receiving the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This award is managed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in conjunction with the private sector and honors achievements in quality and business excellence in manufacturing. Medrad received the news of its achievement in November from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans, and I had the pleasure of attending the company's announcement. The award is a tribute to Medrad's President and CEO, John P. Friel, and his excellent team of workers.

Medrad, Inc., a company specializing in medical imaging, is headquartered in Indianola, Pennsylvania, and employs more than 1,000 people in fifteen locations around the world. Medical imaging is an important tool used to explore the vast terrain of the human body and Medrad has proven itself worthy of this award. With its dedication to continually improving the quality of their work, Medrad has become a business leader in the fourth district.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Medrad, Inc. on their accomplishment of receiving the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF HAMAZKAYIN
ARMENIAN EDUCATIONAL AND
CULTURAL SOCIETY'S 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY WORLDWIDE AND 35TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISH-
MENT IN CALIFORNIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society as it celebrates its 75th anniversary worldwide and 35th anniversary of its establishment in California. Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society was founded by a group of community leaders on May 28, 1928, in Cairo, Egypt, with the objective of providing a sound education to the new generation and preserving the ethnic identity and cultural heritage of the Armenian people, forced to live outside their homeland after the 1915 genocide and the fall, in 1920, of the First Republic of Armenia.

Subsequently, Hamazkayin Chapters sprouted throughout the Middle East, Europe, the United States, Canada, South America and Armenia to instill, perpetuate and preserve the centuries old Armenian culture. Hamazkayin established several schools and centers of learning. In 1930, Jemaran, an elementary and high school was founded in Beirut, Lebanon and it continues to be an important educational center in the Middle East. Similar schools were established in 1976 in Marseille, France and in 1986 in Sydney, Australia. In addition, Hamazkayin has an advanced learning institute for Armenian language and literature, as well as a printing press and publishing house in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Western USA Executive Board of Hamazkayin supervises the operations of eight chapters and seven special committees operating in Southern California, Fresno and San Francisco. This non-profit organization, run solely by dedicated and tireless volunteers, sponsors a plethora of activities including lectures, seminars, after-school workshops, commemorative events, exhibitions, concerts, recitals, traditional dance ensembles, dramatic arts troupes and choirs. The Western USA Executive Board's seven special committees, namely Music, Art, Contemporary and Heritage Committees, Ani Dance Company, Sarmoyan Theater Company and Armenian Folk Instrument Orchestra, have one common goal: the conservation of the Armenian intellectual legacy and the promotion of cultural values. The activities of these Special Committees include preservation of classical, folk and popular music, performances of traditional and ethnic dances in authentic costumes, promotion of theatrical arts, presentation of social conventions and traditions throughout the centuries, as well as encouragement and support to talented young artists.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Hamazkayin's innumerable accomplishments

over the years. I ask all members of the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hamazkayin's 35 years of contributions to the ethnic diversity of the United States by nurturing the Armenian traditions and national heritage and sharing these cultural values with other communities, especially in California.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members of my subcommittee staff who have put in very long hours to produce the C-J-S portion of the omnibus appropriations bill. All members of the staff have worked long, hard hours through what was a difficult conference.

I would like to particularly thank Mike Ringler, clerk of the subcommittee, who has led the subcommittee through the House and Senate conference. I would also like to thank Christine Kojac, John Martens, and Leslie Albright, for their tireless efforts.

I also would like to thank the detailees, Anne Marie Goldsmith and Alan Lang, who have added their own expertise to help make the C-J-S portion of this bill great.

In my personal office, I would like to thank Dan Scandling, Janet Shaffron, J.T. Griffin, Samantha Stockman, and Neil Seifring for their efforts and work with the subcommittee.

Finally, I would commend David Pomerantz and Rob Nabors of the minority staff for their input and help in this truly bipartisan bill.

CONGRATULATING DAVID
CRISOSTOMO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate David Crisostomo, a distinguished young journalist from Guam for his selection for the "Gannett Newsroom Supervisor Recognition Award for 2003." As one of sixteen newsroom managers recognized from a pool of sixty national finalists, the Gannett award is presented in recognition of exemplary leadership.

David began his career as a newsroom intern with the Pacific Daily News in 1992 and became a local news reporter in 1996. He served as a lifestyle reporter, assistant lifestyle editor and assistant local news editor; quickly working his way up the ranks to be appointed local news editor in December 2002.

David's selection for the Gannett award was based on the performance of his duties when

• 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.

Guam was hit by Supertyphoon Pongsona, one of the most devastating storms experienced. During the destructive storm, David stationed himself in the newsroom, working diligently to keep a traumatized community informed. Hourly he provided crucial and updated information on the newspaper's Web site.

When the storm subsided and David was informed of the loss of his parent's home, he took up residence in the newsroom for weeks to ensure coordinated local coverage. As a team player, David also galvanized nonprofit and community-based aid organizations, as well as the island's federal emergency management teams, in coordinating newspaper coverage in an effort to distribute vital information to a recovering community.

According to his nominator for the award, "David's editing leadership insured news coverage that focused on readers' needs during the storm and for weeks after, while the island still was rebuilding from the storm's devastation. David more than proved his leadership ability during this ordeal."

In addition, David is also actively involved in a leadership role with newspaper outreach efforts within the community. And recently, during the newspaper's planning process, he chaired an instrumental inter-department team. It is worth noting that David's award is in addition to other key corporate honors bestowed to Pacific Daily News staff and executives this year.

Gannett is an international company with headquarters in McLean, Virginia and maintains operations in forty-four states including the District of Columbia, Guam, Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy and the United Kingdom. In terms of circulation, Gannett is considered America's largest newspaper group with 100 daily newspapers and a combined daily circulation of 7.7 million. In addition of the Pacific Daily News, publications include USA Today, the nation's largest-selling daily newspaper, with a circulation of approximately 2.3 million and availability in 60 countries worldwide.

I want to commend David for his hard work and dedication to the people of Guam, and to express my sincere congratulations on his joining the ranks of 149 other Gannett managers that have been cited for outstanding work since the supervisor awards were introduced in 1994. As a native son of Guam, David serves as a model of success, hard work and perseverance for both young and old alike.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 4702 TO THE ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish the membership of the Organization of Chinese Americans a healthy and happy New Year for the year 4702, the year of the Monkey.

The New Year is a time for reflection and thanksgiving for the joys of life and loved ones and I am thankful for the richness that this organization brings to my region. Chinese Amer-

icans have made great contributions to Western Pennsylvania and to our Nation as a whole and I am very honored for this opportunity to wish them the best year yet in 4702.

I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in wishing the members of the Organization of Chinese Americans a very happy and prosperous New Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY ZARIAN, RECIPIENT OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL 2003 GLENDALE DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor longtime Glendale community leader and activist Larry Zarian on the occasion of his receiving the Verdugo Hills Council, Boy Scouts of America 2003 Glendale Distinguished Citizen of the Year award. Larry has been actively involved with the Boy Scouts for many years, having served on the executive board of the Verdugo Hills Council, Boy Scouts of America for seventeen years.

Larry has been a vibrant part of the fabric of Glendale since he began residing there in 1953. Most notably, Larry served for sixteen years on the Glendale City Council and as mayor of Glendale for four terms. He is responsible for many accomplishments during his tenure on the Glendale City Council. He organized groups to raise funds for the Veteran's Memorial monument; worked to maintain Glendale hillsides; and was a supporter for code enforcement, enabling the city to identify landlords who maintained substandard conditions.

His activism and leadership was apparent when he was appointed to serve on a city commission at the age of 20. Subsequently, Larry was appointed by various local, state and national leaders to serve on other commissions. He served as chairman on the state Water & Power Commission & Planning Commission. Governor George Deukemejian and later Governor Pete Wilson appointed Larry to serve on the regional Water Quality Control Board. President Reagan appointed him to the National Highway Safety Commission.

As a member of the Glendale Junior Chamber of Commerce, Larry mentored young entrepreneurs about civic responsibility, community involvement and leadership. His dedication and service to the community placed him on numerous boards such as the Glendale Adventist Medical governing board where he helped raise funds for the MRI Center. As a board member of the Foundation for Glendale's Association for the Retarded, Larry was instrumental in securing the organization's first home in Glendale. Currently Larry is a member of the board of directors for Glendale Symphony. As an active and proud member of the Kiwanis, Larry annually helps with the Special Olympics and Jazz Day where he dons an apron to serve sandwiches.

Larry has been recognized for his selfless contribution to his community as recipient of Verdugo Hills Council Good Turn Award; Cit-

izen of the Year from the Glendale Chamber of Commerce; and Philanthropist of the Year from Glendale Adventist Medical Center. For many years, Larry has aptly been voted as one of the top 103 most influential people in the City of Glendale.

It is my pleasure to recognize Larry Zarian. I ask that all members of the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Larry for all his years of selfless service and dedication to the Boys Scouts of America and to the Glendale community at large.

IRAQ: A WAR OF CHOICE, (CONT.)

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on December 8, I inserted into these pages an extraordinarily important article by Richard Haass, formerly the Director of Policy Planning at the State Department in the Bush administration. This article by Mr. Haass, which appeared in the November 23 Washington Post, has received far too little attention. In it, this very high ranking State Department official under the presidency of George Bush acknowledged what many of us have been arguing in the face of the administration's efforts to prove the contrary; namely, that the war in Iraq was motivated not by a fear of weapons of mass destruction or of the need to combat terrorism, but rather as a conscious policy choice in service of the administration's view of the world. As Mr. Haass himself argued in the central point of his essay, Iraq was a war of choice and not of necessity. Obviously if it had been occasioned by the likelihood of Saddam Hussein using weapons of mass destruction or of his furthering the efforts of al Qaeda, it would have fallen into the war of necessity category.

While I was disappointed that more attention had not been paid to this, I was not surprised to see in the December 8 Washington Post a very thoughtful article by Lawrence J. Korb underlining exactly how significant Mr. Haass's article was. Lawrence J. Korb who served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Reagan has been for years one of the most thoughtful critics of national security excesses, and a strong articulator of rational foreign policy.

As Mr. Korb explicitly notes, what Richard Haass says in explaining the war in Iraq is directly contrary to the rationale given by the President, the Secretary of Defense and other high administration officials. It is, as Mr. Korb notes, unfortunate that Mr. Haass "was unwilling to go public with his views as did General Eric Shineski, while he could have made a difference." But while I join Mr. Korb in that regret, I do want to express admiration for Mr. Haass for speaking out now. Obviously he is aware of how much what he writes contradicts the official rationale for this war given by the Bush administration, and in this case the adage better late than never is relevant.

Because Lawrence J. Korb so clearly emphasizes the importance of Richard Haass's original article and because this is a significant debate that is getting too little attention from the American public, I ask that Lawrence J. Korb's article be printed here.

A WAR OF CHOICE OR OF NECESSITY?

(By Lawrence J. Korb)

Eight months after the Bush administration got us involved in a bloody war in Iraq, we are now told by one of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell's closest advisers that Iraq was a war of choice after all. According to Richard Haass, director of policy planning at the State Department until June 2003 and still the Bush administration's special envoy to Northern Ireland, the administration "did not have to go to war against Iraq, certainly not when we did. There were other options" [op-ed, Nov. 23]. Really?

This is not what the administration told us before the war and continues to tell us to this day. On March 20, as he was sending troops into Iraq because the regime of Saddam Hussein allegedly possessed weapons of mass destruction and had ties to al Qaeda, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld told them, "We are at the point at which the risk of not acting is too great to wait longer. As you prepare, know that this war is necessary . . ." Some three weeks into the war, Powell, who had made the case for war to the United Nations, stated: "We do not seek war. We do not look for war. We don't want wars. But we will not be afraid to fight when these wars are necessary to protect the American people, to protect our interests, to protect friends."

Even after it had become abundantly clear that the arguments the Bush administration advanced for going to war were specious, both Vice President Cheney and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz explicitly rebutted Haass's position. In an Oct. 10 speech to the Heritage Foundation in which he lashed out at those who said we had a choice about invading Iraq, the vice president said: "Some claim we should not have acted because the threat from Saddam Hussein was not imminent. Since when have terrorists and tyrants announced their intentions, policy putting us on notice before they strike? On Nov. 4 Wolfowitz stated: "But one of the things that Sept. 11 changed was that it made it a war of necessity, not a war of choice."

The president himself continues to proclaim how necessary the war was. On Nov. 22 he said at a press conference in London, "Our mission in Iraq is noble and it is necessary."

On Thanksgiving Day the president told the troops in Baghdad: "You are defeating the terrorists here in Iraq so we don't have to face them in our own country."

Even more surprising is Haass's contention that despite its public pronouncements, the Bush administration knows that, because this is a war of choice, Americans will not support it unless it is relatively short and cheap. This is why the administration has changed its policy and accelerated the timetable to hand over increasing political responsibility to Iraqis, even if it means reducing what it is trying to accomplish.

Haass weakens his own case by arguing that the first Persian Gulf War was a real war of necessity and Vietnam was only a war of choice. Even those who argued against the recent invasion of Iraq would not contend that it was less necessary than the first Persian Gulf War. As Secretary of State James Baker noted in 1990, that war was really about oil. And Powell, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as such defense hawks as Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), wanted to give sanctions more time to work before invading Iraq. (If it was so necessary, why did the administration of the elder Bush not invade until it got other nations to fund the war?)

It is equally absurd to argue that the first Gulf War was more necessary than Vietnam.

In the mid-1960s many Americans, including most of us who were in the armed forces, believed that if South Vietnam fell to the Communists all of Southeast Asia would soon follow and the containment policy would be undermined. This is why the American people supported that conflict through the Tet offensive of 1968, even though more than 30,000 Americans had died by then.

Ironically, while Haass is wrong about Vietnam and the first Gulf War, he is right about Iraq. It is a war of choice—a bad choice as it turns out. Unfortunately, he was unwilling to go public with his views, as did Gen. Eric Shinseki, while he could have made a difference. This article should have been written nine months ago when Congress and the American people had a choice. Now our only real choice is to continue to stay and absorb the casualties and the cost.

HONORING THE GUAM COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S CLUBS ON THEIR TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guam Council of Women's Clubs on their 20th anniversary and to acknowledge the Council's present and past members. I commend the numerous contributions of the council to programs and organizations that benefit not only Guam's local population, but also the national and international community.

The Guam Council of Women's Clubs was founded in June 1983 as a response to the devastation in Guam from Super typhoon Pamela. A group of prominent local women answered the call to service, establishing the council in an attempt to unify existing organizations towards the goal of recovery. The organization was to be a congress made up of representatives from every association devoted to promoting women's issues around common backgrounds, cultures, ethnicity and purpose. Through this collaboration, the founders sought to harness the energy and spirit of such organizations to contribute to the betterment of the local community, while providing an opportunity to pursue and express the political, social and economic needs of every woman, as individuals and as a powerful collective force.

The names of the individual organizations which collectively comprise the Council include: the American Association of University Women; the Catholic Daughters of America; the Chinese Ladies Association; the Christian Women's Club; the Filipino Ladies Association of Guam; the Guam Women's Club; the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association; the International Women's Club; the Women's Division of the Japan Club of Guam; the Korean Women's Association; the Palau Women's Club; and most recently, the two Soroptomist International organizations.

As a founding member of this organization, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Guam Council of Women's Clubs and its members for their years of hard work and dedication to the people of Guam, as they celebrate their 20th anniversary of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason for my absence on November 17, 2003 during rollcall Votes #620, 621, 622, and 623. When these votes were called, I was detained in Nevada's Second Congressional District while tending to certain duties in the State of Nevada.

If present, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall Vote #620, S.J. Res. 22; "aye" on rollcall Vote #621, S.J. Res. 18; "aye" on rollcall Vote #299, H. Con. Res. 299; and "aye" on rollcall Vote #623, A Motion on Hour of Meeting.

THE TRUTHS OF GENEVA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, no situation in the world is more deeply troubling to me and many others than the ongoing conflict involving Israel and the Palestinians. I speak as a strong supporter of Israel and of the moral importance of its continuing to exist as a free, independent, secure nation. Sadly, from the moment Israel's creation was announced—in accord with a U.N. resolution—in 1948, the unremitting hostility of its Arab neighbors plunged that small nation into war. The years since have been marked by a continuation of that hostility in many parts of the Arab world, with consequent violence and with large numbers of people's lives being lost, but also some progress in achieving peace. Most notably, the government of Menachem Begin signed an important peace treaty with Egypt in 1978 which, despite the skepticism of many Israelis and some of Israel's strongest supporters in America, has in fact worked enormously for the benefit of Israel by providing a peaceful situation for much of its borders. This 1978 agreement was one in which Israel gave up a large amount of territory which it had gained in a defensive war, territory which had both important strategic value and from which Israeli settlers were moved as part of the agreement. This has obvious relevance as a precedent for an agreement to end the current conflict.

In addition to this peace agreement with Egypt, Israel has over the years worked out arrangements with its neighbor to the east, the Kingdom of Jordan, which has similarly been beneficial compared to the strife that had previously existed in that area.

The central remaining question is of course whether or not an agreement can be reached between Israel and the Palestinians which will preserve Israel's security while allowing it to maintain its important political and moral role as a free, Jewish, democratic state. I know there are people who argue that it is inappropriate for Israel to be a Jewish state. Such arguments seem to me quite hollow, particularly when they come from those who have no quarrel with the existence of a number of official Islamic states throughout the Middle

East. I strongly oppose theocracy but I do not think there is anything wrong with a particular democratic society including an official religion as long as it does so in a way that protects the rights of those in the society who do not follow that religion. Israel comes far closer to that goal than any of its neighbors, and criticism of Israel on that score therefore seems particularly hypocritical and motivated more by opposition to the existence of the state than to any commitment to principle.

In fact, the importance of Israel remaining both Jewish and democratic is one key reason why a settlement of the conflict with the Palestinians is so important to me and many other strong supporters of Israel. As Prime Minister Sharon himself has noted, it is difficult to see how Israel can remain both democratic and Jewish if it continues to control all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with the large number of Palestinian inhabitants there. Combined with the Palestinians who live within Israel, the number of non-Jewish citizens—indeed of many citizens hostile to the existence of a Jewish state—means that conducting democratic politics and maintaining the state's Jewish character are at odds. For this and other reasons, an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians is greatly to be desired.

It is in this context that I join in welcoming the efforts of those on both the Israeli and Palestinian side who have recently demonstrated what an achievable Israeli-Palestinian peace can look like. Recently, in Geneva, a ceremony was held in which leading Israeli and Palestinian citizens signed onto their version of a comprehensive peace plan which provides both for a Palestinian state, and a State of Israel, with both having the viability necessary to exist as independent nations, and in a way that minimizes the likelihood of ongoing violence between them. This initiative, led by Yossi Beilin and Yasser Abed Rabbo, reflects a great deal of serious thought by people who have been deeply involved in trying to reach peace, and demonstrates that a true peace agreement is in fact achievable in ways that meet the needs of those in both Israel and the Palestinian areas who genuinely desire peace. In addition, a recent proposal outlined by Ami Ayalon and Sari Nusseibeh is less detailed but points in a similar direction.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and there is both in Israel and in some Palestinian circles a great deal of unhappiness that these four men and others joining with them have engaged in these activities. I think the criticisms are unwarranted and in fact counterproductive. Denigrating these efforts does not seem to me to be consistent with a professed desire to reach the peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians that is so manifestly in the interests of all parties in the area.

On Friday, December 5, the distinguished newspaper *The Forward*, which has long been an important voice within America's Jewish Community, carried an editorial entitled *The Truths of Geneva*. Noting that "the Geneva initiative does not represent anything like the threat to Israel's safety that its opponents suggest," the editorial goes on to note that "by relying on respected, mainstream public figures from both sides to do the phrasing and map-making—including several of Israel's most trusted ex-generals and intelligence chiefs—they showed that a peace agreement could be reached that would satisfy the essential needs of both sides, if the leaders so chose." As the

editorial went on to note, the Geneva initiative "shows that there is a way out of Israel's deadly mess . . . it shows, in rough terms, what such a formula might look like."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this editorial from a source that has long been one of Israel's most thoughtful and ardent defenders be printed here, as part of the effort of many of us to express our appreciation to those who have undertaken this difficult effort to demonstrate how peace can be achieved and to pledge our continuing support for their efforts.

[From the *Forward*, Dec. 5, 2003]

THE TRUTHS OF GENEVA

For all its theatrics, its celebrity cast and high-concept special effects, the "launch" this week in Switzerland of the so-called Geneva Understandings did not usher in a new era in Israeli-Palestinian relations. The document's authors and architects did not have the power to do anything of the sort. Private citizens all, they could hug and sing and display a document they had written together, but they could not make peace between the two warring nations. Only governments can do that.

For that same reason, the Geneva initiative does not represent anything like the threat to Israel's safety that its opponents suggest in their more overheated flights of rhetoric. The Geneva authors did not give anything away, because they had nothing to give away. All they did—all they could do—was to bring together groups of citizens from the two embattled communities and discuss ways the sides might settle their differences, if their leaders so chose. By relying on respected, mainstream public figures from both sides to do the phrasing and map making—including several of Israel's most trusted ex-generals and intelligence chiefs—they showed that a peace agreement could be reached that would satisfy the essential needs of both sides, if the leaders so chose. But they did not produce the peace agreement. Only governments can negotiate peace.

All the incendiary rubbish aside, there was nothing fraudulent going on at Geneva. The negotiators were not purporting to speak for the Israeli government any more than Tovah Feldshuh purports to be Golda Meir in her nightly appearances on Broadway. It's all play-acting, meant to draw an audience and, perhaps, make a point.

And yet, this play's message must carry a real sting, judging by the desperation of its opponents to find something, anything, wrong with it. Consider their arguments: First, the document should be ignored because it is meaningless and toothless. Second, it should be fought because it endangers Israel by somehow handing over valuable assets. Third, the Israeli authors let themselves be duped by Palestinian extremists who will never be satisfied even by the sweeping Geneva concessions. Fourth, the authors undercut the Sharon government's negotiating position by raising Palestinian expectations, thus reducing the likelihood that they will somehow accept the far more limited concessions Sharon is contemplating as part of his own plan for extricating Israel from its deadly mess.

That, in the end, is the Geneva initiative's real threat, and its only threat. It shows that there is a way out of Israel's deadly mess. It shows that there is a broad formula that could resolve the century-old dispute on terms both sides could live with. It shows, in rough terms, what such a formula might look like. By forcing itself into the spotlight and exciting public debate, it shows that there is a critical mass on both sides that could, with some effort, accept such a deal.

And it shows who is against reaching such a deal and would rather keep fighting.

Those are the truths of Geneva, and they are real ones. But they need not leave Israel isolated. Israel's friends could and should embrace the initiative—not for its details but for its vision—and encourage Israel's prime minister to do the same. He could, if he wanted, praise the initiative as a contribution to public discussion, details aside. He could point to the violent opposition of Palestinian hard-liners, who denounce the document for its betrayal of their "right of return," as evidence of the uphill climb still ahead. And he could vow to begin that climb, so Israelis can know that their leaders genuinely want to end their long nightmare.

TRIBUTE TO MAYBELL JEANNE JACOBSON

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to pay tribute to a remarkable woman I was privileged to call my friend, Maybell Jeanne Jacobson. Jeanne passed away on October 10, 2003 following a long and valiant struggle with cancer.

Jeanne is survived by her husband, MG Hilding Leonard Jacobson, Jr.; by her son, George Chester, and her children by marriage, Grant and Linda Jacobson. She is also survived by her mother, Maude Haston, her sister Elsie Haston, and two brothers, Bud and Ernest Haston, all of whom remain in Sacramento. She leaves behind many others who love her, among them Mr. Pan Kayochar Todd of Tampa, FL, who became part of her extended family.

Jeanne was born on a small farm in Missouri on July 16, 1928. She spoke often of this rolling Missouri farm, of apple trees in the spring, with blossoms so fragrant, and birds singing in the fields as sun warmed the early morning air. This farm was a small piece of heaven she always carried with her.

With the coming of the Dust Bowl and the Depression, her family sold the farm and traveled to California to work in the migrant farm camps. Living in tents with dirt floors, her parents eventually saved enough money to buy a dairy farm outside Sacramento. Through all of this, she still managed to finish high school and attend college.

From Jeanne's simple beginnings she went on to travel the world, including China, Asia, Russia and Europe. She had an audience with the Pope at the Vatican, explored many corners of our glorious world, bringing with her respect and tolerance for other people's beliefs and customs.

Together with her husband, Major General Jacobson, Jeanne served our country in Washington, DC, Vietnam, Thailand and a final and wonderful tour of duty in Guam. Eventually settling in Lompoc, CA, in a home overlooking the first tee of the Vandenberg Village golf course, she enjoyed watching as well as playing the game of golf—and she played it very well. It was on Guam where Major General Jacobson was serving as the commanding officer at Andersen Air Force Base that I first met Jeanne and became life-long friends.

Jeanne ended this life without fear and with her family and many loved ones at her side.

She remains beloved in the hearts of so many, and it is our great honor to remember her today, especially in this special place that meant so very much to her.

ADDITIONS TO NOVEMBER 5, 2003
FLOOR SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF
H. RES. 425

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 425, a Resolution to recognize and honor the brave men and women who responded to the horrendous wildfires that plagued Southern California last month.

While we all recognize that hundreds of first responders from the State of California bravely risked their lives to fight these wildfires, many Americans are less aware that hundreds of Nevada's first responders were also enlisted in this fight.

In fact, during the course of this deadly natural disaster, the State of Nevada deployed over 450 brave Americans to Southern California to join their neighbors in the effort to quell this deadly natural disaster.

These Nevadans included dozens of firefighters, paramedics, and highly-skilled mechanics.

Northern Nevada-based crews from the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management along with engine crews from the Nevada Division of Forestry, Reno, Sparks, Storey County, Elko County and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District were dispatched on October 27 to fight the Southern California fires.

Additionally, four Ely firefighters, a member of Lovelock, Nevada's private fire department and a rescue truck formed a strike team with Walker Lake Paiute Tribe firefighters and firemen to join the united efforts across Nevada's Western border.

Finally, two strike teams composed of firefighters from Las Vegas, Clark County, Henderson, Pahrump, the Nevada Test Site and the Naval Air Station at Fallon drove in to offer support to a base camp in Santee.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution. The brave first responders from all over the Western States, and Nevada, have earned this honor and I am pleased to recognize their selfless efforts today.

CONTROLLING THE ASSAULT OF
NON-SOLICITED PORNOGRAPHY
AND MARKET ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. There is no denying the fact that the rise in unsolicited commercial e-mail, or spam, has become an intrusive aspect of the Internet, negatively impacting consumers and Internet service providers. Sur-

veys have noted that the volume of spam rose from 8 percent of all e-mail in January 2001 to 45 percent of all e-mail in January 2003.

Increasingly, spam mail is designed to prey upon innocent consumers by enticing them with fraudulent or misleading offers. Even worse, many of these e-mails are created to trick Internet users of all ages into opening web pages that depict sexually-explicit materials. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission recently reported that, out of 1,000 pieces of spam it studied, 66 percent contained false or misleading information, and roughly 18 percent concerned adult offers.

At the same time, spam also is incredibly costly to our Nation's economy. The huge amount of spam that is transferred over the Internet has drastically altered the speed at which it takes to process e-mails and the amount of memory needed to maintain an e-mail account. These costs are often transferred to businesses and customers who are forced to pay for time spent reading and deleting junk mail. Indeed, the Ferris Research Group estimates that spam will cost the United States over \$10 billion in 2003. It is clear that something must be done about this problem.

To this end, I am gratified that many of my colleagues are unified in their resolve to pass a law to prevent spam and have reached this compromise. In order to stop the harmful practices of spammers, we have before us Federal legislation that gives consumers the ability to opt-out of receiving any commercial e-mail they do not want to receive and makes it illegal to falsify the identity of the sender.

With respect to enforcement, we have before us legislation that would allow for effective prosecution of those who violate Federal spam legislation. On the Federal level, by giving the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission the tools to fine and place in jail the most egregious spammers, we can begin to give consumers control over their in-boxes. It is important to note that these protections are not limited to commercial e-mails; consumers will have enhanced protections against pornographic e-mails as well.

Also, knowing that effective law enforcement requires multiple fronts, this legislation does not rely on Federal enforcers alone, though. It empowers State attorneys general to bring civil actions against spammers for injunctions and damages. Moreover, it gives Internet service providers, whose systems suffer from spam traffic every day, the ability to bring lawsuits against violators.

The bottom line is that Congress must pass tough laws in order to deal effectively with spammers who can now hide behind the anonymity of the Internet. Only through legislation such as this that establishes civil and criminal penalties for sending unsolicited and fraudulent e-mails can we protect our Nation's consumers.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO DEANNA WALKER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in appreciation of my constituent, Deanna Carol

Beadman Walker. Mrs. Walker retires from the Southeast Texas credit industry this month after 18 years at the Beaumont office of Computer Science Corporation with the gratitude and admiration of the Ninth District. Thousands of Southeast Texans have been able to start their lives as homeowners, maintain their credit, and enrich the lives of their families because of Mrs. Walker's work.

Mrs. Walker's efforts have contributed to a highly respected, well-run credit organization that is central to the economic vitality of a community, gives peace of mind to financial institutions and provides the tools consumers need to obtain creditworthiness.

She earned the respect of her colleagues, serving on the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Area Consumer Credit Counseling Service and the Beaumont Housing Authority. She served as President of Credit Women International—Orange Chapter and the Credit Management Association—Beaumont Chapter. She earned a place in the International Credit Association of Texas's Hall of Fame in 1996 and the distinction Credit Executive of the Year in 1998.

Mrs. Walker's professional success as a career woman complements her life success as wife to Weldon Walker and devoted mother to Becky, Ben, Tom, and Lisa. She is an asset to our community who has set a high standard of service and dedication to the people of the Ninth District. I commend Mrs. Walker for her efforts and congratulate her on this achievement.

AMERICAN DREAM DOWNPAYMENT
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 811, which will authorize funding for grants to low-income first-time homebuyers and certain uniform servicemen and women in order that they may enjoy the American dream of homeownership.

I recall purchasing my first home and the tremendous satisfaction and pride that it afforded me. I believe that every American that works hard and saves for the purpose of raising his or her children in their own home deserves the opportunity to reap the fruits of their labor. I am proud that this Congress is prepared to encourage and support American homeownership.

I want to thank Financial Services Committee Chairman MICHAEL OXLEY and Ranking Democratic Member BARNEY FRANK, as well as Housing and Community Opportunities Subcommittee Chairman BOB NEY and Ranking Democratic Member MAXINE WATERS for their leadership in including a proposal that is very important to Guam and the insular areas in S. 811. I would especially like to thank Congressman FRANK and his staff for their guidance and leadership throughout this process. This provision would move the annual Community Development Block Grant funding provided to Guam and the insular areas from a strictly discretionary financing stream into the section 106 grant formula under which cities and communities in the States receive their

funding. This is where it belongs, as Guam and the insular areas should have parity with the States.

Passage of S. 811 will also eliminate a regulatory hurdle that prevents Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas from participating in the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program. Inclusion in the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program will allow the insular areas to apply for low-interest government-backed loans to build large projects such as bridges, schools and other projects designed to develop human, natural and capital resources to stimulate economic development.

Section 108 was a legislative priority of mine, prompting me to introduce H.R. 2422, the Insular Areas Community Development Act. Thanks to the kind support of Congresswoman HARRIS, as well as the helpful assistance of the Financial Services Committee leadership and staff, this longstanding issue for Guam and the insular areas will finally be resolved with the passage of S. 811.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 811.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment that the omnibus appropriations package before us, H.R. 2673, does not include provisions passed by both houses of Congress to protect workers' overtime pay, nor does it extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program.

Mr. Speaker, here we are again, the holiday season is upon us and once more, it is time to buy presents for our loved ones. Whether we are celebrating Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or simply the holiday season, it is a time for sharing gifts, festive meals and caring for others. Unfortunately, the appropriations package before us will strip workers of their overtime rights and does not extend TEUC benefits, possibly resulting in Santa Claus not making stops at everyone's house next year.

Millions of families continue to struggle through the rough fringes of our economy. Currently the official U.S. unemployment rate is at 5.9 percent, representing more than 8.5 million unemployed workers, and the rate for Hispanics has moved up to 7.4 percent. As much as these can be seen as mere figures, we must realize that they are more than just numbers. They represent human beings: someone who needs work and whose family may need food and clothing. These are not luxuries; they are the essentials.

Too many Americans are going to wake up New Year's morning to find out that their unemployment insurance has run dry. In the past 2 years, we've seen some 3 million jobs disappear.

Mr. Speaker, we had an opportunity to extend the reauthorization of the TEUC program and we failed to do it.

I joined the efforts to extend those benefits so that working families still looking for jobs

can enter the New Year with some peace of mind. The leadership in this House, however, saw it differently and blocked our efforts to extend help to out-of-work Americans. They reportedly said the economy's doing so much better that unemployed workers don't need any extra help. Sadly, this failure not only hurts families but also the economy. Worse yet, it comes just a few weeks after these same leaders approved a \$12 billion handout to insurance companies.

That's not all. Even those who are fortunate to have jobs have come under attack by the leadership of this House. On March 31, 2003, the Bush administration proposed changes to the overtime pay rules that require additional pay for workers who put in more than 40 hours per week. These changes will impact up to 8 million employees who could find themselves working longer without any additional pay.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we had an opportunity to include provisions in this massive appropriations package to ensure that the rights of over 8 million workers to receive overtime for their hard work were protected, and we failed.

The new rules will impact workers who make between \$22,101 and \$65,000 per year. These middle class workers, from journalists to medical technicians, often rely on the extra money they get from overtime and appreciate there being some limit on the time they are expected to work.

Congress voted to stop this change in labor policy, though the vote was particularly close. Despite this action from Congress, the Bush administration has continued to push for the changes. The President even issued a veto threat against this massive appropriations bill if it included any attempt to maintain the overtime protections for these workers and their families.

As we enter the holiday season, it's sad that there's so little compassion for Americans struggling to find jobs and make ends meet. Clearly, the battle for America's working families is not over.

THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE
ENTITLED "PARTNERSHIP FOR
PROSPERITY AND SECURITY"

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, converting Cold War military technology to serve peaceful purposes was the subject of a conference which took place last month in my State of Pennsylvania. Taking place in Philadelphia, the conference was entitled "Partnership for Prosperity & Security" and was hosted by U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and his Russian counterpart, Minister Alexander Rumyantsev. As the op-ed below by Kempton Jenkins describes, it was a showcase of new technology products in fields ranging from energy, nanotechnology and healthcare to detection technologies for counter-terrorism. It was an important demonstration of the power of cooperation between our two countries and I recommend the article to my colleagues.

[From American/Russian Business Today,
Dec. 2003]

"GUNS TO PLOWSHARES" AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION: THE U.S.-RUSSIAN PARTNERSHIP

(By Kempton Jenkins)

While developments in Iraq dominate headlines and newscasts, the threat to civilization itself of nuclear proliferation is both real and urgent. Diplomatic collaboration between Moscow and Washington in dealing with North Korea and Iran is central to containing this threat. In the long-run, cooperation between the United States and Russia in harnessing our huge Cold War stockpiles (and the brain power which produced them) is the only way to remove this threat to both of us and the rest of the world.

Last month in Philadelphia U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and his Russian counterpart, Minister Alexander Rumyantsev, chaired a conference entitled "Partnership for Prosperity & Security." It was dedicated to accelerating cooperation between Russia and the U.S. on proliferation policy and promoting the continued conversion of military-industrial capacity to serve peaceful purposes. Dramatic progress, largely unnoticed publicly, has already been accomplished. At the conference, Secretary Abraham and Minister Rumyantsev announced important new initiatives.

The Philadelphia conference drew attention to a number of health-related products that are byproducts of the bilateral effort to convert military technologies to civilian uses. The event was a showcase of new technologies from Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan to potential U.S. industry partners and financiers. The conference's exhibition hall displayed 100 high-technology products ready for commercialization in fields ranging from energy (coal, oil, gas, nuclear and fuel cell) and radio pharmaceuticals to aerospace, nanotechnology and detection technologies for counter-terrorism.

The U.S. Department of Energy, in collaboration with U.S. Industry Coalition, has already helped form more than 100 commercial partnerships between U.S. companies and Russian, Ukrainian, and Kazakhstan institutes and private companies to bring new (and heretofore inaccessible technologies) to the global market. In 1991, a small New Mexico engineering company recognized the commercial potential in a Russian radar technology and embarked on a successful partnership to develop applications in energy and land mine detection. With a team of more than 100 weapons scientists and engineers in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod, Stolar Horizon has developed "Horizon Sensor" radar mapping, a technique allowing cleaner, more efficient access to coal, methane gas and oil. The same technology is being developed for humanitarian purposes by Stolar Horizon and SPEKTR Conversia in the closed nuclear city of Snezhinsk. The "EDIT" detector is able to locate both metal and plastic land mines—an urgently needed tool in the global effort to find and disable tens of thousands of land mines.

Persons confined to wheelchairs due to disease or accidents are susceptible to pressure ulcers—painful, sometimes-deadly infections caused by lack of circulation and motion. Health care costs associated with treatment are estimated at \$8 billion in the U.S. alone. Numotech, a small California medical devices firm with an FDA-approved automated wheelchair seat cushion proven to prevent these sores, was facing significant engineering production problems when the company was introduced to the Russian SPEKTR Conversia in 1999. Today the resulting U.S.-Russian partnership is planning the launch

next year of the "Generic Total Contact Seat," with components engineered and manufactured in Russia.

Needle-free injections are performed for mass inoculations and immunizations, but they also pose the risk of spreading disease. With decades of experience in needle-less technology, scientists at the medical research group of the Voronezh missile plant in Russia developed a disposable cap with an impermeable membrane. Their paper about this development caught the attention of Felton International, an animal injection company in Lenexa, Kansas, which is now in partnership with CADB MedEquipment to manufacture the "Pulse 2000" injector for animal use and human clinical trials in the U.S.

Just as the expanding U.S.-Russian partnership is replacing military-industrial confrontation with peaceful product development, there is reason for optimism that Russo-American collaboration can also prevail over the threat of nuclear conflagration in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 677, for personal reasons, due to my illness, I was unable to be in the Chamber when the time elapsed on the vote.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no" on the motion that House Resolution 474 be laid on the table.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOE SKEEN

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to former Congressman Skeen of New Mexico, who passed away this week after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Joe was a good friend and a dedicated public servant, and we will miss him terribly.

Joe Skeen was a gentleman in the finest sense of the word. He treated everyone with respect and offered his friendship to all. The entire Congress would agree that Joe's character was of the highest quality. He had a wonderful sense of humor.

Joe was a man of his district. Born and raised in New Mexico, he understood and worked for rural America. A sheep and cattle rancher, he understood the needs of his district—including schools, utilities, health care, and the many other particular requirements of a rural area—and he always fought to meet those needs. His attention to his district is just part of why his constituents made him the longest-serving Member of the House of Representatives from New Mexico.

It was my good fortune to serve with Joe on the Appropriations Committee, where he served as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior. It was on the Appropriations Committee that I learned how special he was.

Throughout the often difficult process of writing and passing Appropriations bills, Joe was always known for his fairness and civility. He listened to his colleagues and tried to respond to their needs.

Since his retirement last year, we have missed Joe in the Congress. He always put his country ahead of party and desired accomplishments for the American people most of all. He cared about the House of Representatives as an institution and about bipartisanship as a noble part of our work here. He elevated the character of the House of Representatives, and we are so grateful for his service here.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Mary, and their two children, Elisa and Mikell. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people share their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

RECOGNIZING THE POTLATCH CORPORATION

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition to the Potlatch Corporation. The Potlatch Corporation, one of the nation's oldest forest products companies, is currently celebrating its centennial year.

Founded in 1903 as Potlatch Lumber Co., the company built its first sawmill in 1906 at a location in North Idaho where Native American celebrations of gift giving and goodwill known as "potlatches" had been held. Today, the Potlatch Corporation is an integrated forest products company with 1.5 million acres of timberland in Idaho, Minnesota and Arkansas, and a hybrid poplar plantation in Oregon. The company's 14 manufacturing operations in Idaho, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Nevada produce lumber, plywood, oriented strand board, particleboard, bleached pulp, paperboard and private label consumer tissue products.

The Potlatch Corporation has earned a national reputation for progressive land management practices and innovative products that efficiently utilize wood resources. Potlatch continues its strong tradition of efficient wood fiber utilization, while supplying customers around the world with quality products and service.

Although recent years have brought many challenges to the domestic wood and paper industry, Potlatch remains competitive in the global market. From its roots in North Idaho, Potlatch has blossomed into an industry leader, and it continues to be a strong contributor to the economy of North Idaho. I wish to congratulate the Potlatch Corporation on a hundred years of success, and I look forward to its continued growth and vitality.

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION COSTS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of a letter we sent to National Security Advisor

Condoleezza Rice on October 29, 2003, regarding these issues. I am also inserting recent data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on November 17, 2003, providing a breakdown of Halliburton's charge of \$2.64 per gallon. This data shows that Halliburton is charging the U.S. taxpayer \$1.17 per gallon for fuel and \$1.21 per gallon for transport, as well as \$0.02 per gallon for "other" charges, and \$0.24 per gallon in "markups" that go directly to Halliburton.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, October 29, 2003.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. RICE: We have learned that the U.S. government is paying enormous sums for gasoline imported into Iraq from Kuwait. We are writing to learn why this is happening and what can be done to stop this waste of taxpayer dollars.

Here are the facts:

1. As of October 19, 2003, Halliburton has imported 61,304,091 gallons of gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq. Halliburton has been paid \$162,503,305 for this gasoline, for an average price of \$2.65 per gallon.

2. The \$2.65 per gallon price is grossly excessive. Experts we consulted stated that the total price for buying and transporting gasoline into Iraq should be less than \$1.00 per gallon. They estimated the price to buy gasoline in the region at 71 cents per gallon, and they estimated transportation costs at less than 25 cents per gallon, for a total per-gallon price of about 96 cents.

3. The Iraqi oil company, SOMO, is currently paying 97 cents per gallon to import gasoline from Kuwait to Iraq. Even Halliburton has charged only \$1.22 per gallon to import gasoline from Turkey into Iraq.

4. The gasoline imported from Kuwait is sold inside Iraq for just 4 to 15 cents per gallon. Although Iraq has the second richest oil reserves in the world, the U.S. government is subsidizing over 95% of the cost of gasoline consumed by Iraqis.

We have heard different possible explanation for the exorbitant cost of the gasoline. One is that Halliburton is paying inflated prices in order to receive favorable consideration for other projects. Another is that the Bush Administration is responsible and, in effect, is using Halliburton as a vehicle for moving funds.

We do not know if either of these explanation is accurate. But we do know that U.S. taxpayers are not getting their money's worth. The U.S. government is paying nearly three times more for gasoline from Kuwait than it should, and then it is reselling this gasoline at a huge loss inside Iraq. Whether this is due to incompetence, malfeasance, or some other reason, the waste of taxpayer dollars must be stopped.

We cannot understand the refusal by the Administration to respond to our previous requests for information. We have written the White House twice to express our concerns about how taxpayer dollars are being spent in Iraq. But the White House has refused to address the matter. The signal that this sends is that the Administration either has no explanation or does not care about squandering taxpayer dollars.

Three weeks ago, you were given responsibilities for coordinating Iraqi reconstruction efforts. We are therefore writing to you to seek answers to the following basic questions:

What is the justification for paying \$2.65 per gallon to import gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq?

What is the jurisdiction for selling this gasoline for only 4 to 15 cents per gallon inside Iraq?

Halliburton issued a subcontract to import gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq that was awarded without any competition. Who received the subcontract and why was the subcontract awarded without competition?

Who within the U.S. government and the Coalition Provisional Authority reviewed and approved the subcontract to purchase and transport the gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq?

Did any official within the U.S. government or the Coalition Provisional Authority direct Halliburton to use a specific subcontractor to purchase and transport gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq?

As you know, the Administration has requested \$900 million for fuel imports in the latest emergency supplemental request. In light of this pending request, we ask that you respond to these questions immediately.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
*Ranking Minority Member,
Committee on Government
Reform.*

JOHN D. DINGELL,
*Ranking Minority Member,
Committee on Energy and
Commerce.*

THE COST OF GASOLINE

	<i>Price per gal.</i>
From Turkey:	
Fuel	\$.89
Transport22
Other02
Markups11
	1.24
From Kuwait:	
Fuel	\$ 1.17
Transport	1.21
Other02
Markups24
	2.64

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (November 17, 2003).

H.R. 3490—GPO “BUY OUT” BILL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the House's attention H.R. 3490, a bill introduced by the distinguished chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing and the House Administration Committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and me to repeal a requirement that the Government Printing Office make certain payments to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund in connection with voluntary separation incentive programs, or “buy-outs.”

In a buy-out, an agency seeking to trim its workforce offers employees cash incentives to leave the rolls voluntarily, saving the agency and the taxpayers money. In 1998, Congress authorized buy-outs at GPO for 3 years, later extended through fiscal 2004. The new Public Printer, Bruce James, has used this authority for the first time this year. To defray the GPO program's cost, Congress provided \$10 million in the fiscal 2004 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

Similar to buy-out provisions applicable throughout the executive branch at the time, the GPO-specific buy-out legislation requires the agency to pay 15 percent of the value of the salaries of those participating in the buy-

out to the Office of Personnel Management, to be credited to the civil-service retirement fund. The 15 percent requirement necessarily raised the cost of buy-outs to agencies and discouraged their use. Last year, in the act establishing the Department of Homeland Security, Congress repealed the 15 percent requirement for the entire executive branch, leaving the Government Printing Office unaffected. A similar requirement on the General Accounting Office will expire next month.

Mr. Chairman, the Public Printer asked the Committee on House Administration for the provision that became H.R. 3490, and I believe the House should enact it. I know of no reason that, having repealed the 15 percent requirement for the executive branch, Congress should not repeal it for GPO as well. The Public Printer expects to save \$21 million annually from buying-out 312 employees under the law as it now stands, a sizeable sum. By relieving GPO of the 15 percent requirement, the Public Printer could offer approximately 100 additional buy-outs, saving up to \$7 million more, for a total of \$28 million a year.

I want to thank the Public Printer, Bruce James, for bringing this matter to the committee's attention so promptly and thereby providing us the opportunity to realize these additional savings. It has been a pleasure to work with him and especially with his Director of Congressional Relations, Andy Sherman, to bring this proposal forward before the end of this session of the 108th Congress. While I am disappointed that we were unable to enact this bill before adjourning, I am hopeful we can do so shortly after the second session of the 108th Congress convenes.

THANKING NURSE MARGARET
MARY MCHUGH O'NEILL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as this session of Congress draws to a close, the entire congressional family in the House of Representatives must confront the impending retirement of one of our most beloved members, Nurse Margaret Mary McHugh O'Neill. While we are happy for Margaret as she draws to a close her career in Federal service, those of us who bid her farewell are doubtless more than a little worried about how we will make do without her.

Irish by heritage, a New Englander by birth, and a saint by temperament, Margaret has surely touched the lives of countless men and women all over the world as she has worked in her chosen profession, nursing. As the proud wife of an Army officer, Margaret accompanied her husband Michael, and later their beautiful daughter Kathleen, around the world, setting a shining example of the best that the nursing profession has to offer. During her peripatetic career, Margaret has left her mark on the Army, the Red Cross, and elsewhere. Most recently, for the last dozen years Margaret has looked after the health and welfare of Members and staff of the House as an Occupational Health Nurse, posted in the Attending Physician's Health Unit in the Longworth Building.

Upon my arrival in the House in 1999, I had no idea how fortunate I was to draw a room assignment in the Longworth Building. But I quickly realized how lucky I was, and remain to this day. Shortly after being sworn in, my Administrative Assistant took my wife Leslie and my sick daughter Laura down to Nurse O'Neill so that Laura could be treated. Later that first year, he also took me down to visit the nurse. I have to say that my wife and I, as well as our children, were charmed by Margaret's wit and soothing disposition. My family, the staff in both my personal and House Administration Committee offices, and I have sought Margaret's wise counsel, in far more than just medical matters, more than she can ever know, and I am sure we are not alone in this respect. Always there to minister to the physically sick and injured, as well as to salve an occasional bruised ego, or even merely to offer a cheery moment's respite from the many pressures of Capitol Hill, the effects to Margaret's toils on behalf of the rest of us over the years have been nothing less than miraculous. If you don't believe me, ask anybody who has ever visited her office. On most days, her office has more closely resembled a delicatessen, as the door opened and closed dozens of times an hour as her many patients sought her help and advice.

I dare say sometime ago Margaret really should have installed one of those “take-a-number” dispensers so her patients could know how far down the queue they were. Of course, I use the word “patients” in the technical sense; the more correct term would be “admirers,” “confidants,” or perhaps most simply, “friends.” I am certain that in a long career of public service, Margaret has not grown rich in the material sense. But in the practical and spiritual sense, I am confident that Margaret is among the richest women on earth, blessed by the admiration, friendship, good wishes and prayers of the thousands of lucky persons whose good fortune it has been to have known and worked in her midst through the years.

While Margaret's congressional career may be drawing to a close much to our dismay, in truth, Margaret is merely expanding her horizons in search of others to serve professionally and spiritually. Margaret intends to continue her good works into her next career ministering to the needs of parishioners of St. Peter's on Capitol Hill, and studying theology. My staff and I find it comforting to know that Margaret will be nearby, where we can continue to seek her advice and counsel. Of course, being nearby, we hope and pray that she will visit us often, so we can continue and strengthen our friendship in the months and years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in the House family are privileged to know Nurse Margaret O'Neill. It has been a joy to work with Margaret, and all of us here in the House have been truly fortunate to benefit from her countless good works over these years. Please join me in thanking our dear friend Margaret for her tireless efforts in our behalf, and in wishing her, Michael and Kathleen the best as Margaret changes careers and duty stations yet again. May Margaret always look back fondly upon her days with the House, as we surely will.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN
HENDRICKS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Christian "Chris" Hendricks, Deputy Inspector General of the House of Representatives, for his outstanding service to the House for the past 6 years, and to the Federal Government for over 27 years. Chris will retire at the end of this year. During his distinguished career, Chris gained wide experience in the Defense Department and other civilian agencies, as

well as the House, and amassed considerable skill as a certified public accountant, certified internal auditor, and certified information systems auditor, to name only a few of his impressive professional credentials.

Chris certainly made good use of his experience here in the House, and my staff and I have found his counsel invaluable as we strive to continuously improve the House's financial and administrative operations. I particularly appreciated his diligence in ensuring that the minority members of the House Administration Committee have been kept informed. Chris has provided important advice on a wide array of projects ranging from the security of our computer systems, to the deployment of emerging technology and the development of critical financial systems, improved services to

Members, and the safety and security of House facilities. Not only did Chris share his knowledge and expertise here in the House, he shared it with others through his active involvement in auditing organizations and by teaching others seeking to achieve professional certifications of their own.

A consummate professional, Chris will be sorely missed by all of his colleagues, but he can take great satisfaction in the improvements made here in the House that resulted directly from his contributions. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Chris on his career and thank him for his outstanding service to the House. Please join me in wishing Chris and his wife Nancy much happiness as they pursue new challenges in the years ahead.