the barriers for millions of disabled men, women, and children.

I wish to submit for the RECORD the following editorial from the San Francisco Chronicle paying tribute to this great American, and good friend.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Mar. 18, 1995]

THE TRANSCENDENT LIFE OF EDWARD ROBERTS

''What I want and a lot of other disabled people want is to live, to experience, to be a part of society. And that's nothing extraordinary. So when we do things and do become successful, it doesn't make us different from any other successful person.''

Even though it was not what he was seeking, Edward Roberts died a hero at age 56 this week, having lived up to such admiring sobriquets as ''the Gandhi of disability rights'' and ''the Cesar Chavez for the handicapped.''

A budding athlete who became a paraplegic at age 14 from polio, Roberts was an in-your-face kind of guy because society gave him no other choice. When his principal balked at graduating Roberts from high school because the teenager hadn't completed required physical education courses, Roberts fought the decision with such vigor that the principal was forced to relent.

When a counselor at the state Department of Rehabilitation sided with the University of California in denying Roberts admittance to Berkeley because the school had never had a wheelchair-confined student who required a respirator and iron lung, Roberts argued until he was enrolled. He lived at Cowell Hospital and later organized successfully for dormitory housing for disabled students.

He co-founded the Center for Independent Living at Berkeley, which promoted the idea of integrating disabled people into the mainstream and making available to the disabled such essentials as housing, transportation and wheelchair-accessible ramps and curbs. The establishment of 400 similar centers nationwide followed.

Roberts' longtime work received official affirmation when Governor Jerry Brown appointed Roberts to head the California Department of Rehabilitation in 1975. He was a familiar sight in Sacramento in his motorized wheelchair, and his presence alone helped many lawmakers understand for the first time the needs of people who desperately seek independence—despite not being able to use either arms or legs—and yet are constantly stymied by thoughtless policies.

In 1984, Roberts received $225,000 in a MacArthur Foundation ''genius'' award for his work with the disabled, and he created the World Institute on Disability, an Oakland-based think tank on disability issues with a $3.3 million budget.

Roberts' life was not only heroic, because of the many personal obstacles he overcame, but in the end, transcendent, because of the way he helped transform the way we think about and act toward disabled people.

''As an international leader and educator in the independent living and disability rights movements, he fought throughout his life to enable all persons with disabilities to fully participate in mainstream society,'' said President Clinton. ''Mr. Roberts was truly a pioneer . . . His vision and ability to bring people together should be an example for all Americans.''

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow at Harmon Gymnasium on the UC Berkeley campus. Memorial endowments have been set up for Roberts' son, Lee, and for the institute. Contributions may be sent to the institute at 510 16th Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

THE INNOCENT LANDOWNER DEFENSE ACT OF 1995

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Innocent Landowner Defense Act is to clarify what is required by ''all appropriate inquiry into the previous ownerships and uses of the property'' as contained in the 1986 Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act (SARA) to Superfund.

The 1986 SARA amendments included several exemptions for the liability of site cleanup—an important one being the innocent landowners defense provision. This provision allows for an exemption of liability to a landowner who has not contributed to the contamination of a site and has made all appropriate inquiry into the previous uses of the property.

The intent of the innocent landowner defense was to encourage the uncovering of contaminated sites which could then be cleaned up. It was meant as a narrow exception to protect those considering the acquisition of land from future liability. Unfortunately, the definition of all appropriate inquiry was never made clear in the SARA legislation, resulting in confusion as to the requirement for assessing a site for contamination. This lack of clarification has left the land purchaser with a dilemma. Even the most expensive and extensive site assessments may not prevent the landowner from later being held liable for contamination.

The Innocent Landowner's Defense Act is designed to define what is meant by ''all appropriate inquiry,'' putting an end to the confusion and allowing landowners to protect themselves from liability. Specifically, this legislation calls for a phase I environmental audit—an investigation of the property conducted by an environmental professional—defined in the legislation to discover the presence of hazardous substances through the following sources: (1) chain of title documents for the past 50 years; (2) available aerial photographs of the property; (3) Superfund liens against the property; (4) Federal, State, and local government records of activities causing release of hazardous substances; and (5) a visual site inspection of the property. If these criteria are met, an individual would be recognized as having conducted all appropriate inquiry.

This legislation in no way changes the liability scheme of Superfund. It is a clarifying correction which enables courts and potential landowners to determine exactly what is needed to fulfill all appropriate inquiry requirements. Not only will this legislation clear up a very confusing situation, but it will restore the original intent of the innocent landowner defense—it will encourage the testing of sites for contamination, increasing the likelihood that contaminated sites will be found and cleaned up.

This legislation provides the guidance crucial to assessing the risk associated with hazardous waste sites. It would allow for the realization of the original goals of the Superfund legislation, while leaving the original statute unchanged in terms of liability.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 1995

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel delays on Tuesday, March 14, I unavoidably missed several votes. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on the passage of the following bills: H.R. 531, H.R. 694, H.R. 562, H.R. 536, and H.R. 517.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESCISSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my opposition to the Republican rescissions bill before us. With this bill, the Republicans end the war on poverty and declare war on the poor, instead. I am saddened that my Republican colleagues have turned their energy, their fervor and their fury toward attacking the most vulnerable among us. I note with particular concern the impact of the proposed funding cuts on housing programs designed to help the neediest and the most vulnerable in our society, children, the elderly, the disabled, and people with AIDS.

More than 40 percent of the cuts in this bill come from low-income housing programs. The $7.2 billion in Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] cuts equals ¼ of HUD's total budget. HUD estimates that the rescissions will affect 530,000 elderly households and 630,000 families with children. The complete elimination of the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS [HOPWA] program will deprive at least 50,000 people with AIDS and their families of much-needed housing assistance. Public housing takes a direct hit. Efforts to improve public housing facilities and in some localities, to demolish unfit buildings and replace them, will be stopped dead in their tracks.

The cuts in the low income housing preservation program will result in the displacement of countless low income families from affordable housing. Estimates of the impact of losing preservation funds range from a low of 27,000 families losing their apartments to a high of 75,000. In most of the affected communities, there is no other housing available for these families. The affordable housing stock is disappearing at an alarming rate and these cuts will only hasten the process. Where are these people supposed to live?

At the same time that these important programs are being cut, the Republicans are also cutting incremental rental assistance, the Section 8 Program. The funds the Republicans