EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE MURRAY HOUSE

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a truly outstanding organization in the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey, and the very special family who have done so much to support it over the years.

On February 19, 1995, I was honored to attend the annual dinner-dance on behalf of the Murray House, a facility in Passaic County, NJ, which provides for the needs of the developmentally disabled.

Murray House was the first group home in the State of New Jersey. It was created through the love and dedication of the family of Jimmy Murray of Passaic County. Jimmy, the first of five children of Kit and Jim Murray, was born a healthy baby. But during his first year, he suffered a fever that left him with brain damage.

As is so often the case, it was an unfortunate circumstance that has resulted in so much good for the people of northern New Jersey. Through Jimmy's situation, the Murray family came to know Monsignor John B. Wehrlen, who to this day is still fondly called Father Jack. Inspired by the need to create a new ministry to address the needs of families with disabled children, Father Jack founded the Department of Persons with Disabilities within the Diocese of Paterson.

It was through this relationship that Murray House came to be. Father Jack wanted to find a home, instead of an institution, for disabled adults whose parents had passed away or had no family to care for them. In 1970, he found his home—a 150-year-old diocese building on Main Street in Paterson.

It was with the help and efforts of special people like the Murray family that Father Jack was able to transform a once-vacant building into a home that could nurture and serve the needs of those with disabilities. With the help of others in the community, including churches, civic organizations and students, New Jersey's first group home was opened. It was named ''Murray House,'' after Jimmy Murray.

Since then, Jimmy's brother, Dennis M. Murray, and other members of the Murray family, have dedicated their lives to helping others by raising much-needed funds for the Department for Persons with Disabilities, which operates Murray House and more than a half-dozen other group homes, supervised apartments, and vocational programs for the disabled of north Jersey.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting the Murray family and several hundred of their supporters. This family is a shining example of how a few committed and caring people can change the lives of hundreds or thousands. Their selfless dedication and concern for persons with disabilities is remarkable, and reminds us all that there are lessons about love and compassion we can each learn from the tireless efforts of our friends and neighbors.

ZINGERMAN'S DELI'S PAUL AND ARI

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to recognize Paul Saginaw and Ari Weinzweig, owners of Zingerman's Delicatessen in Ann Arbor, MI. Since opening Zingerman's in 1982, Paul and Ari have worked tirelessly to enrich the lives of the less fortunate people in their community.

To help alleviate the problem of hunger in the Ann Arbor area, Paul and Ari established Food Gatherers, which collects surplus food from restaurants, dorms, and stores and distributes the food to homeless shelters and halfway houses. Since the program was established almost 6 years ago, more than a half million pounds of food has been delivered.

Paul and Ari's generosity extends to their own delicatessen business as well. They hire, train, and promote recently arrived immigrants as well as employees with special needs and they offer job training for members of Trailblazers, an organization that helps those recovering from mental illness. Furthermore, Paul and Ari give financial backing to these employees who wish to become partners in new business ventures.

As a result of their kind endeavors, Paul and Ari are the recipients of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's first annual Humanitarian Award. I can think of none more deserving of this honor than Paul and Ari. I would like to congratulate both of them as well as express my deep pride and admiration in having such fine citizens in my community.

LAWRENCE KORB: THERE IS NO READINESS GAP

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it has occurred to me that people who are thinking of launching military action against the United States are probably likeliest to do it in November of every year, because it is in November, just before the budget is prepared and sent to us, that our friends in the Pentagon and their supporters often argue that America is militarily vulnerable and must spend billions of dollars more than we were planning to spend to defend ourselves.

Most recently, this came in the form of an argument that our readiness was below where it should have been. Lawrence Korb, who was in part responsible for maintaining readiness during the Reagan administration as an assistant secretary of defense, very effectively refutes this argument in the article he published in the Sunday New York Times of February 26. Lawrence Korb has done his country enormous service, both when he was in government, and even more so afterward by his willingness to speak out forcefully and honestly, even when this has unfortunately been at some cost to his own professional career. His refutation of the most recent arguments that have been advanced to send an already excessively high Pentagon budget even higher make an extremely contribution to our national debate and I ask that they be printed here.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 26, 1995]

THE READINESS GAP

(By Lawrence J. Korb)

To listen to Republicans and the military brass, you would think America's armed forces have fallen into the same 1970's morass that spawned the term ''hollow military'' and gave Ronald Reagan a potent issue for the 1980 campaign. Is it possible that just four years after one of the most stunning military triumphs in modern times the services could be suffering from inadequate training, shortages of spare parts and poisonous morale? Just to pose the question in those terms points strongly to the commonsense answer—of course not. This is not the 1970's and the Clinton Administration is not repeating the mistakes of the Carter Administration.

Today, the United States spends more than six times as much on defense as its closest rival, and almost as much on national security as the rest of the world combined. In 1995, Bill Clinton will actually spend $30 billion more on defense, in constant dollars, than Richard Nixon did 20 years ago and substantially more than his own Secretary of Defense argued was necessary in 1992.

Since the collapse of the Berlin wall, the Pentagon's forces have declined by 25 percent and financing for new weapons has fallen by 50 percent while readiness spending has dropped by only 10 percent. In the last year, readiness accounts increased by $5 billion while the overall military budget dropped by 3 percent. The Pentagon now spends more on readiness (about $60,000 per person) than it did in the Reagan and Bush Administrations (when readiness hit all-time highs) and 50 percent more than during the Carter years.

And the quality of entering recruits is still very high (96 percent) and retention rates are so good that the Pentagon is still dismissing people.

If readiness spending is higher than in the Reagan and Bush years, and if the manpower situation is still so solid, why do so many politicians and generals warn darkly about a readiness gap? That—not the theological question of whether our forces are combat ready—is the crucial question. The answer is more nuanced than most people would imagine, and sheds a great deal of light on Pentagon politicking in the post-cold-war era.

I first encountered the politics of military readiness 30 years ago when I was a Naval flight officer in the Far East. One Sunday afternoon, in response to a call from the Seventh Fleet, I reported that only 3 of our 12 planes were ready for combat. For my honesty, I received a severe tongue-lashing from