

in the final legislation. The Older Americans Act Amendments of 1995 assures that the maximum amount of funds available will go directly to our elderly with the greatest needs. Resource limitations make it all the more important for us to remain vigilant in ensuring that we reach those elderly persons with the greatest economic need and greatest social need.

Our intent in this bill is to encourage maximum flexibility so that State and local agencies can improve service delivery systems that are currently in place. In nutrition services, we eliminate the restrictive nature of the current nutrition programs that have separate funding for congregate, in-home delivered meals and USDA commodities by consolidating the nutrition funding streams into one flexible account for nutrition services. After years of requests by service providers, this legislation, for the first time, allows States to implement a cost-sharing program for in-home type services and nutrition programs in order to expand programs to seniors. Cost sharing would be based on self-declaration of income. The legislation also continues to encourage voluntary contributions and allows States to develop a voucher system for services, such as nutrition or supportive services that are not available through traditional providers.

In addition, the Senior Community Service Employment Program will be administered directly by the States and competed among local public and private non-profit organizations and area agencies on aging within the States. This new administration of the program will allow for more resources to go directly to low-income seniors for part-time employment and allow States to better meet the needs of their older individuals. In making changes to the Senior Community Service Employment Program we have allowed for a transition period to mitigate disruptions to individuals currently enrolled in the program.

States and localities have been given more flexibility to determine appropriate services and address local needs. In addition, States have more discretion in the development of their intrastate funding formula. Title VII Elder Rights Protection has been consolidated into Title III Supportive Services which can provide for a wide array of services from transportation, in-home type services to elder abuse activities. The requirement for the Statewide Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is maintained. The ability to transfer up to 50 percent of funding between Nutrition and Supportive Services is also included in the legislation.

In an effort to consolidate senior related programs into the act, we have moved three senior volunteer programs, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Foster Grandparent Program and the Senior Companion Program from the Corporation for National Service. We feel that this move will provide a secure home for these important programs well into the future.

There have been concerns in the past about the wide array of ever increasing mandates that appeared in the act with each new reauthorization. The Administration on Aging was overwhelmed with increasing demands while resources were shrinking. In this legislation we try to relieve the AOA of some of those demands so that it can focus on its' most critical and primary mission. For the first time, the Administration on Aging will be responsible for

administering all programs under this act. With the elimination of the former Title IV Training Research and Discretionary Programs, the Assistant Secretary has been given broad authority to carry out these types of programs. Requirements for special offices within the administration were eliminated while maintaining the need for individuals with expertise in these areas. While nothing in the act precludes the AOA from continuing these offices, it provides the administration with additional flexibility.

The Older Americans Act has always been viewed as a most worthwhile piece of legislation. I firmly believe that the 1995 Amendments will provide the flexibility to address the changing needs of our older individuals and continue to honor our commitment to them now, and well into the future. I urge my colleagues to support the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1995.

SENSE OF HOUSE RELATING TO
DEPLOYMENT OF ARMED
FORCES IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

SPEECH OF

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 1995

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, at this delicate period of negotiations between the warring parties in the former Yugoslavia, I believe that it is extremely counterproductive for the House to be considering this resolution. The Administration is showing great leadership by bringing the factions together to attempt to resolve these ancient hostilities which, in their most recent manifestations, have devastated the region and left more than 200 thousand dead. I believe that if this House approves the resolution before us, it will hinder the peace process by shaking the confidence of the combatants in the ability of the United States to follow through on any commitments to which it agrees.

No one in this Congress wants to insert American troops into an ongoing conflict, nor do I believe that this is the desire of our President. Most in the House also agree that Congress should be consulted prior to the commitment of any ground troops to a peacekeeping effort in Bosnia. Many of us on both sides of the aisle have asserted this prerogative to the President and to Administration officials during recent months. The President and the U.S. negotiators know Congress's wishes on this issue; there is no need for the House to approve a resolution today to restate what has been made quite apparent by various Members of Congress.

If it is unnecessary to explain to the President the position of the House on this issue, what purpose will this resolution serve? I believe that the only function of this resolution will be to undermine the credibility of the Administration as it enters into negotiations which could have dramatic effects on the outcome of the peace process.

I understand that Members have widely differing opinions on the issue of utilizing U.S. troops in peacekeeping missions, and I respect the sincere convictions upon which these opinions have been formed. However, the peace process in the Balkans will suffer if

this resolution passes. It vividly emphasizes the distinct possibility that the United States will not honor what it has agreed to at the negotiating table. I do not see how the conflicting parties can have faith in the peace process if the House causes them to question the commitment of the United States.

I have always believed that Congress must not deliberately undermine the ability of the President to conduct foreign relations. I have supported this policy for Presidents from both parties. If approved, this resolution will hinder the ability of this President to negotiate an end to the horrible warfare in southeastern Europe. I urge my colleagues to put aside their partisan sentiments and to support the process toward peace by opposing House Resolution 247.

TRIBUTE TO SUPERIOR COURT
JUDGE LEONARD D. RONCO

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Superior Court Judge Leonard D. Ronco. Judge Ronco has been a public servant since 1956 and will retire from the State bench on his 70th birthday, November 3, 1995.

Judge Ronco is a distinguished leader in Essex County, NJ, whose prudent rulings clearly reverberated and effected the larger community. The president-elect of the New Jersey State's Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Cathy Waldor, credited him with being, "One of the finest, if not the finest judge in the State."

This week, the Superior Court of New Jersey is indisputably losing a leader respected by the people and the community as a whole. Further, he is a leader worthy of emulation, respected by his colleagues and admired by young aspiring lawyers and judges throughout the State.

Judge Ronco brought to the bench a unique perspective. As both a prosecutor and a defense attorney he was aware of all the nuances of the courtroom and the tactics employed by both sides. This awareness enabled him to holistically understand all arguments brought before him. Such a perspective and complete understanding could only further the pursuit of justice.

It is my hope that his leadership role in the community and the legal profession will not diminish with his retirement. The community can only gain because now he will have the opportunity to pursue a Golconda of leadership goals in Essex County.

His retirement should open up new roads that will challenge and beacon him. Roads that will once again enable him to effect the larger community albeit in a different capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in wishing Judge Leonard Ronco the best of luck on the journey before him.