

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### COMPANIES SUPPLYING DUAL-USE ITEMS TO IRAQ: THE NEED FOR SUNSHINE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 1996*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 1995, I wrote to Secretary of State Christopher about companies supplying dual-use technologies to Iraq. My basic question is: Why aren't the names of companies providing dual-use or military items to Iraq made public?

On December 20, 1995, I put into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a reply from Rolf Ekeus of UNSCOM to a similar letter I wrote (E2429).

On January 18, 1996, I received a reply from the Department of State, and the text of the correspondence follows:

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, November 1, 1995.*

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,

*Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I write with respect to the question of companies that supplied or are supplying dual-use goods, services or technology to Iraq, and the use of those dual-use items in Iraq's programs to build weapons of mass destruction.

At the time of the creation of UNSCOM by U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 in April, 1991, it had been my impression, from both U.S. officials and from UNSCOM, that the names of companies supplying dual-use items to Iraq eventually would be made public. Thus far, to my knowledge, no such list has been made public.

I continue to think that it is important to make information about all such companies public, on the theory that sunshine is the best deterrent of such transfers of dual-use items in the future.

I would like to ask a number of questions:

1. Why has a list of companies supplying dual-use items to Iraq not been made public?

Who, or what governments, are locking the release of such information?

2. What is U.S. policy on the publication of such a list of companies?

Is the United States pressing UNSCOM to release such a list of companies?

Is the United States pressing the Security Council to direct UNSCOM to release such a list of companies?

3. Does the United States plan to make such a list of companies public?

Does the U.S. plan, at least, to make public a list of U.S. companies that supplied dual-use items to Iraq?

Thank you for your time and attention, and I look forward to your early reply.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,  
*Ranking Democratic Member.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, DC, January 18, 1996.*

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: I am writing in respect to your recent letter to Secretary

Christopher regarding companies supplying dual-use technology to Iraq. The Department very much appreciates your interest in, and leadership on, this critical issue.

As you indicated, the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) has not published any list of companies supplying dual-use items to Iraq. We asked for such lists some time ago, shortly after UNSCOM started its work. UNSCOM explained that supplying such lists would make it impossible for UNSCOM to carry out its primary responsibility: to account for and dismantle Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and monitor Iraq's ability to make such weapons in the future.

In the same resolution that created UNSCOM (Resolution 687), the Security Council directed Iraq to declare all of its weapons of mass destruction and the facilities used to manufacture them. Iraq, in fact, failed to do this. As a result, UNSCOM became entirely dependent on information from other governments to build a picture of Iraq's weapons arsenal. Governments are only willing to share this information with UNSCOM in confidence. Were UNSCOM to publish lists of companies that did business with Iraq, governments would stop sharing this vital information. This would cripple UNSCOM's ability to fulfill its basic mandate.

We have stressed to UNSCOM the need to approach governments to take action against their companies which have engaged in prohibited weapons trade with Iraq. We have offered to approach governments ourselves to add weight to UNSCOM's own approaches. However, given UNSCOM's continued dependence on foreign government cooperation, it believes publication of lists like those described in your letter would be counterproductive.

You also raise the issue of the U.S. government publishing a list of U.S. companies engaged in such activities. State did distribute to Congressional committees during the first year of inspections lists of U.S. firms involved in dual-use trade with Iraq prior to the Gulf War. We are not aware of any subsequent lists, but we will be consulting with the Commerce Department on this issue.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please continue to call on us whenever you believe this Department might be helpful.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,  
*Assistant Secretary,  
Legislative Affairs.*

THANK YOU HELEN G. JACOB

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 1996*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished community service of Helen G. Jacob, on the occasion of the opening of the Department of Veterans Affairs Western New York Healthcare System Women's Wellness Center dedicated in her honor.

Ms. Jacob has served the State of New York as the chairperson of the Rehabilitation Committee for Women Veterans, a project

which she initiated in 1984. She has also served as the vice president of the National Historians' Association, Area I, which encompasses 12 States and 3 separate countries.

In addition to these remarkable duties, Helen Jacob is also the women's coordinator for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Buffalo, NY. In this capacity, she has selflessly dedicated countless hours on a volunteer basis to the personal needs of both inpatient and outpatient women in the medical center's care.

Helen also holds the prestigious honor of being the only woman elected as Commander of the American Legion of Erie County, a position responsible for approximately 14 thousand members in over 50 posts.

Since its inception in 1992, Ms. Jacob has provided insight and expertise in Veteran related issues on my 30th Congressional District Veterans Advisory Committee. Helen's insight and sage advice on matters concerning our Nation's veterans is truly appreciated, and I unreservedly offer her my enthusiastic congratulations and commendations for this dedication.

The dedication of the Helen G. Jacob Women's Wellness Center is also testimony to the innovative spirit of the hospital itself, as it is the only one of its kind nationwide in a veterans hospital or medical center.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Jacob family, her colleagues, friends, all of those who served our Nation in the Armed Forces, and indeed, the entire western New York community to honor Ms. Helen G. Jacob for her dedication, hard work, and commitment to western New York and its veterans.

EVELYN DUPONT, FOUNDER OF CALIFORNIA POOLS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, INC.—A ROLE MODEL OF COURAGE AND COMPASSION

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday January 30, 1996*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor one of Long Beach CA's most admirable citizens—Evelyn duPont who has shown our community a personal courage and a public compassion that move far beyond the norm. Stricken with a crippling disease, she rose above its physical limitations to give others the opportunity to do the same.

Evelyn duPont has dedicated her life to the rehabilitation of people with disabilities and to the rejuvenation of senior citizens. It is a dedication that was born of personal tragedy. In 1952, Evelyn contracted polio and faced a life of braces, wheelchairs, and crutches. But here determination to lead an active, contributing life propelled her beyond their confines.

As a former international aquatic competitor, instructor, and water show star, Evelyn knew of the healing and healthy properties of aquatic exercise—especially for those with crippling

• 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.

disabilities. She initiated a self-therapy, water-oriented rehabilitation program for herself. After many months, she was able to walk again without crutches and braces.

This personal triumph inspired Evelyn to open her backyard swimming pool to disabled children. After several weeks, the news of Evelyn's invitation spread. Parents, schools, and doctors were bringing children 5 and 6 days a week. As the numbers grew, Evelyn knew that she would have to expand beyond the limitations of her modest pool.

With the support of community and civic leaders, Evelyn founded the Cerritos Communities Pool for the Handicapped, Inc.—a non-profit corporation, now known as the California Pools for the Handicapped, Inc. Today, her organization is an internationally respected leader in aquatic rehabilitation and still maintains its original goals: to heal and comfort those in need, to never turn anyone away, and to never charge for any service.

For Evelyn, there has been no separation between her personal and professional dedication to the disabled. In addition to her commitment to no-cost aquatic rehabilitation therapy, Evelyn adopted 4 disabled children and served as foster mother for 12 more.

Evelyn's concern, commitment, and courage are exceptional. Her ability to take a personal tragedy and turn it into a personal triumph that has benefited thousands stands a model for all. Her life shows what wonderful things can be accomplished when one person seeks to make a personal tragedy into a triumph.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1124,  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 24, 1996*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to oppose the fiscal year 1996 Department of Defense [DOD] authorization bill conference report. There are many reasons to defeat this conference report. One of the worst provisions contained in this bill would lead to the immediate discharge of the 1,049 service members infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The Department opposes this provision and does not believe that service members with HIV present a deployment problem. The DOD believes that members with HIV should be treated as any other service members with chronic, possibly fatal, medical conditions, and remain on active duty until such time as they cannot perform their duties.

This provision is discriminatory because it treats people with HIV differently from the way people with other chronic diseases are treated.

Current policy concerning service members who are not eligible for worldwide deployment, such as those with HIV, are sufficient. Service members become ineligible for worldwide deployment due to a number of medical reasons, such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease, cancer, and pregnancy. They still perform very significant duties but are restricted in overseas travel to remain close to adequate medical services.

It is inappropriate to single out individuals with HIV disease for discharge from the Armed Services and in so doing, treat these individuals differently than the military treats other productive service members with chronic illnesses.

The current policy has been in place since the Reagan administration and received the support of senior military officials. The policy is the product of serious analysis and deliberation by the Pentagon of the impact of individuals with HIV disease on military readiness. The Clinton administration has only moved to continue these policies, demonstrating bipartisan support for this approach.

The presence of HIV-infected service members in the military does not adversely affect combat readiness or efficiency. These troops are still physically capable and are valuable to the Armed Services. Adopting this conference report would endorse unacceptable discrimination.

RESIGNATION OF SERGEI  
KOVALEV

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 1996*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I call the attention of my colleagues to one of several deeply disappointing developments in Russia. Deputy Sergei Kovalev, our colleague in the Russian Parliament and longtime human rights activist, resigned his post as head of President Yeltsin's human rights commission earlier this week. Well known to anyone who has followed the course of human rights and democratic development in Russia, Mr. Kovalev was a political prisoner under the Communist regime and he has been highly critical of the Yeltsin government's policies in Chechnya. During the first weeks of the Russian attack on Grozny, the Chechnya capital, Mr. Kovalev bravely travelled to the region to see the facts for himself. For his efforts to stop the killing and terrorizing of both Chechens and Russians, he was roundly condemned and even threatened by fervent Russian nationalists.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kovalev's resignation comes at a time when President Yeltsin appears to be casting off the last of his democratic orientation and throwing in his lot with rapid nationalists, allegedly reformed Communists, and cabinet cronies. Though he talks a reform line, President Yeltsin's actions demonstrate otherwise. In his resignation letter, Sergei Kovalev charges that President Yeltsin's government is "trying to run the country in a direction completely contrary to the one proclaimed in August 1991." This is a very disturbing course for Russia, for its neighbors, and for the entire world.

I urge President Yeltsin to return to the path of reform as the only genuine guarantee of peace and justice for Russian people, and Mr. Speaker, I trust the administration is using every appropriate opportunity to make that point to Mr. Yeltsin and his associates.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to have included in the RECORD Sergei Kovalev's letter of resignation to President Yeltsin.

The text of the letter follows, as reprinted in the January 29, 1996 Washington Post.

THE CASE AGAINST YELTSIN

(By Sergei Kovalev)

(From a letter of resignation sent Jan. 24 to Russian President Boris Yeltsin by Sergei Kovalev, who had been chairman of the president's human rights commission since October 1993.)

For the past six years I have considered it my duty to promote in every way possible the policy that can fairly be called the "democratic transformation of Russia" notwithstanding many reservations. For a long time that policy was closely linked with your name. You were the head of a country on the road to democracy, and at first, you were even considered the leader of the democrats. As long as you remained headed in that direction, I considered myself your ally, or, in those instances when you departed from the overall course or drastically allowed the tempo of advance, a member of the loyal opposition.

Russia's road to freedom never promised to be easy. Many difficulties were obvious from the very beginning. Many others cropped up unexpectedly. To overcome them, all of us—the government, society, each individual—had to make complicated and sometimes tragic decisions. The main things the country expected from you were the will to make changes and honesty. Especially honesty. In electing you, Russia saw not only a politician ready to demolish the former state structure, but a person who was sincerely trying to change himself, his views, his prejudices and his habits of rule. You convinced many—myself included—that humane and democratic values could become the foundation of your life, your work and your policies. We weren't blind. We saw the typical traits of a Communist Party secretary preserved in your behavior. But all Russia, like a man striving to overcome a serious defect, was struggling with itself. We understood you even when we did not love you.

In recent years, however, even though you continue to proclaim your undying devotion to democratic ideals, you have it first slowly, and then more and more abruptly, changed the course of government policy. Now your government is trying to turn the country in a direction completely contrary to the one proclaimed in August 1991. . . .

Beginning in late 1993 if not even earlier, you have consistently taken decisions which—instead of strengthening the rule of law in a democratic society—have revived the blunt and inhuman might of a state machine that stands above justice, law and the individual. . . .

During the tragic days of the fall of 1993 [when Yeltsin dissolved the Supreme Soviet], I decided to stand by you despite my serious inner doubts. I don't deny my responsibility for that support. I believed that the use of force was a tragic necessity given the imminent threat of civil war. Even then I understood that the events of October might encourage the top leaders to perceive force as a convenient and familiar instrument for resolving political problems. But I hoped for a different outcome, that by overcoming the crisis of legitimacy and creating a basis for the rule of law in Russia, the president and the government would do everything possible for our country's peaceful and free development. To a very great extent, the outcome depended on you, Boris Nikolaevich. I believed that you would choose the second path. I was wrong.

The 1993 Constitution confers enormous powers on the president, but it also places enormous responsibilities on him to be the guarantor of the rights and liberties of citizens, to safeguard their security and to protect law and order in the country. How have you discharged these duties? How have you fulfilled your responsibilities?

You have virtually halted judicial reform, which was designed to make the administration of justice truly independent from the other branches of government. You openly professed the principle, "Let the innocent suffer as long as the guilty are punished."

You loudly proclaimed the launching of a war on organized crime. In order to implement this, you granted exceptional, extralegal authority to the security ministries. The result? The criminals continue to roam freely, while law-abiding citizens have to tolerate the abuse of the uniformed forces without gaining the security they were promised.

You stated that your goal was the preservation and strengthening of the Russian Federation's territorial integrity. The result? A shameful and bungled civil war which has been raging in the North Caucasus for more than a year. Under the guise of strengthening Russia's defense capability, you've blocked all military reforms which would give Russia an effective modern army. The result? Spending on the army is growing, and the number of generals has increased to an indecent figure. In order to justify their existence, the term of service has been increased and draft deferments have been ended. Meanwhile, soldiers and officers are impoverished, ragged and hungry. And the degradation, ill-treatment and corruption, traditional in our army, are as prevalent as ever. Not surprisingly, tens of thousands of young men are evading this medieval recruitment like the plague.

You speak of a policy of openness, of transparency and of public accountability, yet at the same time you sign secret decrees concerning the most important matters of state. You create closed institutions, and you classify as secret ever more information about government operations and the state of the country. Presidential decisions are made almost in the same backroom fashion as in the era of the Politburo. It's no secret that you increasingly depend on the security services and on their system of clandestine information. Isn't it obvious to you how unreliable and tendentious this information is?

The thrust of your personnel policy is becoming clearer with each passing day. At first there were quite a few competent, honorable people around you. But you also enthusiastically welcomed individuals whose only virtue consisted in their personal loyalty to you. Gradually such loyalty has become your primary demand when recruiting staff, just as it was in the heyday of the Community Party. . . .

You began your democratic career as a forceful and energetic crusader against official deceit and party disposition, but you are ending it as the obedient executor of the will of the power-seekers in your entourage. You took an oath to build a government of the people and for the people, but instead you have built a bureaucratic pyramid over the people and against the people. Moreover, having rejected democratic values and principles, you haven't stopped using the word "democracy" so that naive people may well believe that "democrats" remain in power in the Kremlin. Your policies have compromised the very word, and if democracy is fated to someday exist in Russia (and I believe it will), it will exist not because of you, but in spite of you.

PIONEERING DR. DAZELLE  
SIMPSON RETIRES

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native Miamian and the first black pediatrician in Florida, on the occasion of her retirement after 42 years. Dr. Dazelle Simpson has contributed significantly to the Miami community but, she also has been a faithful and active member of the National Medical Association. She has chaired the pediatrics section. She has been honored as outstanding physician by the National Medical Association.

During her lifetime, Dr. Simpson has achieved and recorded many firsts. She was first in her high school, college, medical school, the first black pediatrician in Florida, the first to achieve specialist certification in her field, the first black president of the Greater Miami Pediatrics Society, the first black board of trustees member of a medical school, the first to set up and finance a scholarship fund for black health professional student in Florida and the first alumni association president to raise \$1 million for her school.

As with many strong women, she did this all while maintaining one of the most successful medical practices in the county, raising a family, running a family business, attending to church and community needs, and caring for sick family members.

In tribute to Dr. Simpson, a gala event is planned for Saturday, February 3, 1996. The day of honor will also feature a health symposium cosponsored by Meharry Medical College.

THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE "CHALLENGER" ACCIDENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, the names Onizuka, McAuliffe, Jarvis, Resnik, Smith, Scobee, and McNair became a part of this Nation's history. Ten years ago those seven individuals lost their lives in the service for both their country and mankind. Their tragic loss touched us all very deeply and has left an indelible mark on the national psyche of this country.

Today, I pay tribute to those seven men and women in a small way by recognizing their bravery and the memory of their contributions to not only the lives of their friends and family, but to the whole of humanity. These individuals represent the best in all of us and it is in their memory that we should devote ourselves to continuing what they began.

Humans have always possessed an inherent drive to explore and expand their boundaries. Our exploration of space has been important for more reasons than the technological advances and resulting benefits to society; it represents an undeniable part of us all. From the beginning, this country has recognized the importance of space and always taken a leading role in its development and in-

vestigation. While inundated with more earthly concerns such as budget deficits, crime, and international peace, it is often easy to forget our commitment to the enterprise of space and its value to the United States and the international community. In remembering the *Challenger*, let us also take a minute to recall the purpose for which its crew was dedicated.

Let me also thank the families of these American heroes for their continued support of the space program and the efforts to which the *Challenger* Seven dedicated their lives. Nothing we say here today can adequately repay the debt that is owed, or sufficiently express the feelings of sorrow that are universally felt. We can, however, pay those seven souls no greater tribute than to carry on the work in which they believed in and for which they paid the ultimate sacrifice for. It is important that we properly fund this dynamic work for the 21st century and insure that America remains first in space exploration.

HONORING THE WORK AND DEDICATION OF THE TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM OF NEW BRITAIN

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise to pay tribute to the work being done by RoseAnne Bilodeau and her staff at the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program of New Britain. There is no question that the dramatic increase in the incidence of teen pregnancy is one of the major causes of poverty amongst women and children. As the director of New Britain's program, Ms. Bilodeau was invited to join President Clinton and Health and Human Services Secretary, Donna Shalala to discuss the President's task force on teen pregnancy prevention and the establishment of public-private partnerships.

The work being done by the dedicated staff of New Britain's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program is exceptional and even in these uncertain times, the program is thriving. The staff and board have demonstrated forward thinking in reaching out to private industry and foundations for funding and in doing so, has captured national recognition and the attention of the President of the United States. I am proud to have such a noteworthy and successful program within my district and will continued to work in support of their efforts to make a positive long term impact on the lives of New Britain's young people.

THE DALLAS COWBOYS:  
DOMINATING THE DECADE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the accomplishments of the Dallas Cowboys, and to nominate them for the unofficial title of "Team of the 90's." Although faced with considerable

adversity during the long season, the Cowboys stayed together as a team and accomplished their goal of capturing a third Super Bowl in four seasons.

From Deion Sanders to Daryl Johnston, from Tony Tolbert to Nate Newton, the Cowboys achieved their goal through hard work and dedication to a single purpose. All across Texas, Cowboys fans salute the total team effort put forth on Super Bowl Sunday and throughout the season.

Although the headliners like Troy, Emmitt, and Michael deservedly received the majority of the spotlight, special recognition appropriately went to Texas Christian University's own Larry Brown, the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player. A 12th round draft pick, Brown has shown admirable determination to rise to the top of the National Football League. As a graduate of TCU, I was especially pleased with his selection as MVP.

From all of your fans, Dallas Cowboys, thank you for a wonderful ride in Super Bowl XXX.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
TREATMENT OF THE HAND AND  
UPPER EXTREMITY AT THE  
UNION MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 1996*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an innovative organization that is providing leadership and direction in the care of the millions of individuals afflicted with hand and upper extremity disorders and injuries. Included among these individuals are significant numbers of military personnel who suffer from repetitive motion disorders, loss of extremities, and other dysfunctional injuries to the hand.

The Raymond M. Curtis Hand Center at the Union Memorial Hospital has established a National Center for Treatment of the Hand and Upper Extremity. The mission of the center is the initiation of clinical guidelines for treatment, collection of data government, labor, and industry and leadership for training and research in the field of hand and upper extremity surgery.

It is estimated that more than 16 million people experienced upper extremity injuries, accounting for 90 million days of restricted activity and 16 million days lost from work in a year with a total direct and indirect cost of \$10

billion. In fact, one-third of all injuries, military and civilian, involve upper extremities.

The center and its staff have long been associated with the Army Medical Corps and as an expression of commitment to both the military and the field of hand surgery, the Curtis Hand Center has trained every Army hand surgeon since World War II at no expense to the Department of Defense. Staff from the hand center also regularly speak at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda and the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

The national center is a cost-effective treatment for Maryland and the Nation. In 1992, the most frequent hand surgery procedure, carpal tunnel release, was performed by hand center staff at 22 percent below the average charge of other Maryland hospitals'. While maintaining the Curtis Hand Center's history of multidisciplinary cost-effective care, the national center will expand current patient capabilities and referral services to neighboring States. Outreach centers will be established throughout the State to provide localized care in areas not currently capable of treating hand and upper extremity injuries.

The national center also will train hand therapists in an effort to address the shortage of these professionals. The center will train occupational and physical therapists and develop a curriculum for this training that can be replicated at hospitals throughout the country. The hand center's current physician training capabilities are being expanded, including the staff's work with the armed services, regional hospital and universities, and foreign hand specialists.

At the core of the national center's work, though, is basic research on the future of hand surgery. Led by the hand center's research director, Dr. Thomas Burshart, the national center will be at the vanguard of research on nerve regeneration, carpal tunnel syndrome, and prosthetic devices.

The hand center has received several commendations in the past from the National Security Appropriations Subcommittee, which praised the center's work and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, which recognized the important work of the center in 1994. Members of the center's staff are in ongoing discussions with the Department of the Army and the Office of Defense Health Programs to explore ways in which they may work together to further enhance the military's specialized surgical capabilities.

The center has and deserves broad-based support from all who come in contact with it,

from the Department of Defense to other health care professionals to the thousands of people who have been treated there. It is my hope that the center will be able to continue to grow and prosper, as it will clearly benefit all Americans. I invite all of my colleagues to visit the center, and to join me in supporting it in its mission.

RECOGNITION OF "PORTRAITS IN  
BLACK" BUFFALO SOLDIERS EX-  
HIBIT

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 1996*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important art exhibit recently opened in San Francisco. Sponsored by the African-American Historical and Cultural Society, "Portraits in Black" presents a detailed history of the Buffalo Soldiers—a select group of African-American soldiers and cowboys who fought heroically for our country at home and abroad.

Too often, the history of the Old West and the settling of the Western frontier has neglected to portray the important role played by these African-American soldiers and cowboys. Through a series of photos, narratives, and artifacts, "Portraits in Black" proudly advances the significance of the contributions made by these daring American heroes.

The Buffalo Soldiers have a long and proud history of association with the Presidio of San Francisco. The 9th Cavalry was stationed at the Presidio around the turn of the century. These soldiers served as an escort of honor for President Theodore Roosevelt. Some historians estimate as many as 500 Buffalo Soldiers are buried in the Presidio's National Cemetery.

Buffalo Soldiers were so named by native Americans in recognition of their courage and decency as warriors. Most of their achievements were not chronicled in history texts, making it very important for other avenues of learning, such as this exhibit, to flourish.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the work of the African-American Historical and Cultural Society for its role in presenting this magnificent exhibit. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I join with the society and the many others who honor the Buffalo Soldiers for their important contribution to American history.