

Job Corps is fulfilling its mission is largely unknown. For example, the Department of Labor estimates that the overall job placement rate for Job Corps graduates is 70 percent, but some centers have had rates as low as 20 percent for 5 consecutive years. Furthermore, a recent General Accounting Office study found that fully 15 percent of Job Corps' job placement verification procedures were invalid. That means that some Job Corps centers were reporting that their graduates were finding jobs, when in fact they were not.

Reforms are needed to ensure that Job Corps enrollees obtain work upon graduation, and are not merely shuffled through the program. Considering that the average Job Corps student costs taxpayers \$24,000 to train, it is no longer acceptable to assess the performance of this program by collecting anecdotal evidence. The comprehensive Job Corps review called for under my legislation is closely modeled after a proposal offered by Senator ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania that passed the Senate last October. It will give Congress and the Department of Labor credible statistics that will allow us to make informed judgments on how best to improve and strengthen this important job training program.

My bill also limits the spending on the Job Corps bureaucracy to 13 percent. Currently 18 percent, or over \$180 million is spent on administering this program. That figure is too high, and indicates that efficiencies can be made within the bureaucracy to reduce costs. I want more money spent on students, not on bureaucrats. My bill would force the Department of Labor to examine Job Corps' overhead budget, find the waste and eliminate it.

Today, there are 109 Job Corps centers throughout the country. In an effort to upgrade the performance of each of them, my bill would eliminate the 10 worst Job Corps centers in the Nation by the end of the century. At some Job Corps centers, the buildings and living quarters are in disrepair, the management is inept, the training that students receive is ineffective, and worst of all, violence and drugs are prevalent. Those centers need to be cleaned up or closed down, so the funds saved from their closure can be funneled to productive, well-run centers.

Job Corps is the most expensive Federal youth employment and training program. Despite the fact that Congress is consolidating nearly 100 education and training programs into State block grants, funds for Job Corps are actually slated to increase. The reason Congress has retained this program is because it has demonstrated some meaningful success. Many people are unaware that Job Corps students who do complete their training are five times more likely to get a training-related job, and training-related jobs pay 25 percent higher wages. Moreover, employers who hire Job Corps graduates are generally satisfied with their Job Corps hires.

My bill preserves what is right about Job Corps, and strengthens it for the future. It makes significant reforms to this program, with the promise of additional reform when the comprehensive performance review it calls for becomes available. The Federal Government's investment in this program is too great not to demand improvements, and the at-risk youths this program serves need what this program offers more than ever.

Mr. Speaker, without the Job Corps, many of today's disadvantaged youth would be un-

skilled, unemployable, and without hope. When it is successful, the Job Corps breaks the cycle of despair and turns unfocused youths into productive citizens. I support an effective Job Corps, and I will continue to fight to improve this important program.

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PEACE CORPS

SPEECH OF  
HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 26, 1996*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago President John F. Kennedy had a dream. He wanted to share America's idealism and know-how with other nations, not just through impersonal foreign aid loans or grants, but more importantly through direct people-to-people contact. He wanted American citizens to work directly in foreign nations, helping those in need to learn how to develop the basic skills necessary to promote their own well-being and advancement. As a result of his dream turned into reality, whole societies have gained insight and experience in improving their lives, from learning how to drill wells and improve their agricultural output to developing the social, educational, and medical skills necessary for their well-being.

This program, established through the Peace Corps Act of 1961, now provides programs in over 90 different countries. Its purpose, to promote world peace and friendship, to help other countries in meeting their needs for trained men and women, and to promote understanding between the American people and other peoples served by the Corps has had an unprecedented record of success.

Volunteers from throughout the Nation, including many from my own northwestern New York, have selflessly given of themselves through 2-year commitments in foreign countries where they lived and worked as integral parts of the communities in which they served.

Peace Corps volunteers today work in six basic program areas: Education, agriculture, health, small business development, urban development, and the environment. Community-level projects are designed to incorporate the skills of volunteers with the resources of host country agencies and other international assistance organizations to help solve specific development problems, often in conjunction with private volunteer organizations.

In the United States, the Peace Corps also serves an important purpose in promoting a better understanding of the people and cultures of other countries. Through the Peace Corps World Wise Schools Program, volunteers are matched with elementary and junior high schools throughout our Nation to encourage an exchange of letters, pictures, music, and artifacts. Participating students increase their knowledge of geography, languages, and different cultures, as well as learning the value of volunteering, whether in their own communities or in faraway nations.

The Peace Corps is a dream that fortunately became a reality. It is a program for which every American can be proud, both for what it has accomplished and for what it is now doing. To the Peace Corps and its thousands of volunteers, I offer a sincere congratulations and thank you on this, its 35th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 27, 1996*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 1996, the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan overwhelmingly elected Lee Teng-hui as their first directly elected President. Mr. Lee's landslide victory was a clear indication of the voters' confidence in President Lee's ability to handle the challenges that lie ahead for his country. The voters' enthusiasm for this election also proves that democracy is not a system of government unimportant to Asians. The Republic of China on Taiwan should be commended for taking this final step in its transition to a full-fledged democracy, and in my opinion, President Lee is the perfect man to lead Taiwan to even greater achievements in the future. I congratulate the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on their presidential election.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE POLICE  
COLONEL BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
AGUON LEON GUERRERO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 27, 1996*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam lost one of its premier public servants last Friday night March 22. Guam Police Col. Benjamin Franklin Aguon Leon Guerrero, a man who dedicated half his life in service to the people of Guam through the police department, was stricken by a heart attack which caused his untimely death. He was only 44 years of age.

Col. Leon Guerrero, a close personal friend, worked through the ranks at the Guam Police Department starting out as a patrol officer. Prior to joining the police force, I vividly remember him as a school aide working under my supervision at George Washington High School in Mangilao. Since then, I eagerly watched his rise in the ranks while taking upon various tasks for the department of public safety, the department of corrections, and the Guam Police Department. He went on to become the most senior ranking classified officer in the Guam police force. He was later appointed to be the deputy chief of the Guam Police Department.

I must also make special mention that he was a published poet and a graduate of the 156th session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] National Academy. In fact, it wasn't too long ago that I submitted a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD commending him for having been the first president of the FBI National Academy Hawaii Chapter to hail from outside the State's confines.

His more than 20 years of public service yielded him a collection of awards and decorations. They include the J. Edgar Hoover Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Guam Police Commendation Service Award, the Guam Police Distinguished Service Medal, the Commanding Officer's Citation, and the Exception Performance Award. He is also listed