

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## 1996 NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

**HON. BILL BARRETT**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the transcript of the 1997 National Prayer Breakfast, held here in Washington, DC, was printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It has come to my attention that the transcript of the previous year's National Prayer Breakfast was inadvertently not submitted in the RECORD. The Challenging and moving message brought to us that morning by our former Senate colleague, Sam Nunn, should be available for everyone. Therefore, I request that a copy of the program and of the transcript of the 1996 proceeding be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

### NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

CHAIRMAN: THE HONORABLE BOB BENNETT

Pre-Breakfast Prayer: The Honorable DANIEL AKAKA, U.S. Senator, Hawaii.

Opening Song: Pine Valley Choir.

Opening Prayer: General John M. Shalikashvili, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

### BREAKFAST

Welcome: The Honorable BOB BENNETT, U.S. Senator, Utah.

Remarks—U.S. House of Representatives: The Honorable PETE GEREN, U.S. House of Representatives, Texas.

Old Testament Reading: The Honorable TOM LANTOS, U.S. House of Representatives, California.

Remarks—U.S. Senate: The Honorable AL SIMPSON, U.S. Senator, Wyoming.

Solo: Mr. Van Cliburn.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

New Testament Reading: The Honorable SONNY MONTGOMERY, U.S. House of Representatives, Mississippi.

Prayer for National and International Leaders: Dr. Billy Graham.

Message: The Honorable SAM NUNN, U.S. Senator, Georgia.

Introduction of the President: The Honorable BOB BENNETT.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Closing Song: Ms. Ariel Bybee.

Closing Prayer: Dr. Dorothy Height, National Council of Negro Women.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 1,  
1996

Senator BENNETT. Good morning. My name is Bob Bennett. I am the leader of the Senate Prayer Breakfast, and in the tradition of the National Prayer Breakfast, this is the year of the Senate to conduct this activity so that it becomes my happy lot to greet you here on behalf of both the Senate and the House to this special occasion.

General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will offer the opening prayer.

General SHALIKASHVILI. Today as we gather here in Washington, we are joined by countless and countless Americans all across our

nation in prayer and in fellowship. And on every base, on every post and on every ship, we are joined as well by our men and women in uniform who have answered our nation's call to serve.

Just across the Potomac on Ft. Myer, across the Pacific at Misawa Air Base, aboard the USS America, in Haiti and Kuwait, in South Korea and Bosnia, in all of these places and hundreds more, America's sons and daughters are taking to their knees and solemnly asking God for strength.

They are rededicating themselves to freedom, to the freedom that can be found in a nation loosed from the chains of oppression. They are rededicating themselves to peace, the peace that can now be heard in the silent hills of a nation that for years knew only war and destruction. And they are rededicating themselves to the love of God that you see in the eyes of a cold and frightened child, held in the reassuring arm of an American soldier in a faraway place called Tuzla.

And so I ask you now to join them and to bow your heads in prayer.

Almighty God, our Creator and Sustainer, we do affirm here and now how wonderful it is to join together today in Your name, for today we bow in prayer as those who, as individuals and as a nation, have been magnificently and prodigiously blessed. We are thankful for the opportunity we have been given to act as Your servants, and as servants of the people.

We are also grateful for this opportunity to pray as a nation for our sons and daughters in the United States Armed Forces here and around the world who represent our heritage and continued resolve to ever uphold what is right and to ever oppose what is wrong and would threaten liberty and justice, and of a certainty to do Your will.

Our Father, we join in prayer breakfasts throughout the world and we ask Your blessing upon all who have united in a spirit of genuine fellowship and kinship. We are grateful for all Your blessings and for our liberty, and we ask that You strengthen our hearts and give us a continued resolve to work together in the cause of freedom and peace throughout the globe. And in a world threatened by discord and fear, we ask that You watch over our President and all of our nation's leaders, that You continue to help them cope with the crucial problems of our time.

Father, we ask now that You bless our nation, our nation's leader and all leaders here today. We ask that You bless this breakfast gathering of fellowship, and we ask that You bless this food for Your honor and for Your glory.

In Your name we pray, Amen.

Senator BENNETT. Thank you, General Shalikashvili. We'll now enjoy the breakfast and pick up the program when presumably you're through eating. Thank you.

[Breakfast.]

Senator BENNETT. In the Senate prayer group we always bang the glass at the stroke of 8:30 and get started, whether you're finished eating or not, so we will follow that tradition here today.

We welcome you all here today and you should be aware of the fact that in addition to the President and his wife and the Vice President and his wife, there are in attendance members of the Senate and the House, members of the President's Cabinet. Of

course General Shalikashvili and other members of the Joint Chiefs and the military command. We have prime ministers and heads of state, leaders of giant corporations and organizations from all over the world and we welcome all of you.

Allow me to quickly introduce to you the people who are sitting at the head table, most of whom will participate and, therefore, will be introduced in their own right. But for those who do not participate, so that you know who is here, I will start with my colleague, Senator Akaka from Hawaii. Next to him, Ariel Bybee, who will sing to us later. General Shalikashvili, whom you've heard from in the opening prayer, and his wife, Joan.

Senator Simpson, who will represent the Senate prayer group, and his wife Ann. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, and I'll tell you why she's here at the appropriate time. Becky Geren, the wife of Congressman Pete Geren, who heads the House prayer group. Of course you know the Vice President and his wife. You know this fellow with a full head of hair next to me and his wife.

My wife, Joyce, next to Mrs. Clinton. Senator Nunn and his wife, Colleen, and we of course will hear from him. Dr. Dorothy Height, we will hear from her. Van Cliburn, who will provide music. Annette Lantos and Congressman Tom Lantos from California, and then Sonny Montgomery from Mississippi. So, those are the folks who are here before you. [Applause.]

In the New Testament it records an occasion where a lawyer came before Jesus in an attempt to tempt Him and trap Him in His words. As I read that, I realize that the behavior of lawyers maybe hasn't changed too much in the centuries from then until now, but just some lawyers, I assure you.

In an attempt to trip Him up, the lawyer asked Jesus a question that he was fairly sure Jesus would have trouble with because it was the question that has been widely debated, and certainly had been widely debated in that time: what is the greatest commandment in the law, and perhaps with a bit of derision in his voice, he prefaced the question by saying, "Master, what is the greatest commandment?"

Jesus was more than prepared and He quoted from Deuteronomy, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might." And then went further, quoting from Leviticus, said to the lawyer, "and to the second is like unto it." Quoting from the 19th chapter of Leviticus, he said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." And then He gave the lawyer this magnificent summary. He said, "On these two hang all the law and the prophets."

I can think of nothing better than that summary as the theme of the prayer breakfast. All of us have our own interpretation of who is the Lord our God. All of us strive to do the best we can to understand who that is and to love Him with all our hearts, souls and minds. But all of us, regardless of our religious tradition, can recognize the importance of learning to love our neighbor as ourselves, and it is in that spirit that we gather here this morning and in countless groups around the world.

We gather that way in the Senate of the United States every week. We also do that in the House every week and it is my privilege

• 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.

to introduce to you the Honorable Pete Geren, Congressman from Texas, who is the leader of the House prayer breakfast, to bring us their greetings.

Representative GEREN. Senator, thank you. I'm not sure your lawyer comment was in the spirit of the occasion but we'll let that one pass. [Laughter.]

Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Gore, and distinguished guests, one and all. I bring you greetings from the prayer breakfast of the United States House of Representatives. My charge today is to tell you about our prayer breakfast, with the hope and prayer that perhaps you can build on our experience in your nation, your state, your place of work, or perhaps even in your neighborhood.

In the book of Matthew Jesus told us, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Today those gathered in His name number in the thousands and we thank Him for His message.

Every Thursday morning that the House is in session we gather, 40 to 50 members strong, in His name. Our gathering is extraordinary by Capitol Hill standards, for so many reasons, and truly a blessing for those who have chosen to make it a part of their lives. I say extraordinary by Capitol Hill standards. In a supercharged environment where most all meetings are restricted by party membership, or even more narrowly by philosophical subsets within the party, by race, by religion, by region, by state, by cause, our meetings are interfaith, ecumenical, multiracial, nonpartisan, and about as diverse as this great land of ours.

The Irish brogue of south Boston, the syrupy drawl of South Georgia, the sharp and clipped tongue of Brooklyn, the twang of Texas, and the flat tones of the Midwest fill the room every Thursday morning. Extraordinary. There are no guests, not even family members, no camera, no press, no record of the proceedings. It is as private as Capitol Hill can be and members share their hearts.

I said no guests. Well, there is one exception. Legislators or parliamentarians from around the world will join us to learn about our breakfast and on occasion return years later to tell about the breakfasts that they have started in their land.

Today prayer breakfasts are held in over 100 countries around the world, in countries as far-flung as India, Peru, Mongolia, Japan. So, in a way, our breakfast engages in outreach to the world, but that's not our main purpose. Our focus is internal, on the lives and hearts and souls of our colleagues. It is fellowship. It is an eye in the storm of the swirling world of politics.

There is a saying in Washington that if you want a friend in Washington, buy a dog. Our breakfast belies that expression. Breakfast begins at eight, and I think it's the only three dollar breakfast left in Washington. It probably violates the gifts ban, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure.

We visit informally for most of the first half hour. When we are called to order, we begin our day's program with a scripture reading. Our very own general, Congressman Sonny Montgomery, then brings us to date on the lives, and too often of late, the deaths of our friends and House members, past and present. He shares with us celebrations such as recent births and the trials and tribulations of others.

We than life up our colleagues and their families in prayer with rejoicing prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for healing, for comfort, and for the blessing of our name and our leaders. We follow the prayer with a hymn, long on enthusiasm and sometimes short on harmony.

Congressman Jake Pickle of Texas used to regale us with the history of each hymn, or

at least the history according to Jake. Jake is now retired and we all miss him.

Following the hymn, a House member tells us about his or her life story, about the influences that changed his life, his values, his philosophy, his faith, his politics. On these occasions members offer a window into their souls that I suspect few others ever see. Through this sharing, each of us so often is surprised that beyond the accent, the geography, and the political label, surprised at how much we all have in common.

After hearing Joe Moakley of Massachusetts talk of his South Boston childhood, Charlie Rangel, who grew up in Harlem, said, "Joe, we really grew up in the same neighborhood. We just never knew it." Regarding our differences, and they are many, we grow to understand them and appreciate them.

We close with another prayer. We pray that we may be salt and light in this world. Each of us truly is blessed by our participation and pray that somehow our Congress and our nation, one nation under God, could be blessed as well. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. We will now hear an Old Testament reading by the Honorable Tom Lantos from California, after which Al Simpson, retiring but not really very retiring, Senator from Wyoming, will speak on behalf of the Senate prayer group.

Representative LANTOS. President Clinton and Mrs. Clinton, Vice President and Mrs. Gore, ladies and gentlemen. We all know why everybody is here at the head table. No one knows why I am here. I am here as a reminder that we are slow learners. Bob Bennett said, "Thou shall love thy neighbor." I am the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to the Congress of the United States, which I take as the most poignant reminder of how profoundly we have failed to learn that central, profound, and powerful message.

This is my birthday and I didn't expect it to be this elaborate. [Laughter, applause]. But as always, I want to express my appreciation to my wife Annette, and I want to tell all of you that as I blow out the candles tonight on my birthday cake, I will have a simple wish, that all of our 17 grandchildren and all the children all across the globe should have an opportunity to grow up in peace and dignity and friendship.

I'd like to share with you a psalm you all know, Psalm 19.

"The Heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hand. Day after day, they pour forth speech, night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their works to the end of the world. In the heavens, He has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect."

Senator SIMPSON. Mr. President and First Lady Hillary, and Vice President and President of our Senate, Al and Tipper. Distinguished guests, greetings to my fellow seekers and discoverers and wanderers, not necessarily in that order.

It is always a grand morning. One of the great honors of my life was to give the principal address at this National Prayer Breakfast in 1989. I was filled with trepidation that a seeker like me would be asked. The night before, the Reverend Billy Graham, one of the most loving, inspirational, caring men in this world, called and said, "Alan, we are praying for you." I said, "You're praying for me? I'm doing plenty of that for myself." But that's very typical of the Reverend Billy Graham.

Long ago in public life I learned where to turn when I didn't know where to turn. There's only one source for that.

The Senate prayer breakfast group gathers every Wednesday morning for a convivial hour between 8 and 9. Our leaders, Bob Bennett, Republican from Utah, Danny Akaka, Democrat from Hawaii, rare people, both of them. The presenter of the day, after an opening prayer, shares about themselves with us for 15 or 20 minutes, followed by a time of discussion and fellowship. Promptly at the hour of nine we close with a prayer as we stand with hands joined around the tables.

Sometimes the theme is the Bible. Sometimes it's public life. Sometimes it's about family and our jobs, but always it's about ourselves and the impact of that greater force in our lives, a higher being. All faiths there, all philosophies, all believers.

Those are always very moving times and we share much with each other and we gain much from each other. It helps us endure in the partisan and political world in which we have chosen to labor. Kindness, civility, tolerance, and forgiveness are all part of the essence of our gatherings. We try to put aside harsh judgment and criticism. I remember the words of a wonderful couplet that my mother used to share: "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, that it ill behooves any of us to find fault with the rest of us." I like that one. I knew you would.

We also talk about our human frailties. We talk about how easy it is to fall for the blandishments of flattery and be overcome by ego. I've often said that those who travel the high road of humility in Washington, D.C. are not troubled by heavy traffic. [Laughter.]

It is always a very uplifting time. And yes, actually too a time of sharing our own vulnerabilities. It was Will Rogers, our great American humorist, who said, "It's great to be great but it's greater to be human."

We are very privileged to be able to serve in the United States Senate, a special obligation. People do observe us. We are scrutinized, and we hope to do more than just talk a good game. We need to live the things we learn and share.

Let me close with a poem that is something we try to take from the weekly Senate prayer breakfast group and something we might hope to remember from this marvelous convocation today. That little poem, "We'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day. We'd rather you would walk with us than merely show the way. The eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear. Fine counsel is confusing, but example always clear. We can soon learn how to do it if you all let us see it done. We can watch you well in action but your tongue too fast may run. And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true, but we'd rather get our lessons by observing you."

There's the word for the day. God bless you all.

Senator BENNETT. Senator Al Gore was a regular attendee at the Senate prayer breakfast. Vice President Al Gore gets there as often as he possibly can. We are poorer for the fact that that is not as often as it used to be, but we're always glad to see the President of the Senate when he does show up at our prayer breakfast and we're honored and pleased to hear from him now. The Vice President of the United States.

Vice President AL GORE. Thank you, Senator Bennett and Mrs. Bennett, and Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Speaker, Congressman Geren and Mrs. Geren, Senator Nunn, who will deliver the message, and Mrs. Nunn, other members of the House and Senate here at the dais, other distinguished

guests at the dais and in the audience and in the overflow room. Let me especially welcome the international dignitaries who are with us this morning.

As Tipper and I stood outside the hotel early this morning, it was so cold that those who didn't know me well thought I was frozen stiff. [Laughter.] Three years ago at Christmastime I received from one of my children a gift that almost drove me to distraction. It was a book of graphic designs generated by a computer technique that contain a hidden pattern. How many of you have ever seen such designs? Those of you who have not, what I'm about to say won't mean much to you, but ask your children. They will tell you about these designs.

You're supposed to hold them very close to your face and focus your eyes on a distant point beyond the page. Then after a little time has passed, slowly take them away from your eyes, and if you do it just right, a design will spring into view in three dimensions.

I don't think I was doing it just right, and it took a number of tries before I finally resolved the technique. My children, by contrast, would flip through the pages, yep, there's that one, yep, there's that one. I would still be on the first one, trying to bring it into view.

I think prayer is a little bit like that experience. We try to focus on a more distant reality that has a deeper meaning, but it's difficult to be still and be patient and avoid the distraction of the business in our lives.

Men see on the surface. We're taught God sees on the inside. Jesus taught the kingdom of God is within. In Ecclesiastes we find the passage, "I applied mine heart to know and to search and to seek out wisdom and the reason of things."

In a world awash in information and busyness, there is always so much more we can know: the reason a child is suffering ten blocks from this hotel, the dreams of a nation an ocean away, the condition of our planet as it circles the sun. We seek wisdom wherever it may be.

Ecclesiastes also reminds us that, "wisdom strengthened the wise more than ten mighty men." With wisdom we may glimpse the future and shape its contours. We can fulfill responsibilities to neighbors and honor obligations to our children. With wisdom we can protect our earth and preserve its treasures.

So we ask God to give us the wisdom and courage to act on that which we have learned and give us too the strength to move forward. Give us the grace to be still, to lift up our eyes unto the hills, to take the time to ask, what would Jesus do, and to remember that He said, "Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to me." [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. As Congressman Geren indicated, Sonny Montgomery, Congressman from Mississippi, has been one of the pillars around which the House prayer breakfast group has been built over the years. Sonny has announced his retirement from the Congress, so we asked him to give the New Testament reading here at the National Prayer Breakfast.

Sonny, when you're through, don't leave because we have something we'd like to give you as a memento.

Representative MONTGOMERY. Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Gore, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Bennett, for giving me the opportunity to read two passages from the New Testament.

A few minutes ago Pete Geren talked about the House prayer breakfast group, and Thursday is the best day of the week for me because of the prayer breakfast. I could have not made it up here for 30 years without the House prayer breakfast being in the Congress.

Now, to do what I'm supposed to do, two readings from the New Testament. From the Living Bible, I Corinthians, chapter 13, verses 11 through 13. It is like this. "When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does, but when I became a man, my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away childish things. In the same way we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at His reflection in a poor mirror. But some day we are going to see Him in His completeness, face to face. Right now, all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart today. There are three things that remain: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love."

Now from the King James version, II Timothy, chapter 4, verses 6 through 8. Paul is writing to his spiritual son Timothy. "I am already being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only but to all who have loved His appearing." Amen, amen. [Applause.]

Representative GEREN. On behalf of the House prayer breakfast we have a presentation to make to Sonny. Sonny is truly the heart and soul of the House prayer breakfast. Sonny, I don't know what we're going to do without you. [Presents a Bible and reads the inscription]

"Sonny Montgomery, our wonderful friend and mentor for so many years. You help us with the things that count most in life. We are forever in your debt. Presented to Sonny Montgomery on the occasion of the 1996 National Prayer Breakfast by the House of Representatives prayer breakfast group."

Sonny, thank you very much. [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. After the program was printed, I received the following letter, addressed to the National Prayer Breakfast. "I deeply regret that my doctors, in spite of great improvement and the promise that I will be totally recovered within the next month, have urged me not to attend the meeting today. This will be one of the few times I have ever missed the National Prayer Breakfast since its inception, and I am going to greatly miss it."

"It is my prayer that uniting in the spiritual atmosphere will bring us together as a people, whatever our backgrounds, and strengthen the moral and spiritual values that we are dangerously close to losing. May God bless you all."

We assume, Dr. Graham, that you are watching on television, and we miss you. But we tell you you are in our prayers and thoughts and that we pray your recovery is as complete as you indicate the doctors have promised you it will be.

Now faced with this kind of a hole to fill, I did what you always do when you have a real problem. You go to your friends. Carol Moseley-Braun, Senator from Illinois, after her initial "whoop" at the suggestion that she would be standing in for Billy Graham, proved just how much of a friend she really is when she said, "Yes, Bob, I will do it."

In the tradition of the National Prayer Breakfast, where we always have a prayer for national and international leaders, we will now have the honor of having that prayer offered by the Senator from Illinois, Carol Moseley-Braun.

Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN. Thank you. Senator Bennett assured me that the charity of the people at the prayer breakfast would keep me from being run out of town while trying to substitute for the great Dr. Gra-

ham. Our prayers go out to him for his speedy recovery and full health.

Mr. President and Mrs. President, Mr. Vice President and Mrs. Vice President, Senator Bennett, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, let us pray.

Oh Lord, You have always called forth leaders in the world and we look to You to lift up among us those who will lead in righteous ways. Your servant Moses saw an oppressed people and, though he first fled from the path, led his people from oppression to freedom, from slavery into nationhood. Your servant David heard the taunting cry of an evil-spirited giant whose tyranny threatened to crush the struggling forces for good. Against such seemingly impossible strength but armed with your spirit, he brought justice.

Your servant, Your son, the Lord Jesus Christ, armed with only the truth of His teaching, showed His followers the light which has been the salvation of and the model for self-sacrificing and humble leadership for countless generations.

Lord, we seek Your face. Your world needs leaders who see oppression and lead us away from it, who can cut tyrants down to size and place their taunts behind us, who will offer not only their wisdom and their words but indeed, themselves in the service of people everywhere.

Clothe those who gather under the mantle of leadership in the world today with a proper scorn for tyranny, a priestly reverence for the lives of those for whom they speak, and the tender touch of the shepherd lifting up those who need him most.

Strengthen their eyes, make wise their minds, and fill their house with the resolve to seek and find an act upon the truth as they are privileged to know it in the service of the world You have created, and of the people whom You love.

Then shall the nations all rejoice in the reality of Your promise to heal this land and to grant peace on earth, good will to all. Father, we thank You for your grace and guidance and for Your many blessings. Make plain Your way and straighten our path, that our service and stewardship—that our stewardship of Your earth and our service of Your people may be pleasing in Your sight.

Bless the leaders here assembled, Your clergy, our President and Vice President, the leadership and membership of the Congress, the administration, the military, the international community all here assembled. May our prayers this day create an atmosphere for good all over your world, and the leaders of our time do honor to you.

These things in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Senator BENNETT. When the time came to make the decision as to whom we would call upon for the principal address at this prayer breakfast, we considered a number of names, and debated them and got excited about this one and that one, and then, well, maybe, and back and forth.

We would pray and then get back and talk again. Then in the midst of all of this conversation the name of Sam Nunn was mentioned, at which point we knew we didn't have to pray about it any more. He did, but we didn't. We knew we had the right fellow. It took a few weeks for him to decide that that was the case.

When I called the President to run the name by him—as a courtesy we always do that, to make sure that we get somebody that the President would feel comfortable with—I caught the President on a perhaps bad day. I'm not sure he has too many of the other kind, but while the President is always courteous, I could tell from the edge in his voice a little bit that there had been a lot of people who had been having that day. He

said after the pleasantries, "You called me," kind of a little bit defensive, like, what problem are we going to have now?

I said, "Mr. President, I'm calling to get your reaction to the possibility that we'll have Sam Nunn as the speaker for the National Prayer Breakfast." I could tell from the response in the President's voice that I had made his day; immediately he relaxed and said, "I think that's wonderful. I think that's remarkable."

So do all of the rest of us who know and love Sam Nunn. This is one of the outstanding public servants in America, and it is going to be our great privilege to hear from him now. [Applause.]

Senator NUNN. Thank you very much, Bob. President and Mrs. Clinton, Vice President and Mrs. Gore, fellow sinners—have I left anyone out? [Laughter.]

I say to my good friend Alan Simpson, Billy Graham called me also, Alan, and he said as he did in his message, he was praying for us all but he felt particularly compelled to pray for Alan Simpson and for me. Alan, I don't know what he meant by that, but you and I appreciate it.

A few years ago during the Brezhnev era, Dr. Billy Graham returned from a highly publicized trip to Moscow, and he was confronted when he returned by one of his critics with these words, "Dr. Graham, you have set the church back 50 years." Billy Graham lowered his head and replied, "I am deeply ashamed. I've been trying very hard to set the church back 2,000 years." [Laughter, applause.]

Today we represent different political parties, different religions, different nations, but as your invitation states, we gather as brothers and sisters in the spirit of Jesus, who lived 2,000 years ago and who lives in our hearts and minds even today. The first prayer breakfast was held in 1953, in a world of great danger. President Eisenhower was newly inaugurated and had just returned from Korea where our young soldiers were fighting desperately.

World communism was on the move. Eastern Europe and the Baltics were locked behind the Iron Curtain. All across the globe the lights of religion, freedom, and individual right were going out, and the specter of nuclear destruction loomed over our planet.

I wonder this morning how those who attended that first National Prayer Breakfast 43 years ago would have reacted if God had given them a window to see the world of the 1980s and the 1990s. They would have seen truly amazing things. Catholic nuns kneeling to pray in the path of 50-ton tanks, the power of their faith bringing down the Philippine dictatorship. The Iron Curtain being smashed, not by tanks of war but by the hands of those who built it and those who were oppressed by it. The Cold War ending not in a nuclear inferno but in a blaze of candles in the churches of Eastern Europe, in the singing of hymns and the opening of long-closed synagogues.

I believe that God gave Joseph Stalin the answer to his question: How many divisions does the Pope have? They would have also seen a black man in South Africa emerge from prison after 26 years and become President of his nation, personifying forgiveness and reconciliation; the first hesitant but hopeful steps toward peace between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East and between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. They would see that in 1996, we are blessed to live in a world where more people enjoy religious freedom than at any other time in history. Can we doubt this morning that a loving God has watched over us and guided us through this dangerous and challenging period?

During the early days of the Russian Parliament, known as the Duma, I joined sev-

eral other Senators in attending a meeting with a number of newly elected members of that body. The second day, a few of us were invited to a very small prayer breakfast with a group of Duma members who were just forming a fellowship. As in the larger meeting the day before, the breakfast discussion started with a degree of coldness and tension. One of the Russians, in obvious sadness and a little embarrassment, remarked that Russia was in great economic distress and that the United States was the only remaining super power. It was clear that this was a very sensitive point for them. It had been abundantly clear also the day before. Senator Dirk Kempthorne and I then pointed out that in a real sense there was only one real Super Power in the world, our Heavenly Father who watches over us all. The tension immediately eased, and the spirit of fellowship was built. And we prayed together to that Super Power, the God who loves us all.

Our world is a strange and tragic place. It's very ironic in many ways. The Cold War is over, but in a tragic sense, the world has now been made safe for ethnic, tribal and religious warfare and vengeance and savagery. Such tragedy has come to the people of Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, and Haiti and others.

At home, the pillar of our national strength, the American family, is crumbling. Television and movies saturate our children with sex and violence. We have watered down our moral standards to the point where many of our youth are confused, discouraged, and in deep trouble. We are reaping our harvest of parental neglect, divorce, child abuse, teen pregnancy, school drop-outs, illegal drugs and streets full of violence. It's as if our house, having survived the great earthquake we called the Cold War, is now being eaten away by termites.

Where should we turn this morning and in the days ahead? I believe that our problems in America today are primarily problems of the heart. The soul of our nation is the sum of our individual characters. Yes, we must balance the budget. And there are a lot of other things we need to do at the federal level. But unless we change our hearts, we will still have a deficit of the soul. The human inclination to seek political solutions for problems of the heart is nothing new. It's natural.

Two thousand years ago another society found itself in deeper trouble than our own today. An oppressive empire strangled liberties. Violence and corruption were pervasive. Many of the people of the day hoped for the triumphant coming of a political savior, a long expected king to establish a new, righteous government. Instead, God sent his son, a baby born in a stable.

Jesus grew up to become a peasant carpenter in a backwater town called Nazareth. He condemned sin, but he made it clear he loved the sinner. He befriended beggars and prostitutes and even tax collectors, while condemning the hypocrisy of those in power. He treated every individual with love and dignity and taught that we should do the same. He died like a common criminal on a cross and gave us the opportunity for redemption and the hope of eternal life. He also put the role of government in proper perspective when he said, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's."

Shortly after I announced that I would not seek reelection last fall, a reporter asked me, "You've been in this Congress for 24 years. What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?" I paused for a moment, and then I replied, "Keeping my family together and helping my wife Colleen raise two wonderful children, Michelle and Brian." [Applause.]

Well, upon hearing that, the reporter scoffed. He said, "Don't give me that soft, sound bite stuff. What laws did you get passed?" When he said that, I had several thoughts, only a couple of them I can share with you this morning. [General laughter.]

Four years ago, my daughter Michelle and a few of her friends started an organization in Atlanta called Hands On Atlanta, making it exciting and efficient and fun for young people to volunteer their time to help those in need. Now, about five years later, 10,000 volunteers each month render about 20,000 hours of personal one-on-one service. Now what laws have I passed that would have this impact?

I also thought about the difference between being a Senator and being a father. When we in the Senate make a mistake, we have checks and balances, 99 other Senate colleagues, plus the House of Representatives, plus the President, plus a final review by the Supreme Court. But when we as parents make a mistake, where are the checks and where are the balances?

Congress can pass laws cracking down on those who refuse to support their children, but we cannot force husbands to honor their wives, wives to love their husbands and both parents to nurture their children. Congress can pass laws on civil rights and equal rights, but we cannot force people of different races to love each other as brothers. Congress can promote fairness and efficiency in our tax code, but we cannot force the rich to have compassion for the poor. We can join with our Nato allies to separate the warring factions in Bosnia, as we're doing, and give them a breathing space as we're doing; but we cannot force Muslims, Croats and Serbs to live together as brothers in peace.

I recently heard a story on the radio. It happened in Bosnia, but I think it has meaning for all of us. A reporter was covering that tragic conflict in the middle of Sarajevo; and he saw a young, little girl shot by a sniper. The back of her head had literally been torn away by the bullet. The reporter threw down his pad and pencil and stopped being a reporter for a few minutes. He rushed to the man who was holding the child. He helped them both into his car. As the reporter stepped on the accelerator, racing to the hospital, the man holding the bleeding child said, "Hurry, my friend. My child is still breathing." A moment later, "Hurry, my friend. My child is still warm." Finally, "Hurry. Oh my God, my child is getting cold."

When they got to the hospital, the little girl had died. As the two men were in the laboratory, washing the blood of their hands and their clothes, the man turned to the reporter and said, "This is a terrible task for me. I must go tell her father that his child is dead. He will be heartbroken." The reporter looked up in amazement. He looked up at the grieving man and said, "I thought she was your child." The man looked back and said, "No, but aren't they all our children?"

Aren't they all our children? Yes, they are all our children. They are also God's children as well, as He entrusts us with their care. In Sarajevo and Somalia, in New York City, in Los Angeles and my home town of Perry, Georgia, and right here in Washington, DC, they are all our children.

In the book of Micah, the prophet asked, "Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" The cruelest aspects of our wars and our sins is what they do to our children. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of God." Too often today we shorten that commandment to: Suffer, little children. Mrs. Clinton, thank you for the great emphasis

you have put on children and the spotlight you have shined on our challenges. We are grateful. [Applause.]

And so the world is watching America today. People around the world are not just watching our President or our Congress or our economy or even our military deployment. They are watching out cities and our towns and our families to see how much we value our children and whether we care enough to stop America's moral and cultural erosion.

Do we in America in 1996, love our neighbors as ourselves, as explained by Bob Bennett as our theme for the morning and by Tom Lantos and his personal example? Now, I don't have the answer to these questions this morning, and I don't pretend to. These problems can only be solved in the hearts and minds of our people and one child at a time. I do have a few, however, observations.

The Cold War provided us with the clarity of purpose and the sense of unity as a people. Our survival as a nation was at stake. We came together, often in fear. The challenges that confront us today are different, far different; but the stakes are the same. I pray that our children, all of our children, will be the bridge that brings us together as a nation, not in fear, but in love.

Each year millions of our children are abused, abandoned, and aborted. Millions more receive little care, little discipline, and almost no love. While we continue to debate our deeply held belief as to which of these sins should also be violations of our criminal code, I pray that we as parents, as extended parents, and as communities, will come together and find a way to provide love and spiritual care to every mother and to every child, born or unborn. Government at every level must play a role. But I do not believe it will be the decisive role.

What then are our duties as leaders, not just in the world of politics and government, but in every field represented here this morning and through our land? Like basketball stars Charles Barkley and Dennis Rodman, we are role models whether we like it or not. I believe that the example we set, particularly for our young people, may be the most important responsibility of public service. We must demonstrate with our daily lives that it is possible to be involved in politics and still retain intellectual honesty and moral and ethical behavior. We are all sinners, so we will slip. And, yes, we will fall. But I have felt God's sustaining hand through every phase of my life, growing up in Perry, Georgia, raising a family, my relationship with my wife, Colleen, in Senate floor debates, in committee meetings, visiting our troops in war, or being a part of the mission for peace.

In the years ahead, when I think back on my public service, I am certain that the most cherished memories will be those moments spent with my colleagues in the Senate Prayer Breakfast and in my meetings with leaders from around the world in the spirit of Jesus.

I've also been blessed by many friends in the Senate and a small fellowship with a group of Senate brothers, like the late Dewey Bartlett, Republican of Oklahoma; Lawton Chiles, Democrat of Florida, Pete Domenici, Republican of New Mexico; Harold Hughes, Democrat of Iowa; and Mark Hatfield, Republican of Oregon. No one can accuse that group of being of like minds, politically. But these brothers have listened to my problems, they've shared in my joys, they've held me accountable, and they've upheld me in their prayers. Fellowship in the spirit of Jesus does amazing things. It puts political and philosophical differences, even profound differences, in a totally different perspective.

I believe that 2,000 years ago Jesus was speaking of each of us when He delivered His

Sermon on the Mount. And my prayer this morning for our leaders, and indeed for our whole nation, is the spirit of His words then. May we who would be leaders always be aware that we must first be servants. May we who compete in the arena of government and politics remember that we are commanded to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. And I can't find any exception for the news media or for our opponents. May we who seek to be admired by others remember that when we practice our piety before men in order to be seen by them, we will have no reward in Heaven. May we who have large egos and great ambition recall that the kingdom of Heaven is promised to those who are humble and who are poor in spirit. May we who depend on publicity as our daily bread recall that when we do a secret kindness to others, and when we don't try to tell everyone, then our Father, who knows all of our secrets, will reward us. May the citizens who we serve as stewards of government be sensitive to the fact that while we need their critiques, we also desperately need their prayers. May we never forget that the final judgment of our tenure here on earth will not be decided by majority votes and that an election is not required to bring us home.

God bless each of you. [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. We did all right, didn't we? [Applause.]

Thank you Sam, You have left us all in your debt.

Those who know me know that I am the son of a Senator. My father served for 24 years, and I ran his last two campaigns. When the time came for me to run for the Senate, I thought I understood what that was all about. I'd been all over the state. I'd spoken in every little town. I had shaken all the hands. And I'd done all of the things connected with managing a senatorial campaign. Well, one of the great discoveries that came to me when I became a candidate is that there is no experience that can prepare you for what happens when you are the candidate. It's entirely different. The pressures are different. The circumstances are different. The hurts, perhaps, are deeper when it's your name on the ballot than when you're campaigning for somebody else.

I have participated in a number of presidential campaigns. I think I know a little bit about what it's like to manage a presidential campaign. But from my own experience, I know that there can be only one person in this room who understands what it's like to be the President of the United States. The pressures, the challenges, the difficulties, the rest of us can only guess.

And so, I share with you my memory of President Clinton at his first National Prayer Breakfast, when I was sitting there as the brand new Senator, wondering what this was all about. He said something that I have hung onto ever since, and I think has great value for all of us. He referred to his oath of office, and then said when the oath was completed, he felt like saying, "So, help me, God."

That is a legitimate reading of that particular phrase, that only the President can fully understand. It's a great pleasure and honor for me now to pronounce the appropriate words of introduction: Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States. [Applause.]

President CLINTON. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Thank you very much, Senator Bennett, Vice President and Mrs. Gore, Mr. Speaker, Senator Nunn and the Members of Congress who are here, the Members of the Supreme Court, the Joint Chiefs, the other public officials, to our guests from around the world, and my fellow Americans.

Let me begin by saying that most of what I would like to have said on my best day was said better today by Sam Nunn. [Applause.]

All during his speech, I kept saying to myself, I'm more glad today that I prayed for him not to leave the Congress than I was the day I prayed for it, but I also know, with a heart and a mind and a spirit like that, there is a great, powerful service still awaiting Senator Nunn in whatever he should decide to do.

I thank Sam Nunn and Alan Simpson and my neighbor, Sonny Montgomery, and all those who are here retiring from the United States Congress this year for the service that they have rendered to their constituents and to the American people. [Applause.]

Hillary and I join all of you in praying for Billy Graham and for his wonderful wife, Ruth, and for their family.

I'm still glad to be here even though I don't think I need to say much now. I know one thing. We've got a lot to pray about here in Washington. We've got a lot of conflicts, we've got an abundance of cynicism, we have to worry about a loss of trust in public institutions all across the country. I disagree with Pete Geren. I think it was Harry Truman who said, "If you want a friend in Washington, you need to buy a dog." I think it was Benjamin Franklin that said, "Our enemies are our friends when they show us our faults." Well, as someone who has had more of his faults shown, real and imagined, than anyone else—[laughter]—I think we all have a lot of friends here in Washington. [Laughter and applause.]

I was thinking last night about what we really want out of this Prayer Breakfast, and I was up late reading, and I came across something that King David said in the 4th Psalm. You know, David knew something about leadership and courage and human failing. He said in his psalm to God, "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress."

So I pray that when we leave here today, by the words of Senator Nunn and the readings of the Scripture, the remarks of others, we shall all be enlarged in spirit, not only for our public work, but for our private trials. I look out here and I see friends of mine in both parties whom I know today have trials in their own families and challenges of the heart they must face. And we leave here in the prayer that we will be enlarged.

Sam Nunn talked about the family and what government cannot do. I ask that when we leave here, we say a prayer for our families, to lift up those who are working hard to stay together and overcome the problems they face, to lift up those who are helping others to make and to build families. It is a rewarding thing to see the divorce rate leveling off and the teen pregnancy rate going down, and the first indications that America may be coming back together around the values that made this a great nation. But we need to support those efforts.

There may not be much we can do here as lawmakers. Hillary said in her book that, " \* \* \* till death do us part" has often become, "till the going gets tough." It may be that it ought to be a little harder to get a divorce where children are involved. But whatever we do with the law, we know that ultimately this is an affair of the heart, an affair of the heart that has enormous economic and political and social implications for America, but most importantly, has moral implications because families are ordained by God as a way of giving children and their parents the chance to live up to the fullest of their God-given capacities. And when we save them and strengthen them, we overcome the notion that self-gratification is more important than our obligations to others. We overcome the notion that is so prevalent in our culture that life is just a series of responses

to impulses, and instead is a whole pattern with a fabric that should be pleasing to our God.

I applaud what Senator Nunn said about our children, for with them it is more true than in any other area of our life that it is in giving that we receive.

I ask that we pray for those who are trying to make strong our communities and our nation and our nation's connection to people of like minds and real needs around the world, for that, too, is a part of family life. We would be a better country if our communities and our country acted more like the best families, where we all played our part, including the government, where we all did for ourselves and tried to help each other.

Humanity's impulse is to reach outward to the poor and homeless in need; to the striving who seek a hand up, not a handout; to the stricken from here to the Middle East to Haiti to Bosnia; to the earth, which needs our help in preserving the temple God gave us.

Sometimes I think we forget in America how privileged we are to be looked to to extend the bonds of family beyond our border. When Hillary and I were served breakfast here today, the gentleman who was serving us leaned over and he said, "Mr. President, I am so grateful for what the United States did in Haiti. I came here 30 years ago from Haiti, but it is still my country and now it's free."

When I met the foreign dignitaries as I was going through the line, there standing before me was the mayor of Tuzla. For every American in uniform, he is now our mayor and we are a part of his family efforts to bring peace and freedom to all the people of Bosnia.

Galatians say, "Let everyone bear his own burden," and then just a couple of verses later says, "Bear one another's burden." Would God through St. Paul have given us such contradictory advice? No, I don't think so. I think being personally responsible and reaching out to others are the two sides of humanity's coin, and we cannot live full lives—we cannot be enlarged—unless we do both.

So I ask all of you, beyond praying for our families, to pray for us here in Washington to make the right decisions about how we should enlarge and strengthen the family of our communities, our nation and our ties to the world.

Finally, I ask you to pray for us to have a more charitable attitude toward one another, leaders and citizens alike. I was aghast and deeply saddened yesterday when I read in one of the newspapers all of us read around here, probably one we shouldn't some days, that a citizen of a state of this country had described one of his representatives in Congress as a heathen, a representative who is a genuine, true national hero. But I must say that the citizen would get a lot of ammunition for that just by watching the fights here.

What I want to say to all of you is that the disagreements we have had here in this last year have been very important and not just political and not just partisan. They have been part of the debate America must have as we move into a new era. But we need to conduct them with a great sense of humility. We need to show the right attitude toward those with whom we disagree, even when we feel wronged.

I received a letter a few days ago from a very devout Jew who is a good friend of the Vice President's and mine, and he was talking about injustice. He said, "In the matter of injustice, as awful as it is, it is always, always better to endure it than to inflict it."

We have to reach across these divisions. In these 50 hours of budget discussions the Speaker and I had with the Vice President

and Senator Dole and Senator Daschle and Mr. Gephardt and Mr. Arme, in some ways I wish all of you could have seen it because they were remarkably free of cant and politics. And I learned a lot; I owe them a lot. Believe it or not, we're not supposed to talk about what happened, but there were two different occasions where I found myself in the minority, but in agreement with Mr. Arme—on two issues. And I thought to myself, I can't let this get out, he'll lose his leadership position. [Laughter.]

Our friend Sonny Montgomery read that wonderful passage from Corinthians in his first reading. I would ask you to remember, all of you, how that passage is worded in the King James Bible. "Now we see through a glass darkly. Now I know in part." Every one of us is subject to error in judgment as a part of the human condition, and that is why the last chapter of that magnificent verse says, "Now abide these three—faith, hope and charity, and the greatest of these is charity." We need a charitable outlook in our feelings and our dealings toward those with whom we disagree because we do not know, as we are known by God.

So let us pray that our families will be stronger. Let us pray that the impact of our families and these values will help us as leaders to make our communities, our nation and our work in the world stronger. Let us pray for a stronger sense of humility in our own efforts and a much stronger sense of charity toward the efforts of others. Let us know always that the spirit of God is among us when we permit it to be.

When Hillary and I went to Ireland a few weeks ago and saw the yearning for peace there in the eyes of the Catholics and the Protestants, we had the honor to meet the Irish Nobel-Prize winning poet, Seamus Heaney, and I had the honor of quoting one of his wonderful lines in hoping that I really was there at a time when, to use his words, "hope and history rhyme."

This can be such a time, I am convinced, only—only—if we are charitable, if we are family and if we act according to the spirit of God. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Thank you. [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. Thank you, Mr. President, We are honored by your words as well as your presence and your wisdom, and we will try to live within the spirit of your counsel.

Let me be sure I get this correct because this may be the person with the most credentials of any of us in the room. Dr. Dorothy Height is the president of the National Council of Negro Women. Some study history, others debate it, but few represent it with the dignity and grace and magnificence of this living legend. She has been a close friend of both Eleanor Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, Jr. And she is unique in her ability to work with the poor and the oppressed while moving with grace and dignity among the leaders of our time.

DOROTHY HEIGHT. Let us all join hands and lift our hearts in prayer.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way, Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray, lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee. Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand true to our God, true to our native land.

Lord God, we thank You, for as we have gathered this morning in the spirit of Jesus Christ, our hearts have been touched, our souls invigorated, our lives challenged, our minds renewed, and our vision made clearer of Your great love for us all. Teach us to

practice every day that same love with one another across every line that for too long has separated and divided us. We need each other. Help us to know that we are of many nations, languages, tribes, cultures, but one race, the human race, which You alone have created.

Make us to see that if one of us is hungry, hurting, impoverished, malnourished, or the victim of war and violence, then as one people, that is where we all are. For as Martin Luther King, Jr., once reminded us, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Instill in us this day, oh Lord, an even greater commitment to love You, to love every neighbor as we love ourselves, and to beat our plowshares into pruning hooks as we study war no more.

And for this day and for this experience and for this challenge, we give You all the glory, the honor and the praise, and shall we all say Amen.

ALL. Amen.

TRIBUTE TO JACK M. STACK, M.D.

### HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, throughout his personal and professional life, Dr. Jack M. Stack has made significant contributions to promote the health and well-being of the people of Michigan.

Dr. Stack is board certified by both the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the American Board of Family Practice. A great deal of his practice in both specialties has been dedicated to caring for women, children, and families. But in addition to providing valuable primary health care for more than 30 years in Michigan's rural communities, Dr. Stack has taken a leadership role on national and international committees dedicated to improving the lives of women and children.

As a member of the Michigan State Medical Society, Dr. Stack has served on the Committee on Child Abuse Prevention, Committee on Health Insurance for the Uninsured, and Committee on Governmental Legislative Affairs. He has served as chairperson of Governor Milliken's first statewide Health Consumer's Conference and was keynote speaker at the Governor's Child Abuse Prevention Conference. Among his many other notable achievements, Dr. Stack has also served on the board of directors for the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health, is the past treasurer for the International Michigan Mental Health Advisory Council, and is the past vice president for the Mental Health Association in Michigan.

In addition to his many leadership roles, Dr. Stack has made significant contributions to the study of pregnancy loss and its impact on women and families. He has published more than two dozen articles relating to women's health and has shown great activism in supporting the many causes of the family.

Dr. Stack exemplifies the values and ethics we need within our medical profession. He is a committed doctor and has demonstrated outstanding leadership within the Michigan community. Throughout his career Dr. Stack has shown great courage and his work and dedication has had a profound impact on

many people. I am proud to recognize his contributions and work.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise to join my colleagues, Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Ms. DEGETTE, in celebrating the democracy that makes this Nation so unique. I join my colleagues in their efforts to strengthen the invaluable education that is provided by the We the People Program.

It is so critical that we raise our children to understand the pillars upon which this Nation was founded and still stands today. Our children need to know the history and principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. They need to understand how the American political traditions and institutions at the Federal, State, and local levels were created and function both in the past and present. Our children need to learn about the crucial steps our forefathers and mothers took to make this great democracy. And with this knowledge, our children will feel compelled to act with the civic responsibility it takes to make this an even stronger, greater Nation.

Through simulated congressional hearings and a national competition of such hearings for secondary school students, this Nation's children learn how this country ever became such an envied democracy by so many other countries. We must ensure that every school is provided with the opportunity to educate students on the history of our political system and the need for active civic participation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating and enriching the democracy that defines America by voting for the Burton-DeGette amendment.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education,

and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, BILL GOODLING, which will prevent the Department of Education from spending funds on its national testing proposal.

I can think of no other administration in recent years that has demonstrated a stronger commitment to and advocacy for public education in this country than the Clinton administration. The leadership of President Clinton and Secretary of Education Richard Riley has yielded positive results in the expansion and improvement of Federal education programs.

This is why I come to the House with some reluctance today to respectfully disagree with an initiative proposed by our administration to establish national tests at the fourth and eighth grade levels in reading and math.

The debate on national testing is not new. It has been around for decades. Presidential administrations have come and gone, advocates and opponents of national testing have changed, but the issues and concerns remain the same. I have taken a strong stand against national testing in the past and will do so again today.

The implementation of national tests does little to improve the education system of our country, and indeed may actually harm the very children we seek to help. It is based on an idea that improvement of our education system is dependent upon knowing where the problems are and who is doing poorly. Well, if this is the case, then we are already there, because we already know which schools are doing poorly and we know which children are having difficulty.

Our teachers make this assessment on a daily basis, and school districts and States already have a myriad of tests to determine whether students are meeting high academic standards. We don't need the Federal Government to tell teachers, parents and school administrators who is achieving and who isn't.

We do need the Federal Government to help school districts to provide the resources to assure that children who have difficulties have the help they need. The Federal Government can assist in eliminating the financial inequities that continue to exist among school districts and in providing resources to improve teacher training, math and science education, to rebuild and renovate our crumbling education infrastructure, to expand early childhood education, and to assure that students have up-to-date text books, lab equipment, and computer technology.

We have long held that issues of curriculum and tests should be the responsibility of each school district and State. In implementing tests and the corresponding curriculum school districts can provide appropriate oversight, coordination and safeguards. I fear that the temptation to use a national test established by the Federal Government, without appropriate safeguards could be misused for high-stakes purposes beyond their criterion, to track children because of low test scores. In its inception the proposed national test for all children would not test limited English proficient children and other special needs students.

The diversity of our country requires that we have locally driven education systems which

are flexible enough to meet the needs of our diverse population.

The guidance the Federal Government has provided up to the present is adequate and fulfilling. As the States identify the needs of their local schools the Federal Government needs to respond fully and quickly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
FRESNO BEE

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fresno Bee for receiving the first-place General Excellence award from the Newspaper Publishers Association. The Fresno Bee has been instrumental in providing news and information to the Central San Joaquin Valley.

The California Newspaper Publishers Association awarded the Fresno Bee with its highest honor on July 19, 1997. This General Excellence award was presented to newspapers with a circulation of 75,000 to 200,000 recipients. The Bee's coverage of a September Presidential visit and a series on troubled municipal bonds contributed to the winning of this highest honor.

The Fresno Bee was also awarded first place awards in several individual categories by the association. Specifically, writer Jim Wasserman's story on child organ transplants won first place for a feature story. Photographer Hector Amezcua's essay complimenting Wasserman's story also took top honors for photography. Finally, Severiano Galvan was recognized for his illustration and graphic art.

The Fresno Bee has a daily circulation of more than 150,000 and a Sunday circulation of 190,000. The Bee is the paper of record throughout the Fresno metropolitan area, which includes all of Fresno County as well as the communities of Visalia, Hanford, Madera, and Mariposa. As part of McClatchy Newspapers, the Fresno Bee has diverse information resources that both educate and inform the people of Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the Fresno Bee. This publication exemplifies leadership in reporting news and information. I extend to the Bee my appreciation for a job well done.

HONORING LAWRENCE H. COOKE, A  
MAN OF JUSTICE

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues from New York and around the country to join me in honoring the former chief judge of the State of New York, Lawrence H. Cooke. Judge Cooke is a man who has served his State, his nation, and his community with a passion and dedication to fairness and justice for all Americans.

Lawrence Cooke went from being a country lawyer in his beloved Sullivan County to the

very pinnacle of the legal profession by becoming the chief judge of the New York Court of Appeals. He is and remains one of those most respected jurists of this century. While he scaled the very loftiest of positions as a judge, he is also known for retaining his common touch, his ability to relate to and converse with ordinary people about their concerns. This is all too rare a gift.

Mr. Speaker, on September 21, 1997, Judge Cooke will be honored by the people of Sullivan County by the naming of the Lawrence H. Cooke Sullivan County Courthouse in Monticello. I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating and applauding the life and work of this distinguished jurist, Lawrence H. Cooke.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September 21–27 as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. There are presently 104 historically black institutions of higher learning throughout the United States. These cornerstones of African-American education have played an integral role in the lives of African-Americans and in American history.

Historically black colleges and universities have set a precedent for providing quality instruction and valuable, lifelong experiences to students who are often underprivileged and under-represented. These students are taught to serve as successful, productive citizens and trained to compete in our global economy and work force. Though oftentimes faced with adversity, historically black colleges and institutions provide students with the opportunity to broaden their horizons and to reach their fullest potential.

So, Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating and celebrating a legacy and tradition of the excellence, determination, strength, and perseverance of historically black colleges and universities during September 21–27.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, LANSING, MI

**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of St. Stephen's Community Church.

Founded in the fall of 1987, St. Stephen's began as an interdenominational church whose doctrine focuses on spiritually rooted in African-American religious tradition, with an emphasis on community outreach and volunteerism. In 1990, they became affiliated with the United Church of Christ, a progressive denomination that embraces and celebrates multiracial, cultural, and ethnic background.

Guided by Rev. Dr. Michael C. Murphy, the congregation lives by the proverb, "Where There Is No Vision, the People Perish." This is evident in their passion to make a real difference in the community. From their spiritual and community leadership to their involvement in many local charitable projects, the St. Stephen's Community Church is an important local institution dedicated to the Lansing community.

We are proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the St. Stephen's Community Church and congratulate their 300 member congregation. We thank them for their activism and we thank them for their vision.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize James W. Almand, A. Russell Bobo, John S. Chaperon, Rick DeGraff, Robert C. Fobes, Frederick W. Leonhardt, William Pinto, Jerome Schechter, William Crampton, and James D. Turk. It is my honor to pay tribute to these gentlemen on the occasion of their visit with me in our Nation's Capital today. It has been my privilege to know each of these individuals for the past three decades. We all had the good fortune of attending the University of Florida together and being part of Delta Chi Fraternity.

Though we have been separated by distance and circumstance over the past years, we have always been together both in memory, spirit, and fraternal bond.

As a Member of Congress, I am pleased today to welcome Jim, Russ, Bill, John, Rick, Bob, Fred, Jerry, Bill, and Don. These gentlemen, who I am pleased to call by friends, are each outstanding family men and most valuable contributors to their respective communities.

I welcome each of them to the U.S. Congress and the House of Representatives. It had been my great honor in life to know each of these gentlemen as my friend and fraternal brother.

BILL TO AMEND THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT RELATING TO TREATMENT OF CERTAIN RECREATIONAL BOATERS ENTERING FROM CANADA

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will simplify procedures for recreational boaters entering the United States from Canada. The purpose of the bill is to make it easier for boat owners and their guests to cross between Canada and the United States for recreation and tourism purposes. Specifically, my bill would authorize the Attorney General to permit United States citizens traveling as passengers in small pleasure craft to enter the United States from Canada without obtaining a landing permit and would eliminate the fee for those permits known as I-68.

The I-68 Program was established in 1963 to facilitate convenience for boaters coming from Canada to the United States. It allows United States citizens, lawful permanent residents of the United States, and Canadian nationals to enter by boat along the northern border of the United States without reporting to a designated port of entry, so long as they have obtained an I-68 permit. It applies only to those traveling in boats of less than 5 net tons. Under this program, Canadian nationals may enter the United States for a period of not more than 72 hours and must remain in areas adjacent to the immediate shore.

For 32 years, the I-68 permit was issued annually to eligible boaters without any fee. In 1995, however, the Immigration and Naturalization Service began requiring a fee of \$16 for individuals, or \$32 for a family. The INS advises me that, although the I-68 was issued gratis prior to 1995, they believe that a user fee statute that has been in effect since 1952 requires the imposition of a fee absent congressional direction to the contrary.

The INS regulations implementing the I-68 Permit Program impose a costly and unnecessary burden for many recreational boaters. The regulations require each guest of a boat owner, who is not a member of his or her family, to travel to an immigration office during business hours to complete the I-68 application and pay the required fee. This requirement is virtually impossible to implement.

As a consequence, United States businesses along the Great Lakes' borders, such as Youngstown, NY, have seen a great reduction in revenue due to the decline in tourism caused by this regulation. Prior to imposition of the fee in 1995, 10,002 I-68 permits were issued, compared to only 1,091 permits issued in 1996 after imposition of the fee. In other words, the permits in 1995 were about 1,000 percent, or 10 times greater than in 1996.

My bill would address these problems in two ways. First, it would permit the Attorney General to exempt U.S. citizen passengers from obtaining an I-68 permit or submitting to inspection at a port of entry. Boat owners and operators, who are likely to make repeated trips across the border, would still be required to obtain an I-68 permit at the beginning of the boating season. The permit holder would be responsible for ensuring that all passengers on his or her vessel are U.S. citizens or have a valid I-68 permit.

Second, my bill would permit the Attorney General to issue I-68 permits without imposing a fee, as they has been for the first 32 years of the program's existence. These fees act as a deterrent to boaters in obtaining the permit, particularly in light of the fact that Canada does not require such a fee for entry. Moreover, the amount of revenue generated by such fees is negligible—only \$33,816 in all of fiscal year 1996. In my judgment, after consultation with western New York border businesses, the amount of business lost in the U.S. border areas far transcends that meager amount.

This bill will allow the I-68 Program to achieve its intended purpose of affording pleasure boaters a convenient means of entering the United States while preserving the integrity of our borders. It is my hope that the Attorney General will implement these provisions by amending Immigration and Naturalization Service Regulations governing the I-68 Program.

CONGRATULATING USUHS ON ITS  
25TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, last year this House overwhelmingly endorsed and recognized the important role of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in maintaining the health and readiness of our Nation's Armed Forces. Today I am proud to congratulate this fine institution, located in my congressional district in Bethesda, MD, on its 25th anniversary.

Public Law 92-426 established USUHS in 1972 to ensure continuity and leadership for uniformed medicine. USUHS has graduated 2,470 military medical officers; 2,276 of them continue in active duty today, constituting 17 percent of Department of Defense's physician force.

USUHS has met every goal and mission envisioned by the founders of the remarkable institution, the West Point of military medicine. The overall USUHS retention rate is an incredible 93 percent. Of those who have completed their original obligation, 85 percent continue on active duty in service to their Nation.

The high level of performance and deployability of USUHS graduates was validated during congressional hearings in 1994. The three Surgeons General and USUHS graduates who served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm testified that USUHS physicians were immediately deployable to combat areas and aptly utilized combat, field sanitation, unconventional warfare, and preventive medicine training.

In addition, USUHS provides products and services to DOD that should be recognized and factored in to the cost-effectiveness of the University: one, the newly accredited Graduate School of Nursing provides family nurse practitioners and registered nurse anesthetists for the Federal Nursing Chiefs; two, the Office of Graduate Medical Education provides consultation on internship, residency, and fellowship training programs for DOD and is the administrative office for the National Capital Military Medical Education Consortium; three, the Graduate Education Programs have granted over 444 graduate degrees; and four, in 1996, the Office of Continuing Education for Health Professionals [CHE] provided 107 accredited programs with an attendance of 3,500 physicians and 3,031 nurses. USUHS CHE generated cost-avoidance for DOD by eliminating extensive travel expenses and time away from the hospitals and clinics. In 1996, the Military Training Network, part of CHE, developed and implemented policy guidance and ensured compliance with curriculum and administrative standards for resuscitative and trauma medicine training programs for 242,663 DOD personnel.

Those who say that the university is too expensive are wrong. The cost-effectiveness of USUHS should be judged based on all of the products and services it provides to the Nation. The General Accounting Office report of September 1995 substantiated that USUHS costs are comparable to scholarship costs based on expected years of service and all Federal costs. And, this conclusion was reached by GAO without considering all of the

other products and services provided by USUHS.

The facts demonstrate that USUHS has more than met its mandated mission. There is no doubt that the university is providing a corps of career-oriented, dedicated, military medical officers who will lead the military health care system into the 21st century.

In conclusion, I want to recognize and congratulate the superb faculty and staff of USUHS for a job well done. Happy Anniversary to our Nation's Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND  
EDUCATION AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, the Hoekstra amendment, HA 356, bars the use of Federal funds to pay for an election officer to continue overseeing the election of any officer or trustee of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The Government has already spent about \$17 million to oversee the Teamsters' 1996 election because the Bush administration's 1989 consent decree obligated the Government to do so. The consent decree, signed by the Government in 1989 said:

"The union defendants consent to the Election officer, at Government expense, to supervise the 1996 IBT elections."

The election officer concluded on August 21, 1997 that the 1996 election had to be run again because the election protests filed with the officer uncovered campaign misconduct that, she concluded, "could have persuaded at least a small percent" of the voters and "affected the outcome."

Given these facts, Mr. HOEKSTRA'S amendment, if enacted, bars funding necessary to supervise the court ordered re-run of the 1996 election.

The election officer has explained why she thinks we need to proceed with this re-run election:

[T]he election of International officers is the clearest expression of the control of the members over their Union; it is also the key to insuring that organized crime, employers, or any other outsiders do not use the Union for their own purposes. To avoid a rerun because of the disruption it brings could allow this union to lose its most valuable resource: the support, participation, and confidence of its membership. Such a result cannot be allowed.

A study of the recent history of the Teamsters shows we have come a long way in our effort to rid this union of mob influence.

In 1986, former Chief Circuit Judge Irving R. Kaufman, the chair of President Reagan's

Commission on Organized Crime, concluded that the mob's influence of the Teamsters was both intrusive and pervasive and insisted that President Reagan prosecute the Teamsters and use of civil RICO statute to take over the union.

In 1989, the Bush administration entered into a consent decree, the one I've mentioned already, that permitted the Federal district court to take over the union, to appoint a monitor, and to appoint an election officer. This consent decree also changed the Teamsters' constitution, providing for the unprecedented direct election of the Teamsters' top officers by the rank and file members.

By 1989, we had learned some hard lessons when we had not been vigilant in the supervision of union elections. The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations was highly critical of one union election, after 20 months of a government trusteeship, that resulted in the mob-dominated union officers being replaced by a slate allegedly tied to these same officers. Thus, the scrutiny of the Teamsters' election was intense.

The Bush administration's consent decree split the anticipated burden of the first two elections, requiring that the Teamsters pay the \$21 million necessary to run the first election in 1991, and that the Government pay the cost of second election.

Therefore, I believe we are legally obligated by the consent decree, agreed to by the Bush administration. This House can not support the Hoekstra amendment without being in contempt of a court order.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VAROUJAN  
BALOTIAN, TAMAR KATAROYAN,  
AND MANO HANDIAN**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three outstanding individuals from the Armenian General Athletic Union. These individuals exemplify leadership in their organization that has earned them the Homenetmen Member of the Year Award, Athlete of the Year Award, and Scout of the Year Award.

The Armenian General Athletic Union serves the sporting needs of Fresno's Armenian community with competitive tournaments that emphasize fraternity and shared accomplishment. Fresno's chapter has nine competitive teams that participate in events statewide, as well as a Boy Scout Troop.

This year's recipient of the Homenetmen Member of the Year was Varoujan Balotian. Balotian is one of the founding members of the Fresno chapter and is also one of the first members of the central executive committee. Balotian's guidance and dedication has shaped the Armenian General Athletic Union into the fine organization that it is today. However, Balotian's success is not limited to the union, as he is a long-time manager at one of Fresno's finest mens stores.

Athlete of the Year was awarded to 18-year-old Tamar Kataroyan. This award is presented to only one athlete from a random selection between the 16 chapters in the western region. Kataroyan has been involved in all aspects of the organization including the coaching of youth and participation in tournaments.

Kataroyan's excellence in basketball has taken her all the way to the 5th Annual World Olympics in New York and has also secured her a full basketball scholarship at UC Irvine.

Mano Handian was recognized as Scout of the Year. He is a scout for the Union's own Troop No. 12. He has accomplished a great deal for himself and the Armenian General Athletic Union. He was born in Lebanon and currently attends Fresno City College. His fine leadership over the organization's Boy Scouts, Explorers, and Cub Scouts has earned him this high honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate these three individuals. I commend Varoujan Balotian, Tamar Kataroyan, and Mano Handian on their accomplishments in the Armenian General Athletic Union and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them.

**BILL REGARDING SALLIE MAE  
BOND REFINANCING**

**HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation to correct an unfair practice that is occurring as a result of the privatization of Sallie Mae.

While Sallie Mae was a Government-sponsored enterprise, it purchased tax-exempt municipal bonds issued by public colleges and private universities. Now that Sallie Mae is being privatized, it has adopted a policy of allowing its clients to waive the redemption premiums for those bonds, but only if the clients use Sallie Mae's private subsidiary as an investment banker for the transaction. I would have no objection to this business practice if the bonds in question were acquired after privatization. However, having acquired the bonds as a Government-sponsored enterprise, Sallie Mae has an advantage that private investment bankers cannot match. The tie-in requirement to qualify for this sweetheart arrangement, which no private competitor can match, is simply unfair.

The legislation I introduced today would prohibit Sallie Mae from conditioning the waiver of redemption premiums related to pre-1997 bonds on the use of its subsidiary, so that all broker-dealer firms can have the same opportunity to compete for the business of handling refinancing of Sallie Mae securities.

**TRIBUTE TO JIM AND CAROL  
BAUM**

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Jim and Carol Baum, the owners and operators of Baum's, Inc. in Morris, IL. The Baum's have been named the 1997 Illinois Retail Merchants of the Year.

Baum's Department Store has been an institution in my hometown of Morris since 1874. Jim and Carol have been running the business

since the 1960's. Jim serves as the president and CEO, while Carol serves as the chief buyer and merchandise manager.

Both Baum's are extremely active in the Morris community. Many people often wonder how they have time to operate such a successful business. Jim, a veteran, serves on the board of the Grundy County National Bank, and is active in the chamber, many of the local community development organizations, the Morris Hospital, and our schools. Carol is active in the Presbyterian Church of Morris, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Morris Women's Club.

I have had the pleasure of working with Jim on many local issues and projects important to the area. Jim has been recognized, and deservedly so, for his strong commitment and success in revitalizing the Morris riverfront area.

The Baum's have been generous in sharing their wealth of experience as retailers on both a national level and the local level. Jim has served as a guest speaker and seminar presenter on many occasions throughout the country. Many of my colleagues may have run into Jim Baum within the halls of Congress during one of Jim's trips to Washington to lobby on behalf of his fellow retailers. Locally, Jim runs the local morning coffee hour in our hometown of Morris. This is where the who's who talks about what is really happening.

It is truly fitting that this outstanding couple is being honored by their peers as the Retail Merchants of the Year. They are both true leaders who have given back more to their community than could ever have been expected. I wish both Jim and Carol Baum continued success in all their endeavors.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DOROTHY  
(DOT) SLAMIN HILL**

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the pleasures of serving in this great body is the opportunity to recognize the exceptional individuals of our Nation. I rise today to pay tribute to such a person, Ms. Dorothy (Dot) Slamin Hill, for her many contributions to the City of Waltham, MA. This evening there will be a dinner honoring Dot for her 50 years as leader of the American Legion Post 156 Marching Band, as well as her outstanding public service to her neighbors.

I would like to add my congratulations to Dot on this special occasion and want to take this time to briefly touch on her many achievements. In 1933, Dot became the first woman to win the American Legion National Drum Major Competition. Over the years, she has led the American Legion Post 156 Marching Band in many prestigious events, such as the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland in 1984, and the Moscow May Day Parade in 1990. She has served as Commander of the American Legion Post 156 for 5 terms and is the permanent Massachusetts representative to the American Legion National Convention.

In addition to her many accomplishments with the American Legion, Dot has compiled a very distinguished record of community activism. She has taken a great interest in the

youth of her community, serving on the Waltham School Committee and on the board of directors of the YMCA. Dot was also the first woman member of her local Kiwanis Club, and has dedicated her time to many civic activities, including Waltham Community Access Television, and the Waltham Senior High Scholarship Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you, and the other Members, join with me in honoring Dot for her many years of devotion to her community and acknowledge her exemplary service as a role model and civic leader.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TIM AND  
CHARLOTTE TRAVIS**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on September 23 of this month, Tim and Charlotte Travis of Brighton, CO, will receive the Colorado Sports Couple of the Year award from the downtown Denver chapter of Ducks Unlimited. This is the very same chapter that Tim founded nearly 20 years ago when he first became affiliated with the organization.

In recent years, the Travis' have increased the amount of money they have been able to donate to Ducks Unlimited and the Denver chapter has expressed their gratification by extending them this honor. The Denver chapter will also be creating a wetlands project in eastern Colorado which will be dedicated in the Travis' name.

I too, would like to extend my gratification to the Travis' for their many years of giving to this organization as well as to the sporting way of life which we treasure in the great State of Colorado.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO COL.  
RONALD T. KELLY, USAF**

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication, public service, and patriotism of Col. Ronald T. Kelly, U.S. Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement after a career of faithful service to our Nation. Col. Ron Kelly's strong commitment to excellence will leave a lasting impact on the vitality and capability of our Air Force war fighters. This commitment and the manner in which he fulfilled it commands admiration and respect from his military and civilian colleagues alike.

Colonel Kelly, a 1970 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy is serving his last assignment in the Air Force as Chief of the Air Force Special Operations Division, Directorate of Operations and Training, Deputy Chief of Staff Air and Space Operations, in the Pentagon.

After he completed undergraduate navigator training as a distinguished graduate in 1971, he flew as a C-130 squadron navigator at Forbes AFB, KS, in the 48th Tactical Airlift Squadron. In 1972 he was selected to upgrade to an MC-130 combat Talon navigator

and served in the 1st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan until December 1973. From 1974 to 1976 he was an instructor navigator at Mather AFB, CA, flying the T-29 and T-43 aircraft.

He attended the School of Engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright Patterson AFB, OH, and received a master's of science degree in astronautical engineering in 1977. He followed with a directed duty assignment to Sunnyvale AFS, CA where he became the Deputy Mission Director for Low Altitude Satellite Programs at the Air Force Satellite Control Facility.

He returned to flying duties in special operations in 1981 and became operations officer for the 8th Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, FL, flying the MC-130E.

From 1985 to 1986 he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair and was subsequently assigned to the Pentagon in 1986.

He served as the special operations programmer on the Air Staff and was the primary implementer for major force program 11 for the Air Force. In November 1987 he was selected to be the first military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. While in this office, he worked as the Assistant for Resources and Assistant for Logistics.

In 1991 he returned to Hurlburt Field, FL, as the Director of Acquisition Management for Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command where he supervised the acquisition of Air Force resources in support of special operations. He was assigned to his present job as the Chief of the Special Operations Division in August 1993.

Colonel Kelly is a master navigator with over 4,000 hours total flight time of which 380 hours were in combat. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster. He has also been awarded the Senior Missileman Badge.

He is married to the former Pamela Stark of Sacramento, CA. They have a daughter Erin who is a freshman at James Madison University and a son Sean who is a freshman at Oakton High.

Our Nation, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Air Force, and his family can truly be proud of the colonel's many accomplishments. He is a true gentleman of extraordinary talent and integrity. While his honorable service will be genuinely missed in the Department of Defense, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Col. Ronald T. Kelly before my colleagues and wish him all of our best in his future endeavors.

THE CHARITABLE GIVING RELIEF  
ACT

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, along with my Ways and Means colleagues, Mr. COYNE, Mr. HERGER and Mrs. THURMAN, entitled the "Charitable

Giving Relief Act." This legislation will provide a deduction for charitable contributions for those who do not itemize deductions on their tax returns.

Specifically, the bill will allow nonitemizers, whose cumulative annual charitable contributions exceed \$500, to deduct 50 percent of any charitable contributions made over that amount. Under current law, while nonitemizers receive the standard deduction, the only taxpayers who can specifically deduct the value of their charitable contributions are those taxpayers who itemize deductions. The most recent figures find that nonitemized returns number 84 million compared to 34 million itemized returns. Nonitemizers, by any measure, are middle- and lower-middle-class taxpayers, who, despite the fact that they do not receive a deduction for such contributions, give generously to charitable causes. It is my understanding that on average nonitemizers give roughly \$500 in charitable contributions, again, without the benefit of tax deductions.

As we look to next year and the consideration of additional tax relief legislation, I believe there is no group of taxpayers more deserving of tax relief than those who give of what little they have to help other worthy endeavors and charitable causes. While those who itemize are directly rewarded for their efforts, those that do not itemize are not rewarded. The legislation I am introducing today will ensure that those who make considerable contributions to the nonprofit community are rewarded, at least to some extent, by the Tax Code.

For those who might suggest that nonitemizers are rewarded by virtue of the fact that the standard deduction for nonitemizers is intended to incorporate some degree of charitable contributions, I would respond by pointing to the figures mentioned earlier. Indeed, the standard deduction is, in effect, designed to take into account the average cumulative basket of those expenditures, including charitable contributions, that might otherwise be considered as individually itemized deductions. However, since my legislation is designed to provide a partial deduction—50 percent—for those nonitemizers who contribute more than the average amount to charity, such a concern would certainly appear to be something less than compelling.

Finally, I would note that while in my view, donations to charity are primarily motivated by altruistic concerns, those that give can be sensitive to tax considerations. Independent Sector, the largest national association for nonprofits, strongly believes this legislation will encourage additional giving to the charitable-nonprofit sector. My colleagues, whether you believe that we need to reward those that give, or believe that this type proposal will encourage more giving, this bill deserves your consideration and support. Americans are the most generous people in the world, and I hope to reward and continue this tradition with today's introduction of the Charitable Giving Relief Act.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, we must stop this trend of escalating numbers of young girls becoming pregnant and raising children when they have hardly escaped childhood themselves. It is imperative that we as leaders address the Nation's problem of teenage pregnancy with the most practical and effective strategies, the most important of which is education.

An accurate and informative education on pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases is not being provided to those who are the most vulnerable and are in the most need of this information. Parents, legal guardians, and other adults influencing children should emphasize healthy and responsible sexual development and decisionmaking, yet study after study of adolescent youth demonstrates that this is lacking in the home. In addition to family, poverty, sexism, and economic disenfranchisement are critical factors shaping the ability of teenagers to make decisions and yet, teenagers have little influence on any of these areas. What adolescents need, and are provided by the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, are the knowledge and confidence to make the best decisions despite, and in light of, these factors.

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program is designed to implement and evaluate a range of interventions that promote healthy sexual development and reduce teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. The program also focuses on decreasing the incidence of pregnancies to teenagers by increasing the proportion of teens who delay the initiation of sexual activity, and who effectively use contraception.

We all know that teenage childbearing robs not only the young parents of a better future, but the baby as well. That is why we must work together to ensure that the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program can continue its work to buck the current trend of increasing teen pregnancy. And that is why we must pass the Pelosi amendment.

LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Luzerne County Community

College, which is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its founding this month. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this significant celebration.

In 1965, the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners took a very bold step. They adopted a resolution to sponsor a 2 year college which would be affordable to all Luzerne County residents. A study was needed and the board called upon the County Board of School Directors to initiate planning of the project. In less than a year, an application was made to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education for permission to establish and operate a community college. The State board granted permission in September 1966.

Two months later, Luzerne County Community College was officially in operation. A board of trustees was formed and a president was appointed to lead the college. On October 2, 1967 the college opened its doors for the first time in small quarters located next to the Hotel Sterling in downtown Wilkes-Barre. The college's first class of 195 students graduated in May 1969.

Mr. Speaker, the foresight of the County Commissioners; Ed Wideman, William G. Goss and James B. Post, 30 years ago has made it possible for more than 13,000 young people to begin a college career or earn a 2 year degree for professional advancement. Over 200 area businesses employ Luzerne County Community College alumni.

In 1974, the college moved to its present impressive campus in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. This modern campus includes an educational conference center, general academics building and two technical arts buildings with state of the art labs and classrooms. The campus also includes medical and dental arts facilities and the newest addition, the advanced technology center.

Mr. Speaker, Luzerne County Community College has come a long way since its humble beginnings in downtown Wilkes-Barre 30 years ago. I am extremely proud to join with the community in commending the board of trustees, management, and staff of the college in providing educational opportunity to thousands of area residents. I would also like to recognize the Luzerne county commissioners who have continued to play an active role in supporting this important educational institution.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring the history of this fine institution to the attention of my colleagues and send my sincere best wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JACOB GEORGE  
HUDSON

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, this coming Sunday, September 21, will be the 80th birthday of a truly outstanding American, my constituent, Jacob George Hudson.

Mr. Hudson is affectionately known by all of his friends and neighbors as "Shag." He has been one of the leaders in Loudon County and throughout the State of Tennessee for many years.

Shag Hudson served for 28 years on the Loudon County Commission, from 1954 to

1982. During this time, he performed marriages for over 3,000 couples.

He was also well known as a fighter for low taxes and as one who tried to make sure that the citizens got their moneys' worth for their tax dollars.

Mr. Hudson has proudly operated a farm in the Greenback community for the past 65 years, raising beef cattle and working as a self-employed cattle broker.

He served with great distinction for 5 years as a member of the State Committee of Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service from 1987 to 1992.

He began serving the Merchants and Farmers Bank in 1973 and presently serves as a director of Union Planter Bank.

He has been a member of Greenback Masonic Lodge for 49 years, and he is a master mason.

He has been a member of the Loudon County Farm Bureau since 1944, and he has been a member and director of the Loudon County Livestock Association since 1970.

He also serves as a director of Tellico Area Services System, and he has been church treasurer, elder, and deacon at First Presbyterian Church of Greenback.

Shag Hudson's greatest pride and joy is not in his community service, however, as great as that has been. Rather, it is in his family. He has been married to his wife, Willie Dixon, for over 56 years. They are the proud parents of two children, a daughter, Brenda Powell and son, Ronald Hudson. His son-in-law is John Powell and daughter-in-law, Judy Hudson.

He is even prouder of his grandchildren, Scott and Eric Powell and Kelly, Kent, and Leigh Hudson.

I wanted to inform my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD about the life and career of Shag Hudson. This country would be a far better place if we had more citizens like Jacob George Hudson, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to wish him a very happy 80th birthday, and best wishes for many more.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. KIND of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, we only have a few weeks left before we adjourn this year. Now is the time to allow a vote on campaign finance reform legislation.

Today we are participating in a civil, bipartisan discussion of reforming the House Ethics Committee. It is refreshing to see respected Members of both parties engage in a dialog about how to improve the ethics process and ultimately restore some respect and dignity to this great institution. I believe the same thing can happen with campaign finance reform. If the Members of this House put aside partisan rhetoric we can fix the current system with honest, bipartisan reforms that puts no party at a disadvantage and restores some faith in this institution.

However, we cannot reach a compromise if we don't consider the bills in committee or on the floor. Those of us waging this war are reduced to 1-minute speeches in the morning, parliamentary antics during the day, and floor

speeches at night when the rest of this body has gone home. It is unfair and embarrassing that we have to pay these games to be heard in the House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker please allow this issue to come to the floor and be given the kind of open, honest debate that this institution deserves.

RECOGNIZING PEORIA, AZ, VFW  
POST 2135 FOR OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE

**HON. BOB STUMP**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to Peoria VFW Post 2135, in my home State of Arizona, for being recognized again for their outstanding youth activities program.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce to my colleagues that Post 2135 was recognized last month at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Salt Lake City, as the winner of the VFW Youth Activities Award. Post 2135 is the first VFW post in the Nation to win this award for 3 consecutive years.

Some of the many and varied youth activities undertaken by VFW posts nationwide are well known to many of us, and include Youth Essays, Voice of Democracy, and Patriotic Art programs.

The winning program must meet several criteria. These include participation in a variety of youth activities offered within the local community, and documenting any communitywide youth activity with news clippings, photographs, testimonial letters. This collection serves to outline the scope of a post's participation in the six major National Youth Program categories. These categories are sports/athletics, scouting/organizations, contests/special events, educational/instructions, recognition and projects.

With nearly 10,000 VFW posts nationwide, it's only a special post with a special membership that can win the coveted award for 3 consecutive years. Peoria Post 2135 has that kind of membership. I can think of no finer embodiment of the essence of the veteran's voluntary spirit than that of Mr. Vincent Rigo, who was in Utah to accept the award on behalf of the 326 members of Post 2135. He's been described as a "renaissance man" for the number of post service positions that he has held. Certainly, without him, and the many others like him in Post 2135, and in veterans organizations throughout the country, our Nation would be that much poorer.

I salute Peoria VFW Post 2135 for their achievements, and wish them the best as they aim for a fourth consecutive award in 1998.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH D.  
PETERSON

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a tremendous hero from Michigan's Fourth Congressional District. This hero is a

high school student from Merrill, MI who has served as a role model for many other students. This outstanding young man is in line to be valedictorian of his graduating class and has maintained a 4.1 grade point average on a 4.0 scale while participating on the school's basketball and track teams. While these are striking accomplishments, they pale in comparison to another. On the evening of August 3, 1997, Joseph D. Peterson accomplished an extraordinary feat by rescuing the life of a mother of three on a desolate road.

Joseph was driving down a winding road in northern Michigan when the car in front of him went out of control and spun off the road into a thicket of trees. With selfless disregard for his personal safety, he swiftly pulled the driver, Marie S. Craig, from the car just moments before it burst into flames. Joseph then drove Marie to safety and stayed with her until emergency crews transported her to the hospital. Because of Joseph's valiant actions, Marie suffered only a broken leg and a gash on her head, rather than a possible fatal injury.

On behalf of Ms. Craig, her family, and the people of the Fourth District I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Joseph Peterson for his brave and heroic action. Mr. Speaker, it takes a true champion to accept the challenge which Joseph did in rescuing Marie. Please join me in commending his heroism.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH TALERICO

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Joseph Talerico, for his many years of distinguished service to the community of Parma.

Born in Italy, Mr. Talerico immigrated to Cleveland at the age of 2. After attending Cleveland's John Adams High School, Mr. Talerico joined the Army and proudly served America during World War II. In 1946, Mr. Talerico moved to Parma. He owned and operated a string of grocery stores there and in nearby Broadview Heights. In addition to his business endeavors, Mr. Talerico distinguished himself as a civic activist, receiving Parma's Outstanding Citizen award in 1955. He served as a member of Parma's Charter Board and as Parma's recreation director. Mr. Talerico also belonged to such civic organizations as the Parma Exchange Club, the Broadview Heights Rotary Club, and the Brian Club.

Mr. Talerico also played an instrumental role in the lives of Parma's youth. He actively supported Parma youth athletics, ensuring the construction of Mottl Field. He founded and served as president of the Parma Amateur Athletic Federation, and, earlier this year, the Parma Amateur Athletic Federation inducted Mr. Talerico into its hall of fame.

Joseph Talerico leaves behind a wife, three children, eight grandchildren, a brother, and two sisters. His contributions to the community of Parma will be difficult to replace. Mr. Talerico will be greatly missed.

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**HON. JAY W. JOHNSON**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an award-winning broadcast script written by a constituent of mine on a subject which is important to all of us—the significance of democracy in America.

Jessica V. Van Eperen of Appleton, WI, has received a very high honor from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She has been awarded with a VFW 1997 Voice of Democracy Scholarship for her script which will help her to finance her education. She is the daughter of Mr. Leonel Van Eperen and Ms. Catherine Coffey and plans a career in elementary education. She was sponsored by VFW Post 2778 and its ladies auxiliary in Appleton, WI. I believe that Jessica is an exceptional example of the fine students in northeast Wisconsin and I am confident that she has a bright future ahead of her.

I would like to submit Jessica's award winning script for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

(By Jessica Van Eperen)

Ever since I was a small child, I've attended the fireworks celebration on the fourth of July. On that day, in 1776, fifty-six men signed the Declaration of Independence, a document that would launch the United States into the pages of every history book in the world. Yet, that wasn't on my mind as a child. I simply knew that the fireworks lit up the summer sky like a million glowing fire flies. They arched above the trees, above the clouds, and it seemed to me, above the very stars themselves.

As I've grown older, I've come to realize democracy is like those brilliant fireworks. It changes colors, shapes, even sound, but never changes in brilliance. Two-hundred and twenty years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, our democracy is still brilliant in the night sky while dictatorships, monarchies, and anarchy's have fizzled and died.

I've known democracy to be red: red with the blood of young men who gave their lives so she might live. I think of my great-uncle who gave his life in World War II, and even of two relatives who are as distant as their sketchy photograph hanging on the wall. These two men fought and died in the civil war shortly after immigrating from the Netherlands. I've known democracy to be a proud and stubborn blue as it fought the evils of communism during the cold war. Long after communism is dead, democracy will still be shining brightly in the horizon. I've even known democracy to be gold, the brilliant gold of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press. The Bill of Rights has risen high above the fear that has tried to control the world for centuries. Men in heavy boots carrying heavy guns have never been able to blind people to the glow of democracy's promise and freedom.

Democracy has been loud as a cannon, defending those who could not defend themselves, and quiet as a whisper, comforting the people who fled to her shores to escape injustice in foreign lands. Democracy has spread and shrunk, but never disappeared. What was lost during the forties to Hitler, the fifties to communism, and the eighties to

terrorism, has been gained back a thousand fold by the millions of people who still demand their voices be heard.

Democracy started as a small sparkler, similar to the one as I held in my hand when I was a child, but grew to become the most glorious fireworks display the world has ever seen. Democracy is not propelled by gun powder as fireworks are, but by freedom, elections, and the belief that all men are equal. This is the most powerful fuel in the world. Democracy has the ability to rise above and beyond the wildest imagination of men like Washington, Jefferson and Adams. Governments powered merely by force and oppression may glow with a blaring heat for a short time, but will inevitably die out and fall to the ground soundlessly to be forgotten. Democracy alone will shoot over the tree tops, becoming more beautiful with every passing year.

COMPUTER SECURITY  
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 1997*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for H.R. 1903, the Computer Security Enhancement Act of 1997. As the information revolution continues to rage, the United States and specifically this Congress, must begin to make wise and informed policy for this fast-paced new era. Sadly, we are somewhat behind business and industry in our ability to comprehend the abilities and ramifications of information technology. Worse still, we are behind the criminals and rogue operatives who would use the technology of the information age against us.

The United States, more than any other country in the world, is extremely susceptible to this new, frightening breed of terrorism and crime. In March of this year, I chaired a hearing on information warfare, the first such hearing ever held in Congress. What I learned at the hearing was positively alarming. One witness testified that with \$1 billion and 20 people, he could shut down the Nation. Another witness said that he could accomplish the same task for \$100 million. While the United States has done a good job to date in developing secure information technology systems, its implementation of those systems has been desperately lacking. As a result we are left unprepared for an information assault that could cripple the Nation.

For this very reason, the Subcommittee on Military Research and Development included an increase in funding for information warfare defense and associated programs. Protecting our defense backbone is simply not enough, however, and we must begin to implement secure system strategies for our private sector companies and civilian agencies to thwart the threat of information terrorism. I would like to applaud the Science Committee and Chairman SENSENBRENNER for their efforts to this end.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1903 takes wise and measured steps in an effort to develop sound and lasting policy for the information age. As we legislate for this era, we must be primarily concerned with the safety and security of our Nation, both civilian and defense, both private sector and public sector. While I think that we

all agree that Federal policy regarding the export of our best technology needs to be developed in light of the public availability of comparable technology outside of the United States, I believe that we are also resolute in our pledge to defend our Nation in this frontier age. Certainly we should not provide the means of our own destruction as some have been so wont to do.

H.R. 1903 will allow us to measure the quality of foreign encryption technology, a central portion of any secure system. That measurement with evaluations from the Department of Defense will allow us to determine which domestic products can be exported without posing an additional threat to national security. Taken in light of global market competition, this criteria will strike the delicate balance between national security requirements and business needs for the information age, a balance that should be paramount in our discussions about national security as we enter the next century.

As we continue our efforts to develop policy in this frontier age, I would encourage my colleagues to examine these issues closely, to weigh the need for competitiveness against the responsibility to defend our Nation from information terrorists. The issues here are as complex as the underlying technology, and our willingness to take rhetoric and spin at face value without seriously researching the issue will ultimately lead to a dangerous imbalance. The Science Committee has set a wise course for this policy, and I would encourage others to follow and support this measure.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman SENBRENNER, Chairwoman MORELLA, and the Science Committee for their efforts and I would yield back the balance of my time.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GONZALES, CA

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Gonzales, CA, on the 50th anniversary of its incorporation. The residents of Gonzales have long been active in the development of the community and the Nation.

In 1874, Mariano and Alfredo Gonzales laid out a town of 50 blocks surrounding a recently erected railroad depot on property deeded by Mexico to their father. From this early date, Gonzales established itself as a friendly town where a stranger could easily be persuaded to stay a few extra days and enjoy the smalltown charm.

Within 20 years, the population of Gonzales had reached 500 residents of diverse ethnic backgrounds and heritage. A number of Swiss immigrants established a soon to-be-thriving dairy industry. Soon thereafter, a local resident discovered the process for producing condensed milk. Following this historic discovery, the Alpine Condensary opened in Gonzales and began producing the world's first condensed milk.

Over the years, agriculture replaced dairy as the region's most important industry and Gonzales, located in the Salinas Valley, be-

came known as one of the most fertile regions in the country.

I am honored to have the privilege of introducing a resolution to recognize the historical contributions of the residents of Gonzales, CA. Since its establishment, Gonzales has maintained the smalltown charm that people the world over envy.

SCHOOL VOUCHER STUDY FINDS SATISFACTION

**HON. NEWT GINGRICH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, the attached article from the New York Times and op-ed from the Wall Street Journal clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of and parental satisfaction with Cleveland's school voucher program. Even more importantly, the survey mentioned in each of these pieces points out that low-income parents are as concerned about the quality of their children's schools as any other income group. Schools should be an opportunity magnet, not an underachieving trap. The evidence is in: Vouchers are one way to enhance parental choice and should be encouraged.

I submit both the New York Times and Wall Street Journal pieces into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 18, 1997]

SCHOOL VOUCHER STUDY FINDS SATISFACTION  
(By Tamar Lewin)

In the first independent evaluation of Cleveland's groundbreaking school voucher program, a Harvard University study has found that the program was very popular with parents and raised the scores of those students tested at the end of the first year.

"We found that parents who have a choice of school are much happier, and these private schools seem to be able to create an educational environment that parents see as safer, more focused on academics and giving more individual attention to the child," said Paul E. Peterson, director of the Education Policy and Governance at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, which issued the report. "This happens despite the fact that these are very low-income students."

The Cleveland experiment has been closely watched as school vouchers emerge as a potent political issue across the country.

The report found that two-thirds of the parents whose children received vouchers to attend a private or parochial school were "very satisfied" with the academic quality of the school, compared to fewer than 30 percent of the parents of students who applied for vouchers but remained in public schools.

In addition, the parents using vouchers were also more than twice as likely to be happy with the school's discipline, class size, condition and teaching of moral values than those remaining in public school.

During the last school year, the Ohio Department of Education gave 1,996 Cleveland students from low-income families vouchers covering up to 90 percent of private or parochial school tuition, to a maximum of \$2,250. The amount is slightly more than a third of what the public school system spends annually per pupil.

Most students used the vouchers at Catholic schools. But about a quarter of those who received vouchers—mostly those who could

not find another suitable placement—attended two new independent schools set up by advocates of the voucher program, known as Hope schools.

The study found that those students, tested at the beginning and end of the school year, made significant academic strides, gaining 15 percentage points in math and 5 percentage points on reading tests, relative to the national norms. However, language scores declined 5 percentage points overall, and 19 points among first graders.

The Cleveland schools have been troubled for years; in 1995, the system was put under state control when it ran out of money halfway through the year. Rick Ellis, a spokesman for the Cleveland schools, said that because the school system was now operated by the state, and the state also runs the voucher program, the Cleveland schools had taken no position on the program, which has been expanded to cover 3,000 students this year.

But Cleveland's voucher program—like the nation's only other large-scale voucher program, in Milwaukee—remains under the cloud of a continuing court challenge. In May, an Ohio appeals court ruled that because the vouchers could be used at religious schools, the program was an unconstitutional mingling of church and state. The State Supreme Court, however, ruled that the program could continue this year, pending its review. With the Milwaukee voucher program pending in State Supreme Court, it is likely that one or both of the cases will ultimately wend their way to the United States Supreme Court.

Despite the legal uncertainties, vouchers remain a powerful political issue across the country:

In New Jersey in April, the Education Commission barred Lincoln Park, a suburban school board, from using tax money for vouchers.

In Vermont last year, the education office took away education funds of the Chittenden Town School District when it tried to include parochial schools in a voucher program for high schools.

In New York City and several other cities, small programs, privately financed by philanthropists, provide scholarships allowing some public school students to attend parochial schools.

In Washington, House and Senate Republicans have proposed a Cleveland-style program for the District of Columbia schools.

The evaluation of the Cleveland program is based on a survey of 2,020 parents who applied for vouchers, including 1,014 parents of voucher recipients, and 1,006 parents who applied but did not use the vouchers.

Those who applied, but ultimately remained in public school, cited transportation, financial considerations and admission to a desired public school or failure to be admitted to the desired private school.

The average income of families using vouchers was lower than those whose children remained in public schools, but the two groups did not differ significantly with respect to ethnicity, family size, religion, or mother's education or employment. But those staying in public schools were more likely to be in special education classes or classes for the gifted.

The vast majority of participants, 85 percent, said their main reason for applying to the voucher program was to improve education for their children. Other commonly cited reasons were greater safety, location, religion and friends.

"I like to emphasize that parents said what was really important to them was academic quality of school," said Professor Peterson, whose co-authors were Jay P. Greene of the University of Texas and William G. Howell of Stanford University. "A lot of people say low-income families don't care about

quality, that they choose schools based on other factors, but that's not what the parents say."

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 18, 1997]

CLEVELAND SHATTERS MYTHS ABOUT SCHOOL CHOICE

(By Jay P. Greene, William G. Howell and Paul E. Peterson)

As delays in repairs keep the doors to Washington D.C.'s public schools closed, Congress is debating whether to approve the District of Columbia Student Opportunity Scholarship Act, which could help restructure this dreary, patronage-ridden system and give at least a couple of thousand poor students a chance to attend the private school of their choice. True to his teacher-union allies. President Clinton remains adamantly opposed to giving poor children the same chance at a private education that his daughter, Chelsea, had.

In deciding whether to challenge the president, Congress would do well to consider what's been happening in Cleveland, site of the first-state-funded program to give low-income students a choice of both religious and secular schools. Of more than 6,200 applicants, pupils entering grades K-3 last year, nearly 2,000 received scholarships to attend one of 55 schools. The scholarships cover up to 90% of a school's tuition, to a maximum of \$2,250, little more than a third the per-pupil cost of Cleveland public schools.

This past summer we surveyed more than 2,000 parents, both scholarship recipients and those who applied but did not participate in the program. We found that parents to scholarship recipients new to choice schools were much more satisfied with every aspect of their school than parents of children still in public school. Sixty-three percent of choice parents report being "very satisfied" with the "academic quality" of their school, as compared with less than 30% of public school parents. Nearly 60% were "very satisfied" with school safety, as compared with just over a quarter of those in public school. With respect to school discipline, 55% of new choice parents, but only 23% of public-school parents, were very satisfied.

The differences in satisfaction rates were equally large when parents were asked about the school's individual attention to their child, parental involvement, class size and school facilities. The most extreme differences in satisfaction pertained to teaching moral values: 71% of choice parents were "very satisfied," but only 25% of those in public schools were.

Our other findings provide powerful answers to many of the arguments raised by voucher opponents:

Parents, especially poor parents, are not competent to evaluate their child's educational experience. But test scores from two of the newly established choice schools justify parental enthusiasm. Choice students attending these schools, approximately 25% of the total coming from public schools, gained, on average, five percentile points in reading and 15 points in mathematics during the course of the school year.

Choice schools don't retain their students. In fact, even though low-income, inner-city families are a highly mobile population, only 7% of all scholarship recipients reported that they did not attend the same school for the entire year. Among recipients new to choice schools the percentage was 10%. The comparable percentages for central-city public schools is twice as large.

Private schools expel students who cannot keep up. But only 0.4% of the parents of scholarship students new to school choice re-

port this as a reason they changed schools this fall.

Poor families pick their children's schools on the basis of sports, friends, religion or location, not academic quality. Yet 85% of scholarship recipients from public schools listed "academic quality" as a "very important reason" for their application to the program. Second in importance was the "greater safety" to be found at a choice school, a reason given by 79% of the recipients. "Location" was ranked third. "Religion" was ranked fourth, said to be very important by 37%. Friends were said to be very important by less than 20%.

Private schools engage in "creaming," admitting only the best, easiest-to-educate students. But most applicants found schools willing to accept them, even though a lawsuit filed by the American Federation of Teachers prevented the program from operating until two weeks before school started. When those who were offered but did not accept a scholarship were asked why, inability to secure admission to their desired private school was only the fourth most frequently given reason, mentioned by just 21% of the parents remaining in public schools. Transportation problems, financial considerations and admission to a desired public school were all mentioned more frequently. (Cleveland has magnet schools that may have opened their doors to some scholarship applicants.)

The data from Cleveland have some limitations, because the program was not set up as a randomized experiment. Yet the comparisons between scholarship recipients new to choice schools and those remaining in public schools are meaningful. That's because, with respect to most of their demographic characteristics—such as mother's education, mother's employment, and family size—the families of scholarship recipients did not differ from those remaining in public schools. In fact, the voucher recipients actually had lower incomes than the group to which they were compared.

Cleveland's success at school choice should not remain an exception to public schools' monopoly on education. If members of Congress care at all about the education of poor children living in the inner-city, they should approve the voucher legislation for Washington now before them.

NATIONAL PARK FEE EQUITY ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the National Park Fee Equity Act. This legislation will allow those national parks which cannot charge an entrance fee to keep all other fees which are collected for activities within that park.

There are units of the park system which cannot collect fees because when these parks were created deed restricts were placed on the land donated to the Federal Government.

Last Congress, this body recognized the need to keep more of the money in the parks rather than sending it back to Washington. This was accomplished when we created the Fee Demonstration Program.

This program allows parks to keep 80 percent of the user fees, above what was taken in during 1994, in the park where they are collected. Unfortunately, there are some parks which cannot charge entrance fees.

The fact that these parks cannot charge an entrance fee hampers their ability to collect funds for park improvements. Therefore, I think it is only fair that all other fees collected in these parks remain there to help protect and improve them.

One such park, the Great Smoky Mountains, is the most visited park in the United States. However, since it cannot charge an entrance fee, it does not get to keep as much money as other parks do for improvements to campgrounds, trails, buildings, and other facilities there.

I believe that we need to do everything we can to help our Nation's parks. Currently, the National Park System has a maintenance and construction backlog estimated to be between 4 and 6 billion dollars. The bill I have introduced is a step toward addressing this problem.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very modest proposal in terms of the Federal budget. However, this money will go a long way in helping us preserve these parks for enjoyment of future generations. I urge my colleagues to support the National Park Fee Equity Act.

POW-MIA COMMEMORATION DAY

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, our Nation will commemorate the thousands of American men and women who were lost in action or who experienced the brutality of being a prisoner of war. For every war that America has engaged in since its formation 221 years ago, these men and women fought to protect America's democratic principles and to ensure that future generations could enjoy these freedoms.

Our country joins the American families around the world whose sons and daughters, fathers, mothers, and spouses were lost in action or suffered brutality as a prisoner of war in mourning and bittersweet celebration. We grieve for the soldiers whose lives were lost. Our only consolation is that their families finally find a level of peace by knowing the fate of their loved ones. America can join them in putting closure to the restless years of uncertainty regarding the destiny of these men and women. Together we can find comfort in each other and begin to heal our painful wounds.

Today, Americans around the world also join in rejoicing for those courageous men and women who have returned to us alive and are reunited with their families. We welcome them warmly. Although there are no words that can adequately express our deepest and sincerest gratitude, please know that your sacrifices and those of your families were not in vain. To these soldiers, we thank you. Your years of physical torture, hunger, psychological abuse, and forced labor will never be forgotten. America will never allow it to be forgotten.

America continues to wait apprehensively for the soldiers whose fate is still unknown. We pray together that soon we will learn more on the status of these men and women. Please be assured that America will not rest until all of her sons and daughters are returned to her soil. We anxiously await news of them and hope for their safe return with open hearts and open doors.

Families from my district have not gone unscathed by this tragedy. They suffer the pains of loss, and experience the anguish of uncertainty. William Charles Shinn from Woodland and Jerry M. Shriver from Sacramento are still unaccounted for. The status of the Hill family's father remains a mystery. We join in their families' anxiety of not knowing.

Today, my community also celebrates for the men and women who have returned. Soldiers like Michael O'Conner who was flying a UH-1 helicopter in February 1968, when he was shot down north of Hue. His three other crew members were killed. After evading capture for nearly 2 days, he was captured and held in captivity for 5 years.

Therefore, it is with this mix of sadness, joy, and apprehension, that our Nation's Capitol, the White House, the Department of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective System Headquarters, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial and national cemeteries across the Nation will raise the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners of War and Missing in Southeast Asia. May this black and white banner serve as a somber reminder of all those lost; a rejoicing reminder of those returned; and, a flicker of hope for the men and women whom we await their homecoming.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LUKE CHURCH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the 75th anniversary of St. Luke Church in Lakewood, OH. In 1922, Bishop Joseph Schrembs established the parish of St. Luke, the Evangelist.

Lacking suitable facilities in which to hold mass, a large tent was erected on the grounds of a nearby convent where Sunday masses were held. The parishioners continued to have services under the tent for 2½ months. Even though they had numerous weather problems, especially during the bitter cold winter, the determination of Fr. Nolan, the parishioners, and a group of Charity nuns was all that was needed to build the tent back up whenever it fell.

On August 24, 1922, a contract was signed to build a frame church. Fr. Nolan's prayers for a permanent church structure were answered. In 1928, it became not only a place for worship but also a place for education when a school was built around the church.

By 1950, it was apparent that larger facilities were needed to accommodate the growing St. Luke community. A new church was constructed in 13 months with much of the materials coming from Ireland, Germany, France, and Italy. The church was again remodeled in 1984. An addition was constructed on one side of the church enlarging the priests' sacristy. Improvements were made in the school as well, where a library and media center were added.

The Church of St. Luke, the Evangelist has come a long way from its humble beginnings in a tent in a field. St. Luke has grown to be a place for education, worship, and community

involvement over the past 75 years, and I wish the congregation continued success in the future.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call special attention to the Constitution of the United States of America. This treasured document serves as the guardian of our liberties and is a product of reflection and choice—embodying the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law, and not by men.

Abraham Lincoln once called the Constitution, "The only safeguard of our liberties \* \* \*." I strongly concur. Therefore, it is important to recognize that September 17, 1997, marks the 210th anniversary of the drafting of this historic landmark by the 1787 Constitutional Convention.

It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary—as well as to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate this grand occasion. Public law guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of this great country designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

In observance of this important national occasion, I ask my fellow citizens to reaffirm the ideals put forth by the Framers of the Constitution over 200 years ago. Only through vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through the Constitution, can we offer future generations the same great inheritance of freedom we currently possess.

THE RESPONSIBLE BORROWER PROTECTION BANKRUPTCY ACT

**HON. BILL MCCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Responsible Borrower Protection Bankruptcy Act. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague, Mr. BOUCHER. Attached to my statement is a detailed section by section explanation of the legislation.

It has become clear that reform of the existing bankruptcy system is sorely needed as our Nation witnesses an unsustainable epidemic of personal bankruptcies. Bankruptcies have increased over 400 percent since 1980. It is estimated that consumer bankruptcies will rise by over 20 percent in 1997. Last year, for the first time ever, there were more than 1 million filings. This year, that figure is expected to rise to 1.4 million filings, more than one bankruptcy in every 100 American households. This rate of increase is occurring not in the midst of a recession, but during what are by all accounts good economic times. From 1986 to 1996, real per capita annual disposable income grew by over 13 percent but personal bankruptcies more than doubled.

Bankruptcy will cost our Nation \$40 billion in 1997 alone. That translates into over \$400 per household in higher costs for goods, services, and credit. That \$400 could buy every American family of four: 5 weeks of groceries, 20 tanks of unleaded gasoline, 10 pairs of shoes for the average grade-school child or more than 1 year's worth of disposable diapers.

Our Nation's bankruptcy laws play an important and necessary role in our society but we must ensure that our bankruptcy system does not unintentionally encourage those who can take responsibility for their financial obligations not to do so. Such an abuse of our bankruptcy laws is fundamentally unfair to those who play by the rules and take responsibility for their personal obligations. It has been estimated that 15 responsible borrowers are needed to cover the cost of a single bankruptcy.

The Responsible Borrower Protection Bankruptcy Act fundamentally reforms the existing bankruptcy system into a needs-based system. Only those who truly cannot repay their debts will be able to use the complete bankruptcy in chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. Those who can repay their debts will have to use chapter 13 and work out a payment plan. Those who make less than 75 percent of the national median family income for a family of equal size will be presumed unable to repay their debts and may file complete bankruptcy. But those who make more than 75 percent of the national median family income for a family of equal size and, under a formula, are determined to be able to pay \$50 per month toward debt reduction of at least 20 percent of their unsecured, non-priority debt over 5 years may only file in chapter 13 and repay their debt over time.

This needs-based reform is intended to address a flaw in the bankruptcy system that encourages people to file for bankruptcy and walk away from debts, regardless of whether they are able to repay any portion of what they owe. Bankruptcy was never meant to be used as a financial planning tool or for mere convenience but it no longer carries with it the social stigma it did 20 years ago and these bankruptcies of convenience are driving the enormous increase in bankruptcies. Bankruptcy is becoming a first stop rather than a last resort.

The Responsible Borrower Protection Bankruptcy Act also makes reforms to reduce repeat filings and to prevent the gaming of the bankruptcy system, such as running up credit bills right before filing for bankruptcy or filing and dismissing a bankruptcy case as a stalling tactic. In addition, there are provisions to improve the efficient administration of bankruptcy cases, to increase oversight and to provide debtors with information about alternatives to bankruptcy, such as credit counseling services.

By ensuring that our bankruptcy laws are not abused, we also ensure that bankruptcy remains a viable last resort for those who have tried to pay their debts but were driven by circumstances to ask for judicial intervention into their personal finances. If we do not reform the system and stem the explosion in bankruptcy filings caused by bankruptcies of convenience, the cost of credit will inevitably increase while its availability will begin to decrease. Such a tightening of credit will especially impact the working poor. In addition, these reforms will protect those responsible borrowers who meet their financial obligations

but end up paying for those who abuse our bankruptcy laws.

Congress has a special responsibility to address this issue and to ensure that our bankruptcy laws operate fairly, efficiently and free of abuse. The Responsible Borrower Protection Bankruptcy Act makes an important first step in fulfilling that responsibility and I urge all my colleagues to support these reforms.

THE RESPONSIBLE BORROWER PROTECTION  
BANKRUPTCY ACT

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

Title I—Consumer Bankruptcy Issues

§101. Needs Based Bankruptcy

This section of the Bill requires those who have a current monthly total income of 75 percent of the national median family income for a family of equal size or, in the case of a household of one person, 75 percent of the national median household income for one earner plus a monthly net income greater than \$50 and the ability to pay at least 20% of their unsecured, non-priority debts over five years to enter into a repayment plan under Chapter 13.

§102. Adequate Income Shall be Committed to a Plan That Pays Unsecured Creditors

This section amends the Code to substitute for "disposable income" a new concept, "monthly net income", which is determined based on expenditure levels now set by the Internal Revenue Service and used extensively throughout the country to make similar determinations. Provision is also made in a new section 111 for the adjustment of monthly net income in extraordinary cases, for example when the debtor experiences loss of income or when the debtor has unusual expenses.

§103. Notice of Alternatives

Require each consumer debtor to receive a notice containing a brief description of Chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13 of the Bankruptcy Code and a brief description of available independent non-profit debt counseling services. The notice would also contain the name, address and telephone number of each such service that registers with the clerk in that district. This provision assures that debtors receive information about debt counseling services.

§104. Fraudulent Debts Are Nondischargeable in Chapter 13 Cases

The Bill amends Code section 1328(a)(2) so as not to discharge debts fraudulently incurred.

§105. Giving Secured Creditors Fair Treatment in Chapter 13

The Bill amends section 1325(a)(5)(B)(I) to provide that the holder of an allowed secured claim shall retain the lien securing the claim until the debtor receives a discharge.

§106. Debts Incurred to Pay Nondischargeable Debts

The Bill amends current section 523(a)(14) to make nondischargeable any new debt that is incurred to pay a prior debt that otherwise would be nondischargeable.

§107. Credit Extensions on the Eve of Bankruptcy Presumed Nondischargeable

The Bill would amend Code section 523(a)(2)(C) to create a presumption that consumer debts incurred within 90 days of bankruptcy are non-dischargeable.

§108. Stopping Abusive Conversions from Chapter 13

This section provides that when a debtor converts from Chapter 13 to Chapter 7, the cram down is not retained except for the limited purpose of redemption under section 722.

§109. Discouraging Bad Faith Repeat Filings

The section provides that the automatic stay will terminate in a consumer bank-

ruptcy case on the 30th day after the filing if, in the previous year, the same debtor filed a bankruptcy case that was dismissed. The Bill provides an exception to this provision in the event the subsequent filing is made in good faith. It gives four situations in which there is a presumption that the subsequent filing was not made in good faith: (1) if there was more than one previous case in the past year; (2) if the previous case was dismissed for the debtor's failure to comply with requirements under the Bankruptcy Code or with orders of the court; (3) if there has been no substantial change in the debtor's financial affairs; or (4) as to the application of the stay to a specific creditor, if that creditor obtained relief from the stay in the previous case or applied for such relief (and that application is still pending).

§110. Restraining Abusive Purchases on Secured Credit

The Bill would amend Code section 506 by adding a new subsection 506(e). The provision requires that the value of personal property collateral be at least equal to the outstanding balance of the purchase price, including interest and charges, where the property was purchased within 180 days of the petition.

§111. Fair Valuation of Collateral

The Bill would add a new sentence to the end of Code section 506(a). This amendment would set the value of personal property securing an individual debtor's personal property as the replacement value of the property on the petition date (without deductions for marketing or sales costs).

§112. Debtor Retention of Personal Property Security

The Bill would add a new subsection to Code section 521 to provide that a Chapter 7 individual debtor may not retain possession of personal property securing an allowed claim for the purchase price unless the debtor either (a) reaffirms the debt or (b) redeems the property within sixty (60) days of the order for relief. If the debtor takes neither action within the sixty (60) day period, then the property no longer would be considered property of the estate for purposes of the automatic stay.

§113. Bankruptcy Exemption Study Commission

The Bill creates an eight member Bankruptcy Exemption Study Commission with members appointed by the President, the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to study whether the Code's use of exemptions should be revised. The Commission is directed to study and report on exemption issues under the code and on any proposals to revise the Code it may recommend. The Commission may hold hearings, and is required to report to Congress, the Chief Justice and the President within one year of enactment of the Bill.

§114. Timely Filing and Confirmation of Plans in Chapter 13

The Bill amends section 1321 to require that the debtor file a plan within 90 days of the petition date. The Bill would also amend Code section 1324 to require that the confirmation hearing be held within 45 days of the filing of the plan. Either of these time periods could be extended by court order.

§115. Definition of Substantial Abuse

The Bill would clarify Code section 707(b) to permit any party in interest to move to dismiss the bankruptcy case, and it further defines "substantial abuse" to include a situation in which it becomes apparent during the case that the debtor is not eligible for Chapter 7 under the needs based bankruptcy provisions or where the totality of circumstances demonstrate substantial abuse.

§116. Giving Debtors the Ability To Keep Lease Personal Property by Assumption

The Bill would add new Code section 365(p) to give debtors the ability to keep leased personal property by assuming the lease. This clarifies that if a Chapter 7 trustee rejects a lease of personal property, the lessor may notify the debtor that he or she has the option of assuming the lease. If the debtor then notifies the lessor that the debtor wants to assume, the debtor's lease remains enforceable according to its terms. It also clarifies that in a Chapter 11 or 13 case, if the lease is not assumed in the plan, the lease is rejected as of the date of the confirmation of the plan. The section also makes clear that once a lease is rejected, it and the leased property are no longer property of the estate, and no longer subject to stay.

§117. Chapter 13 Plans To Have a Five Year Duration

The Bill would amend Code sections 1322(d) and 1329(c) to allow confirmation of plans with a life span of five years if the debtor's current monthly income is 75 percent of the national median family income for a family of equal size or 75 percent of the national median household income for one earner or more on the date of confirmation. In such cases, it would also permit the court to approve a plan longer than five years up to a maximum of seven years. Otherwise, the debtor would be restricted to the three year and five year periods of present law.

§118. Apply the Co-Debtor Stay Only When It Protects the Debtor

The Bill would amend section 1301 so that the co-debtor stay would continue to be available when the debtor who borrowed the money sought Chapter 13 relief, but if a guarantor or other co-debtor who did not receive the consideration for the creditor's claim filed for relief, the debtor who borrowed the money would not be protected by a stay unless he or she also filed a bankruptcy protection. Also the stay would terminate as to the debtor's interest in personal property if the debtor surrendered or abandoned that property.

§119. Definition of Household Goods

The Bill would add a new subparagraph to Code section 522(f)(1) to define the phrase "household goods" as it now appears in section 522(f) of the Code. The Bill defines "household goods" by using the definition already used in similar context by the Federal Trade Commission in the Trade Regulations Rule on Credit Practices, 16 CFR §444.1(I).

§120. Protection of Holders of Claims Secured by Debtor's Principal Residence

This section clarifies that the inclusion of incidental property in a mortgage on the debtor's principal residence will not disqualify that mortgage from protection under section 1322(b)(2). It also makes clear that if the debtor resided in the house during the six months previous to filing and still owns it, or if the residence is a mobile home, condominium or cooperative apartment, technically treated as personalty in a number of states, the protection of section 1322(2)(b) applies.

The section also provides that the stay under section 362 will not be violated if a prepetition foreclosure proceeding is postponed during the pendency of a Chapter 13 proceeding so long as any prepetition default remains uncured by actual payment in full according to the plan.

§121. Extend Period Between Bankruptcy Discharges

The Bill would expand the amount of time that must pass before a debtor may receive another discharge. The time period would expand to ten for Chapter 7 individual cases and five years for Chapter 13 cases.

Title II—Improved Bankruptcy Administration

*§ 201. Improved Bankruptcy Statistics*

The Bill would create a new 28 U.S.C. § 159 that would require the clerks of the various bankruptcy courts to compile statistics on bankruptcy cases involving individual debtors, and report these statistics annually to Congress.

*§ 202. Audit Procedures*

This section amends title 28 to delegate to the Attorney General the responsibility for establishing random audits of individual bankruptcy cases under title 11.

*§ 203. Docket of Individuals Who File Under Title 11*

This section amends title 28 to delegate to the Administrative Office of the Courts the responsibility for creating and maintaining a central docket of those who have filed for bankruptcy relief.

*§ 204. Adequate Preparation Time for Creditors Before the First Meeting of Creditors in Individual Cases*

This section amends the Bankruptcy Code to specify that in an individual voluntary case, the first meeting of creditors be convened between sixty (60) and ninety (90) days following the order for relief.

*§ 205. Creditor Representation at First Meeting of Credits.*

This section amends Code section 341(c) to provide that non-attorney representatives can attend and participate in the first meeting of creditors.

*§ 206. Giving Creditors Fair Notice in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 Cases.*

This section provides that the debtor include in any notice to the creditor, the creditor's account number if it is reasonably available, and to send any notices to an address which the creditor has previously specified.

*§ 207. Prompt Relief From Stay in Individual Cases.*

This section amends Code section 362(e) to provide that unless the court finally decides the relief from stay request, the parties agree to take a longer time, or the court orders additional time, the stay shall automatically terminate sixty days after a request for relief from it is made.

*§ 208. Relief From Stay When the Debtor Does Not Complete Intended Surrender of Consumer Debt Collateral.*

This section amends section 362 to provide that if individual debtors do not file a timely statement of intention with respect to property securing the creditor's claim or to act in accordance with that statement of intention, a secured creditor may seek relief from the stay.

*§ 209. Filing of Proofs of Claim.*

In Chapter 11 cases, if a creditor is listed in the schedules, no proof of claim need to be filed unless it is listed as disputed, contingent or unliquidated. This provision extends this Chapter 11 provision to cases under Chapters 7 and 13.

*§ 210. Debtor to Provide Tax Returns and Other Information.*

This section amends Code section 521 to require that the debtor provide financial information about income and expenses, such as copies of its tax returns for the three most recent tax years, its current pay stubs, and other proof of income. Also, a conformed copy of the petition, schedules and statement of financial affairs and any corresponding amendments as well as of any Chapter 13 plan must be provided upon request.

*§ 211. Dismissal for Failure to File Schedules Timely or Provide Required Information.*

The Bill would amend Code section 707 to require the dismissal of the bankruptcy case

for failure to file schedules within 45 days after filing the petition.

*§ 212. Adequate Protection of Lessors and Purchase Money Secured Creditors.*

This section adds a new section 1307 to the Code to provide that adequate protection payments be made during the "gap" that occurs between the time the debtor files a Chapter 13 case and the stay goes into effect and the time the debtor resumes making payments under the plan.

*§ 213. Adequate Time to Prepare for Hearing on Confirmation of the Plan.*

The Bill amends Code section 1324 to require that a Chapter 13 confirmation hearing cannot be held less than twenty days after the first meeting of creditors if there is an objection.

REVOKE PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

**HON. MAX SANDLIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to revoke the COLA for Members of Congress should it become law. The manner in which the COLA was approved by this body yesterday is appalling. Americans deserve to know if their Representative is voting to increase his or her pay. It should not be hidden in the parliamentary process. We must be honest enough with ourselves and with the American people to support openly or oppose openly this increase. My legislation will require us to make an honest, forthright statement about our pay.

I hope events of the next few days will render my legislation unnecessary. I hope that once Members have had an opportunity to discuss with their constituents yesterday's attempt to sneak in a pay raise they will join the efforts of Congresswoman LINDA SMITH, myself, and others and support an amendment to prevent Members of Congress from receiving a COLA. If such an amendment is ruled out of order, Members should support a motion to appeal the ruling of the chair. If our amendment prevails, and I sincerely hope it does, my legislation will not be necessary. However, I believe we must make every effort to overturn yesterday's action and for that reason, I am introducing this bill today.

As Members of Congress, I strongly believe that we should not talk about cutting important programs like Medicare and Social Security and then turn around and give ourselves a pay raise. During the appropriations process, we have forced many worthy programs to tighten their belts "for the good of the country" so we can meet our goal of a balanced budget by the year 2002. Why, then, not tighten our own belts?

As I have said on many other occasions, it is irresponsible for us to increase our own pay at a time when we have not met our obligation to the American people to balance the Federal budget. We cannot continue to tell our constituents to tighten their belts while we loosen our own. We must first make Medicare solvent. We must first fully fund our veterans' benefits. We must first ensure that every student has an opportunity for a college education. We must first rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. We must first eliminate the estate tax. We must first take care of the people.

I hope the leadership will see to it that this legislation receives a fair hearing and is brought to the floor with all due speed.

TRIBUTE TO MARK AND DIANE KROEKER

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mark and Diane Kroeker, who this year are being saluted by Bridge Focus, a social service agency in the San Fernando Valley. The Kroekers are receiving an award for being exemplary parents and for a long tradition of helping their community. I cannot think of two people who better fit this description than Mark and Diane.

I have had a warm personal and professional relationship with Mark for many years, particularly during the time he served as commander of the San Fernando Valley Bureau of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Like many others, I have tremendous respect and admiration for Mark's work. The LAPD could have not picked a more ideal representative in the valley. Mark was constantly looking for ways to improve relations between the Department and community. He spent hundreds of hours meeting with local leaders. It was a sad day for all of us when Mark was transferred to another bureau.

Mark's reputation for compassion and concern extends beyond the workplace. He is widely known as the founder and chairman of the board of the World Children's Transplant Fund. He rarely misses an opportunity to tell people of the organization and its wonderful work.

Mark and Diane are active supporters of the World Children's Transplant Fund, which in 1994 presented Mark with its Man of the Year Award. There are children around the world who literally owe their lives to Mark and Diane Kroeker.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Mark and Diane Kroeker, proud and loving parents of Kent, Kirk, and Katrina. Mark and Diane's dedication to their community and their love for the children of the world inspires us all.

SALUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special tribute to the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force and the Air National Guard, especially the 146th Airlift Wing based in my California congressional district.

The 146th is California's largest Air National Guard unit and has been recognized by both the Air Force Association and the National Guard Association of the United States as the best flying unit in the Air National Guard. These prestigious awards have not come easily. During World War II, as part of the 115th

Observation Squadron, the wing fought in various combat theaters around the world, displaying courage in battles in the Pacific, Europe and China-Burma-India theaters.

The 146th distinguished itself during the 1950's in the Korean war, and in the 1960's Southeast Asia conflict flying a variety of combat air support missions. Since 1970, the wing's C-130 aircraft have traveled to all corners of the world, airlifting troops, passengers, and cargo during training missions, exercise deployments, and real-world military operations.

In 1992, the wing received its third Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The 146th was praised for extraordinary service to the Nation, State, and local communities during hostilities in Panama and in the Persian Gulf, and in peacetime humanitarian airlifts and aerial fire fighting.

Mr. Speaker, while the mission and accomplishments of the 146th Airlift Wing are truly commendable, their true strength lies in the men and women who comprise the wing. I am pleased to pay tribute to them today and congratulate them on 50 years of service to our Nation, State, and community.

#### A NEW MARITIME STRATEGY

### HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, in my role as an administrative cochairman of the bipartisan national security caucus, I served as the cohost of a recent maritime policy briefing. The group my colleagues and I assembled discussed a wide range of critical issues which have a significant impact on our national security and the future of our maritime industry.

This dinner briefing was an outstanding success because of the insights and observations we received from several of my fellow cochairmen in the national security caucus. The group included Chairman FLOYD SPENCE of the National Security Committee, IKE SKELTON, the ranking Democrat on the Military Procurement Subcommittee and STENY HOYER, the chairman of the Democratic Steering Committee. We were also joined by TILLIE FOWLER, the vice chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee.

Our guests of honor were Secretary of the Navy John Dalton and Gen. Charles Krulak, the commander of the Marine Corps. We were also joined by several key executives from the maritime industry and senior officials of leading trade associations and maritime organizations.

The topics we reviewed included the Maritime Security Program [MSP], the Jones Act, the charter and build program, cargo preference, and acquisition reform. All of our participants were in agreement that the disappearance of U.S. shipping companies would have a serious impact on America's national security.

During Operation Desert Storm, American shipping companies transported 95 percent of the sustainment cargo. It is definitely not clear how the Defense Department would replace crucial sealift capacity if, suddenly, no American container ship companies were available. Certainly, the cost of replacing this commercial

capacity with new government-owned sealift vessels would be astronomical.

The number of private U.S. shipyards has dropped by more than 50 percent over the past 15 years. The U.S.-flag fleet is very productive today, but unfortunately, its capability to compete on the international stage has declined. The American fleet of self-propelled vessels has decreased steadily in size since 1950 to a current low of approximately 300 vessels.

The available work force has also declined significantly and the modernization of the U.S. seaports is well behind their foreign competitors. These factors are raising concerns among my colleagues in the national security caucus about handicaps on our Nation's economy and our capability to promote trade and our national security interests.

The participants were in agreement that the U.S. policies and programs are in sharp contrast with those of many leading maritime nations. These other nations have acted to preserve a commercial presence in shipping. They offer supportive tax and financing packages. And they invest heavily in the modernization of their shipyards and seaports. All of these inequities discourage private investment in key components of U.S. maritime industries. I believe it is in the best interests of all Americans to harness the leadership of government with the strength of the marketplace to level the international playing field so that U.S. industries can compete globally.

The challenges we face were eloquently stated last year during the MSP debate by chairman HERB BATEMAN of the Merchant Marine Panel when he said, "We are beyond the point of talking about viability, resurgence or even revitalization. We are now talking about the very survival of the American maritime industry. As horrible and as catastrophic as it may sound, if we do not develop and adopt a new strategy, the U.S. fleet may not be in existence a year from now."

I am very pleased to report that the efforts to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive and bipartisan national maritime strategy is receiving critical leadership from the nonprofit National Security Caucus Foundation. I know all of the caucus cochairmen are very grateful for the tremendous yeoman labor of the NSCF maritime team. This group includes Adm. Thomas Moorer USN (Ret.), the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Rear Adm. Robert Spiro, the former Under Secretary of the Army, and Gregg Hilton, the NSCF's Executive Director.

They have been working in cooperation with the Navy and the Maritime Administration on several strategy conferences, and they have assembled an impressive list of retired flag officers who are emphasizing the arguments I have outlined above. The NSCF's effort to develop a new strategy is essential to our national security and I will be providing further information to my colleagues about this program in the weeks ahead.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to several individuals who had a key role in organizing last night's policy discussion. They also provided us excellent advice and a wide variety of background information. The group which is responsible for the success of last night's event includes Jim Henry, the president of the Transportation Institute, Jim Patti, the president of MIRAID, Gloria Tosi, the executive director of the American Maritime Con-

gress and Gordon Spencer, the legislative director for the American Maritime Officers.

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. JOSEPH

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Congregation of St. Joseph [CSJ] in Cleveland, OH as they celebrate their 125th anniversary of serving the Cleveland community through their faith, service, and vision.

For the Sisters of St. Joseph, this anniversary year has been one of reflection on their faith and a renewal of their spirituality. The sisters recently spent a weekend exploring the core principles and values of their faith and endeavored to find God and love in everyday life.

This year has also been a time to contemplate the areas of service in which CSJ is involved. Throughout their history, the sisters have reached out to others in the Cleveland community. The Sisters of St. Joseph have been involved in educating the youth of the community's parishes and in helping many other service organizations such as the West Side Catholic Center and Women's Shelter, Providence House—a crisis nursery for children, transitional housing for women and families, day care, and hospital visits. As part of the anniversary celebration, the Sisters of St. Joseph awarded a grant to fund a new service project in the community, "Seeds of Literacy." This project, coordinated with three other parishes in the Cleveland area, will reach out to needy adults to increase their literacy skills and sense of self worth, hopefully resulting in new job opportunities for them so they will be able to support themselves and their children.

The congregation has also spent this anniversary year focusing on the vision that has carried them through the past 125 years, and which will inspire them in the future. Just as many bridges span the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, connecting the east side of the city to the west, CSJ is always looking for ways to build new bridges connecting themselves to their traditional spirituality, connecting their accomplishments of the past to their vision of the future, and connecting the Congregation of St. Joseph to the Cleveland community.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the devoted Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS TOUCHETTE

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, 60 days ago today on July 18, 1997, the people of the St. Louis metropolitan area and the people of southwestern Illinois lost a great leader and I lost a good friend. Francis Touchette passed away on July 18, 1997, at the age of 84 after a long illness.

During this period, I have had time to reflect on his legacy of service and on our friendship.

Francis Touchette was both a dedicated public servant and a humanitarian.

Francis started his career when he was elected to the office of Democratic precinct committeeman when Franklin Roosevelt was elected President of the United States. In addition to serving as a Democratic precinct committeeman for many years, Francis was elected Centreville Township supervisor and was elected to serve as a member of the county board from Centreville Township. On two separate occasions during his career on the county board, his colleagues saw fit to elect Francis to serve as their chairman.

In addition to being one of the leading Democrats in southwestern and southern Illinois, Francis was one of the leaders in providing health care and other services to the underprivileged and the poor throughout the region.

Francis was the founder of Centreville township Hospital—later renamed Touchette Regional Hospital in Centreville, IL. As Centreville Township supervisor, he recognized that the underprivileged and the poor were not receiving adequate health care services and therefore called upon the people of the township to construct a hospital for people in the Greater Centreville area. He was a charter member of the East Side Health District and founded the Southern Illinois Health Care Foundation.

Very few people have touched and improved the lives of so many as Francis Touchette. His service to the people of the St. Louis region and of southwestern Illinois will live on—and his friendship that he extended to me and many others will never be forgotten.

My colleagues, I ask you to join me in paying tribute to a great friend and a great leader.

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#### WORKLINK

### HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of St. Peters for the successful implementation of WorkLink, the first telecommunication center in the State of Missouri and the entire Midwest. Opening in July 1996, WorkLink was designed as a community-based telecommunications center equipped to provide individuals, businesses, and organizations with a wide array of advanced telecommunications and related services. WorkLink promotes telecommuting as an efficient way of doing business and helping employees better balance their time between work and family.

WorkLink offers an alternative to many companies and employees to maintain and encourage performance and productivity; assists companies in cutting expenses by consolidating office and parking space; improves employee moral by accommodating work and family needs; and helps the community by reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality.

Currently, two-thirds of the available space at WorkLink is equipped with offices and workstations with the advanced technology and interconnectivity to handle most advanced office telecommunications functions. The facility houses many business types, including

engineering, financial, computer consulting, computer programming, sales/marketing, healthcare, publishing, distance learning, and charitable professionals.

By stepping out onto the cutting edge of telecommuting, the city of St. Peters is offering those in their community a tremendous opportunity. I am sure WorkLink will serve as a model for other communities, and I commend Mayor Tom Brown and Helen Robert, WorkLink manager, for their vision and hard work.

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#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AIR FORCE

### HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an Air Force veteran and a major in the Air Force Reserve to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force.

When we look at today's Air Force, with all its cutting-edge technological advances and global superiority, it's amazing to think how far we have come in this century. It's certainly a far cry from the military's first airborne activities—the Army's use of balloons for reconnaissance during the Civil War and Spanish American War, and the use of its first aircraft against Pancho Villa in Mexico in 1916.

From these humble roots, military aviation grew and matured from being a part of the Signal Corps in 1914, to becoming the Army Bureau of Aircraft Production and the Air Service in 1918, to the Army Air Forces and the Army Air Corps in the 1920's.

As military aviators distinguished themselves in World War I and World War II, support for a full-fledged, independent Air Force grew. More and more people came to realize that the Air Corps was more than just a part of the Army: It was a highly specialized branch of the military which should stand on equal footing with the Army and the Navy.

Finally, in 1947, the National Security Act, which created an independent U.S. Air Force, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Harry S Truman. Fifty years later, we celebrate the contributions the Air Force has made over the past five decades, and we look forward to the many more contributions which the Air Force will make in the decades and centuries to come.

I know Air Force veterans and members at installations around the world will mark this 50th anniversary with great pride and honor. At Arnold Engineering and Development Center [AEDC] on Arnold Air Force Base in my congressional district, a celebration was recently held in observance of this milestone, and I'm sure similar events have been held at many other bases.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would like to once again thank the U.S. Air Force for all it has done for our great country, and I would like to insert into the RECORD a poem written by Tennessee's poet laureate Margaret Britton Vaughn, in honor of this wonderful anniversary. This poem was read publicly for the first time by Maggie Vaughn at the AEDC 50th anniversary commemoration.

#### AIR FORCE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Nineteen forty-seven, fifty years ago  
The vision would not rest

Until the Air Force was born,  
And the Bird left its nest.  
A Bird with metal wings  
A cockpit for an eye  
Pilots gave it heart and soul  
With grace of a butterfly.  
America's fields grow barracks  
And long, gray runways.  
Seas of blue uniforms  
Blended with the amber waves.  
Above the patterned clouds  
We watched fliers in formations,  
Vapor trails left behind  
Sent a message to all nations.  
The large Bear of the U.S.S.R.  
Shoot with disbelief,  
The Eagle soared above its head  
Bringing West Berlin relief.  
Red Communism was no match  
For men and women in blue,  
MIGs could not compete  
Where the Sabre flew.  
From Korea to Vietnam  
To Desert Storm of Iraq,  
The Air Force was there  
And brought the banner back.  
Yesterday a playful boy  
Spread his arms in flight,  
Dreamed one day he'd fly  
In his sleep at night.  
The boy fulfilled his dream  
High above the barren ground.  
And woke up a tired God  
"When he broke the speed of sound"  
Today boys and girls  
Share that same dream.  
One day to take the oath  
Join the Air Force team.  
A half century has come and gone  
Since Truman took the pen.  
Signed aboard his "Sacred Cow"  
Our Air Force to begin.  
For those who served our country  
In peace and war time,  
For those who gave their lives  
So freedom bells could chime.  
For those who serve the Seal  
Eagle, thunderbolt, stars and cloud  
And wreath of six folds  
Make our country proud.  
The symbol of the Eagle  
Facing the future without sorrow,  
The United States, Air Force  
Yesterday, today, tomorrow.

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#### JOSEPHINE HINMAN'S GARDEN

### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding citizen in my community. Josephine Hinman, of Fallbrook, CA devotes her life to attacking hunger. Josephine grows and then donates some 12,000 bags of fruit and vegetables a year to feed the poor, all from her own garden. For 64 years, Josephine Hinman has selflessly given both her time and energy so that others may benefit.

Growing up during the Depression, Josephine learned early on how hard it can be to keep food on the table in tough times. Helping her family maintain a large garden, they grew enough to get by and help others in the neighborhood. Today, Josephine is still taking care of her garden, and still taking good care of the less fortunate in her community.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is beginning to rediscover the power of local solutions. For far too long, the Washington bureaucrats have insisted that the only way to help those in need

is to create another Government program and bankroll it with endless taxpayer dollars. People like Josephine Hinman are showing Washington that no matter how much taxpayer money you throw at a problem, little is ever accomplished without the warmth and compassion of caring citizens.

Josephine Hinman's story is truly inspiring. Her selfless work should encourage each and every one of us to reflect on how we may better serve others. Most of us learned very young in life that we share a responsibility to help our neighbors and care for our community. As I visit with and learn about those who do remarkable works throughout my district, I continue to be convinced that volunteering is much more than a responsibility. Having the time, talents, and ability to brighten the lives of others is actually one of life's greatest privileges. The joy with which Josephine Hinman continues to keep her garden open to all is solid proof of that.

IN HONOR OF JIM BREMER

**HON. TIM ROEMER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of Mr. Jim Bremer of Wanatah, IN. Not only am I extremely proud to call him a good friend, but I am even prouder to call him a friend of his community and the entire State of Indiana.

I first met Jim when I ran for Congress back in 1990. During the course of my campaign, people throughout his home county told me of his reputation for honesty, hard work, and common sense. Although he was—and remains—a member of the opposite political party, his neighbors strongly encouraged me to seek his advice and support. It was soon after that I first sat with Jim Bremer in his famous garage, discussing the national issues of the day and gazing out at the beautiful arrangement of flowers that surround his entire home.

During the course of our meeting, I was elated when Jim pledged to support me in the 1990 election. While the town of Wanatah is small, the people there are conscientious, hard working, driven by the right values, and very active politically. I knew that folks in Wanatah respected Jim and paid close attention to his opinions, and I thought his endorsement would mean a lot to my campaign.

However, after Jim said he would support me, he solemnly proclaimed, "As soon as you get elected, I bet we'll never see you again in Wanatah." This was probably the only time I was able to prove him wrong. Not only do I continue to stop by and sit in Jim's garage, but every year I attend the Labor Day picnic he hosts in his backyard. And I do not exaggerate when I claim that the renowned event is equal to any picnic in the world. Jim roasts a hog, smokes three turkeys in metal garbage cans, and serves vine ripened tomatoes fresh from his Olympic-size garden. If you manage not to gorge yourself on this bounty, there then awaits an amazing assortment of Hoosier desserts—courtesy of Wanatah's best kitchens and family recipes.

After the meal, attentions invariably turn to politics and discussions of our Nation's future.

Jim allows elected leaders like myself to address the scores of people in attendance, and there are few listeners who are shy about responding with their own views, comments, and criticisms. In this age of big budget campaigns, spin doctors, and television attack ads, Jim reminds all of us that small-town, grassroots democracy is alive and well in America.

I am deeply grateful for Jim Bremer's work to emphasize the importance of personal relationships between citizens and their government. However, despite the vitality of our grassroots, the success of Jim's efforts rests entirely on the strength of his character and the personal respect he has earned from others. His unshakable—and sometimes biting—honesty is without question and beyond reproach. In addition, he possesses that special Hoosier brand of common sense that appeals to independents and people of both major parties. But above all, Jim is a hard worker who is committed to helping his neighbors and his community. As a veteran of the Korean war, a deputy sheriff, and an electrician on the job, Jim has exhibited the best American values of dedication, responsibility, and caring for others. I consider myself fortunate to be associated with him.

I hope Americans in the future will not stray too far from Jim Bremer's example. If I did not know that he is a one-of-a-kind, I would say we need many more of him.

**RICHIE ASHBURN: A BASEBALL SUPERSTAR WITH STRONG NEBRASKA ROOTS**

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the Nation recently lost a true treasure with the passing of Richie Ashburn on September 9. Ashburn was a Hall of Fame baseball superstar and renowned broadcaster, but he never forgot his Nebraska roots. In addition to his annual visits back home, Ashburn made frequent references to his hometown of Tilden and the valuable lessons he learned while growing up in Nebraska.

Richie Ashburn began his extraordinary athletic career in Nebraska where he starred in baseball, basketball, and track. Ashburn combined a natural athletic ability with determination and a strong work ethic. In the process, he set an enduring standard for athletes in northeast Nebraska and served as an inspiration for athletes across the State. Indeed this Member used a Richie Ashburn Louisville Slugger when he played baseball for the Utica Legion team and for Utica and Seward in the Blue Valley League and the Cornhusker League.

As a major league baseball player, Ashburn amassed an impressive record which eventually earned him enshrinement in the Hall of Fame. Outstanding from the beginning of his career, Ashburn received Rookie-of-the-Year honors in 1948. Year after year, he excelled at the plate and in the field. He retired with an amazing .308 batting average and had more hits than any other player in the 1950's. Ashburn was a defensive standout in center-field and led the league in putouts by an outfielder nine times, tying a major league record.

Ashburn was also a threat on the basepaths where he had 234 career stolen bases.

Following his outstanding 15 years in the majors, Ashburn considered running for Congress, but settled instead on a career in broadcasting. As a broadcaster for the Philadelphia Phillies, Ashburn displayed remarkable wit, knowledge, and love of the game. He was a familiar and comfortable voice for Phillies fans for 35 years.

Ashburn's impressive statistics in the major leagues demonstrate his greatness as a player, but they obviously don't reveal the remarkable qualities he displayed as a person. Ashburn was a humble man with a marvelous sense of humor. He also maintained the values he learned from his family in Nebraska—honesty, loyalty, decency, and a caring attitude. He truly had a genuine concern for all people which earned him numerous friends and lasting affection. Richie Ashburn will certainly be missed.

This Member would like to commend to his colleagues the following editorials from the Norfolk Daily News and the Philadelphia Inquirer. The editorials highlight Richie Ashburn's impressive accomplishments in Nebraska and Philadelphia.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Sept. 10, 1997]

LOSS MOURNED

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RICHIE ASHBURN WILL BE REMEMBERED BY MANY IN AREA

Just short of a half-century ago, Richie Ashburn was named "rookie of the year" by the Sporting News. He had compiled a .333 batting average in his first major league year; had stolen 32 bases to lead in that category even though he missed a month of the season. He was chosen as a starter in center field for the National League allstar team in that year, 1948.

His reaction to the award was this: "I only hope I will merit the honor by better playing next year." His career with the Philadelphia Phillies and finally with the Chicago Cubs and New York Mets, was marked by that determination and for continued high-level performance. A lifetime record of achievement in baseball led to belated recognition as a Hall of Fame member in 1995.

Northeast Nebraskans followed this Tilden native's career closely, from his days with the Antelopes in the early 1940s, a Legion baseball team sponsored by the post in Neligh, to his stellar performance as a basketball player in the off-season for Norfolk Junior College.

He had the strong support of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Ashburn, who made a home for Richie and four of his young teammates in their first years in Philadelphia. His mother still lives in Tilden.

His talent was not limited to playing baseball, but also included column-writing for a Philadelphia newspaper and a long career as an announcer for the Phillies. Now his career is closed with his sudden, unexpected death Sept. 9 at the age of 70.

He has an extended family to mourn his loss. It consists of supportive relatives, of course, whom he came back to Nebraska to see regularly. But it also numbers thousands of aging baseball fans who still remember vividly his exploits on the field and are proud of his performance off of it.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Sept. 10, 1997]

THE WHIZ KID

ON THE FIELD AND IN THE BROADCAST BOOTH, RICHIE ASHBURN WAS PHILADELPHIA TO THE CORE

Try to name a Philadelphian more beloved than D. Richard Ashburn.

Can't be done, can it?

Over half a century, Mr. Ashburn, the Phil-  
lies' Hall of Fame outfielder and longtime  
broadcaster who died suddenly yesterday, be-  
came woven deep into the fabric of a tough  
but loyal town. The threads running through  
his career were bedrock decency, consist-  
ency, dry wit and, of course, dashing athletic  
skill.

When Mr. Ashburn had a heart attack in a  
New York hotel after broadcasting a ball  
game between two teams for which he  
played, the Phils and Mets, Philadelphians  
lost someone who helped define their sense of  
their town.

He was, in the city's high accolade, a "reg-  
ular guy," a man who knew how to win and  
how to struggle, how to laugh and how to  
grieve, whom the rest of the nation never  
quite appreciated the way it should.

As a player, the Nebraskan everyone called  
Whitey was one of his generation's best, but  
often overlooked on the national stage. He  
was an artist of the single in a game where  
home-run hitters hog the spotlight. A Phila-  
delphian in an era when New York's Golden  
Age of Sport featured three legends playing  
his position: Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle  
and Duke Snider.

He didn't fret about that. He just kept  
doing with meticulous class all the little  
things—fielding his position, bunting run-  
ners along—that make winning possible.

Fitting it was that he saved the National  
League pennant for the fabled 1950 Whiz Kids  
with a defensive play in the season's last  
game.

Fitting it was also that baseball finally  
came to its senses and put him into its Hall  
of Fame in 1995—though sadly too late for  
him to savor the moment with his dead fa-  
ther, twin sister and daughter. At his induc-  
tion, he shared the podium graciously with a  
more talented but less lovable Phillie, Mike  
Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt himself, scanning the  
sea of red caps and the record 200 chartered  
buses invading Cooperstown that day, ob-  
served that 'twas Whitey who'd lured most of  
them.

In the broadcast booth, as on the field, Mr.  
Ashburn's work featured a Philadelphia-  
friendly mix: loyalty, warmth, honesty and  
understated humor that refused to take him-  
self or anyone else too seriously.

He was never the smoothest caller of a  
game, but he knew how to share a micro-  
phone, how to sum up excellence or disaster  
in one sage phrase, and how to put friend-  
liness into the "Welcome to Minnie from  
Royersford, celebrating her 90th today at the  
Vet" messages it was his daily lot to read.

A great ballplayer speaks to that piece in-  
side people that yearns for heroes. A baseball  
broadcaster, more than any other sports an-  
nouncer, becomes a piece of a city's daily  
conversation, a reliable bard whose word pic-  
tures fuel backyard debates and spice long  
commutes.

Philadelphia was graced to have Richie  
Ashburn in those two roles over five decades.  
Whitey, you'll be missed.

RECOGNITION OF SOLANO COUN-  
TY'S FIRST ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO  
SENIORS COMMUNITY CELEBRA-  
TION

**HON. VIC FAZIO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise  
today to recognize the first annual tribute to  
seniors community celebration in Solano

County, CA, which will take place on Septem-  
ber 24, 1997.

This all-day event will include speakers,  
workshops, and entertainment, as well as edu-  
cational offerings. It will also incorporate the  
annual health fair. It will be the first event of  
its kind to address fully the issues and interest  
of seniors throughout Solano County. Seniors  
and members of the Vacaville community  
have come together to create this event,  
which will serve to benefit all the citizens of  
Solano regardless of age.

We should also make note of the positive  
effects that can occur when our citizens join  
with their elected leaders, be they local, re-  
gional or national, and with shared visions, ac-  
complish that which we all strive for: A com-  
munity spirit that thrives and makes us proud.

In closing, I would like to commend the dis-  
tinguished members of the Tribute to Seniors  
Committee. The committee is comprised of the  
following individuals, all of whom have dedi-  
cated their time and energy to the success of  
this special event: Chairman Charles Conti,  
Diana Barney, Kristen Delaplaine, Lynn  
Kessler, Dorothy Locke, and Jim Tooke.

Congratulations to everyone who is working  
to make this day a caring and sharing celebra-  
tion.

SHAFTER COTTON RESEARCH STA-  
TION: A CALIFORNIA FARMING  
LANDMARK

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the Shafter Cot-  
ton Research Center, in Shafter, CA, is cele-  
brating 75 years of research for California cot-  
ton production and this month becomes a  
State registered landmark. The designation  
recognizes the important research contribu-  
tions this center has made to the California  
cotton industry. We also recognize the historic  
relationship between California cotton growers,  
the University of California, Kern County and  
the U.S. Department of Agriculture that has  
made the Shafter Cotton Research Center so  
successful.

This center got its start in 1922 and has  
been in the forefront of efforts to buck com-  
mon wisdom ever since. At that time, many  
people in the cotton industry thought California  
was too far from the mills in the eastern United  
States for California to ever become a cot-  
ton powerhouse. The work done in coopera-  
tion between Federal, State and local govern-  
ment and private industry that led to the  
ACALA cotton variety developed here proved  
the skeptics wrong. Since then, work on the  
120-acre center grounds has produced inno-  
vations in labor-saving mechanization, pest  
control and other farm practices.

The California industry made possible by  
the Shafter Cotton Research Center contri-  
butes over \$1 billion to the California farm  
economy and \$340 million to Kern County.  
California cotton's quality is so well known  
around the world that 80 percent of the cotton  
grown here goes into export markets.

The Shafter Cotton Research Center contin-  
ues to lead in cotton industry research. To-  
day's research is looking into ways to reduce  
tillage in cotton production, potentially valuable

to farmers faced with clean air requirements to  
reduce airborne dust. The center is also doing  
work on sophisticated means of monitoring  
crop health, means which could allow farmers  
to reduce applications of pesticides and other  
chemicals. It is still a cooperative venture.  
Under an agreement struck in 1991, the De-  
partment of Agriculture, the University of Cali-  
fornia, Kern County and the cotton industry  
are cooperating to keep the research center in  
operation so that this unique facility will con-  
tinue to produce cutting-edge technology for  
the California cotton farmer of the 21st cen-  
tury.

The Shafter Cotton Research Center is a  
landmark in California to the creative energies  
of generations of farmers and scientists be-  
cause of the way everyone has rolled up their  
100 percent cotton sleeves to work together.  
We recognize that cooperation's key role in  
the center's historic and future importance.

THE GREATER MIAMI COMMITTEE  
FOR UNICEF AWARDS LISSETTE  
AND WILLY CHIRINO FOR THEIR  
EXTENSIVE LABOR WITH DES-  
TITUTE CHILDREN

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it gives  
me great pleasure to pay tribute to one of Mi-  
ami's most outstanding organizations. The  
Greater Miami Committee for UNICEF has  
saved the lives of scores of children in the  
south Florida area and throughout the world.  
Providing emergency assistance by equipping  
poor and starving children with primary and  
necessary healthcare by furnishing them with  
basic education are among the many ways in  
which this organization has come to the res-  
cue of these underprivileged children; the chil-  
dren of our world.

The Greater Miami Committee for UNICEF  
has always advocated and devoted itself to  
fighting for the adequate protection of children  
and their inalienable rights. The members are  
always eager to award opportunities to des-  
titute children, with whatever means neces-  
sary, to help them to develop and reach  
their full potential in life.

This year, this commendable organization  
has chosen to present its award to La  
Fundacion Willy Chirino. Willy and Lissette  
Chirino, the founders and extensive laborers  
of this organization, have unselfishly and lov-  
ingly opened their hearts and their arms to the  
afflicted children facing hardships. As a result,  
this couple has eased heavy burdens of these  
poor children and has embraced them with the  
gifts of love and hope; gifts which these chil-  
dren had never previously experienced.

These notable organizations will continue to  
reach their hands out to these unfortunate  
children, lift them up and light their paths for  
a much better and brighter road ahead. I am  
confident that my colleagues will join me today  
in congratulating and celebrating the excep-  
tional work and effort that both The Greater  
Miami Committee for UNICEF and La  
Fundacion Willy Chirino have done for the im-  
poverished children of south Florida and  
throughout the world.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF ESSEX COUNTY

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I've always considered it a great privilege of this job to learn about and recognize the tremendous achievements and service of various civic programs that define our communities and what it means to be an American. Well, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about one such program in Essex County in the beautiful Adirondack mountains of my congressional district which does so much for their communities and for the older, retired residents of their towns.

I'm talking about the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Essex County which is celebrating its 23d year of service. The RSVP program, as it's called for short, is a national program which has a dual purpose that makes it so unique. First, it offers a way for retired persons, age 55 and over, to stay active and contribute to the welfare of their community and neighbors. Mr. Speaker, we all know how important it is to remain active after we leave the working world. There is nothing more tragic than to see capable, enthusiastic people become virtual shut-ins just because they no longer get to the workplace. All too often in this day and age, we get caught up in the rat race and become consumed by our job or career. Well, this program makes sure that doesn't happen to those who upon retirement may have the time to devote to helping others who really can't help themselves. And in areas like Essex County, that is so important. You know, this program really dates back to the days of the pioneer spirit when Americans and neighbors looked out for one another and for the betterment of their community.

Now one might ask how much this program really accomplishes. Listen to this, Mr. Speaker. Over the 23 years that RSVP has been active in Essex County, it has grown from 95 volunteers who provided 6,000 volunteer hours of service, to 530 volunteers performing a whopping 75,817 hours of service. Imagine that. Imagine what can be done with that many hours committed by capable, experienced adults who volunteer because they really want to help out. There's no limit really.

And that's another great part. These volunteers commit time when they can and they have proven to be reliable, dependable public servants. In other words, these giving men and women have seized the opportunity to help solve various community problems by capitalizing on their wealth of lifetime experiences and wisdom. That's the true spirit of public service and giving.

Mr. Speaker, I have one word that describes all the blessed volunteers who have orchestrated and participated in this program throughout its 23 year history, heroes. I have always judged people based on what they return to their community and by that measure, all who have given of their time during their well-deserved retirement are not only heroes, but great Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Essex County RSVP will hold their annual volunteer recognition ceremony this coming Wednesday, September 24, 1997. The recognition of their peers and their

community is certainly warranted. However, I ask that you and all Members of the House join me at this time in paying our own tribute to this proven, outstanding program. It defines those uniquely American qualities of pride, patriotism, and voluntarism that make this country great. May it continue on throughout all of our lifetimes and beyond. Congratulations to all their volunteers for a job well done.

**WELDON RECOGNIZES ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR QVC**

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to a major company in southeastern Pennsylvania as it approaches an important milestone in its history—QVC, Inc.

In the 1890's, the Sears Roebuck & Co. produced our Nation's first mail order catalog, revolutionizing the lives of millions of Americans by allowing them to shop from home through mail. Nearly 100 years later, QVC has established itself as a pioneer in the home shopping industry, providing consumers with the luxury of shopping from the comfort of their own living room.

Thanks to QVC, customers nationwide have the luxury of shopping at home for items that range from fashion and jewelry to home furnishings and electronics. Not only can individuals make purchases while watching products demonstrated live on television, but now consumers can make purchases through QVC's interactive shopping over the Internet.

Founded in 1986 by Joseph Segal, QVC quickly established a national name for itself, racking up \$112 million in revenue in its first full fiscal year of sales, a new American business history record. In just 7 years, QVC became the No. 1 U.S. electronic retailer.

On Wednesday, September 24, QVC will reach yet another milestone, as it celebrates the grand opening gala of its new state-of-the-art broadcast facility, Studio Park. Located in West Chester, PA, Studio Park will usher in the next century for QVC, allowing it to continue to both expand and improve the quality service that it provides the American public.

And QVC is indeed expanding. In fact, QVC's customers continue to grow by over 100,000 individuals per month. And where QVC shipped more than 51 million products to customers throughout the country in 1996, the company expects that number to increase to 63 million by the end of this year. That's two packages of every second of every day for an entire year.

And QVC's expansion has had a profound impact upon the region's local economy. First established in West Chester, PA, QVC has remained true to its founder's roots. As the studio expanded from 20 people when it first opened in 1986, to 197 employees 11 weeks later, to roughly 7,000 employees 11 years later, it has been the residents of the Delaware Valley who have felt the benefits of increased employment.

The expansion and success of QVC, I am sure my colleagues in the House will agree, is simply amazing. Through close interaction between the management and the work force,

QVC has established itself as a nationally respected company. I ask my colleagues to join me today in applauding QVC for its past accomplishments, while wishing the company and its employees continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. EPHRAIM KAHN**

**HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with sadness and a powerful sense of loss, to pay tribute to Dr. Ephraim Kahn, a man who was well respected by many in our bay area community. Dr. Kahn's unwavering belief in justice, peace, and equality for all enabled him to become an innovative leader during the changing political climate from the 1960's to the present. Although common place now, his ideas of school integration, the dangers of pesticides, and the need for protecting our environment were considered radical and caused him to clash with several agencies during the governorship of Ronald Reagan. However, Dr. Kahn did not allow social pressure to block him from what he believed to be true and just. Ephraim once said, in response to negative publicity, "I have the hide of an armadillo when I know I am right." He was a strong advocate for universal health care and was consistently active in national organizations concerned with issues of nuclear arms control, civil rights, and environmental hazards. His dedication inspired everyone with whom he came in contact.

Dr. Kahn received his medical degree from New York University College of Medicine in 1940 in time to serve with the 77th Infantry Division in the Pacific during World War II. He returned to complete his residency in 1948 at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, and with his family moved to northern California. In addition to his work as a physician, his interest in public health led him to obtain a master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, after which he served as an environmental epidemiologist in the California Department of Health. He was named by Gov. Ronald Reagan to head a task force investigating mercury levels among fish and fowl in the delta and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. It was in that capacity that he ignited a controversy within the agencies regulating California waterways.

Ephraim Kahn was greatly valued as a giant of compassion by all who knew him. He will be missed by his patients, his family, his friends, and by all of us who had the opportunity to work with him and to know him. He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Barbara Kahn; his two daughters, Kathleen and Georgia; his son, Michael, and two grandsons, David and Ethan. Dr. Kahn lived 81 years and in those years he spent most of it attempting to make this world in which we live a healthier, safer, and more humane place. We will all miss him profoundly.

REGARDING SCHOOL OF VISUAL  
ARTS**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the School of Visual Arts, located in my district in New York City. The School of Visual Arts was established in 1947 by Silas Rhodes and has since grown to be the largest independent college of the arts in the country. The school has a student population drawn from 44 States and 53 countries, and a faculty comprised of full-time working professionals.

Mr. Rhodes, who has continued as director, founded the school on the idea of combining access to the professional world of art with superior art education. He has accomplished this by bringing working artists into the classroom. As instructors, these professional artists offer the students a solid foundation in craft as well as exposure to current art world expression. Working toward this goal, the school also has four art galleries, including one in the heart of SoHo, a visual arts museum, a radio station, and it offers students in the film and video department more hands-on experience than any other comparable degree program. Additionally, with the rapid advancement in computer technology and influence on the working world, the School of Visual Arts has impressively kept up to pace. The school became the first college to offer both a bachelor degree and a master of fine arts degree in computer art and maintains a 1-to-1 student to computer ratio.

The School of Visual Arts offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in the traditional fine arts, but has expanded the study of art to include advertising, graphic design, animation, art education, computer art, film and video, illustration and cartooning, interior design, photography, and art therapy. In addition to the full-time students, there are currently more than 4,000 members of the community taking advantage of the continuing education classes that are offered. The art education department also provides art classes to public school children from all five boroughs of New York City. The school also participates in numerous volunteer art projects, serving communities who otherwise have very little access to the arts.

In celebration of the School of Visual Arts 50th anniversary, the school will present Art Awareness Week, designed to inform the public about the importance of art in society and about the different variations of art. In the coming months the school will host 45 events throughout the city and has published a book entitled "School of Visual Arts Gold: Fifty Years of Creative Graphic Design." I would like to congratulate the school on 50 years of excellence in art education. I am proud to have this fine institution in my district.

## POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the importance of

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which falls on September 19, 1997. I urge my colleagues to participate in recognizing America's heroes, those who are presumed missing in action.

Our Nation has fought six major conflicts in its history. In those wars, over 500,000 Americans have been taken prisoner of war. Those service men and women experienced numerous hardships and treatment which could often be described only as barbaric during the course of captivity. Those Americans imprisoned by the Japanese during World War II faced the worst possible conditions in captivity and were firsthand witnesses to the utter depravity of their fellow men.

I have been a strong advocate of an accounting of our POW/MIA's since I first came to the Congress in 1973. I proudly supported the creation of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, the National POW/MIA Recognition Days, and POW/MIA legislation because I believe the families of those who are missing in action deserve no less. Hopefully 1996 will be the last year that such an occasion will be necessary. My hope is that by this time next year, our Government will have obtained a full accounting of those brave American's whose fates, at this time, are still unknown.

Permit me to focus special recognition on those POW/MIA's from Korea and Vietnam. Despite the administration's best assurances to the contrary, many of us remain unconvinced that the Governments of North Korea and Vietnam have been fully cooperating with the United States on this issue. Regrettably, by normalizing relations with Vietnam, I believe that we have withdrawn our leverage over the Vietnamese Government on this issue.

In recent years, we have learned from testimony presented to congressional committees that Soviet and Czech military doctors performed ghastly medical experiments on United States POW's in North Korea during the Korean war. These experiments were used to test the psychological endurance of American GI's, as well as their resistance to chemical, biological, and radioactive agents. Moreover, Soviet and Czech intelligence agents helped organize shipments of POW's to the U.S.S.R. during the Vietnam war, and that 200 were sent between 1961 and 1968.

It is my hope that this information will lead to a further clarification regarding the safe return of any living POW's who may still be in captivity in Korea or elsewhere.

Americans should bear in mind the love of country that America's veterans have demonstrated as well as their personal sacrifices, convictions, and dedication to freedom that they have courageously exhibited.

In a portion of President Abraham Lincoln's letter to a mother who lost five sons on the battlefield, he stated: "I cannot refrain from tendering to you the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

May it be of some solace to the families and loved ones of our missing and POW's that there are many of us in the Congress committed to a full and final accounting of our missing and will continue to seek such a resolution.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Chairman, the House of Representatives passed the fiscal year 1998 Labor-HHS Appropriations Act. Included in the bill is a provision that deserves the support of every Member of Congress who wants to assist our Persian Gulf war veterans.

The provision, authored by Representative BERNARD SANDERS, would provide \$7 million over 5 years to the Department of Health and Human Services to use both the expertise of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the possible connection between chemical and biological exposures and the mysterious ailments being suffered by our gulf war veterans. Representative SANDERS deserves much credit for his efforts to ensure that we thoroughly investigate what is making our veterans sick.

This provision comes at a time when more and more people are becoming convinced that chemical weapons may have played a substantial role in the illnesses that are afflicting Persian Gulf veterans. Just recently, the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses agreed to revise its final report to reflect that chemical weapons may have played some role in veterans' ailments. In addition, the final report will now say that research on the effect of chemical weapons exposure has been minimal and that it may take years of research to clarify the causes of these problems.

I believe that we cannot leave any stone unturned in trying to find answers. As DOD continues to revise upward the number of veterans who may have been exposed to chemical weapons, it's obvious that we cannot allow our Government to do a minimal job of investigating what is becoming a compelling possibility.

The provision could not have come at a better time. For too long, our Government has refused to fully investigate the possibility that low-level chemical weapons exposure or exposure to multiple chemical substances may pose serious health consequences. We now have a chance to reverse this and ensure that every possible avenue is investigated in trying to help our sick Persian Gulf war veterans.

Again, I applaud Representative SANDERS for his work. I hope it finally signifies that we have turned the corner in our efforts to get to the bottom of this tragedy.

WE MUST BAN LANDMINES

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep disappointment with President Clinton's decision not to join the international landmine treaty being negotiated in Oslo.

Antipersonnel landmines pose a deadly, indiscriminate threat to the lives of millions of people around the world. Each year, over 20,000 people are killed or disabled by landmines left over from past conflicts. In many former war-torn countries, the damage is all too visible: thousands of men, women, and children with missing limbs, crippled by hidden landmines.

Banning the production and deployment of antipersonnel landmines is a reasonable, common sense and necessary solution. Yet the decision to not sign the treaty means the United States has rejected that solution, and will instead continue to produce, sell, and deploy antipersonnel landmines.

Action must be taken to stop this insidious and deadly weapon. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 2459, legislation introduced by my colleague, LANE EVANS, to stop the further deployment of antipersonnel landmines by the United States. We in Congress must step forward, where our President has not, and do the right thing.

IN HONOR OF ANTONIO PELAEZ:  
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MAT-  
RIMONY AND 25 YEARS OF A  
FAMILY BUSINESS**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding gentleman, Mr. Antonio Pelaez of the American Cuban Community. On September 20, 1997, Mr. Pelaez will be celebrating two very important milestones in his life. The first joyous event is Antonio and Olga Pelaez's 50th wedding anniversary. The second is the 25th anniversary of his company, ANPESIL Distributors, Inc.

Fifty years ago Antonio and Olga Pelaez joined their love for each other in holy matrimony. Over the years, their love and strength has been handed down to their children, Antonio Jr., Luis, and Olga.

A quarter of a century ago, this exceptional family, led by Mr. Pelaez and his son Antonio Jr., founded ANPESIL, one of the largest candy distributors in New Jersey. In the Cuban community, family owned businesses are common, but in the United States few have grown to be as successful as ANPESIL. Achieving the American Dream can be attributed to Mr. Pelaez's hard work and vision, as well as the strength of his family. Mr. Pelaez and his family along with his nephew Emilio Jr. have worked hard toward this achievement. Emilio Jr. is now the company treasurer, a position he took over after his father Emilio Sr. retired 5 years ago.

Mr. Pelaez left Cuba for Spain in 1961, where he worked as a salesman for the Swift

Premium Co. Although he later founded his own frozen foods distribution company, he decided in 1970 to join his brothers in the United States with the hope that America would offer even greater opportunities for an entrepreneur. Mr. Pelaez has been distinguished as the only Hispanic member of Pennsylvania's Candy Hall of Fame. He has also received numerous awards from confectionery companies all over the world, and domestic banking and financial institutions.

It is a great pleasure to honor and recognize Mr. Antonio Pelaez on the occasion of these two anniversaries. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding commitment and dedication made by Mr. Antonio Pelaez and his company ANPESIL.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPRO-  
PRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2378) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, the chart below reflects final House action on H.R. 2378.

**TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 2378)**

	FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	Bill	Bill compared with Enacted	Bill compared with Estimate
<b>TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY</b>					
Departmental Offices .....	112,048,000	116,314,000	113,410,000	+1,362,000	-2,904,000
Counterterrorism fund .....	15,000,000	.....	.....	-15,000,000	.....
Supplemental funding (P.L. 105-18) .....	1,950,000	.....	.....	-1,950,000	.....
Automation Enhancement.....	27,100,000	29,389,000	25,989,000	-1,111,000	-3,400,000
Office of Inspector General.....	29,770,000	31,333,000	29,927,000	+157,000	-1,406,000
Office of Professional Responsibility.....	1,500,000	1,625,000	1,500,000	.....	-125,000
Treasury Buildings and Annex Repair and Restoration.....	28,213,000	12,484,000	6,484,000	-21,729,000	-6,000,000
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.....	22,387,000	23,006,000	22,835,000	+448,000	-171,000
Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund (limitation on availability of deposits) .....	10,000,000	9,500,000	.....	-10,000,000	-9,500,000
<b>Violent Crime Reduction Programs:</b>					
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms .....	36,595,000	42,378,000	21,528,000	-15,067,000	-20,850,000
Departmental Offices .....	18,300,000	.....	.....	-18,300,000	.....
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.....	1,000,000	3,000,000	1,000,000	.....	-2,000,000
United States Secret Service.....	20,000,000	20,664,000	16,837,000	-3,163,000	-3,827,000
ONDCP - HIDTA .....	13,105,000	.....	5,000,000	-8,105,000	+5,000,000
Gang Resistance Education and Training: Grants.....	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	.....	.....
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.....	.....	24,058,000	1,000,000	+1,000,000	-23,058,000
United States Customs Service .....	.....	20,100,000	43,635,000	+43,635,000	+23,535,000
<b>Total, Violent Crime Reduction Programs.....</b>	<b>97,000,000</b>	<b>118,200,000</b>	<b>97,000,000</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>-21,200,000</b>
<b>Federal Law Enforcement Training Center:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses .....	56,185,000	65,683,000	64,663,000	+8,478,000	-1,000,000
Acquisition, Construction, Improvement, & Related Expenses .....	21,584,000	11,111,000	32,548,000	+10,964,000	+21,437,000
<b>Total, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.....</b>	<b>77,769,000</b>	<b>76,774,000</b>	<b>97,211,000</b>	<b>+19,442,000</b>	<b>+20,437,000</b>
<b>Interagency Law Enforcement:</b>					
Interagency crime and drug enforcement 1/.....	.....	73,794,000	73,794,000	+73,794,000	.....
Financial Management Service .....	196,518,000	202,560,000	199,675,000	+3,157,000	-2,885,000
Reimburse Federal Reserve Bank (Indefinite) .....	.....	122,000,000	.....	.....	-122,000,000
<b>Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses .....	460,394,000	496,954,000	478,649,000	+18,255,000	-18,305,000
Laboratory facilities.....	6,978,000	55,022,000	55,022,000	+48,044,000	.....
<b>Total, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms .....</b>	<b>467,372,000</b>	<b>551,976,000</b>	<b>533,671,000</b>	<b>+66,299,000</b>	<b>-18,305,000</b>
<b>United States Customs Service:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses .....	1,549,585,000	1,566,826,000	1,526,078,000	-23,507,000	-40,748,000
Customs facilities, construction, improvements.....	.....	5,512,000	.....	.....	-5,512,000
Operation and Maintenance, Air & Marine Interdiction Programs	83,363,000	92,758,000	97,258,000	+13,895,000	+4,500,000
Customs Services at Small Airports (to be derived from fees collected) .....	2,406,000	2,406,000	2,406,000	.....	.....
Harbor Maintenance Fee Collection .....	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	.....	.....
<b>Total, United States Customs Service .....</b>	<b>1,638,354,000</b>	<b>1,670,502,000</b>	<b>1,628,742,000</b>	<b>-9,612,000</b>	<b>-41,760,000</b>
Bureau of the Public Debt .....	165,335,000	169,426,000	169,426,000	+4,091,000	.....
<b>Internal Revenue Service:</b>					
Processing, Assistance, and Management .....	1,790,288,000	2,943,174,000	2,915,100,000	+1,124,812,000	-28,074,000
Tax Law Enforcement .....	4,104,211,000	3,153,722,000	3,108,300,000	-995,911,000	-45,422,000
Rescission.....	.....	.....	.....	-14,500,000	-14,500,000
Information Systems.....	1,323,075,000	1,272,487,000	1,292,500,000	-30,575,000	+20,013,000
Rescission.....	-174,447,000	.....	.....	+174,447,000	.....
Information technology investments .....	.....	500,000,000	326,000,000	+326,000,000	-174,000,000
<b>Net total, Internal Revenue Service.....</b>	<b>7,043,127,000</b>	<b>7,869,383,000</b>	<b>7,627,400,000</b>	<b>+584,273,000</b>	<b>-241,983,000</b>
<b>United States Secret Service:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses .....	531,288,000	575,971,000	555,736,000	+24,448,000	-20,235,000
Rescission.....	-7,600,000	.....	.....	+7,600,000	.....
Acquisition, Construction, Improvement, & Related Expenses .....	37,365,000	9,178,000	5,775,000	-31,590,000	-3,401,000
<b>Total, United States Secret Service.....</b>	<b>561,053,000</b>	<b>585,147,000</b>	<b>561,511,000</b>	<b>+458,000</b>	<b>-23,636,000</b>
<b>Net total, title I, Department of the Treasury.....</b>	<b>10,494,496,000</b>	<b>11,663,413,000</b>	<b>11,188,575,000</b>	<b>+694,079,000</b>	<b>-474,838,000</b>
<b>TITLE II - POSTAL SERVICE</b>					
<b>Payments to the Postal Service</b>					
Payment to the Postal Service Fund .....	85,080,000	86,274,000	86,274,000	+1,194,000	.....
Supplemental funding (P.L. 105-18) .....	5,383,000	.....	.....	-5,383,000	.....
Payment to the Postal Service Fund for Nonfunded Liabilities.....	35,536,000	34,850,000	34,850,000	-686,000	.....
<b>Total, title II, Postal Service .....</b>	<b>125,999,000</b>	<b>121,124,000</b>	<b>121,124,000</b>	<b>-4,875,000</b>	<b>.....</b>

1/ Funded in CJSJ bill in FY 1997.

**TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 2378)—Continued**

	FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	Bill	Bill compared with Enacted	Bill compared with Estimate
<b>TITLE III - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT</b>					
Compensation of the President and the White House Office:					
Compensation of the President.....	250,000	250,000	250,000	.....	.....
Salaries and Expenses .....	40,193,000	51,199,000	51,199,000	+ 11,006,000	.....
Executive Residence at the White House:					
Operating Expenses .....	7,827,000	8,045,000	8,045,000	+ 218,000	.....
White House Repair and Restoration .....	.....	200,000	200,000	+ 200,000	.....
Special Assistance to the President and the Official Residence of the Vice President:					
Salaries and Expenses .....	3,280,000	3,378,000	3,378,000	+ 98,000	.....
Operating expenses.....	324,000	334,000	334,000	+ 10,000	.....
Council of Economic Advisers.....	3,439,000	3,542,000	3,542,000	+ 103,000	.....
Office of Policy Development .....	3,867,000	3,983,000	3,983,000	+ 116,000	.....
National Security Council .....	6,648,000	6,648,000	6,648,000	.....	.....
Office of Administration .....	26,100,000	28,883,000	28,883,000	+ 2,783,000	.....
Office of Management and Budget.....	55,573,000	57,240,000	57,240,000	+ 1,667,000	.....
Office of National Drug Control Policy .....	35,838,000	36,016,000	43,516,000	+ 7,678,000	+ 7,500,000
Unanticipated Needs .....	.....	1,000,000	.....	.....	-1,000,000
Federal Drug Control Programs: High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program .....					
.....	127,102,000	140,207,000	146,207,000	+ 19,105,000	+ 6,000,000
Special forfeiture fund .....	112,900,000	175,000,000	205,000,000	+ 92,100,000	+ 30,000,000
<b>Total, title III, Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President.....</b>					
	<b>423,341,000</b>	<b>515,925,000</b>	<b>558,425,000</b>	<b>+ 135,084,000</b>	<b>+ 42,500,000</b>
<b>TITLE IV - INDEPENDENT AGENCIES</b>					
Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled .....					
.....	1,800,000	1,940,000	1,940,000	+ 140,000	.....
Federal Election Commission .....	28,165,000	34,216,000	34,550,000	+ 6,385,000	+ 334,000
Federal Labor Relations Authority .....	21,588,000	22,039,000	21,803,000	+ 215,000	-236,000
General Services Administration:					
Federal Buildings Fund:					
Appropriation .....	400,544,000	84,000,000	.....	-400,544,000	-84,000,000
Limitations on availability of revenue:					
Construction & acquisition of facilities .....	(657,711,000)	.....	.....	(-657,711,000)	.....
Environmental cleanup activities .....	(20,000,000)	.....	.....	(-20,000,000)	.....
Consolidated Federal Law Enforcement Bldg.....	(81,000,000)	.....	.....	(-81,000,000)	.....
Repairs and alterations .....	(639,000,000)	(434,000,000)	(300,000,000)	(-339,000,000)	(-134,000,000)
Installment acquisition payments.....	(173,075,000)	(142,542,000)	(142,542,000)	(-30,533,000)	.....
Operations and rental of space .....	.....	.....	(3,607,129,000)	(+ 3,607,129,000)	(+ 3,607,129,000)
Rental of space .....	(2,343,795,000)	(2,275,340,000)	.....	(-2,343,795,000)	(-2,275,340,000)
Building Operations.....	(1,552,651,000)	(1,331,789,000)	.....	(-1,552,651,000)	(-1,331,789,000)
Repayment of Debt.....	(88,312,000)	(105,720,000)	(105,720,000)	(+ 17,408,000)	.....
Previously appropriated activities .....	.....	(680,543,000)	(680,543,000)	(+ 680,543,000)	.....
<b>Total, Federal Buildings Fund .....</b>					
	<b>400,544,000</b>	<b>84,000,000</b>	.....	<b>-400,544,000</b>	<b>-84,000,000</b>
<b>(Limitations) .....</b>					
	<b>(5,555,544,000)</b>	<b>(4,969,934,000)</b>	<b>(4,835,934,000)</b>	<b>(-719,610,000)</b>	<b>(-134,000,000)</b>
Policy and Operations .....	110,173,000	104,487,000	107,487,000	-2,686,000	+ 3,000,000
Office of Inspector General .....	33,863,000	33,870,000	33,870,000	+ 7,000	.....
Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents.....	2,180,000	2,250,000	2,208,000	+ 28,000	-42,000
Expenses, presidential transition.....	5,600,000	.....	.....	-5,600,000	.....
Rescission (P.L. 105-18) .....	-5,600,000	.....	.....	+ 5,600,000	.....
<b>Total, General Services Administration.....</b>					
	<b>546,780,000</b>	<b>224,607,000</b>	<b>143,565,000</b>	<b>-403,195,000</b>	<b>-81,042,000</b>
John F. Kennedy Assassination Record Review Board .....	2,150,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	-550,000	.....
Merit Systems Protection Board:					
Salaries and Expenses .....	23,923,000	24,450,000	25,290,000	+ 1,367,000	+ 840,000
(Limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(2,430,000)	(2,430,000)	(2,430,000)	.....	.....
Morris K. Udall scholarship and excellence in national environ- mental policy foundation .....	.....	2,000,000	2,000,000	+ 2,000,000	.....
National Archives and Records Administration:					
Operating expenses.....	196,963,000	206,479,000	202,354,000	+ 5,391,000	-4,125,000
Reduction of debt .....	-4,012,000	-4,012,000	-4,012,000	.....	.....
Archives Facilities and Presidential Libraries:					
Repairs and Restoration .....	16,229,000	6,650,000	10,650,000	-5,579,000	+ 4,000,000
National Historical Publications and Records Commission:					
Grants program.....	5,000,000	4,000,000	5,500,000	+ 500,000	+ 1,500,000
<b>Total, National Archives and Records Administration.....</b>					
	<b>214,180,000</b>	<b>213,117,000</b>	<b>214,492,000</b>	<b>+ 312,000</b>	<b>+ 1,375,000</b>
Office of Government Ethics.....	8,078,000	8,285,000	8,078,000	.....	-187,000

**TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 2378)—Continued**

	FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	Bill	Bill compared with Enacted	Bill compared with Estimate
<b>Office of Personnel Management:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses .....	87,286,000	85,350,000	85,350,000	-1,936,000	.....
(Limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(94,736,000)	(91,236,000)	(91,236,000)	(-3,500,000)	.....
Office of Inspector General .....	980,000	980,000	980,000	.....	.....
(Limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(8,645,000)	(8,645,000)	(8,645,000)	.....	.....
Government Payment for Annuitants, Employees Health Benefits .....	4,059,000,000	4,338,000,000	4,338,000,000	+279,000,000	.....
Government Payment for Annuitants, Employee Life Insurance... ..	33,000,000	32,000,000	32,000,000	-1,000,000	.....
Payment to Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund .....	7,989,000,000	8,336,000,000	8,336,000,000	+347,000,000	.....
<b>Total, Office of Personnel Management.....</b>	<b>12,169,246,000</b>	<b>12,792,310,000</b>	<b>12,792,310,000</b>	<b>+623,064,000</b>	<b>.....</b>
Office of Special Counsel .....	8,116,000	8,450,000	8,116,000	.....	-334,000
United States Tax Court.....	33,781,000	34,293,000	33,921,000	+140,000	-372,000
<b>Total, title IV, Independent Agencies.....</b>	<b>13,057,787,000</b>	<b>13,367,287,000</b>	<b>13,287,665,000</b>	<b>+229,878,000</b>	<b>-79,622,000</b>
(Limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(5,661,355,000)	(5,072,245,000)	(4,938,245,000)	(-723,110,000)	(-134,000,000)
<b>Net grand total .....</b>	<b>24,101,623,000</b>	<b>25,667,749,000</b>	<b>25,155,789,000</b>	<b>+1,054,166,000</b>	<b>-511,960,000</b>
Appropriations .....	(24,276,337,000)	(25,667,749,000)	(25,170,289,000)	(+893,952,000)	(-497,460,000)
Rescissions .....	(-182,047,000)	.....	(-14,500,000)	(+167,547,000)	(-14,500,000)
Emergency funding (P.L. 105-18).....	(7,333,000)	.....	.....	(-7,333,000)	.....
(Limitations) .....	(5,661,355,000)	(5,072,245,000)	(4,938,245,000)	(-723,110,000)	(-134,000,000)
<b>Scorekeeping adjustments:</b>					
Bureau of The Public Debt (Permanent) .....	129,000,000	144,000,000	144,000,000	+15,000,000	.....
Ethics Reform Act Adjustment .....	-6,000,000	.....	.....	+6,000,000	.....
Gold and platinum bullion .....	-12,000,000	.....	.....	+12,000,000	.....
Section 409 .....	1,000,000	.....	.....	-1,000,000	.....
Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corp. (Sec. 638) .....	26,100,000	34,000,000	.....	-26,100,000	-34,000,000
Emergency funding for anti-terrorism .....	-275,328,000	.....	.....	+275,328,000	.....
Trust fund budget authority .....	105,700,000	102,311,000	102,311,000	-3,389,000	.....
US Mint revolving fund.....	.....	30,000,000	30,000,000	+30,000,000	.....
Salle Mae .....	.....	1,000,000	1,000,000	+1,000,000	.....
Federal buildings fund.....	.....	.....	-50,000,000	-50,000,000	-50,000,000
<b>Total, scorekeeping adjustments.....</b>	<b>-31,528,000</b>	<b>311,311,000</b>	<b>227,311,000</b>	<b>+258,839,000</b>	<b>-84,000,000</b>
<b>Total mandatory and discretionary.....</b>	<b>24,070,085,000</b>	<b>25,979,080,000</b>	<b>25,383,100,000</b>	<b>+1,313,005,000</b>	<b>-595,960,000</b>
<b>Mandatory.....</b>	<b>12,245,786,000</b>	<b>12,885,100,000</b>	<b>12,885,100,000</b>	<b>+639,314,000</b>	<b>.....</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>					
Crime trust fund .....	97,000,000	118,200,000	97,000,000	.....	-21,200,000
General purposes .....	11,727,309,000	12,975,780,000	12,401,000,000	+673,691,000	-574,780,000
<b>Total, Discretionary.....</b>	<b>11,824,309,000</b>	<b>13,093,960,000</b>	<b>12,498,000,000</b>	<b>+673,691,000</b>	<b>-595,960,000</b>

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OVER  
THE DEATH OF INTERNATIONAL  
AID WORKERS IN BOSNIA

**HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 1997*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness over the loss of 12 aid workers in Bosnia—including 5 American citizens who were working to rebuild civil society in that troubled country—in a helicopter crash earlier this week.

These individuals represent the best of America, and they have sacrificed their lives in an effort to bring our ideals to a country which has been torn apart by hatred and intolerance. All of these individuals, and the others who have lost their lives trying to bring lasting peace to Bosnia and other countries, are heroes and we should mourn their deaths as we would mourn the loss of our men and women in uniform. Every day in the world's trouble spots, there are countless people from many nations who dedicate their lives to improving the future for others. They make tremendous sacrifices, often leaving their families and homes behind to work in a hostile, dangerous environment to help strangers who do not always fully appreciate the benefit they are receiving.

Gerd Wagner, one of the most respected and accomplished diplomats in Bosnia, was among those who perished in this tragic accident. Mr. Wagner had been playing a key role in bringing together Muslims and Croats in central Bosnia. In addition, several members of a team that was working to rebuild Bosnia's civil police force died in the crash. This project is one of the most important elements of securing peace in Bosnia. My wife, Kathryn, knew some of these individuals personally, and had a chance to see what they were accomplishing during a visit to Bosnia last month. We have been deeply affected by this tragedy, and it has served to remind us both—as it should all Members of this House—that our foreign assistance program is not just an abstraction. It is real people doing important work, often without recognition or thanks.

I know that it is too late to thank those who died in the helicopter crash on Wednesday, but I do want to take this opportunity to commend all of those caring and committed people who put their lives on the line every day to secure peace and democracy in places like Bosnia. Your work is a living memorial to those 12 people who died on a mountain in central Bosnia. May your work continue to serve their memory well.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making ap-

propriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in reluctant support of Representative GOODLING's amendment to prohibit the use of funds in the bill to develop and administer a national testing program in reading and mathematics. I believe that Congress and the President have still not committed themselves to a serious discussion of education policy or spending in this country. Unfortunately this standard continues today as the parties on both sides of this issue have sought to hide behind this national testing initiative by labeling it as either a remedy for many of the problems this country is having with elementary and secondary education or some nefarious effort on the part of the Federal Government to become more involved in education curriculum.

The national testing program included in this legislation deserves neither of these classifications. If implemented and carefully monitored, it has a number of provisions that will be of great assistance to both State and Federal policymakers as well as parents interested in their child's education. However, I oppose the national testing initiative included in this bill because it does not ensure that this Government will take any steps to address the disparity in mathematics and reading proficiency that we all know this testing will demonstrate. The local areas where there are concentrated numbers of students that are dropping out of high school, failing, and scoring low on the sporadic tests administered now desperately need direct injections of funding from the Federal Government. We can all argue about what types of restrictions or demands should be tied to these funds at a later date. In the meantime, we should implement a national testing program that includes a national formula for focused education spending, and we should do it as quickly as possible.

Let me discuss some reasons why I believe this national testing initiative could produce a number of benefits for parents and State governments interested in improving elementary and secondary education. However, I will first address the concerns of the many parents that educate their children at home who have contacted my office to express their opinions on this amendment. I respect your decision to home-school your children very much. However, the vast majority of children in the United States are educated at public schools, and it is essential that elected officials and education planners on the Federal and local level have the resources needed to develop effective public policy. National testing will fulfill that need without unduly intruding on your right to practice home-schooling.

This national testing program would allow States or local education agencies [LEA's] to voluntarily administer specific tests to every fourth grade pupil in reading and eighth grade pupil in math. I do not believe enough emphasis can be placed on the fact that this program would be voluntary, and participation in these tests would not affect a State or LEA's eligibility for assistance under Federal aid programs. Any effort to extend the Federal role in this process beyond the design and administration of these tests would require further congressional action, and as we all know, that is simply not going to happen.

At the present time, there is no current education test that every pupil in every grade takes nationwide. One or more tests are administered to virtually every pupil in many grades in almost all States, but these tests vary from State to State. Some States develop their own tests, others are members of multi-State consortia that develop assessments, and others administer tests developed by commercial publishers. The National Assessment of Education Progress [NAEP] is the closest existing initiative to a national testing program. However, the NAEP only determines mathematics and reading proficiency in samples of school children.

The present education testing system prevents policymakers in many States from comparing their education statistics with other States. If an effective education program is implemented in one State and then copied in another, for example, the two State governments may not be able to compare the success of their efforts because of difficulties in correlating the research statistics or even a lack of well-documented results.

More importantly, the current system prevents a parent from being able to compare their children's academic achievement with other students on a local, State, or national level. A parent whose child makes average grades may be satisfied with their child's academic progress. Unfortunately, these parents will not be aware that their child may have fallen behind the rest of their classmates until they take their SAT's at the age of 18.

This proposal will provide every parent of every child in a State or LEA that chooses to participate with comparisons of their child's results to other students at their school, in the State, and in the Nation. If every family receives that envelope in the mail, I believe there will be a lot of parents who choose to get more involved in their child's education, which after all is what the majority of my colleagues will agree is the most effective education policy there can be.

I am concerned that a national test may be constructed in a manner that is biased against traditionally undereducated populations, such as African-Americans and Hispanics. If Federal funding was tied to the improvement of test scores in areas that score poorly, this bias could lead to underserved sanctions in regions that have high numbers of minorities. As a result, if a national testing program is implemented in the future, we will have to pay careful attention to the design of the tests and remain skeptical of any effort to create a Federal enforcement procedure. However, national testing's benefits for these populations far outweigh these risks. By motivating parents to pay more attention to their child's academic development and providing policymakers the empirical evidence needed to design effective education policies targeted at minorities, this initiative will produce the first real effort to address the failure of current education policies in these areas.

In the end, we are not interested in creating a uniform national education curriculum; we are only demanding a uniform national education outcome—a system where every child has the same opportunity to succeed through an advanced public education system. In my home State of Mississippi, sampled children already score well below the national average on the NAEP's fourth grade reading test and are ranked in the bottom fifth in eighth grade

math proficiency. If a well-planned, voluntary national testing program could be coupled with a funding distribution system directed at those areas most in need, then I would be happy to

support such an initiative. I hope that this Congress and the administration will reconsider the design of a national testing program. However, above all, we must cease this piecemeal

education policymaking and begin a legitimate debate on the whole education policy