

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MILDRED HESS

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, a long-time resident of Pennsylvania's 13th District who died recently at her home following a long illness. She was 87 years old.

I've known Mildred Hess for many years and she was a remarkable woman, dedicated to her family, her community, and her Nation. She was one of God's Angels on Earth who was known for her selfless spirit, positive outlook and love for all. Mildred was a public servant who committed herself to making life better for her neighbors. I will miss her very much and I share the grief felt by her entire family, especially her loving husband Clay, her friends and all the people of Montgomery County, PA.

Mildred Hess was born on December 10, 1909, in Upper Providence Township, Montgomery County. The daughter of the late Peter A. and Carrie Smith, Mildred Hess graduated in 1927 from the former Collegeville High School and entered the Pottstown Homeopathic Hospital School of Nursing where she graduated in 1930. She worked briefly as a nurse before marrying Clay C. Hess on February 7, 1931. She and Clay lived their entire married life on his family's farm in Collegeville, PA. True to the historic nature of the community in which she lived, Mildred liked to collect antique plates, salt shakers, and glassware and she was very proud of her collection.

Mildred Hess spent most of her life doing the most important job I know, raising her family and caring for her children. Occasionally, Mildred would assist her husband, Clay, as a clerk in his auctioneering business. For Mildred, her husband and family were her first love, her vocation, her devotion, and her primary responsibility.

Mildred Hess was a member of the Providence Church of the Brethren in Upper Providence and a 60-year member of Keystone Grange #2 in Trappe. She was also a member of the Towne & County Council of Republican Women.

Mr. Speaker, this woman of deep faith and family devotion suffered losses in her life and overcame the grief to fulfill her duties to her family. She was preceded in death by her loving children, Clark F. Hess and Norma Hess Fillman but despite her sorrow, Mildred was able to move on because of her devotion to those who lived on and who needed her. This loving woman is survived by her devoted husband, Clay, who I am proud to say has been a devoted friend and mentor to me for many years. Other family members who I join to share in their grief are her daughter-in-law, Susan Hess and her son-in-law, Walter Fillman.

Several generations have shared the love and warmth of Mildred Hess and my heart

goes out to her grandchildren, Jane Daley, Gretchen Hess, Martin Hess, and Matthew Fillman as well as her great-grandchildren Gordon, Rachael, Daniel, Alexia, Audrey, and Samuel Fry and Rebecca Fillman and Benjamin Hess Daley.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor this great woman but I do so with a heavy heart. For while Mildred led a long and productive life, I know that there was still much she wanted to do. As she did with her own children, I know she wanted to share in the joys and successes of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Montgomery County has lost a great woman, Mr. Speaker, a family woman, a mother and care-giver. While it is close to the city of Philadelphia, Collegeville is still a small, rural neighborhood of close-knit families. The entire community will feel this loss as will all of Montgomery County where she and Clay have had such a strong influence over the years.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by this loss because I feel as though I have lost a member of my own family. As I learned the lessons of public service under the guidance of her husband, Mildred Hess was always making me feel like part of her family. I saw the love she and Clay shared first-hand and it became just another of the many lessons I learned from this outstanding and gracious couple.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Collegeville, the congregation of the Providence Church of the Brethren, the people of Montgomery County and her family will take Mildred to her rest tomorrow, September 24. I regret that I can not be there to raise my voice in prayer along with the rest of the community but my duties as the Congressman from Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District require my presence here on Capitol Hill. But I know that Mildred would remind me of my responsibilities and my obligation to those I am proud to represent, including her family.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will stand here tomorrow, in the halls of the people's House, gratefully providing the representation to which the citizens of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. But my heart will be in Collegeville with Mildred and all those who loved her as I did. My prayers will be with my friend and mentor, Clay Hess, and the rest of Mildred's family. And my thoughts will be on the lessons I learned in the Hess household and the wisdom I gained from Mildred. This great lady has left her imprint on everyone she knew. As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said in A Psalm of Life. "The lives of the great remind us, we can make our lives sublime. And, departing, leave behind us footprints on the sand of time." Mildred Hess, Mr. Speaker, has left indelible footprints on the lives of many and I am proud to have known her.

NO MORE MANDATORY SEX TRAINING

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was particularly pleased by passage of the Treasury-Postal operations spending bill this past week because of a provision I worked hard to include in this legislation which will protect the rights of Federal employees. With the help of my colleague, ERNEST ISTOOK, who sits on this subcommittee, we were able to attach language to prohibit funding for nontechnical Federal employee training, including 'How-To' sessions on condom use, sex techniques, and the proper way to clean needles in order to shoot-up illicit drugs.

In 1995, I fought to deny funding for the Clinton administration's controversial agenda to promote diversity through mandatory training sessions. I have seen some of this training and it is truly shocking. I worked to retain this provision to ensure that Federal workers won't have to endure this training and taxpayers won't have to pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, the training sponsored by the administration goes far beyond employees' professional responsibilities. It is inappropriate for the Federal Government to use taxpayers' money to subject Federal employees to this kind of social engineering. Our language should put an end to this lunacy.

We should only fund those things vital to the function of the Government. I think most hard-working Americans would agree that training Federal employees to safely use drugs or wear condoms in no way falls under that category. I will work to ensure that this provision is retained in the conference report to the Treasury-Postal Operations spending bill. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this language.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES L. JOHNSON

HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true community leader in the city of Green Bay, WI, Mr. Charles L. Johnson.

In October, Chuck Johnson will begin his well-deserved retirement after 34 years of service to Procter & Gamble. He has served as the director of product supply manufacturing at the Procter & Gamble Paper Products Co. in Green Bay since 1990. Prior to arriving in Green Bay, Chuck worked for the company in Kansas, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

I have known Chuck for many years through his leadership in the United Way of Brown County. His service to the community knows

• 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.

no bounds. Chuck has also volunteered his time for the Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce, the local YMCA, St. Vincent's Hospital, Downtown Green Bay, Inc., and much more.

Under his direction, the Procter & Gamble Co. in Green Bay has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to area charities and civic organizations. Those dollars do not even begin to indicate the hundreds of hours that Chuck personally has given to the Green Bay community.

Somehow I suspect that Chuck's retirement will actually just mean that we will see him more in the community. I am certain that he will remain active and committed, because that is who he is.

Everywhere that Chuck has lived, he has reached out and given his time and effort to help others. He deserves our praise today because of the difference he has made in the lives of those around him. Today, we thank Chuck Johnson for all of the hard work he has done, we congratulate him on his many achievements and we wish him great luck in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GARY CITY
COUNCILMAN CLEO WESSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate a long-time friend of mine, Gary City Councilman Cleo Wesson, on his receipt of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns [IACT], 1997 Meritorious Service Award. Cleo will receive this honor tomorrow, September 24, at the IACT annual conference, which is being held at the Fort Wayne Hilton in Fort Wayne, IN.

The Meritorious Service Award is presented by AICT to Indiana public figures who have devoted 40 years or more of noteworthy service to their communities. Cleo Wesson, who has displayed outstanding leadership qualities as a Gary City Councilmember for 38 years, has been selected as one of two people in the State of Indiana to receive the Meritorious Service Award, an honor which is in its first year of existence.

Cleo began his distinguished career of service when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force upon his graduation from Gary Roosevelt High School. After his return from the military, Cleo began his political career when he was elected to the Gary Common Council in 1959. As the representative of Gary's Fifth District, Cleo has served in a variety of roles, including Precinct and Vice Committeeman, and 7-year president of the Common Council. He has served on every council committee, been elected delegate to the State Democratic Convention, and has served as Secretary to the Lake County Democratic Central Committee for a number of years. In recognition of his years of service, Cleo earned the title "Dean of the Gary Common Council" on May 16 of this year.

During his tenure as councilman, Cleo has worked tirelessly toward the betterment of the entire City of Gary. The construction of three neighborhood parks in the Fifth District, the effective restructuring of the police department,

and the ordinance establishing in house demolition, were all projects conceived of and/or sponsored by Cleo Wesson. It was through the in house demolition ordinance that an unsightly junk yard at 21st and Madison Street was demolished, and in its place the Barbara Leek Wesson Community Center was erected. Other projects Cleo undertook include the relocation of the No. 4 fire station to 25th and Madison Street, the establishment of the Gary Community Mental Health Facility, and the founding of the Marina Committee and the Historical and Cultural Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Cleo Wesson on his receipt of the 1997 Meritorious Service Award. His numerous endeavors in the field of public service have left an indelible mark on the city of Gary, as well as Indiana's First Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE EUREKA RESCUE
MISSION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Eureka Rescue Mission and Family Shelter on its 13th anniversary. Located in Humboldt County on California's north coast, which I am privileged to represent in Congress, the mission is a model of faith-based community service.

The Eureka Rescue Mission was founded as a nondenominational Christian organization serving the homeless, needy, and poor of the city of Eureka and all of California's north coast. The mission, formerly the old Bay Hotel, was purchased for \$11,000 in 1967 and dedicated to the Lord on February 27th of that year.

All the years since, the Eureka Rescue Mission has provided help, food, shelter, counseling, and hope to those in need. Poor families and individuals find food, clothing, and shelter; those suffering from addiction find counseling and recovery programs; those who have stumbled and need guidance find instruction and support.

I wish the Eureka Rescue Mission every success in the years to come as they look to expand their good works and extend their helping hand even farther. The dedicated and hard-working people who make the mission work, while taking no government money, provide a rich example to us all. They represent the full measure of Christian charity.

MAINTAINING TRADE FAIRNESS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the importance of maintaining trade fairness and how that fairness has been restricted in our trade relations with Japan.

Some of you may know about the market access case the United States Government filed against the Government of Japan before the World Trade Organization concerning

consumer film and photographic paper. Eastman Kodak Company has been routinely prevented from competing fairly in Japan by the Japanese Government, which has been protecting Fuji film, the domestic film manufacturer. For over 30 years, the Japanese Government has worked closely with Japanese business, using non-tariff barriers, unspoken agreements, and implicit understandings to keep foreign competition out of the Japanese market.

This case has far-reaching and precedent-setting ramifications. Why? First, this case highlights the nature of our trade relationship with Japan, where trade fairness has been a recurring concern. Japan is America's second largest trade partner but maintains America's largest trade deficit, which is 43 percent of our total trade deficit. Second, this case centers around the future of the WTO as an effective forum to settle international trade conflicts.

The ramifications of the photographic film and paper case before the WTO are immense. At stake is the future of free and open market access not just for film, but, for all companies looking to trade with Japan. I urge the administration to press the WTO to bring this complaint to a conclusion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, last week, when the House of Representatives considered H.R. 2378, the fiscal year 1998 Treasury-Postal-General Government appropriations bill; House Resolution 168, the House Ethics Reform recommendations; and House Resolution 233, a resolution concerning the House floor privileges of former House Member Robert Dornan, my vote was not recorded.

On approval of H.R. 2378, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting with constituents and the following day, I was in Minnesota to care for my mother who had suffered a serious heart attack.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2378, rollcall No. 403; I would have voted "nay" on the motion to adjourn, rollcall No. 405; I would have voted "aye" on the approval of the House Journal, rollcall, No. 406; I would have vote "nay" on the previous question on House Resolution 168, rollcall No. 407; I would have voted "aye" on the Livingston amendment to House Resolution 168, rollcall No. 408; I would have voted "nay" on the Murtha amendment to House Resolution 168, rollcall No. 409; I would have voted "nay" on the Tauzin amendment to House Resolution 168, rollcall No. 410; I would have voted "nay" on the Bunning amendment to House Resolution 168, rollcall No. 411; I would have voted "aye" on the Cardin motion to recommit House Resolution 168, rollcall No. 412; I would have voted "nay" on final passage of House Resolution 168, rollcall No. 413; I would have voted "nay" on the Stearns motion to table House Resolution 233, rollcall No. 414; and I would voted "aye" on House Resolution 233, rollcall No. 415.

THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CROATIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate St. Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, IN, as it celebrates its 85th anniversary as a parish this Sunday, September 28, 1997. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Father Benedict J. Benakovic, parish pastor, on this special occasion. The 85th anniversary festivities will begin with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. at the church, celebrated by the Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek, Bishop of Gary. After the service, a banquet will be held at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, IN.

I would also like to commend the members of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council for the work they have put forth in the planning of this momentous event. Members of the 1997 parish council include: Fred Benich, John Benich, Frank Bestich, Peter Bianco, Francis X. Coman, Mary Coman, Charles Doherty, Antoinette Dorochoff, George Flores, Irene Flores, Charlene Gyurko, Mary Horan, Patricia Howorth, Sophia Kruzic, Jasmine Kuyachich, Mary Mandly, Richard Mandly, Ann C. Marlow, Marta McCobb, Karl Metz, Marie Michalak, Marian Nickisch, Peter Podnar, Ann Wozniak, Charles Yelusich, and Paul Yurkas.

The founding of St. Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church began in 1906 with the arrival of Croatian immigrants to the growing city of Gary, IN. A mixture of small business owners and steel workers, the immigrants immediately experienced prejudices and a language barrier. To foster a sense of belonging and community, they colonized and sought a parish of their own, where the church services would be spoken in their native language. With a large donation from the Gary Land Co., a Croatian Catholic church, called Holy Trinity, was built in 1913.

Holy Trinity Church, which would later be named St. Joseph the Worker, prospered over the years with the hard work of its clergy and parishioners. Shortly after the church's founding, Rev. Charles Jesih of Croatia began St. Joseph's expansion when he founded a parochial school for the education of the parish's youth. In 1919, a three-room school opened in the church hall, and, in 1921, a convent was completed to accommodate the nuns who taught at the school. With the onset of the Depression, the parish encountered problems of debt and the relocation of parishioners to the Glen Park area of Gary. By the 1940's, it had become apparent that the church would need to relocate, and in spite of the debt incurred during the Depression, construction of a new church, school, and convent was completed in 1945. As the parish continued to grow, it was determined in 1950 that an even larger church would be needed to accommodate new parishioners of different nationalities. Under the leadership of Father Venceslav Ardas, funds were secured from individual parishioners and church organizations for the construction of what would become a beautiful Romanesque style church. The church was completed in 1956, and consecrated St. Joseph the Worker in May of that year.

Since its founding, St. Joseph the Worker has continued to celebrate its Croatian heritage as an integral part of parish religious and social life. Over the years, ties to Croatia were maintained with the dedicated service of Croatian-born pastors, the preservation of masses in the Croatian language, and a concern for events transpiring in the homeland. With the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, St. Joseph the Worker parishioners eagerly joined Croatians throughout the world in providing humanitarian aid to victims of the war-torn region. In the early 1990's, the parish celebrated both the recognition of Croatia as an independent nation and the visit of Cardinal Franjo Kuharic, Archbishop of Zagreb. The founding of such social organizations as the Croatian Catholic Union and the American Croatians United also contributed to the preservation of the Croatian heritage in the Gary community. Through the dedication of St. Joseph parishioners, these organizations sponsored numerous festivals and projects, which have served to introduce traditional Croatian food, music, and customs to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Joseph the Worker parish on the 85th anniversary of its founding. As someone of Croatian descent, I commend the leadership that past and present parishioners and clergy have displayed in preserving their ethnicity while faithfully fulfilling the ideals of their Catholic religion. I wish St. Joseph the Worker parish continued prosperity and many blessings for a bright future.

ON INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO MAKE NONREFUNDABLE PERSONAL CREDITS CREDITABLE AND THE STANDARD DEDUCTION AND THE DEDUCTION FOR PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS DEDUCTIBLE FOR AMT PURPOSES

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to make good on a promise we made the American people. The recently enacted Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 promised American families both an education and a family credit. Unfortunately for many American families these credits will turn out to be phantom credits.

Many average families will be thrown into the alternative minimum tax [AMT] simply because they take advantage of the new child and education credits. This happens because individuals pay the greater of regular tax reduced by nonrefundable credits or the AMT not reduced by refundable credits. And because both the family and the education credit are added back for purposes of the AMT, families with children are more likely to be thrown into the AMT simply by using these credits. In the case of families with three or more children young enough to be eligible for the family credit, the bill permits the family credit against the employee share of FICA so that the minimum tax is no longer a problem for those families. However, it will be an unpleasant surprise for many others.

In 2002, 2 million families will be thrown into the AMT because of the family credit alone. For example:

A single mother with two children in daycare with \$51,400 in gross income would lose all of her child credit plus \$141 of her dependent care credit in the year 2000 because she gets thrown into the AMT.

A two-parent family with three children, including one college freshman and \$67,000 in gross income would lose \$1,477 of their \$2,500 combined family and HOPE scholarship credit because they get thrown into the AMT.

A two-parent family with two children in college and \$64,100 in income would lose \$723 of their Hope scholarship credit because they get thrown into the AMT.

This simply makes no sense. Therefore, today I am introducing legislation which would make nonrefundable personal credits, including the dependent care, child and education credits, creditable and the standard deduction and personal exemptions deductible for AMT purposes.

The AMT was meant to assure that sophisticated taxpayers couldn't zero out their taxes. It was never intended that your children would throw you into the AMT. I would urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation and keep our promises to the American people.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would express the sense of the House that the country ought to give itself a pat on the back for its progress in recycling. I am joined in this effort by Mr. PORTER, Mr. GEJDENSON, and Mr. GILCHREST and I am proud to have them as partners in this worthy effort.

This resolution would suggest that the House believes it appropriate that a national celebration of America Recycles Day be designated. This would be a day to celebrate the progress the country has made in establishing and integrating recycling programs in each state, in hundreds of cities, in thousands of communities.

Whether it be the simple act of depositing an old Coke can in an aluminum recycling bin, or meticulously separating brown glass from green glass from clear glass and hauling them all down to the city recycling center, it is clear that Americans have learned that recycling is a valuable means of conserving resources, saving money, and keeping our environment clean.

When you look at the trash that we generate in a year's time—208 million tons worth—it is clear that it is incumbent on us to use less, recycle more and find new ways of managing our finite resources. The numerous recycling programs throughout the country are dedicated to this cause and each person who recycles ought to be commended for their dedication to a cleaner, safer environment.

The resolution I introduce today with my colleagues will hopefully be a catalyst for more Americans to recycle and continue this positive and simple means to a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution be printed following my remarks.

H. RES. —

Whereas the people of the United States generate approximately 208,000,000 tons of municipal solid waste each year, or 4.3 pounds per person per day;

Whereas the average office worker in the United States generates between 120 and 150 pounds of recoverable white office paper a year;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency recently estimated that the recycling rate in the United States has reached 27 percent of the solid waste stream;

Whereas making products from recycled materials allows the people of the United States to get the most use of every tree, every gallon of oil, every pound of mineral, every drop of water, and every kilowatt of energy that goes into the products they buy;

Whereas manufacturing from recycled materials creates less waste and fewer emissions;

Whereas recycling saves energy, reducing the need to deplete nonrenewable energy resources;

Whereas it is estimated that 9 jobs are created for every 15,000 tons of solid waste recycled into new products;

Whereas recycling is completed only when recovered materials are returned to retailers as new products and are purchased by consumers;

Whereas buying recycled products conserves resources and energy, reduces waste and pollution, and creates jobs;

Whereas more than 4,500 recycled products are now available to consumers;

Whereas the United States has a two-way, use and reuse system of recycling and buying recyclables; and

Whereas Americans support recycling, but need a regular reminder of the importance of buying recycled content products, the availability of recycled content products, and how to recycle: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that November 15, 1997, and November 15, 1998, should each be designated as "America Recycles Day"; and

(2) the House of Representatives requests that the President issue a proclamation calling to the people of the United States to observe each America Recycles Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

OHIO LAWSUIT ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 22–27, 1997, has been recognized in my home State as Ohio Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week. Ohio Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse [OCALA] has worked tirelessly over the last few years to help reform our legal system. Citizens across the State of Ohio have organized behind OCALA to fight the problems of lawsuit abuse. Almost everyone agrees that America has become an overly litigious society. In the Federal courts alone, the number of lawsuits filed each year has tripled in the last 30 years to more than 260,000 cases per year. This dramatic growth in litigation carries high costs for the U.S. economy: manufactur-

ers raise their prices, withdraw products from the market, discontinue product research, and reduce their work force. The total cost of litigation in the United States is estimated to be approximately \$150 billion per year, substantially higher than any other country and 2½ times the international average. While it is important to protect those who are truly victims, we must reform our system to prevent frivolous lawsuits.

Republicans in the 104th Congress worked hard for meaningful reform of our Nation's legal system, and over the President's veto we enacted legislation protecting employers from abusive strike suits brought by the securities bar. Unfortunately, our efforts with broader-based legislation intended to end lawsuit abuse, restore fairness to the legal system, and ensure that real victims—not greedy lawyers—are fairly compensated was vetoed by President Clinton at the urging of trial lawyers.

Despite this setback, I will continue to work hard with my colleagues in Congress and with organizations like OCALA to pass bipartisan, commonsense legislation that will end lawsuit abuse and protect American consumers and workers.

While OCALA has thousands of supporters in the State of Ohio, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize some individuals who have given countless hours to advance the need for ending lawsuit abuse. They are Dana Smith, executive director of OCALA, Jackie Fox, chairwomen, Dr. Claire Wolfe, Dr. David Rummel, Gerald Miller, Ken Blair, Jr., James Martin, Oron Elliott, Jack Koester, and Peter Beck, each directors and supporters of the continual efforts of OCALA.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend all of the individuals who are involved in Ohio Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse for their dedication to this important endeavor. Ohio and the country as a whole need organizations like OCALA which will continue to fight against lawsuit abuse and for legal reform that is fair to all American citizens.

INTRODUCING THE 21ST CENTURY STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SYS- TEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the 21st Century Student Financial Aid System Improvement Act.

This month the class of 2001, the first class of students to graduate in the new millennium, entered college. These students are preparing for the challenges of the information age. Unfortunately the system to help them finance their education is not measuring up to the same challenges.

As chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over Federal higher education policy, I am responsible for the programs which provide Federal assistance in obtaining a higher education. I am pleased that the ranking minority member of that subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE has joined me as an original cosponsor of this legislation. We have listened to students, parents, and college officials, with whom we share the goals of—a simple and less bureaucratic system of student aid; a

modern student aid system which is easy for students and parents to use; and an efficient and less expensive system that ensures that taxpayer funds are being well spent.

Unfortunately, today, under the current system, taxpayers are paying more and students are getting less. The Department of Education's budget for information systems has tripled over the last 5 years. Next year alone it will spend over \$300 million on systems contracts to deliver student aid. Yet despite these significant expenditures, the current system is still wrapped in miles of redtape, requires dozens of paper forms, and suffers from needless processing delays and breakdowns.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is a better way for the Department of Education to do business. In fact, under the legislation that I am proposing today, the Department's student financial aid systems would be run more like a business—adopting the best practices from the private sector and focusing on bottom line results.

This legislation would establish a business-like performance based organization to manage the computer systems thereby ensuring that the Department of Education is not wasting money due to poor contract management. The Chief Operating Officer hired to manage this organization will be charged with: Simplifying the process of applying for financial aid for students and their families; and integrating student financial aid systems to improve efficiency, save money, and prevent fraud and abuse in the programs.

According to the GAO, the Department of Education has failed to resolve its longstanding management problems in the Office of Postsecondary Education, its data quality and management controls are inadequate, and its financial statements for the student loan programs cannot be audited. A customer-focused, performance-based organization within the Department, run by an experienced Chief Operating Officer, can take the steps necessary to properly reengineer the current systems and contracts. In fact, the Department's own inspector general and the Independent Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance have both advocated this approach. It is also consistent with the recommendation to fundamentally restructure the routine processing of Federal student aid to take advantage of the best private sector practices, which was put forth to the subcommittee by the American Council on Education and 22 higher education associations in their recommendations for their reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

This legislation would also require the Secretary to work cooperatively with the higher education community to adopt common and open electronic data standards for key elements in the delivery system such as digital signatures, personal identification numbers, and single institutional identifiers. By adopting these common standards, we can make great strides in simplification by eliminating paper forms, and unnecessary steps in the current process.

Students and their families deserve a modern student aid system that meets their needs. I urge my colleagues to join Mr. KILDEE and me in this effort, and to cosponsor this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE JOLIET
AMERICAN LEGION BAND

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Joliet American Legion Band for winning its 36th national title at the American Legion Senior Band Contest in Orlando, FL.

The Joliet American Legion Band was formed 51 years ago. Since that time, it has grown to 85 members from Joliet and the surrounding areas. The band boasts a wide variety of musicians, ranging in age from 16 to 60 and older. Directed by Tom Drake, the Joliet American Legion Band is proudly sponsored by American Legion Post No. 1284.

All members of the band are volunteers who donate significant practice and performance time for the benefit of the community. Band members delight listeners by marching in parades and playing for a variety of community events. The Joliet American Legion Band also offers several free public concerts throughout the year for the enjoyment of all persons in the community.

Since its formation, the Joliet American Legion Band has merited many accolades and awards. It has won 36 national titles, along with 41 State crowns. Their latest victory is a great source of pride for the Joliet community. Not only has the Joliet American Legion Band been recognized for its excellence by other American Legions across the Nation, but also received a gold medal in 1985 at the International Music Festival in Toronto, Canada.

I urge this body to identify and recognize other volunteer organizations in their communities whose actions have so greatly benefited and enlightened America's citizens.

RECOGNIZING CABRINI COLLEGE
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Cabrini College in Radnor, PA which has the distinguished honor of being named today to the John Templeton Foundation's 1997-98 Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges.

One of only 134 colleges nationwide selected for this honor, Cabrini deserves recognition for its dedication to emphasizing character building as an integral part of student life. Cabrini College's commitment to character building is reflected by the school's inclusion of community service in its student curriculum.

Other aspects of Cabrini College that contributed to its being named to the John Templeton Foundation's Honor Roll include the school's emphasis on developing and strengthening of its students moral reasoning skills, its encouragement of spiritual growth and moral values, and its promotion of character-building programs and activities.

A private, Catholic college located in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Cabrini College's faculty-student interaction, beautiful campus, and excellent curriculum make it one of the most

respected institutions in the region. I am pleased that Cabrini College is receiving the national recognition and respect that it has earned many times over.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing this significant accomplishment of Cabrini College and thanking the John Templeton Foundation for its promotion of character-building colleges like Cabrini.

DURYEA FARM IN MONSEY, NY TO
CONTINUE SERVING COMMUNITY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I am able to report the preservation of a much needed and valued property in my congressional district in Monsey, NY. Earlier this year the Duryea Farm was purchased by the Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation, Inc., which has announced that the farm will retain its agricultural character. This is truly an event to be lauded.

On September 28, 1997, the Duryea Farm will be rededicated to the service of the people of Rockland County. One of the few remaining farms in Rockland, it will become the county's only organic farm. This step is noteworthy, marking the heritage of Rockland County, a place where orchards and barns were once the norm and not the exception.

In addition to reclaiming this fading period of history, the Duryea Farm will house the Jessup Learning Center, named in honor of two longtime area educators. The learning center will focus on farm life through storytelling, photographs, and equipment owned by the Duryea family. Educational programs through the Cooperative Extension will also be offered. The combination of education and farming represents an admirable and worthwhile venture on the behalf of the Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation, Inc., and the people of Rockland County.

Saving this valuable parcel of land from the bulldozers of developers and giving it back to the community is a worthy gesture of goodwill. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming a bright future for the Duryea Farm.

ON TRACK WITH OUR NATION'S
INTERESTS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, recently, several Members of Congress, including myself, met with the administration to discuss fast-track trading authority soon to be offered in the House for consideration. This legislation grants the administration authority to negotiate and implement trade agreements with other nations, which Congress would either support or vote down unamended. It is my opinion that this authority is a necessary step toward the President's goal of having hemispheric free trade by the year 2005. More importantly, fast track is a necessary step to strengthen the U.S. economy at home—helping producers,

workers, and consumers. The agreements made as a result of fast track will expand our markets far beyond our shorelines to other nations who desire high quality, American-made products. Exporting companies offer workers jobs, which provide better pay and better benefits. Consumers have a larger variety of products to choose from at more competitive costs.

In the past, fast track has been derailed by special interests, who lack the foresight to see that the general interest of our Nation will benefit from free and open trade—a status that can be greatly assisted by extending traditional trading authority to this administration. The following article, which was printed in the Wall Street Journal, on September 12, 1997, highlights the need to pass fast track to maintain our Nation's role in the international marketplace. If it is not passed, special interests will in the end realize that their selfish motivations cause more harm than good. I hope my colleagues consider the points made in this article and support legislation to extend fast-track trading authority to the administration.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 12, 1997]

U.S. EXPORTERS TO LATIN AMERICA NEED
FAST-TRACK

(By Robert Mosbacher)

When President George Bush unveiled his Enterprise of the Americas Initiative in the early 1990s, many thought the emergent free trade bloc would develop according to a "hub-and-spoke" model. As the "hub" of hemispheric trade, the U.S. would form a series of inter-locking bilateral free trade agreements with the "spoke" nations of Latin America and the Caribbean until these agreements could be melded into a single free trade accord. That vision is slipping away.

President Clinton promised Wednesday to put trade expansion back on the front-burner. He plans to ask Congress to renew fast-track legislation, which would authorize the president to negotiate international trade agreements on which Congress would vote up or down. If he fails to secure fast-track authority, however, the U.S. will be relegated to "spoke" status in the emerging hemispheric trading order, leaving many U.S. businesses at a disadvantage. Furthermore, fast-track authority should be clean—that is, it must not be weighted down with requirements that trade agreements also mandate environmental and labor regulations.

Since the promising 1994 Miami summit, when the proposed trade initiative was renamed the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the U.S. has withdrawn from its leadership role on liberalized trade. Instead, inter-locking trade relationships have been forming around the southern cone customs union—Mercosur—comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Last year, while Washington dithered, Mercosur took decisive action, offering Chile and Bolivia associate membership. This created a market of 220 million potential consumers with a combined gross domestic product of about \$1 trillion—more than twice the economic output of Asean, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

This year, while still waiting for the president to lead on fast-track, Mercosur is planning free trade talks with Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru. Mercosur might soon realize its goal of establishing a South America Free Trade Area, which could serve as a counterweight to Nafta, the North American Free Trade Agreement, in hemispheric free trade talks. Mercosur has already been approached by the European

Union about a free trade alliance and will also soon begin free trade talks with Mexico, Canada and the Central American Common Market.

One of the consequences of Mercosur's expansion and the American retrenchment is that the U.S. is losing leverage in hemispheric free trade talks. While official negotiations are not scheduled to begin until 1998, the failure of the U.S. to secure fast-track leaves open the distinct possibility that the agenda and timetable for these talks will be dominated by other countries.

Lack of fast-track is also hurting U.S. companies seeking access to the region's dynamic consumer markets. American wine producers are losing market share in Venezuela to Chilean producers, not because Venezuelans prefer Chilean Merlot to Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, but because Chile has a free trade agreement with Venezuela that allows its wines to enter the country tariff free. American wines, by contrast, carry a hefty 20% duty. If the duty were to be eliminated, industry experts believe that U.S. wine producers could see their share of the Venezuelan market jump from the current 5% to well over 30%.

While California wine producers cannot pull up their vines and move to more hospitable commercial climates, other industries are less restricted. Caterpillar Inc., based in Peoria, Ill., recently announced plans to produce bulldozers, excavators and off-road trucks in Brazil for export to Chile. The decision to build the equipment on foreign rather than U.S. soil was based on tariff considerations. U.S. exports to Chile face an average 11% tariff, while tariffs on Brazilian exports are being phased out under Mercosur. Other companies that may follow Caterpillar's lead include General Electric and Eastman Kodak.

Several major U.S.-based multinationals with joint ventures in Chile—including IBM, Southwestern Bell and McDonald's—have announced plans to source millions of dollars in equipment in Canada and Mexico rather than in the U.S. The reason, again, is that Canada and Mexico have bilateral free trade accords with Chile that permit their goods to enter the South American country tariff-free, while U.S. goods face prohibitive duties. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the loss of opportunity for U.S. exports to Chile is \$480 million a year and climbing.

Those who question the need for deeper economic integration should consider the benefits of Nafta. Notwithstanding the 1994 peso devaluation—which halved the price of Mexico's exports to the U.S.—U.S. exports to Mexico and Canada have grown 34% since the pact took effect in 1994. They now outstrip total U.S. exports to either the Pacific Rim or Europe.

According to a Council of the Americas study of 21 U.S. states, nine states have witnessed 40% plus growth in exports to Mexico and Canada since 1993 and another seven have seen those export markets grow by more than 30% during that time. In 1996, California exported to Mexico more than \$9 billion in goods and services. The California World Trade Commission estimates that exports to Mexico support more than 125,000 jobs in the Golden State, with almost 25,000 of these jobs resulting from export growth in 1995 alone.

Nafta has also helped promote U.S. interests in Mexico by helping stabilize the country in the aftermath of the peso crisis. After Mexico's 1982 peso devaluation, it took seven years before the country showed signs of recovery. By contrast, Mexico's economy touched bottom and began to turn around less than 12 months after the December 1994 devaluation. There is also little doubt that the climate of openness fostered by Nafta

raised political consciousness and contributed to the July 6 electoral shakeup that ended 70 years of political dominance by the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

An activist American trade policy made possible by fast-track negotiating authority will keep the U.S. economy strong and guarantee that future generations enjoy rising living standards. That said, the importance of fast-track transcends economic issues. As Rep. Lee Hamilton (D., Ind.) recently said, "Fast-track is not just about trade, it is about U.S. leadership and influence in the world. And a president without fast-track is a president without power to promote U.S. interests abroad." We ignore this reality at our own peril.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 402-415, I was unable to record my votes because I was called away on a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 415, 413, 411, 410, 409, 408, 407, and 406, and "nay" on rollcall Nos. 414, 412, and 405.

IN HONOR OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST SIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to the East Side Chamber of Commerce on the 70th anniversary of its founding. The chamber has had a remarkable and honorable history of serving the residents and businesses of the East Side of Manhattan for most of this century.

The chamber was born in 1927 when it fought, almost single-handedly, to have a suspended trolley service reinstated to the Upper East Side. The chamber's successful 2-year battle to save the trolley service was only the beginning of a long history of service for the East Side.

The chamber also encouraged and took an active role in the development of housing projects like the Peter Stuyvesant Apartments, Ageloff Towers, and the Nation's first public housing venture, the First Houses at Avenue A and 3d Street.

East Side businesses benefited from the chamber's efforts as well. One successful campaign the chamber waged was the battle against push-cart markets which were rapidly congesting the Lower East Side and posing a threat to the area's businesses. The chamber's proposed alternative, the Essex Street Retail Market, was an indoor market that successfully kept push-cart vendors in business, but off the streets.

Over the past 70 years, the chamber made numerous transportation improvements to the East Side to facilitate access. The chamber played an active role in widening East Side streets, providing adequate subways, such as

campaigning to have the IND routed through the East Side, and initiating discussions for an East River Drive.

The East Side Chamber of Commerce in 1997, under the leadership of president Joseph Greene and chairman of the board of directors, Sidney Baumgarten, is involved in many of the issues that affect East Siders: sanitation, rent control, bridge reconstruction, housing, crime prevention, education, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to the East Side Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 70th anniversary. Their formidable record of achievement in bettering the East Side has made it a better place to live and work. I am proud to have an important and respected organization in my district.

INTRODUCING THE EMERGENCY STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 1997

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act of 1997.

Let me begin by saying that we must remember that everything we do in higher education has an impact on students, and the Department of Education's management problems are no different. It is no secret that I have had serious doubts about the long-term viability of the Direct Student Loan Program. Today we face a crisis in direct loan consolidation which only serves to heighten those concerns.

However, this is not about direct loans or guaranteed loans or which program is better. This is about students. This is about students who are currently unable to consolidate their direct loans. This is about student loan borrowers who may pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars in additional interest costs, who may have serious difficulty in securing other credit such as a mortgage, and who may even default on the student loans if we do not act now to fix this problem.

At this very moment, the contractor hired by the Department of Education to perform direct student loan consolidations is facing a backlog of 84,000 applications. This is clearly unacceptable. The number of students affected is actually much higher than this, since the Department of Education has now stopped accepting new applications for direct consolidation loans until this backlog is cleared. The Department hopes to accomplish this feat by December 1. However, to do that the contractor will have to quadruple the rate at which it is processing applications, and I have serious doubts as to whether this can be accomplished.

The legislation we are introducing today will fix this problem for students now, in the short term, rather than making borrowers wait months for the Department and its contractor to straighten things out. Currently, the Higher Education Act of 1965 prohibits direct student loan borrowers from consolidating their direct student loans into FFEL loans through private lenders and servicers. Even if borrowers could

consolidate their direct loans into the FFEL Program, few would because in most cases they would pay a higher interest rate, and would lose their deferment benefits on any subsidized loans which were consolidated.

Upon enactment, the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act will immediately change this to allow borrowers to consolidate direct student loans into FFEL consolidation loans. The interest rate for all new consolidation loans will be the equivalent of the 91-day Treasury bill rate plus 3.1 percent, the same as in the Direct Loan Program, and borrowers who consolidate subsidized loans, whether in the Direct Student Loan Program or the FFEL program will not lose their deferment benefits simply because they consolidate their loans.

This is emergency legislation, so these changes will only remain in effect until September 30, 1998. The cost of this legislation will be paid for by reducing the administrative funds for the Direct Loan Program by \$25 million.

In conclusion, let me just finish by sharing the individual comments of a few of the students effected by the direct loan consolidation fiasco. At a hearing before the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training and Life-Long Learning last week, Ms. Angela Jamison had this to say: "In the process of consolidating our student loans, my husband and I have been beset by chronic mistakes which range from incompetence to malfeasance." A process that was supposed to have taken her 8 to 12 weeks has taken her and her husband 8 months. The Jamisons were almost unable to close on their mortgage due to these delays, and to this day their loans have not been consolidated.

Many others have expressed a similar lack of confidence in the Department's ability to provide quality customer service, and you don't have to go very far to hear it. In church on Sunday, I spoke with David Higbee, a recent law school graduate. David had written me a letter about his problems with the direct loan consolidation process, and in it he said "we quickly received an estimate from Sallie Mae on the portion of our student loans we were refinancing there, the Department of Education was slow and refused every reasonable suggestion to expedite its inadequate 'customer service' process."

I am inclined to believe these students, and I am inclined to help them and the 84,000 like them with similar stories. The legislation that I am introducing today will provide these borrowers with immediate emergency relief. It is budget neutral. It is also the right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to help these students by supporting this important legislation and co-sponsoring the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH BRONX
OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORP. ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. for its 25 years of fruitful service to the South Bronx community.

In 1972, U.S. Senators Jacob Javits, New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams, and six major banks joined together to establish the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. [SOBRO]. The corporation was founded at a time when the South Bronx was suffering from major economic devastation, jobs were scarce, and people were leaving the area.

Over the past 25 years, SOBRO has successfully encouraged investment and economic growth in the South Bronx and has provided education and job training to area residents. Among its many accomplishments, SOBRO has trained or placed in jobs more than 20,000 residents, created or retained more than 30,000 jobs in the area, stimulated more than \$120 million in investments, and assisted in the reconstruction of commercial districts.

In collaboration with Mott Haven neighborhood strategies project, SOBRO has been successful in training residents and placing them in jobs with businesses in empowerment zone areas. SOBRO also provides business training and technical assistance to minority entrepreneurs. It has also established a credit loan program to facilitate financial services, including loans for small businesses.

In addition, by forming partnerships with local businesses and area high schools, SOBRO has succeeded in providing valuable internship programs and part-time jobs for high school and intermediate school students. The organization also trains adults in many skills including cable installation, computer repair, home health care, customer service, and building maintenance.

Moreover, SOBRO has assisted in the transformation of abandoned buildings into affordable housing and commercial space. It currently has many projects under-way, including the reconstruction of a 60-unit housing project for people living with AIDS. In addition, SOBRO has been successful in renovating Bruckner Boulevard, which has attracted many artists, antique shops, and other businesses to the area.

Changes in the welfare law are placing greater constraints on organizations like SOBRO that are trying to assist people in need. Despite this, SOBRO has continued to provide quality services to low-income South Bronx residents and to attract businesses to the area.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize SOBRO for its 25 years of achievements, training and educating the youth, spurring economic growth, and beautifying our South Bronx congressional district.

TRIBUTE TO MARIE HAFF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to my constituent, Marie Haff, on her birthday. This past June 29, 1997, Marie Haff turned 80 years young.

Marie Haff, a resident of Pleasanton, CA, is a strong believer in family, hard work, and education. She is the proud mother of three daughters, grandmother of nine children, and

great grandmother of three. Although Marie officially retired in 1982 from her job, manager of Northern California Credit Bureaus, she certainly has not stopped working. Currently, she is a trustee emeritus of Western Management Institute of Washington, DC, and serves as executive secretary of Associated Credit Bureaus of California. In addition to this already busy schedule, Marie attends classes at the local college, and last year at the age of 79, set out to conquer the information age by obtaining her first computer.

For many years Marie has served as a volunteer for local charities. She is active in promoting womens rights, and chaired the national committee which wrote the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, giving women the right to have their own credit records. For her efforts she has received many awards, including the Soroptomist Woman of the Year Award, International Credit Association Outstanding Leadership Award, and the Distinguished Service Award, California Department of Consumer Affairs.

I am proud to know Marie Haff. I offer her my warmest congratulations, and best wishes for all the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. DANIEL R.
CUNNINGHAM

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Congress of the imminent retirement of Lt. Col. Daniel R. Cunningham, a truly outstanding soldier in the U.S. Army. He has served this Nation faithfully and honorably for more than 26 years. Lieutenant Colonel Cunningham is most deserving of our tribute. His career accomplishments reflect the type of military leader this Nation has depended upon for over 200 years during peace and war. I would like to take a few minutes to outline Dan's career milestones.

On May 9, 1971, as a distinguished military graduate from the Gonzaga University's Reserve Officers Training Corps Program, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry, Regular Army. For the next 7 years, he served in a number of troop-leading assignments that took him to the 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA, the 3d Infantry Division, Kitzingen Germany, and the Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA.

While in Germany, he commanded a mechanized infantry company and served as the infantry battalion's principle staff officer for logistics. Following his tour in Germany, he attended military schools and completed a masters degree in business. After schooling, Dan's career turned toward military comptrollership and resource management. As a comptroller, he served in the Ballistic Missile Defense Advance Technology Center, Huntsville, AL, and at Headquarters Forces Command, Fort McPherson, GA. A highly successful comptroller, Colonel Cunningham went back to troops serving as an infantry brigade adjutant and an infantry battalion executive officer in the 25th Infantry Division, at Schofield Barracks, HI.

The last 7 years of Dan's career have been spent in the Pentagon with the exception of 7 months duty in Saudi Arabia with the 22d Support Command and Army Central Command

during Desert Storm. For the past 5½ years he has served with distinction as the Army's liaison to the Appropriations Committees. Colonel Cunningham diligently and successfully worked budget submissions and resource issues through seven legislative cycles. During that time he has accompanied me on countless trips to almost every trouble spot in the world from the hunger and violence of Somalia and Haiti, to the destruction in the Balkans. This officer was always on top of the issues of the day, and could always be relied on to insure the Congress got the right information.

Lieutenant Colonel Cunningham's awards include the Legion of Merit, five awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, two awards of the Army Commendation Medal, and two awards of Army Achievement Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Parachute Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Badge.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to present the credentials of Lieutenant Colonel Cunningham before the Congress today. It is clear through his stated and unstated accomplishments for his country that he has been a man who daily dedicates himself to the peace and freedom we enjoy as a nation today. All his actions reflect a true leader with a clear sense of purpose, conviction, and conscience of service to his Nation. We wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

RABBI AND MRS. SCHWAB
HONORED BY TEMPLE SINAI

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor two remarkable residents of New York's 20th District. Rabbi Joel Schwab and Aviva Schwab of Orange County, NY, are, and have for years been, exemplary community leaders. So much so that they have been designated "Distinguished Members of the Year" by Temple Sinai in Middletown and will be honored at a luncheon on October 26.

Rabbi Schwab has served 15 years as rabbi of Temple Sinai. But his commitment to the Greater Middletown community goes beyond his rabbinical duties. The Jewish Family Service of Orange County was cofounded by Rabbi Schwab. He has been involved with numerous local organizations, many of which he is still actively involved with today. These include the Jewish Federation of Orange County, the Hebrew Day School of Orange County, Interfaith Council of Greater Middletown, the Emergency Housing Group, Middletown Psychiatric Center, and the Rabbinical Assembly of America, Mid-Hudson region. Rabbi Schwab has also served members of the Jewish faith while acting as chaplain at the Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center, as well as serving on the clergy committee of Horton Hospital.

Mrs. Schwab, wife of Rabbi Schwab, has served in a significant role in the education of children of Orange, Rockland, and Dutchess Counties. The Systematic Training for Effective Parenting [STEP] has been of particular importance to her as she brings these STEP

workshops to parents throughout the Hudson region. Her work with the David Moore Heights Children's Library and the Hebrew Day School of Orange County have added to his ongoing legacy of supporting education. Mrs. Schwab's work for the Jewish community has been outstanding. As a lifetime member of Hadassah, the temple shul crier, director of the High Holiday Sitting Service and Shabbat Morning Sitter Service, and member of Temple Sinai's Sisterhood, Women's American ORT, and the Jewish Federation of Orange County Aviva has selflessly given of herself to her community.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Joel and Aviva Schwab have clearly dedicated their lives on behalf of their community. Middletown and the entire 20th District are proud that these two outstanding citizens are such good neighbors.

I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating the Schwabs for their devotion to their community.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Merriam-Webster, Inc., who, today celebrates the 150th anniversary of the publication of its first dictionary. In the early 19th century, Noah Webster created the original work that laid the groundwork for the Merriam-Webster dictionaries of today. However, it was the initiative of two brothers, George and Charles Merriam, that established Merriam-Webster dictionaries as the standard.

In 1831, George and Charles Merriam opened a printing and book selling operation in Springfield, MA. G. and C. Merriam Co., later renamed Merriam-Webster in 1982, inherited the Webster legacy by revising and updating Webster's dictionary after his death in 1843. From that day on, the two brothers continued to uphold Webster's integrity and style and incorporated Webster's mastery into their own editions. In keeping with the Webster tradition, the Merriam brothers selected Chauncey Goodrich, Webster's son-in-law and literary heir, and William Webster's son, to serve as editors of the first Merriam-Webster dictionary.

President James K. Polk, several U.S. Senators, and many other prominent people regarded the first Merriam-Webster dictionary as a great resource for all. By 1850, it became a resource for students across the country and continues to be America's most trusted authority on the English language. Today, Merriam-Webster reference products are found in every office, home, and school. These products serve the global community and are acknowledged with much prestige.

For the past 150 years Merriam-Webster, Inc., has maintained a staff that embodies character and standards formulated by Noah Webster and the Merriam brothers. This philosophy continues to be the driving force behind the company, which today boasts the

largest group of lexicographers in North America. This knowledgeable and experienced staff has and will continue to ensure that the style, voice, and integrity of its founding fathers continues into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to have Merriam-Webster be a part of the Second Congressional District in Massachusetts. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Merriam-Webster, Inc., on the occasion of its 150th anniversary of its publicized dictionary.

HONORING STAN MARSHALL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr. Stan Marshall. Mr. Marshall is being honored by United Automobile Workers Local 599 with the dedication of the Stan Marshall Union Hall on Saturday, September 27, 1997, in my hometown of Flint, MI. I am particularly pleased with this designation since UAW Local 599 was my father's local.

Stan Marshall is a giant in the labor movement. His career with Buick Motor Division began in 1950 working on the assembly line. He began working with the United Automobile Workers as an alternative committeeman and quickly moved to the positions of committeeman, shop committeeman, and chairman of the shop committee. Stan was appointed to the International Union staff in Region 1C in 1977. In 1983 he was elected to the United Automobile Workers International Executive Board as the director of Region 1C.

After two terms in this position Stan was elected as the United Automobile Workers vice-president in June, 1989. In this capacity he headed the union's Chrysler Department, the National Organizing Department, the General Dynamics Department, the foundry department, and the technical, office and professional department. He served in this position until his retirement in 1995.

Stan Marshall has been a major influence in the Flint community. In addition to his duties with the United Automobile Workers, Stan has devoted numerous hours working for the betterment of everyone. He has been active with the American Red Cross, the March of Dimes, the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, the Metropolitan Affairs Corp., the Economic Alliance of Michigan, and the Delta Dental Plan of Michigan. He is also the father of seven children.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to pay tribute to an individual as special as Stan Marshall. His outstanding leadership abilities and communication skills have served the members of the United Automobile Workers well. He is an inspiration to me and many other individuals. I treasure his friendship and value his advice. I know that by naming this great facility in his honor his union brothers and sisters are expressing their gratitude for his selfless dedication to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF MY DEAREST FRIENDS, THELMA PAULINE MILLER—MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends, Thelma Pauline Miller. She passed away on July 27th, leaving a legacy of kindness and consideration that will be remembered by all who knew her. Pauline was not just a great friend of mine, but a friend to the entire community of Herrin, IL. Born on January 23, 1918 in Brookport, IL, Pauline was married for 43 years to Carl Miller, who served as Williamson County Sheriff. Carl preceded her in death as did her parents, Bryan and Clara Johnson, and her sister Geraldine Burgoon.

Pauline touched many people through her devoted work to numerous causes. She was never afraid to roll up her sleeves and get the job done, contributing her time to the Business and Professional Women's Club, Win One Class, First Christian Church in Herrin, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and Eagles Auxiliary. She was also active in politics, serving as a Democrat State central committeeman and as Williamson County chairwoman. Professionally, Pauline worked for the Department of Unemployment for 12 years.

Pauline will be remembered by many people whose lives she graced over the years. She is survived by a loving family, including her daughter Linda, son, John, brother Howard Eugene, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. May God bless her family, and I know that the spirit with which she lived her life will be with us for some time to come.

FOOD SAFETY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 24, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IS YOUR SUPPER SAFE? U.S. FOOD SAFETY POLICY

Many Hoosiers have asked me if the food we eat is safe. Recent news reports on tainted hamburger, contaminated fruits and vegetables, and the impact of microbes on certain fish have renewed concern about the safety of our food supply. People are paying closer attention to food safety, and they are demanding that government and industry deal with those threats.

We continue to have one of the safest food supplies in the world. Publicity about contaminated food is one side-effect of a safer food supply—scientists are better-equipped to identify, trace, and warn consumers about possible risks. At the same time, our enormous food production chain can spread food-borne disease faster and farther than ever before. Food is often processed in huge factories in one state and shipped and eaten by individuals around the country, with plenty of opportunities for mishandling along the way.

Many of these food dangers are difficult to detect. E. Coli, salmonella, and other threats continue despite stronger meat inspection procedures. Vast amounts of imported foods treated with pesticides are entering U.S. markets uninspected. Several steps are needed to improve food safety.

EDUCATION

We need better consumer education. The most important step consumers can take is to prepare foods correctly. Fruits and vegetables should be washed thoroughly. Ground beef should be heated thoroughly to kill E. Coli and other bacteria. Poultry and eggs should be cooked fully to avoid salmonella, and surfaces that come into contact with raw poultry should be immediately cleaned. In fact, the number one cause of salmonella is preparing fruits and vegetables at home on surfaces that have been in contact with raw poultry. USDA offers free advice on safe food preparation on a toll-free hotline (1-800/535-4555).

SAFER PESTICIDES

We should make pesticides safer. Since World War II, agrichemicals have been a key factor in U.S. agricultural productivity—controlling weeds and insects, and boosting crop yields. Yet by definition pesticides are toxic and can pose health risks. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decides which pesticides can be used, but hundreds of pesticides were approved long before we had the technology to assess their risks. It is estimated that these older pesticides constitute 90% of the dietary risk facing the public. Last year Congress reformed pesticide laws to encourage EPA to balance the risks and benefits of newer pesticides. This change should accelerate approval of safer pesticides to replace older ones.

BETTER INSPECTION

Government food inspection, which is currently divided between the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), can be improved. Questions have been raised about illegal pesticides on the market, enforcement against violators has not been strong enough, and FDA tests less than 1% of food shipments. FDA inspections should be strengthened.

Meat and poultry sold in the United States must be inspected by USDA. Meat inspection legislation, which dates back to 1906, is far stricter than the FDA's rules for other foods. Each and every slaughtered animal is inspected by a federal inspector for visual contamination. If USDA has reason to believe a food or processing plant is unsanitary, it can suspend federal inspection—which amounts to shutting the plant down. USDA has used this authority to encourage companies to recall risky products and to insist on changes in processing methods. USDA does not currently have the authority to order a recall by itself.

In 1996, USDA began a program to modernize its meat inspection techniques. The old system, sometimes known as "poke and sniff", relied largely on sight, smell, and touch. While the system has worked reasonably well, it is not so effective at detecting invisible pathogens such as E. Coli. The new Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system will use scientific testing at a series of key points in meat processing. Inspectors will be better able to locate problems before they contaminate large amounts of food. The completed HACCP system should greatly increase our ability to prevent food contamination.

ANIMAL AND PLANT RESEARCH

We should increase research on the causes and cures of food contamination. Animals are natural carriers of bacteria, but research

indicates that certain feeds or antibiotics may greatly reduce the amount of harmful bacteria that are produced. New farming techniques and genetic research also offer new ways to reduce the use of pesticides. Some researchers, for example, have identified "good" bacteria that kill E. Coli inside a living animal. Others have developed crops with their own natural pesticides—reducing chemical risk and the cost of production. Congress should devote more attention to research aimed at preventing food-borne diseases.

IRRADIATION

One technique gaining attention is food irradiation. Low doses of gamma rays can kill pathogens and extend shelf-life dramatically. The FDA has approved irradiation for pork, poultry, and produce. A similar proposal for beef is pending. Irradiation does not make food radioactive. It does not change a product's appearance or taste. Many hospitals serve irradiated foods, as do more than 40 countries. Irradiation has been deemed safe by the American Medical Association, the American Dietetic Association, and the World Health Organization. Yet consumers are reluctant to buy irradiated food, and food processors have not widely adopted irradiation. Some consumer groups argue that irradiation is more costly than improving production practices. Irradiation can also kill "good" bacteria, which often help digestion or fight other diseases. However, irradiation appears to be an effective way to increase food safety. We should increase research and consumer knowledge about this important technique.

CONCLUSION

Helping to ensure a safe and healthy food supply is one of government's fundamental responsibilities. Current policies have succeeded by providing a relatively safe food supply at a reasonable cost. Proper food preparation is the most important step, but consumers have a right to demand a more modern system. With common sense and new technology, the United States should continue to have one of the safest food supplies in the world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REVEREND DR. ROBERT LOWERY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Reverend Dr. Robert Lowery on the 40-year anniversary of his dedicated service to St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, IN. Dr. Lowery will be honored by St. Timothy Church during a 3-day anniversary celebration, which will include a gala banquet to be held at St. Timothy Community Church on Saturday, September 27, 1997, at 6 p.m. The banquet, which is entitled "A Tribute: The Man and His Message," will be in honor of Dr. Lowery's service to his parish, as well as his demonstrated commitment to improving the communities of northwest Indiana.

On September 27, 1957, Dr. Lowery began his ministry at St. Timothy Community Church as an interim pastor armed with several degrees and an enthusiasm for serving the community. With a masters of divinity from Garret Theological Seminary and a doctorate of ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary, Dr.

Lowery was well prepared for the self-defined role he would accept to spiritually guide, sustain, and shepherd the members of his parish and community. Since his arrival at St. Timothy Community Church, Dr. Lowery has devoted his time to providing guidance and training for the youth of northwest Indiana, planning and supporting positive urban initiatives, and addressing crucial issues related to education, health care, crime, and teenage pregnancy.

Dr. Lowery has carried out his youth-, education-, and urban-development-oriented agenda through his voluntarism with a number of prominent community service organizations. Currently, Dr. Lowery serves on the board of directors for the Northwest Indiana Boys and Girls Club, an organization which provides educational, social, and recreational services for young people, supports the Marion Home, a residential facility for young pregnant women, and is a Scoutmaster for Gary Boy Scout Troop 53. Through his work with such distinguished organizations as the Gary Educational Development Foundation and the Northwest Indiana Urban League, he has been instrumental in structuring a comprehensive framework for educational programs, which divert the energies of youth into productive activities. Dr. Lowery has also aided urban development during his tenure as an executive board member for the Northwest Indiana Urban League, Referral Emergency Services, and the Lake County Mental Health Association. In addition to faithfully serving numerous other organizations, Dr. Lowery holds an associate professorship at Indiana University-Northwest, where he teaches in the area of church society and psycho-dynamics of minority problems.

Over the years, Dr. Lowery has been recognized by a number of institutions for his outstanding commitment to northwest Indiana communities. As a result of his theological and humanitarian efforts, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Purdue University-Calumet in 1996, and an honorary doctorate of divinity from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1991. In addition, he has received countless awards for his community service efforts from such organizations as the Boy Scouts of America, the NAACP, the March of Dimes, and the Lake Area United Way. Some of the more prominent service honors bestowed upon Dr. Lowery include the 1990 State of Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the 1996 Calumet College St. Joseph the Worker Award, and the 1997 Indiana University-Northwest Chancellor's Medallion Award Citation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Lowery on his outstanding accomplishments during his 40 years of service to St. Timothy Community Church and its surrounding communities. His wife, Josephine Mathews-Lowery, and their daughters, Gay Marlene Lowery, Lynn Michele Lowery-Darby, and Jan Avis-Lowery, should be proud of his efforts, as his leadership has served as a beacon of hope throughout the Gary community. Dr. Lowery's devotion to improving the quality of life for the people of Indiana's First Congressional District is truly inspirational.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES
ROUNDTREE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. James Roundtree, an individual who is dedicated to helping others in the South Bronx community.

Mr. Roundtree is currently the director of St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center, a grassroots organizations which provides assistance to people living with AIDS and with substance abuse problems.

At the center, located on St. Ann's Avenue, hot meals are served to 200 people a day, 5 days a week. The center also provides referrals to medical facilities, housing, and 12-step programs for victims of substance abuse problems.

The center is funded in part by donations. Some of the center's staff are paid by the national Americorps Program; however, many workers are volunteers.

Mr. Roundtree became the director of the center after Rev. Roger Ciglio, the founder of the program, passed away in 1990. Once a patient of the center himself, Mr. Roundtree has been committed to giving back to those in need.

Over the past 7 years, Mr. Roundtree has been a friend, a counselor, and an inspiration for many who, like him, have been victims of substance abuse.

Mr. Roundtree says that he does not give up on anybody. He knows first hand the difficult challenges faced by recovering victims.

St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center formed a coalition with St. Ann's Church, Public School 30, and the Parks Council, to revitalize the area surrounding the center—the Mott Haven community. The coalition created a garden from 139th to 140th Street. Recovering patients take part in a gardening program as part of their therapy sessions. The garden is now visited by students and families with children. It is also the home for summer jazz concerts.

Mr. Roundtree may leave the center because of health reasons. His contributions to the community have not gone unnoticed and will not be forgotten. They are encouraging to the many individuals he has helped and for those who may follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. James Roundtree for his compassion and dedication to helping others in our South Bronx community.

THE REOPENING OF THE
BURLINGAME PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege and honor to pay tribute to the Burlingame, CA, Public Library, one of the finest community institutions in our country. To me and to the thousands of Bay Area residents who have had the pleasure of using this outstanding facility, the importance of the Bur-

lingame Public Library cannot be measured merely by its diverse collection of 239,000 books, nor its 400 periodical subscriptions, nor the beautiful Tuscan-style building which has housed these items since the days of the Great Depression; rather, the library is seen by all of us in terms of the memories amassed under the shadow of its beautiful tapestries. It is a place where our children learned to read, our high school students researched their first school reports, and our eyes were opened to limitless intellectual, educational, and creative pleasures.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute not only to this establishment's storied past, but to its glowing future. On October 4, 1997, more than 85 years after the people of Burlingame joined together to build their first public library, and after 8 years of dedicated planning, a new Burlingame Public Library will be dedicated by a justifiably proud and delighted community. The new structure will maintain the charm and elegance of the initial structure, while offering state-of-the-art facilities in line with the 21st century information age.

The grand tradition of the Burlingame Public Library came into being in the early 1900's as Burlingame experienced an influx of new residents from San Francisco and from other parts of the country. The creation of a new, free library in 1912 was one of many milestones in the town's growth. The library's first home was a former church building at Primrose and Bellevue, but this small structure was soon made obsolete by the continued growth of Burlingame's population. In 1930, construction began on a new Burlingame Public Library.

Designed by Col. E.L. Norberg, a longtime Burlingame resident, the new building was erected in a romantic style which evoked images of Tuscan villas and monasteries. Norberg's beautiful creation would serve Burlingame for over six decades as a cultural and literary center, a community gathering place, and a second home to thousands of students exploring its first rate academic collections. As Burlingame grew so did the library, and new additions were dedicated in 1960 and 1972. By the mid-1980's, the success of the Burlingame Public Library prompted calls for even more significant improvements to the building's structure, foundation, and technological facilities.

With the full support of the community, the process of planning and organizing the library's reconstruction soon began in earnest. This operation was led by Burlingame's skilled city librarian, Mr. Al Escoffier, along with an able library board, a wonderful staff, and untiring volunteers. Financial backing came from throughout Burlingame, most notably from two devoted sources: The Friends of the Library, which has been raising funds for the library for over four decades, and the Burlingame Library Foundation, organized in 1994 to collect moneys for furnishings and technology in the new space. These dedicated groups provided vital assistance during years of preparation and design study.

Group 4/Architecture, Research and Planning, Inc., one of northern California's most distinguished architectural firms, was selected to formulate a plan for the new library. The product of its labors was masterful, a blueprint for renovation that would merge the timeless beauty of Norberg's original composition with

the requirements for expansion and modernization. Group 4's construction partners, Richard Sampson Associates, Inc., of Pleasanton and Dennis J. Amoroso Construction Company, Inc., of San Francisco joined to make this outstanding plan a reality.

Today, after 8 years planning, 17 months of construction, and an investment of \$10 million, the splendid Burlingame Public Library is about to be reopened to the community. The building's original style has been maintained, as the two 1930's wings remain intact and other important details, such as the authentic wood windows and solid oak tables and chairs, are still there. While the essence of Norberg's creation will continue to be a Burlingame landmark for generations to come, the new library has nearly doubled in size, from 26,100 to 47,300 square feet, and its foundation has been reconstructed to flex in a seismic event. It will offer over 50 computer terminals to speed and simplify information access for both children and adults. The new library will even have available a new service, self check out, which will make taking out books as easy as obtaining money from an ATM machine and make lengthy lines at check-out counters obsolete. It is truly a community institution for the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Burlingame on the opening of their new library, and in commending the tireless community activists who brought this dream to fruition.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS JONES, JR.

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend William Augustus Jones, Jr., pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church.

Pastor Jones came to Brooklyn in 1962. Within 5 years he had led a congregation to the building of a neogothic edifice now known as the Bethany Baptist Church. Under his masterful direction, and with the help of a full-time 27 member staff, the church conducts a multifaceted program to the community which includes outreach ministries via national radio and television.

Pastor Jones has served as national chairman of SCLC's Operation Breadbasket and as a member of the general council of the Baptist World Alliance. He was former president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and founder of the National Black Pastor's Conference. In 1972, he was the recipient of the prestigious Frederick Douglas Award presented by the New York Urban League. For many years now he has been recognized by a number of distinguished organizations and awarded a variety of accolades, including, in 1996, a doctor of literature degree by the Evangelical Reformed School of Theology in Toledo, OH.

In addition to his clerical duties, he finds time to educate by serving as a visiting professor at a number of theological seminaries. He has also found time to pen such works as, "The Black Church Looks at the Bicentennial,

Responsible Preaching" and "The African American Church: Past, Present and Future."

I urge my colleagues here today to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, Pastor Jones, who has dedicated his life to the spiritual enhancement and educational improvement of the community. I wish to thank you, Pastor Jones, for sharing your gift with us all. Also, for showing us that a wholly spiritual life is indeed a fulfilling life.

TUNING IN TO COMPETITION

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, 18 months ago the President signed into law, the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Since that time, many people have complained that the competition that was supposed to develop hasn't yet materialized. While it's true that there hasn't been as much competition as those of us who supported the bill would have hoped—for example, not a single Bell Co. has been allowed to compete in the long-distance business—telephone companies are definitely providing competition in those areas where they are permitted to compete.

Monday's Wall Street Journal reported on competition in the delivery of cable television service, and detailed how customers have benefited from Ameritech's entry into that market. Customer service has improved. Innovative packaging of services has increased. Competition is serving the customer just as we knew it would.

Ameritech has already opened up its local market to competition. Local phone subscribers in Michigan have the ability to change their telephone companies, and many are doing so. Now it is time for the FCC to learn from success and open up competition in long distance, so that all the benefits of the 1996 act are available for the American people. I commend this article to our colleagues and to anyone who believes that competition hasn't materialized. Ameritech is leading the way. Let us encourage the FCC to follow.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 22, 1997]

IT'S THE PHONE MAN AT THE DOOR—AND HE HAS A DEAL ON CABLE TV—AS COMPETITION BREAKS OUT, A TRAVELING SALESMAN FINDS A JADED AUDIENCE

(By Bryan Gruley)

ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI.—On a quiet street of neat frame houses, soaring oak trees and fluttering U.S. flags, William Kline stands in his driveway talking about cable television.

Actually, he's yelling.

The 73-year-old retiree is furious with his cable provider, Comcast Corp. "They raise the damn prices whenever they want," he says. He also hates the programs. "Who wants to watch that crap? Who wants to watch 'The Simpsons?'" And he is no fan of the customer service, either.

Listening patiently is Thomas Roland, a fresh-faced young salesman who hopes to persuade Mr. Kline to dump Comcast and switch to Ameritech New Media, a unit of Ameritech Corp., the Chicago Baby Bell. "It sounds like you're pretty upset," Mr. Roland says. "If you don't like the way your cable company has treated you, that's why we're here."

Something alien to most Americans is emerging in the suburbs of Detroit; head-to-head competition for cable-TV service. Telephone giant Ameritech is building cable systems and offering an alternative to consumers who have long had to live with the prices and service of a sole local provider—or go without cable. Mr. Roland and other salespeople in brick-red Ameritech jackets scurry door-to-door bearing gifts in black shoulder bags: Coupons for \$10 monthly discounts. Free premium channels and installation. Round-the-clock customer phone lines. Nifty on-screen TV listings and high-tech remote controls.

They are looking for people like Duane Lamers, a retired school administrator who buys cable service from the local system of Tele-Communications Inc., of Englewood, Colo. "I've been champing at the bit," he says, ushering Mr. Roland into his home in suburban Troy, Mich. "Anything's better than what I've got now."

Sitting at his kitchen table, Mr. Lamers signs up with American and lists the beefs he has with TCI. "The slightest weather change and I end up with three or four snow channels," he says. Outages always seem to interrupt his favorite show, the NewsHour With Jim Lehrer, he says, and he has given up trying to get service restored quickly. Mr. Roland commiserates: "That's what I've been hearing from other people."

"I'VE GOT THE EDGE"

Ronald Hargreaves, 69, chose to stay with TCI but figures he gained anyway. Soon after Ameritech launched service in Troy, TCI gave him a local sports channel free. (TCI says it was contractually required to do so.) "Now I've got the edge," the hardware-store worker says. "You can either give me service or I can go someplace else with my \$30 a month."

That is precisely what was supposed to happen as a result of last year's telecommunications law. But cable remains a monopoly in most cities, mostly because the big phone companies that were expected to challenge it prefer to focus on their core business. Some small towns have built rival cable systems, and other tiny pockets of competition have sprouted. But cable operators control 87% of the U.S. multichannel video market, the Federal Communications Commission says.

Ameritech is the big exception. With cable franchises in more than 50 cities in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, the Baby Bell is wooing longtime customers of Comcast, TCI, Time Warner Corp. and other cable giants. Ameritech says it signs up one of every three households it approaches, more than expected when it began service last year. The launch is expensive; Ameritech doesn't expect cable to show profit for several years.

NO SHORTCUTS

But Richard Notebaert, Ameritech's chairman and chief executive, says offering cable TV is part of a long-term plan to deliver a single bundle of voice, video and data services into homes. "There are no shortcuts," he says. "You have to commit resources and find out if your model works. Ours is working very well."

As Ameritech captures some customers and incumbent providers win back others, competition expands the Michigan cable market, the companies agree. Ameritech says as many as 8% of its subscribers didn't take cable before. And monthly subscriber charges for MediaOne, the cable arm of Denver-based US West Media Group, have grown about 20% in Canton Township, Mich., during the past year even as Ameritech added 1,700 subscribers, according to the companies and reports filed with the township.

Customers are gaining, whether they switch or not. Where Ameritech now competes, incumbent providers have offered better deals, added free channels and improved customer service. Incumbents say they planned some of these enhancements long before Ameritech arrived but acknowledge they are more aggressive in competitive cities.

In St. Clair Shores, a blue-collar enclave northeast of Detroit, Comcast bills include a vow to "meet or beat any price." MediaOne started giving customers the HBO channel free—a \$9.69 per month value—in return for one-year commitments to its service. MediaOne also rolled out its popular high-speed Internet-access service where Ameritech offers cable.

In Troy, north of Detroit, hardwood-floor salesman Glenn Lanctot is stunned to find Lisa Kocsis, TCI's local marketing coordinator, at his front door asking if he has any problems with TCI. She says she recently started this door-to-door campaign because "I think people need to know we care how their cable picture looks." A TCI technician waits nearby in a pickup truck, ready to sharpen a fuzzy picture or repair a faulty remote.

A cable line has fallen in Mr. Lanctot's backyard. "I called like a couple of weeks ago and never heard from you," he says. Ms. Kocsis apologizes and promises to have the problem fixed "in the next 24 hours." She hands him a book of coupons worth \$100 and one of her personal business cards. Mr. Lanctot looks incredulous. "Call you if I have a problem?" he says. "Call me," she insists.

Down the street, dentist James Nassar just laughs when Ms. Kocsis introduces herself. "You're running scared," he says. But he adds that he is happy with TCI and doesn't want to change.

Changing cable service isn't as simple as, for example, switching long-distance phone companies. Although a new provider can use old wiring inside the house, a new connection is needed outside. Consumers also must learn to use new remote-control devices and channel lineups.

Incumbents say their service is more appreciated now that comparisons are possible. But it is clear that Ameritech gets under their skin. Helen Brodie, a MediaOne vice president for marketing, says Ameritech discounts are "misleading" because they are temporary and "disruptive to companies that are trying to run themselves in a sound manner; we have shareholders." John McNeel, general manager of TCI's local system, dismisses Ameritech's practice of equipping installers with vacuum cleaners. "We prefer that our technicians don't make messes to begin with," he says.

FOUR-CENT DEAL

Consumers greet Ameritech with a mixture of delight, befuddlement, pent-up anger—and smarts. Leo Freckelton, an Ameritech installation manager, laments his uncle's refusal to switch to Ameritech. "He's the only one in the family who hasn't," Mr. Freckelton says. Instead, his uncle has used Ameritech offers to wangle better deals from Comcast. "I think [Comcast] is beating us by four cents" a month, Mr. Freckelton frets.

Some just want something new. David Kincaid, a machine-shop worker in Troy, was spending more than \$70 a month with TCI. "I don't know what I'm going to pay for Ameritech, but I want something to compare," he says. Pushing a button on Ameritech's interactive remote, he orders an episode of "The Brady Bunch," already in progress. A plot-summary box appears in a corner of the screen: "Jan makes promises she can't keep in order to win a popularity

contest," Mr. Kincaid smiles. "Cool," he says.

But change comes hard, even for some—such as Mr. Kline of St. Clair Shores—who say they are displeased with their provider. Mr. Kline is so upset with Comcast that he cuts off Mr. Roland's Ameritech sales pitch to extend his rant. "You came here and now you're gonna listen," he says. But when Mr. Roland finally offers a package that appears to be better than what Comcast gives Mr. Kline, the man scoffs. "You're priming the pump," he says, "You'll get it back from me in the long run."

Having failed to make the sale, Mr. Roland shakes his head. "Some people don't realize that competition is going to change things," he says. "It's their mindset that [cable TV] is a monopoly, and they don't really understand competition."

Mr. Roland, who just turned 24, wears an earnest smile and keeps his red hair neatly combed. This is his first job since college, and he says he loves it, because "I get to talk to people and set my own hours." On a good day he adds five or six subscribers; his record is 14. His salary and commissions let him afford a new Acura couple and season tickets to Detroit Red Wings hockey games.

PEER PRESSURE

He spends afternoons and evenings knocking on doors and juggling follow-ups on his cell phone and pager. "A lot of people turn me away and then all their neighbors sign up and then they call me," he says. Not everyone welcomes him, though. One man told Mr. Roland "If I didn't get off his property, he was going to shoot me."

One afternoon in Troy, Mr. Roland lobbies Donald Boisvenue, a computer specialist who slumps in his front door in cutoff jeans and a sweatshirt, looking bored. Mr. Roland shows him a picture of Ameritech's on-screen channel guide. "That doesn't impress me much," Mr. Boisvenue says. Mr. Roland explains how the remote makes it easy to program a VCR. "Programming a VCR is no big whoop," Mr. Boisvenue says. Mr. Roland asks how much TCI charges. "They're too expensive," Mr. Boisvenue says, "but you guys are going to be the same." Mr. Roland leaves a brochure and heads to the next house. "Not good," he says.

An hour later, though, a voice-mail message from Mr. Boisvenue asks him to return. Sitting in his family room, Mr. Boisvenue confesses that his wife saw Ameritech's brochure and demanded, "Why didn't you try this?" He says Mrs. Boisvenue is upset with TCI price increases, and now Mr. Boisvenue starts recalling things "that drive me crazy" about TCI. He signs up.

Back in his car, Mr. Roland phones Walter Bartels, 29, a human-resources professional. Mr. Bartels had complained two weeks earlier that Ameritech workers damaged his lawn while burying cable. The company's quick response so impressed him that he wants to cancel TCI and take Ameritech. Mr. Roland tells him his monthly bill will drop to \$21 from \$28, although it will climb to \$31 after a one-year discount expires. Clicking off his cell phone, Mr. Roland says, "That's a success story; you should've heard the conversations we had the other day."

But two weeks later in St. Clair Shores, Downing Street is a downer for Mr. Roland. At house after house, people either aren't home or they say they are satisfied with Comcast. "I've never seen so many people happy with their cable service," he complains. Just then a Comcast van pulls up and Mr. Roland watches balefully as a technician trots up to a house. "They're giving everybody their new interactive box," Mr. Roland says. "Everything we're doing, they're copying." (Comcast says it decided to upgrade local systems three years ago.)

He finally gets to make a pitch in the living room of Robert and Evelyn Mutart. Like many older people, they aren't keen about the high-tech remote or on-screen guide. But Mrs. Mutart wonders whether the Disney Channel comes free. "Yep," Mr. Roland says, "You'll get it 24 hours a day." Mr. Mutart, a 73-year-old retired electrician, grins. "Yeah," he says, "I need the Disney Channel 24 hours a day." Mr. Roland leaves without making a sale—but the Mutarts subscribe several days later.

He has better luck on Blackburn Street. Norman and Joanne Galeski are intrigued by the remote's VCR-programming feature. "How long do we have to go to school to learn all this?" Mr. Galeski quips. His wife doubts that Ameritech really will cost less. "I'm sure after everybody commits to this, you'll jack up the price," she says. If so, Mr. Roland says, "there's nothing stopping you from going back to Comcast."

Finally, Mr. Galeski says he wants to switch. "You better not screw this up because it took me a year to figure this out," chides his wife, pointing at the VCR. "If it doesn't work out, you can call [Comcast] back."

The family next door interrupts a baked ham dinner to welcome Mr. Roland. "You made a sale before you walked in," says Fred Hawreluk, a bank official. "Just tell me what you've got and how much it costs."

While Molly the yellow Labrador sniffs Mr. Roland's leg, Mr. Hawreluk explains that he soured on Comcast over a billing dispute involving \$8 a month. "It wasn't the money, it was the principle," he says. Still, he balks after scanning Ameritech's channel lineup: "I'm not sure we'll be getting everything we get from Comcast."

His wife shushes him: "We don't watch all of that stuff anyway."

Mr. Roland just smiles and asks if he can use the phone to schedule an installation.

IN HONOR OF IRENE M. MORROW

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Irene Morrow, who will receive an award this week for outstanding contributions to the Greater Cleveland community from International Services Center [ISC] in Cleveland, OH.

International Services Center is an agency that assists refugees, immigrants, and other newcomers to the United States to overcome social and economic barriers and adjust to a new culture and way of life. The organization is honoring four individuals this year for their exceptional work on intercultural and interracial issues. These individuals have been chosen because of their commitment to the community and their lifelong achievements which reflect the spirit and the mission of ISC.

Ms. Morrow worked in public service from 1964 through her retirement in 1989. She served as deputy auditor in charge of Cuyahoga County payrolls for 8 years. She spent the next 17 years serving as personnel administrator and secretary of the Civil Service Commission for the city of Cleveland. Upon her retirement from civil service, she embarked on another career in food management and service.

Ms. Morrow has been involved in numerous community organizations and associations.

She was elected as executive secretary of the Association of Polish Women in 1975. She has served as executive secretary and treasurer of the American Nationalities Movement ever since 1978. Ms. Morrow had the distinction of being elected the first woman president of the Republican Ripon Club. In addition, she serves on the boards of several other community organizations, including International Services Center.

Ms. Morrow has been well recognized for her work in the community. Her list of awards and honors includes: 1 of the 40 outstanding Ohio Women Achievers, presented by Barbara Bush; Polish Person of the Year, presented by the Polonia Foundation; Member of the Year, offered by the American Nationalities Movement; and Appreciation Award from the United Hungarian Societies. Both Mayor Ralph Perk and Mayor George Voinovich have presented Ms. Morrow with Keys to the City Awards.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Irene Morrow on a lifetime of wonderful work for the multicultural community in the Greater Cleveland area.

LET'S ABOLISH THE TAX CODE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I joined my colleagues, BILL PAXON, JOE SCARBOROUGH, Senator SAM BROWNBACK, and others to seriously discuss a repeal of the Tax Code. We agreed that the IRS and the Tax Code represent governmental arrogance at its highest level. It punishes the right things and rewards the wrong things. We need to shut down the IRS and put more money back into the hands of taxpayers.

Common sense tells me that the IRS is far too large and intrusive. Consider that the IRS has more than 136,000 employees, while the INS has only 6,500 border patrol agents. That's about 20 times more people to take our money than to protect our borders. That's simply outrageous. The time has come to abolish the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, improving the quality of life in America begins with letting families keep more of what they earn. In the last half century alone, the Federal Government's take from families has skyrocketed from only 5 to over 24 percent. Add taxes at the State and local level, and nearly half a family's take-home pay is spent just to keep government bureaucracies running. That's a sign of a nation headed in the wrong direction.

Lowering taxes returns power to where it rightfully belongs, out of the hands of government and into the homes of families. Today, I am pleased that our colleagues in the Senate have joined us in support of serious tax reform. I hope every American will support our crusade to put more money in the hands of hard-working taxpayers.

THE GREEDY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, a move is under way to let doctors force patients to give up their Medicare benefits so that a handful of doctors can charge them anything they want—without limit.

This is a gift to the greediest doctors in the nation.

Ninety-five percent of the Nation's doctors accept new Medicare patients and the Medicare fee schedule. The independent congressional advisory panel known as the Physician Payment Review Commission reports that this is comparable to the rate of doctors who are accepting new private, non-Medicare patients. In other words, there is no noticeable difference in access—ability to see a doctor—between Medicare and non-Medicare patients.

Doctors who accept Medicare and its fee schedule understand the Hippocratic Oath and the social compact in which society has paid hundreds of billions of dollars for the education and training and research that make American doctors special and in turn, these doctors accept the Medicare payment system.

But Congress is about to cater to the few who want more, more, more from people in their hour of illness.

The Employee Benefit Research Institute in its September, 1997 Issue Brief shows what a special gift this legislation will be to a few doctors who are out of step with their colleagues:

Recent findings indicate that only between 4 percent and 6 percent of physicians accepting new patients were not accepting new Medicare patients. One survey found that between 1991 and 1992, the proportion of physicians not accepting new Medicare patients increased from 4 percent to 5.9 percent (Lee and Gillis, 1994). The same survey found that between 1992 and 1993 the percentage of physicians not accepting new Medicare patients decreased to 4.7 percent. Surveys by the Physician Payment Review Commission (PPRC) also found that in 1993 less than 5 percent of physicians were not accepting new Medicare patients (Physician Payment Review Commission, 1994). The PPRC study concluded that the implementation of the Medicare fee schedule has not caused physicians to close their practices to Medicare patients.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor of the House today to honor and pay tribute to one of the finest institutions of higher learning in my district, La Sierra University. La Sierra, located in Riverside, CA, has been chosen by the John Templeton Foundation for its 1997-98 honor roll of character-building colleges.

La Sierra is one of only eight colleges and universities in California to earn this distinction, which is given to academic institutions that emphasize character building as an integral part of undergraduate education. Selection was based on meeting five criteria estab-

lished by the John Templeton Foundation: First, inspires students to develop and strengthen their moral reasoning skills; second, encourages spiritual growth and moral values; third, provides community building experiences; fourth, advocates a drug-free lifestyle; and fifth, conducts a critical assessment of character-building projects and activities.

In a society that no longer looks to religion and a sense of community as the foundation for a quality education. La Sierra University is proof that it can be done. Students are expected to strive to their full potential, seek the truth in themselves and everything around them, and to give back to their world. General education courses in religion and ethics lay a basis for understanding the importance of morality. And through the community service requirement, students learn firsthand the need for volunteerism and how important it is to give assistance to those less fortunate.

On behalf of the citizens of California's 43rd Congressional District, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the students, faculty, and administration of La Sierra University for being recognized as a character-building college.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law on the celebration of its centennial this weekend. This anniversary also marks the dedication of a new law library on the campus.

The Cleveland Law School was founded in 1897 and was the first law school in Ohio to admit women and one of the first to admit minorities. Some of the more prestigious Cleveland Law School graduates are the first woman appointed to a Federal judgeship, the first woman elected as a municipal court judge, the first African-American woman lawyer, and a string of judges, mayors, Congressmen, State legislators, and countless other community leaders.

The college of law is Ohio's largest law school, and the only public law school in the city of Cleveland. The faculty is nationally recognized for its research and scholarship. The college provides students with a curriculum of traditional courses as well as opportunities to participate in four legal clinics, moot court teams, and two student-edited law journals. Now, the school also offers the new Cleveland-Marshall Law Library, housing the second largest academic law collection in Ohio. The library boasts extensive collections on many different aspects of State and Federal law, a large computer lab, and extensive electronic research capabilities.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in commemorating the centennial of this superior institution, the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and its new law library.

CELEBRATING BRAILLE
PROVISIONS OF IDEA

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, Helen Keller, the moving spirit of the American Foundation for the Blind, once said, " * * * when I hold a beloved [braille] book in my hand my limitations fall from me, my spirit is free."

During the recent reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act it was my pleasure to work with the American Foundation for the Blind and other advocates to include a provision for the teaching of braille for all blind or visually impaired students for whom it is appropriate as part of the IEP process. Now every blind or visually impaired child can have the chance to experience the same freedom enjoyed by Helen Keller.

Specialized instruction in braille enables children who are blind or visually impaired to participate equally with their sighted peers in school and ultimately to compete in the workplace.

Additionally, for those who cannot use print, braille provides an excellent means for accomplishing necessary daily activities such as reading confidential material, taking notes at meetings and giving presentations, record-keeping, studying and reviewing critical information, and performing household management functions.

I am pleased to report that in my State, 39,500 braille books were circulated by the Regional Libraries for the Blind in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia in fiscal year 1996.

The mission of the American Foundation for the Blind is to enable persons who are blind or visually impaired to achieve equality of access and opportunity that will ensure freedom of choice in their lives. I am delighted that the braille provisions of the recently reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act will help all children who are blind or visually impaired to achieve this goal.

UNIFORMED SERVICES FORMER
SPOUSES EQUITY ACT OF 1997

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2537, a bill to restore a small measure of balance to the way military retired pay is handled during a divorce.

Under the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act, courts were given the authority to divide military retirement pay as property. Since then, the courts have almost uniformly taken advantage of that provision. However, this has resulted in certain injustices to military retirees. Chief among them is the fact that former spouses continue to receive a share of the retired pay even after one or more remarriages, regardless of the respective financial positions of the former spouse and the retiree. Moreover, there is no limitation on when former spouses can seek a division of retired pay.

My bill has three principal components. First, it would terminate payments made as a

division of property from retired pay upon remarriage of the former spouse. Second, it would require computation of the former spouse's portion of retired pay based on the rank and longevity of the individual at the time of divorce, not at the time of retirement. Third, it would limit the time in which a former spouse may seek a division of retired pay.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking equity for military retirees.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LEE
TENG-HUI AND DR. JASON HU

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Taiwan's 86th National Day, I wish to pay tribute to President Lee Teng-hui, who has recently completed an arduous Latin-American trip to shore up his country's relations with a number of Latin-American countries. President Lee is one of the hardest working heads of state in our time. Also, I would like to commend President Lee for having selected Dr. Jason Hu as his new Foreign Minister.

Dr. Hu is currently Taiwan's representative in Washington. During his tenure in Washington, Dr. Hu has impressed us with his diplomatic skills. In his new capacity as Taiwan's Foreign Minister, Dr. Hu will no doubt use his talents to the utmost in promoting his country's diplomatic interests around the world.

Taiwan faces a number of diplomatic challenges, but with President Lee's leadership and Dr. Hu's stewardship in the Foreign Ministry, I trust Taiwan's diplomatic fortunes will soon improve.

IN HONOR OF DR. ALEX H. MARK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alex Mark, who will receive an award this week for outstanding contributions to the Greater Cleveland community from International Services Center [ISC] in Cleveland, OH.

International Services Center is an agency that assists refugees, immigrants, and other newcomers to the United States to overcome social and economic barriers and adjust to a new culture and way of life. The organization is honoring four individuals this year for their exceptional work on intercultural and interracial issues. These individuals have been chosen because of their commitment to the community and their lifelong achievements which reflect the spirit and the mission of ISC.

Dr. Mark was brought up in Canada. He earned his bachelors degree from the University of Toronto and later, a doctorate from Purdue University. In 1978, he moved to Cleveland where he has held executive positions in several multinational companies such as Rockwell International Corp. and Massey-Ferguson Co. He retired from Eaton Corp. in 1990.

Mr. Mark has always been involved in community related nonprofit organizations. He was the cofounder of the national Organization of Chinese Americans [OCA] and served as its national president from 1977 to 1979. During this time, he was active in a program to pass a bill through Congress to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. The bill passed and was signed by President Carter. Mr. Mark served as president of the Chinese Association of Greater Cleveland from 1982 to 1986. In 1991, he founded the Cleveland Chinese Senior Citizens Association and now, although he is officially retired, is the acting president of the nonprofit Asian Evergreen Housing Corp.

Mr. Mark has also been active outside of the Chinese American Community. He was president of the International Services Center of Greater Cleveland and a board member of the Cleveland Council of World Affairs and an Hispanic organization, El Barrio. In addition, he served on the Import-Export Committee of the Cleveland World Trade Council and on the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee of the Cuyahoga Community College.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Dr. Mark on a lifetime of wonderful work for the multicultural community in the Greater Cleveland area.

RECOGNIZING ROSEMONT COLLEGE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues a significant honor that was bestowed today upon Rosemont College in Rosemont, PA. Today Rosemont College was named by the John Templeton Foundation as one of only 134 colleges nationwide on the foundation's 1997-98 honor roll for character-building colleges.

Founded more than 70 years ago as a women's college, Rosemont has repeatedly earned national recognition as one of the country's premiere liberal arts colleges. To prepare women for the 21st century, Rosemont has achieved a remarkable balance, combining the traditional liberal arts education with a variety of pre-professional studies and experiences.

As a Catholic college, Rosemont encourages character building among its students by urging them to explore and define the values that will provide them both stability and direction later in life. Other aspects of Rosemont College that contributed to its being named to the John Templeton Foundation's honor roll include the school's emphasis on developing and strengthening of its students moral reasoning skills, its encouragement of spiritual growth and moral values, and its promotion of character-building programs and activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Rosemont College on achieving this outstanding recognition from the John Templeton Foundation. And I thank both the administrators and faculty for emphasizing the importance of character building as a daily part of student life at Rosemont College.

HONORING 30 YEARS OF BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS IN PINELLAS COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program in Pinellas County, FL. This Saturday, they will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of their service to the children of Pinellas County, which is located in my congressional district. Although I will not be able to participate in their celebration in person, I want to share my thoughts on this critically important program with my colleagues in Congress.

The Pinellas County Commission has proclaimed Saturday, September 27, as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County Day. I join them in recognizing one of the premier mentoring programs in the United States. The undisputable fact is that Big Brothers Big Sisters one-to-one mentoring program has a positive impact on children who participate in the program.

Children who are matched with big brothers or sisters are less likely to engage in destructive or antisocial behavior than those kids who are not. The "littles," as they are affectionately called by their bigger counterparts, are less likely to begin using illegal drugs and alcohol and more likely to attend school regularly than those children without the positive guiding influence of a big brother or sister. In fact, program participants are more confident at school and enriched relationships with their family members than those without a "big" influence.

Since 1967, approximately 15,000 children have participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Pinellas County. The agency has been at the forefront in developing exciting and innovative ways to improve the program's success. Its method for screening volunteers has been widely adopted by other children's service organizations.

Last year, Pinellas Big Brothers Big Sisters participated in the President's Summit on Volunteerism. Currently, there are 385 active matches in Pinellas County and there are 163 children waiting to be paired.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Big Brothers Big Sisters program in their congressional districts. These dedicated volunteers help children become productive well-adjusted and caring members of the society. I commend Pinellas County Big Brothers Big Sisters for their leadership in helping children in my district and wish them continued success in the future.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE LIONS CLUB: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Bayonne Lions Club, an exceptional organization serving the residents of my district, on their 50th anniversary. This

momentous occasion will be celebrated on September 24, 1997, with a cocktail reception at the Chandelier Restaurant in New Jersey.

The Bayonne Lions Club has worked for the Bayonne community since 1947 when they were granted a charter from the Lions Club international headquarters in Oak Brook, IL. This charter hangs on the wall of Amici's Restaurant where the club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. This year's anniversary celebration will not only raise funds for charity, but it will also provide the opportunity to highlight the club's achievements over the last half century.

Over the years, the Bayonne Lions Club has sponsored Christmas parties at the St. Joseph's Home in Jersey City, given braille typewriters as gifts to individuals, distributed food baskets, and provided medical care and vital eye surgery to those who needed it.

Among the esteemed members of the Bayonne Lions Club was the club's first president, Attorney Jack Feinberg of the law firm of Feinberg, Dee & Feinberg. One of Feinberg's successors, Dr. C.M. Jones, was the first African-American president of any Lions Club charter in the United States. One of the early active club members was businessman C.J. Murphy, who was the first representative of the Bayonne Lions to the Lions International zone and district. Club member, Walter Jones, has held every office in the Bayonne Lions Club and boasts the longest continuous Bayonne Lions Club membership. I would also like to thank Michael O'Connor, the current Bayonne Lions Club president for his hard work and dedication.

The members and officers, past and present, of the Bayonne Lion's Club richly deserve this honor and recognition for 50 years of unique contributions and caring dedication to their community. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding work and exceptional service of the Bayonne Lions Club. It is an honor to have such an outstanding organization working on behalf of the constituents of my district.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM F. MILLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Miller, who will receive an award this week for outstanding contributions to the Greater Cleveland community from International Services Center [ISC] in Cleveland, OH.

International Services Center is an agency that assists refugees, immigrants, and other newcomers to the United States to overcome social and economic barriers and adjust to a new culture and way of life. The organization is honoring four individuals this year for their exceptional work on intercultural and interracial issues. These individuals have been chosen because of their commitment to the community and their lifelong achievements which reflect the spirit and the mission of ISC.

Mr. Miller has been a columnist and reporter at Cleveland's Plain Dealer for 36 years. He covers nationality stories, general news, and international news as it impacts Cleveland. He writes an ethnic cultural column for the Friday!

Magazine and his column "New Worlds" appears each Saturday. He covered the fall of the Berlin Wall and witnessed the reunification of Germany. This experience proved helpful as he traveled to Central and Eastern Europe in 1990 to write a series of article called Life After the Wall. The series won the 1991 National Writing Award of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Miller also won the Distinguished Service Award from the National Journalistic Society's Cleveland chapter.

Mr. Miller's writing was instrumental in saving the three Playhouse Square Theaters from being demolished to make room for a parking lot. His name appears with six others on a plaque commemorating his efforts to save the complex. The beautifully renovated buildings now comprise the third largest theater complex in America. Many other community organizations have also recognized Mr. Miller for his involvement. He has been honored by the Asian/Pacific Federation, the Federation of Italian Societies of Northeast Ohio, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the United Labor Agency, and the Salvation Army.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating William Miller on a lifetime of wonderful work for the multicultural community in the Greater Cleveland area.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PROVIDER REVIEW ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, together with Mr. DELLUMS and Mr. MILLER of California, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare and Medicaid Provider Review Act of 1997.

The HHS inspector general reports that an estimated 14 percent of Medicare payments overall, and 40 percent of home health payments, are made inappropriately each year. Much of this \$23 billion per year of fraud, waste and abuse occurs because providers do not comply with Medicare rules about medical necessity, and about how services and supplies should be coded and documented. In some cases, providers don't comply because they don't understand the rules. But in many other cases, providers understand the rules so well that they are able to flout them without being detected. The recent indictments of three Columbia/HCA executives for overbilling Medicare are a glaring example of provider's ability to game the system. In addition, the inspector general recently reported that 25 percent of home health agencies it investigated have "abused or defrauded Medicare or misappropriated Medicare funds."¹

Unfortunately, it's relatively easy for fraudulent operators to escape detection because the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA], which oversees the Medicare and Medicaid programs, is woefully lacking in resources to provide adequate oversight and to track down abusers. Over the past 7 years, the number of Medicare claims processed rose 70 percent while HCFA's budget for reviewing claims grew less than 11 percent. Adjusting for claims growth and inflation, funding

¹Footnotes appear at end of speech.

for review dropped from 74 cents to 48 cents per claim. As a result, the proportion of claims reviewed dropped from 17 percent to 9 percent. In the especially problematic home health area, reviews plummeted from 62 percent in 1987 to a target of 3 percent in 1996.²

In many industries, it is standard operating procedure for businesses to fund independent audits of their compliance with Federal laws and regulations. For example, banks have paid for independent government financial and compliance audits since the 1800's. In fact, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is a special branch of the Treasury Department that is fully funded through fees it assesses for conducting bank audits.

This legislation would require all hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, clinical laboratories, and ambulance companies to fund annual, federal financial and compliance audits as a Condition of Participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Other businesses they own in whole or in part would be included in the audits, which would ensure, for example, that providers are furnishing only services that are covered and medically necessary, that they are actually delivering the services for which they bill HCFA and that their cost reports are correct.

To ensure audit quality and consistency, specially trained Federal Medicare/Medicaid examiners, analogous to bank examiners in the banking industry, would conduct the audits. One home health agency owner convicted of Medicare fraud testified before Congress about the inadequacy of the few audits that the government currently conducts: "the auditors were not always sufficiently knowledgeable about Medicare reimbursement and areas of concern to be able to identify improper reimbursement practices * * * the audit teams seemed to change from year to year so there was no real continuity or consistency. The better the auditors understand a provider, the better they will be able to know where to look * * * the auditors need to look not just at the [core business of the provider], but at the overall structure."³

Audits would be paid for through hourly fees charged to providers. Thus, provider liability would depend on both the size of the provider and on how well they keep their books and records. A small agency that follows the rules and documents correctly would be charged very little. To further ease the burden on small businesses, the Secretary would have the authority to exempt providers from audits based on their volume of Medicare and Medicaid business.

To minimize the administrative burden on all health care providers, the bill would require the Secretary to conduct a study of all the examining and accrediting agencies and organizations that perform audits or inspections of the providers covered under this bill. Based on the study, the Secretary would make recommendations to Congress by June 1, 1999 on how to coordinate and consolidate these audits and inspections in order to reduce related costs to providers and government agencies.

Annual rather than initial one-time audits are needed because businesses may start out honestly, but gradually creep into abusing the system as they gain experience and test the waters. Annual audits would also serve an educational purpose, thus reducing waste that

occurs because providers don't understand the system.

Health care spending consumes an ever-increasing portion of the Federal budget—now at least 20 percent. And the Federal Government pays a third of our Nation's health care bills—more than any other single source.⁴ We are the largest purchaser—isn't it time we become a wiser purchaser? And isn't it imperative that we have tighter reins on an area that consumes so many of our tax dollars?

Banks have for many decades borne the financial responsibility for demonstrating their legitimacy. It is an accepted cost of the privilege of keeping other people's money. Medicare and Medicaid providers are being given the privilege of taking taxpayers' money, without the corresponding responsibility for proving their legitimacy. The appalling level of fraud, waste and abuse in the programs is the unfortunate result.

Banks are audited as a matter of public trust to ensure our Nation's economic security. Please join Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. MILLER and me in demanding provider audits to help ensure its health security.

FOOTNOTES***NOTE****1 TESTIMONY OF GEORGE F. GROB, DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EVALUATION AND INSPECTIONS, HHS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, BEFORE THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING, 7/28/97.***NOTE****2 TESTIMONY OF LESLIE G. ARONOVITZ, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, HEALTH FINANCING AND SYSTEMS ISSUES, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION, GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, BEFORE THE SENATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, 6/26/97.***NOTE****3 TESTIMONY OF JEANETTE G. GARRISON BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGING, 7/28/97.***NOTE****4 CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE, WAYS AND MEANS HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE CHARTBOOK, 1997.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPT. L.D. "DEAK" CHILDRESS

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Capt. Louis "Deak" Childress, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Lemoore, in Lemoore, CA. Captain Childress has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout his service in the U.S. Navy and is an asset to the community of Lemoore.

Captain Childress began his naval career by entering flight training at Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, FL, in July 1973. After completing training at Sauffley Field and Whitley Field, he reported to Beeville, TX, in July 1974, and received his wings on December 20 of that year.

After graduation from flight school, Ensign Childress was assigned to Oceana, VA, flying the F-4 Phantom from the decks of the USS *Nimitz* and USS *Forrestal* from 1975 to 1978.

In October 1978, Lieutenant Childress served as an instructor pilot at NAS Miramar in San Diego and in November 1979, he was reassigned to the east coast F4-RAG in Virginia.

In July 1981, he reported to the staff of Commander Carrier Air Wing 17 as landing signals officer and safety officer, flying once again with the "Bedevilers." He completed the final east coast F-4 deployment in November

1982 and reported for temporary duty at Oceana while awaiting assignment in Lemoore, CA. While at Lemoore, he was the first tactical fighter pilot to instruct in Fighter Wing One's out-of-controlled-flight program, flying the T-2 and A-4 aircraft.

In July 1983, he was chosen to serve as part of the early cadre of instructor pilots in the developing F/A-18 program. He performed duties as senior LSO for the Hornet RAG, and was one of the first three instructors selected for the newly developed Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific, and served as the RAG training officer.

In November 1985, Lieutenant Commander Childress reported as a plank owner, where he served as department head until August 1988. The squadron stood up in Lemoore, CA, and subsequently changed homeport to NAS Cecil Field in Jacksonville, FL.

In September 1988, Lieutenant Commander Childress reported to Commander U.S. Sixth Fleet in Gaeta, Italy for a tour as Flag Secretary. He served on board the Flagship, USS *Belknap*, until October 1990.

From November 1990 until June 1991, Commander Childress completed his PXO/CO training track and returned to NAS Cecil Field, FL. During that time, he was deployed to the Persian Gulf where he acted for nearly 4 months as senior naval representative to COMUSNAVCENT's contingency planning cell in Dharhan, Saudi Arabia.

In August 1993, Commander Childress, reported as Chief of Crisis Action Plans for the J-3 directorate of Headquarters United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. In March 1995, he was promoted to his current rank of captain, and in July 1996, Captain Childress reported as commanding officer, Naval Air Station Lemoore.

Since returning to Naval Air Station Lemoore, Captain Childress has dedicated himself to improving the lives of the sailors. The first phase of a new family housing project has been completed, with more units to be finished in the upcoming months. And, Captain Childress recently broke ground on a new state-of-the-art naval hospital.

Captain Childress is well-respected in both the U.S. Navy and in the city of Lemoore. The support he has given to the Public/Private Venture has played an important part in the economic growth and development of the city of Lemoore and Kings County.

Captain Childress is also a devoted family man. He and his wife, the former Mary Sue Duckworth, have two children, Brent (21) and Christopher (18).

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in wishing Captain Childress, devoted husband, father, community member, and dedicated serviceman, continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF COPS PROGRAMS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Three years ago, President Clinton vowed to place 100,000 more police officers on the streets of American cities in a nationwide effort to reduce crime starting at the community level. To fulfill this goal by the end of the year 2000, the Office of Community

Oriented Policing Services [COPS] was established. Halfway through the 6-year program, 65,000 officers have been added to police forces across the Nation, and reports of dramatic drops in crime are coming in from cities throughout the country.

Cleveland, OH, is one of these COPS success stories. Juvenile crime had been on the rise in Cleveland. Arrests for weapons violations rose 67 percent from 1989 to 1994. A 35-percent increase in juvenile felony arrests was seen between 1992 and 1993 alone. In spite of this rise in crime, the number of police officers had declined. The Cleveland Police Department has received over \$8 million in grants from the COPS Office. Among many COPS funded programs, one especially innovative and successful program stands out, the Residential Area Policing Program [RAPP].

In an effort to create more of a community policing presence, the Cleveland Police Department identified abandoned, nuisance properties in various neighborhoods, restored the properties, and stationed specially trained community policing officers there 24 hours a day. These officers established themselves in the neighborhood, made regular patrols, and conducted door-to-door surveys of the residents' problems. They also hosted training seminars and provided a safe house to the youths of the area. In short, the community police formed partnerships with the residents of the neighborhoods and, together, they improved the appearance of the neighborhood, identified community problems, and developed substantial solutions. In each of the four sites selected for the yearlong program, the community officers became integral members of the community and left lasting, positive effects. Drug traffic has decreased, gunfire has diminished, and the number of civil disputes is down. Equally as important, the number of calls for service rose 100 percent, showing that the residents felt comfortable turning to the police for help.

RAPP is but one of many endeavors on the part of the Cleveland Police Department to get more involved in community policing. Over \$11 million have been awarded to communities in the 10th Congressional District of Ohio resulting in the hiring of over 170 new officers. Residents profess that the programs have helped reduce crime, and the statistics prove it. Community policing works, and I support its continued funding so other cities may see the rewards of communities and police departments working together to combat crime.

TRIBUTE TO NELLO RICARDI

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Nello Ricardi of Westfield, MA, in recognition of his selection as the Westfield Democratic Committee's Democrat of the Year.

Mr. Ricardi has had a long history in organized labor and politics. Nello began his career at the Savage Arms, Inc. in Chicopee, MA, which had a labor force in direct affiliation with the AFL-CIO. He served in a variety of positions in his local work force chapter, in-

cluding shop steward, trustee, treasurer, vice president, and business manager.

Nello joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the South Pacific during World War II. After World War II, he received a full scholarship from Massachusetts AFL-CIO to attend Harvard Business School. Following graduation from Harvard, he served as the New England field representative for the national AFL-CIO, where he was responsible for 131 direct affiliates in New England. He took the lead on organizing locals, negotiating contracts, and handling arbitrations and grievances. He was able to achieve some significant organizing successes, such as American Optical, Dennison and Marble Mines to name a few.

In the later years Nello became the New England legislative director for the national AFL-CIO and served for a short period as a legislative lobbyist at the national level. He then went on to work at the education program at the George Meany Center in Silver Spring, MD before his retirement. In total, Nello spent 27 years with the national AFL-CIO.

Nello has been a member of the Westfield Democratic Committee for over 20 years. He is a very modest man that does not like the limelight. He is, simply put, "a doer," volunteering for whatever the committee needs. It is people like Nello that make the difference in government and politics.

I am pleased to pay tribute to Nello Ricardi, someone who has been a great asset to his community, to Massachusetts, to New England, and to his country.

HONORING THE LIFELONG SERVICE OF WILBUR F. LITTLEFIELD

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to serving his family, the people of Los Angeles County, and his country. In over 40 years of service as an attorney, Wilbur F. Littlefield has proven himself to be deeply respected and a dedicated public servant. Although he is best known as a man of the law, he is modest about the other fascinating experiences that have shaped his life and molded his character.

Like many who answered their country's call during World War II, Bill Littlefield volunteered to fight for his country. As he would do later in his life, Bill distinguished himself as a man of unique ability. He served his tour of duty as a member of the 'Alamo Scouts,' an elite corps of men who fought behind enemy lines gathering intelligence and tracking enemy movements. As a scout, Bill saw action in Guadalcanal, Luzon, and Leyte. He contracted malaria during one of the campaigns.

After the war, Bill worked his way through law school at Hastings College of The Law before returning home to Los Angeles. His passion for trial work led him to the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, where his skills were rapidly recognized. He rose steadily through the ranks, and in 1976 was appointed the Public Defender for Los Angeles County.

Under Bill's leadership, the Office of the Public Defender implemented innovative pro-

grams like paralegal training and the bilingual service program. He provided service to the needs of the indigent accused while never losing sight of the needs of the community as a whole. Bill retired from the Public Defender's Office in 1993.

As a member of the armed services, as an attorney, and as a public servant, Bill Littlefield has distinguished himself as a man of great integrity and dedication. Under his leadership, the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office grew to be one of the largest and most respected legal service agencies in the country.

As a long-time admirer of his, I am honored to recognize his service to his country. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I salute him for a job well done, and offer the thanks of a grateful nation to one of her distinguished sons.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL L. MEYER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Michael L. Meyer who is being honored by the Construction Industries Alliance for City of Hope with the Spirit of Life Award.

The proceeds from the awards dinner honoring Michael will establish the Michael L. Meyer Research Fellowship at City of Hope and its Beckman Research Institute. City of Hope utilizes its energy and resources to seek better treatments for major diseases, primarily cancer. Patients attend this center from all over the world for treatment of such afflictions as leukemia and other cancers, diabetes, and hereditary or genetic problems. At City of Hope, emphasis is placed on not only treating the body, but invigorating the soul.

For 80 years, City of Hope has been dedicated to improving the lives of others and has aptly named their research fellowship for an individual who has selflessly dedicated much of his life to enriching our community.

Michael is currently the managing partner of E&Y Kenneth Leventhal Real Estate Group's Orange County Office. He has played an important leadership role in the real estate industry over the past 20 years and his expertise has made him a valuable resource for most of the major real estate companies in our community.

In addition to his valuable work within the industry, he has dedicated his time and efforts to community service. He is the director of the Construction Industries for the City of Hope, and the chairman of the United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society. He is also on the board of the Orange County Museum of Art.

City of Hope is not the first organization to take notice of Michael Meyer's extensive community and business leadership activities. He has received the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund and the Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee. Tonight, he adds the Spirit of Life Award to his distinguished list of accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Michael Meyer for his generosity and dedication to our community.

IN MEMORY OF JOE FOX

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a business owner, a

community mentor, and a loving husband, father and grandfather, Joe Fox.

As a young man, Joe fought for his country in World War II as a marine, earning a Purple Heart for his bravery. Later, he published a community newspaper and was the proprietor of Linka's Restaurant. Linka's was regarded as a popular neighborhood gathering place, where people would meet not only for the creative family-style meals, but also for conversation and advice from Joe Fox.

Joe Fox loved to cook and experiment with all different kinds of cuisine. He also loved to help people in any way he could. Joe was a very special and unique man whose generosity and vision earned him a place in the hearts of everyone in the community. He is survived by his wife, Olga, a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren, all of whom he adored. Their loss is shared by everyone fortunate enough to have known Joe.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 26

12:00 p.m.
Conferees on H.R. 2158, making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998.
S-128, Capitol

SEPTEMBER 29

9:00 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to review the operation of the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General.
SD-342

2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold hearings to review the operation of the FBI crime laboratory.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 30

8:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs ***P***To hold hearings on the nominations of Hershel Wayne Gober, of Arkansas, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Richard J. Griffin, of Illinois, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs, William P. Greene Jr., of West Virginia, to be an Associate Judge of the United States Court of Veterans Affairs, and Espiridion A. Borrego, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training; to be followed by a business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SR-418

9:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings on the nominations of Laura S. Unger, of New York, and Paul R. Carey, of New York, both to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Dennis Dollar, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration

Board, and Edward M. Gramlich, of Virginia, and Roger Walton Ferguson, of Massachusetts, both to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on the nominations of Michael K. Powell, of Virginia, Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth, of the District of Columbia, and Gloria Tristani (pending receipt by the Senate), each to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission.
SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on the impacts of a new climate treaty on U.S. labor, electricity supply, manufacturing, and the general economy.
SD-366

Environment and Public Works
Business meeting, to mark up S. 1180, to authorize funds for programs of the Endangered Species Act.
SD-406

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs
To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.
SH-216

Labor and Human Resources
To resume hearings to examine the scope and depth of the proposed settlement between State Attorneys General and tobacco companies to mandate a total reformation and restructuring of how tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed in America.
SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary
Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine unconstitutional set-asides, focusing on ISTEAs race-based set-asides after the Supreme Court case "Adarand".
SD-226

2:00 p.m.

Judiciary
To hold hearings on pending judicial nominations.
SD-226

OCTOBER 1

9:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the health risks of 1950's atomic tests.
SD-192

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on the nomination of William E. Kennard, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission.
SR-253

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on the proposed settlement between State Attorneys General and tobacco companies, focusing on the proposed Indian provision.
SR-485

10:00 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings on the nomination of Jacques S. Gansler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.
SR-222

Governmental Affairs
To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the commit-

tee's special investigation on campaign financing.
SH-216

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine Congress' constitutional role in protecting religious liberty.
SD-226

Labor and Human Resources

To hold hearings to examine voluntary initiatives to expand health insurance coverage.
SD-430

2:00 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 940, to provide for a study of the establishment of Midway Atoll as a national memorial to the Battle of Midway, and H.R. 765, to ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses in Cape Lookout National Seashore.
SD-366

OCTOBER 2

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs
To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.
SH-216

OCTOBER 6

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine traditional frauds perpetrated over the Internet.
SD-342

OCTOBER 7

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on proposed legislation relating to food safety.
SR-332

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs
To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.
SH-216

2:00 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 725, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Collbran Reclamation Project to the Ute Water Conservancy District and the Collbran Conservancy District, S. 777, to authorize the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System and to authorize assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. a nonprofit corporation, for the planning and construction of the water supply system, H.R. 848, to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of the AuSable Hydroelectric Project in New York, H.R. 1184, to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for the construction of the Bear Creek Hydroelectric Project in the State of Washington, and H.R. 1217, to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for the construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Washington.
SD-366

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 1064, to amend the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to more effectively manage visitor service and fishing activity in Glacier Bay National Park.

SD-366

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 1077, to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
Room to be announced

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

OCTOBER 9

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

2:00 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and
Recreation Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the feasibility of using bonding techniques to finance large-scale capital projects in the National Park System.

SD-366

OCTOBER 22

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on Indian self-governance, focusing on proposed legislation to extend compacting to agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

SR-485

OCTOBER 29

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To resume oversight hearings on proposals to reform the management of Indian trust funds.

Room to be announced