

In our fast-paced world, living up to commitments is not always easy, and few relationships between corporate entities and community service organizations stand the test of time. The changing priorities and bottom-line demands of business can be harmful to the best of intentions. That is what makes the ERA/MDA bond so special. ERA has set a standard in corporate community service and in doing so has set an admirable example for the children of our Nation. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I salute ERA Real Estate for their 20 years of hard work and commitment on behalf of individuals with muscular dystrophy.

H.R. 2203, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the House in supporting the fiscal year 1998 energy and water development appropriations conference agreement, and I applaud Chairman McDADE and the ranking member of the subcommittee Vic FAZIO, for their work to finalize this appropriations bill.

This conference agreement provides funding for the Department of Energy [DOE], and I want to take this opportunity to highlight one important investment this bill makes at DOE. The Department of Energy supports scientists and experimental facilities at universities and national laboratories around the country that conduct basic research in important scientific disciplines—including materials and chemical sciences, biological, and environmental sciences, and high energy and nuclear physics. In my home State of Illinois, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory are outstanding examples of the kind of facilities and scientists that are supported by this bill through the DOE.

It is important to underscore that for the chemical and physical sciences, the DOE is as important as the National Institutes of Health [NIH] and the National Science Foundation [NSF] are to other research disciplines. DOE has a long history of supporting important basic research, and I note with some interest that this conference agreement recognizes DOE's critical role in our national investment in fundamental research by giving a new collective name to these programs, called simply the science account. I urge my colleagues to support this science account because, like our investments in NSF and NIH, these are dollars that help build our future by supporting the people and facilities that conduct fundamental research.

The research portfolio supported through DOE's science account, including high energy physics, has been under significant budget pressure in recent years and funding had gradually eroded. Unlike NSF and NIH, the basic research programs at DOE have not seen even modest increases in recent years and are losing ground to inflation. While I support the funding levels provided in this conference agreement, I call on the administration to strengthen these programs as it works to

put together its fiscal year 1999 budget. The administration must keep the science account strong, and I believe that the public and the Congress will support these programs at higher levels.

At Fermilab, scientists from around the country operate the world's highest-energy particle accelerator and only hadron collider. The experimental devices at Fermilab are operated as user facilities which allow researchers from all over the world to come to the lab to conduct their research. For 30 years now, Fermilab has been the center of research and discovery in high energy physics, the place where the top quark, the smallest known element of matter, was first observed. The funding provided in this bill will continue to keep Fermilab and the United States at the cutting edge of high energy physics for the next decade.

This bill provides funding for a portion of the U.S. contribution to the Large Hadron Collider [LHC], a facility that is being planned for construction in Europe. This past year, the Congress worked with the administration to ensure that our contribution to this device is appropriate and fair, that American scientists have an appropriate role in the research agenda for the device, and that American taxpayers are protected. I am satisfied with the efforts to ensure that we have the strongest possible international agreement knowing that scientific discovery is a global enterprise.

The Department of Energy is a large agency with a complex set of missions. We are all stakeholders in the success of DOE in its critical missions, including science and technology, and I look forward to working on the myriad of issues facing DOE in the months ahead.

HELP END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OUR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues attention an important piece of legislation that Congressman ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR., of Maryland and I recently introduced to ensure that our veterans who are receiving disability benefits are not discriminated against when they apply for housing benefits.

Our bill, H.R. 2820, the Helping America's Veterans With Disabilities Act of 1997, is a very simple measure which would exempt veterans disability benefits from consideration when applying for the benefits provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs [HUD]. Although disability benefits can never fully compensate those veterans who have sacrificed for our country, they are a small step toward repaying the debt we owe them. This is why Federal and State income taxes are not deducted from disability benefits. Likewise, we believe disability benefits should also not be taken into consideration when a veteran with a disability applies for section 8 or other housing benefits.

Across the political spectrum, there are many different opinions as to the proper role of Government. Regardless of your party affili-

ation, I hope that my colleagues will share our strong concurrence that veterans with disabilities deserve our help. As you know, veterans with disabilities face many challenges every day. For example, many veterans with disabilities must overcome employment discrimination and transportation obstacles, while trying to provide a decent standard of living for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, some veterans reside in public housing and have difficulty making ends meet. Many other veterans with disabilities are denied eligibility for housing assistance because of the disability benefits they receive.

As the International Union of Gospel Missions reported this week, one in three men at homeless shelters are veterans. With an estimated 250,000 homeless veterans in our country—one-third of the total—this legislation is the least we can do. I believe that H.R. 2820 is consistent with the philosophy of helping those who cannot always help themselves, especially when that person has sacrificed for this country.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join us in showing their support for the many veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country's freedom of cosponsoring H.R. 2820.

GOLDEN LEGACY, BOUNDLESS FUTURE

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, the United States had just come out of two world wars and was on the brink of a new era. The future was boundless. The military had discovered the value of a new technology, a technology that demanded a new branch of our Armed Forces. Fifty years ago, on September 18, 1947, Stuart Symington took the oath of office as the first Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, thus the beginning of a golden legacy.

For the last 50 years, the men and women of the Air Force have carried on the dreams and vision of millions of aviators who have gone before them. It is for these aviators that I would like to take this opportunity to not only recognize this golden anniversary, but to thank those who have helped us come this far. It is hard to believe in today's skies where our planes fly over Bosnia, Iraq, Korea, and the world that the first aviation occurred 89 years ago.

The Air Force roots go deeper than the National Security Act of 1947. They extend all the way back to 1907. That year the Army Signal Corps formed an aeronautical division. In 1908 the first military aviation flight occurred at Fort Myer, VA, just miles from this very spot. The Wright Brothers delivered their first plane to the aeronautical division that next year. On July 18, 1914, Congress ordered the Army to establish an aviation section of the Signal Corps. A few weeks later, Europe erupted into World War I.

In response to criticism of the American aircraft effort, President Woodrow Wilson created the Army Air Service and placed it directly under the War Department on May 24, 1918. By the time of the armistice in November 1918, the Air Service had grown to more than