

qualified to discuss and review America's approach to promoting religious freedom abroad. Its members include religious leaders who represent millions of Americans of all major faiths and denominations, and scholars who have dedicated their professional lives to the study of issues related to religious liberty.

In the course of their work, they interviewed such eminent figures as the Dalai Lama, Cardinal Daly of Northern Ireland and Pastor Robert Fu of China. The committee clearly took its work very seriously, and we take it seriously as well.

America is a leader in promoting religious freedom because it serves our interests and because it is right. With the committee's counsel, we hope to pursue that goal with even more vigor and effectiveness in the days ahead.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BOROUGH OF NORTH CALDWELL,
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Borough of North Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey.

The Borough of North Caldwell was part of a large tract of land known as "Horseneck" that was purchased by a group of colonists from the Indians who lived in the area in 1701. In 1784 a group living in Horseneck organized a Presbyterian Church Society and in 1787 they voted to change the name of their community to Caldwell in honor of the Reverend James Caldwell who had helped them form their church group. North Caldwell continued as part of Caldwell Township until the last 19th century, when citizens, wanting improved roads and a better school, felt they could better achieve these goals as an independent municipality.

Since its modest beginning, the Borough of North Caldwell has steadily developed into a thriving residential community, counting among its residents a nationally known portrait painter and an American Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry. While the area was originally farm country, North Caldwell soon had its share of local industry. By the early half of the 19th century a large bark mill was established, which boasted a water wheel that was five feet wide and eighteen feet in diameter. After changing ownership in 1846, the mill was converted to operate as a grist mill and a saw mill. By 1931, multistory buildings had been erected and a prosperous local economy was in full operation.

The ensuing years brought many complexities and the demand for organization of a variety of resources for citizens' needs. North Caldwell currently has a full-time professional staff, including a police department, which has grown from three officers in 1930 to seventeen today, and a fire department incorporated in 1922, which is 28 members strong. The Borough's excellent school system dates back to 1770, when the first schoolhouse was built. Several subsequent schools were built during the 19th century, and the first Board of Education was appointed in 1903. Today there are several schools in the Borough, including the

West Essex Regional Schools opened in 1961.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 100 years, the Borough of North Caldwell has prospered as a community and remains a thriving municipality today. By all accounts, it will continue to prosper in the future and I ask my colleagues to congratulate all residents of North Caldwell on this special anniversary year.

STATEMENT UPON THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT THE ATTACHMENT OF NONEMERGENCY ITEMS TO EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, "Emergency" supplemental bills should contain funding for just that—emergencies. They should not be golden opportunities to attach funding for pet projects or legislative riders.

That is why I have introduced this legislation to "prohibit nonemergency spending or legislative provisions in emergency appropriation laws." This bill will not effect nonemergency spending bills, supplemental or otherwise. It is my belief that emergency bills are larger magnets for nonessential spending and inappropriate legislative provisions because they have the greatest likelihood of passing.

Our government should spend money on many worthwhile projects and programs. But a responsible government should make those spending decisions during the course of considering annual appropriations bills and other nonemergency supplemental bills. We shouldn't slow down much needed emergency money, or bank on its urgency, to pass all sorts of extraneous measures.

This legislation is a way to assure the people I represent that nothing will be stuck into these emergency bills "in the middle of the night." I want people to start trusting Congress again!

IN HONOR OF HARRISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEING AWARDED THE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE GRANT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives I would like to congratulate the Harrison School District for being awarded the Technology Literacy Challenge Grant.

The Harrison Public School System understands that the Internet is not a novelty anymore. Increasingly it is an essential tool for information gathering.

The grant which totals over \$94,000, will be used to provide public Internet computers at Harrison High School, Harrison Community Center, and the Harrison Town Library. These funds will also pay for community Internet training programs. This program is not limited

to students. When the town's technology plan is fully implemented, all of Harrison's citizens will be able to share and collect information through the Internet. No one will be excluded from this virtual community because of a lack of equipment or expertise.

On May 31 Harrison Schools will be sponsoring a "Technology Fest." This event will open the schools to the public to share students' technology related projects. I would like to thank District Technology Coordinator, Frank A. Cappelle, and Superintendent John Di Salvo for making these educational opportunities possible.

THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, as we examine proposed changes to the nation's health care delivery system, we must consider the vital role that public hospitals play in our communities. Recently, Dr. Bailus Walker, Director of the Health Policy Program at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and Deitra Hazelwood Lee, a Research Analyst, prepared a report which is entitled, "The Future of Public Hospitals." The report gives in-depth insight of the problems confronting the nation with regard to the decline of public hospitals. The work is worthwhile reading and I am pleased to share it with my colleagues and others throughout the nation.

THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Public hospitals nationwide are struggling to provide medical care to those Americans who need it most—the poor, the underinsured, and the uninsured. Because of the growth of Medicaid managed care, reductions in federal and state government funding, and the rise in the number of people without insurance, some public hospitals no longer have the financial stability to stay afloat. Many are merging, converting to private institutions, or closing their doors.

In the past, most cities had at least one public hospital, and cities like New York and Los Angeles had entire public hospital systems. But between 1981 and 1993 the number of public hospitals fell by 25 percent, a trend that is accelerating. Now Congress plans to cut Medicaid funding given specifically to public hospitals that serve a large number of Medicaid, low-income Medicare, and uninsured patients. The pending budget cuts are also going to shrink public hospitals' revenues far below what is necessary to meet the many health care needs of those who rely on this system for treatment.

Given the popularity of privatizing services, and the apparent growth of so many forms of health care, some—though not the poor—may wonder, Why is it worth preserving public hospitals at all? Can't the rest of our health system pick up the slack? It would be nice if that were possible, but the facts prove otherwise. Indeed, already the tears in the public hospital safety net are creating a new healthcare crisis in its own right. It we continue to lose these hospitals, many African Americans and other minorities, especially in urban communities, stand to lose their last certain access to medical care.

Public hospitals provide a significant share of all hospital care for those who are socially