

in fitting recognition for his untiring efforts, Tom will receive from SBA's Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Hon. Jere Glover, a Special Advocacy Award for unique and outstanding advocacy achievements on behalf of small business.

It is hard to overstate the influence Tom Powers has had on small business legislation and policy during his long tenure here. It is also hard to imagine the Small Business Committee without him. I know that I speak for all members of the Committee, past and present, and for the whole House in thanking Tom for his extraordinary service and devotion, both to the House and to the small business community, and in extending to him our best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

THE AMERICAN LEGION OPPOSES  
H.R. 695, THE SAFE ACT

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

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, March 31, 1998*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as you know, every major police organization in the United States, representing millions of Americans strongly oppose H.R. 695. Now our veterans have joined their efforts to defeat the bill. I have included in the RECORD today a letter from The American Legion which outlines their opposition to H.R. 695, the Safe Act.

The American Legion concurs that there are some provisions in the original H.R. 695 that can and will be detrimental to our national security and law enforcement efforts and will advise its membership of 4 million to the bill's shortcomings.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
*Washington, DC, February 25, 1998.*

Hon. GERALD B. SOLOMON,  
*U.S. House of Representatives, Rayburn House  
Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SOLOMON: Thank you for advising me of your concerns with pending encryption legislation. After reviewing the legislation and reading testimony by respected authorities in law enforcement and national security matters, The American Legion concurs that there are some provisions in the original H.R. 695 that can and will be detrimental to our national security and law enforcement efforts.

It is our contention that the Department of Commerce should not be making decisions that impact so strongly on our country's national security. That responsibility should be left to other agencies of the federal government who have more expertise in electronic intelligence technology. The language in the amended version of H.R. 695 (Section 3) that was developed by the House Committees on National Security and Intelligence appears to provide a degree of limitation and control in this sensitive area and is a measure we can support.

The American Legion will be conducting its annual Legislative Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill, March 22-24. I will ask our Legislative staff to invite representatives of the Justice Department to speak on this matter. We shall also voice our concerns to Members of Congress when we make our annual visitation on March 24.

Thank you for alerting us of this situation. We will continue to monitor this matter and will also advise our membership of the pending legislation and its shortcomings.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY G. JORDAN,  
*National Commander.*

ESSAYS ON FREEDOM

**HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH**

OF INDIANA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, March 31, 1998*

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the pleasure of hearing three essays from three young students in Madison County. I wish to share these essays with my colleagues and the American people. The essays show a key understanding of the principles upon which our great nation was founded. Our country will continue to prosper if future generations, like these young students, hold dear to one of our cherished American values . . . Freedom. God Bless America.

WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO ME  
(By Danny Breeden)

It is hard for me to explain what freedom means to me because I have always been free. So were my parents, grand-parents, and many of my ancestors. So, when I want to think about being free I need to think about people who are not free. I think about; Hebrew slaves under the Egyptian pharaohs, the colonists before the Revolutionary War, American slaves before the Civil War, and the Jewish people under Hitler in Germany in the 1940's. I am sure today that there are still people in the world who are not free.

The Hebrews did not have any rights. Some of them could not even eat, drink, and sleep when they wanted to. They also didn't have the right to worship who and when they wanted to.

The colonists were oppressed by the king. They were heavily taxed and were not allowed to meet about town problems. Also they were not allowed to worship the way wanted to.

The Jews and the slaves were beaten, tortured, and even killed. They were also not allowed to speak or worship freely.

You know, when you think about it there is always a war when a group of people want to be free. It's not fair. Innocent men and women die for their freedom and the freedom of their families.

WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO ME  
(By Staci Johnson)

Basically, what freedom means to me is to have a choice. The choice to live where we want, work where we want, worship how we want, and much more.

In America, we have a lot of freedoms. We can have as many children as we please, whereas some countries can't. In some countries if they have more than one child, they would have to kill them.

We also have the freedom to go to church wherever we wish to or believe in whatever kind of God we choose. Along with this freedom, we have the choice to own the Bible. We can read it any time we want. Some countries like China doesn't allow the Bible or the freedom of religion. If you bring a Bible into China you are most likely to be put in prison.

Also in America, we have the right to voice our opinion. We can speak against the government without a fear of going to jail or a fear of being killed. We have the freedom to speak out in favor of what we want, desire, or need. We have the freedom to vote on who we want to be the leaders of our country. We also have the freedom to vote privately. We can vote for a Democrat or a Republican to be the leaders of our country.

Parents have the freedom of choice in education for their children. They can homeschool them, send them to private school, or send them to public school.

We can travel freely from state to state whenever we wish to without fear because of our freedom.

We also have the opportunity to try for any kind of job we want. We can quit a job if it is not the right one for us or if a better one comes along.

We can go to a grocery store or a mall whenever we need or want. We can buy whatever we shall please to buy. We can buy the food we want or the clothes we desire and much more.

We have so many freedoms. We are the most blessed country in the world. We should be grateful for what we can do and what we have. I love freedom, don't you?

WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO ME  
(By Andy Rogers)

When I hear the word "freedom" I think of times in American history when all people did not possess freedom. Slavery allowed human beings to be bought and sold as if they were just property. Slaves had only freedoms that their owners approved of. When America was colonized, Indians had lots of freedom, living and hunting where they pleased. As more white settlers came and invaded Indian territory, Indian freedom was whittled away until they were forced to live on reservations.

As a twelve-year old it is amazing to think I have more freedom than any adult slave or Indian. I have the freedom of choice because I can choose my friends, the things I wear to school, and how I spend my free time. I enjoy the freedom of speech because I can say what I think and talk about subjects I like. I have the freedom of religion because I can praise God freely and don't have to hide to worship him.

As a preteen I cannot enjoy as many freedoms as adults because I cannot vote, own land, get a job, or drive a car, the list goes on. But some of these freedoms I would not want because they are a lot of responsibility for a kid like me. There are other freedoms I cannot enjoy yet for safety reasons.

As I mature, my parent's give me more freedom. I look forward to the time when I become independent. Then I can live on my own and do what I want when I want to do it.

One freedom that is usually not thought of is man's free will. This is a freedom that every human being has whether they are slave, Indian, child, or adult. Free will is God's most important freedom to man. It enables man to choose everlasting life by believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior, and choosing to follow His will for our life.

I am so thankful to God for all the freedoms He has given me, but especially the gift of free will which lets me choose the ultimate freedom—heaven.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
HONOREES

**HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO**

OF MINNESOTA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, March 31, 1998*

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, as Women's History Month draws to a close today, I rise in recognition of five notable Minnesota women who have made significant achievements in their respective professions and who deserve to be recognized as a result.

Rosalie Wahl is the first woman to have been named a Minnesota Supreme Court Justice. First appointed to the Court in 1977, she served as a Justice for 17 years. By the time she left the Court in 1994 there were four