

international terrorists. When questioned about the effects of H.R. 695 (The SAFE Act) Major General David Ivry, Advisor to Israel's Minister of Defense said that "we would encourage all of our friends in the United States to oppose the bill." Any friend of Israel in the United States Congress who are cosponsoring H.R. 695 should ask for a briefing by the NSA and then remove their names from the bill.

All Americans who care about Israel's security should find out where their Member of Congress stands on this most important issue. The proponents of this bill maintain that Israel's enemies will eventually possess encryption technology. Even if this is true, it fails to explain why we should rush to place this technology in the hands of our enemies.

The Department of Defense, the National Security Council, the National Security Agency and now the Israel Ministry of Defense believe that America and Israel need time to develop countermeasures to address the various threats posed these new technologies and H.R. 695 does not give us this time. The truth is that now that we have the official Israel position on encryption no real friend of Israel should remain a cosponsor of H.R. 695.

ESTABLISH THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
LAW JUDGE CONFERENCE OF  
THE UNITED STATES

**HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced an important bill, "The Administrative Law Judge Conference of the United States Act", that reforms the administrative judiciary of the United States by establishing an administrative office for the 1400 Federal administrative law judges. The ALJ Conference is modeled upon the Judicial Conference of the United States which provides similar administrative functions for Federal Article III judges.

Currently, there is no uniform administrative office for Federal administrative law judges which promotes the improvement of the administrative law process. The ALJ Conference of the United States would enhance the independence of decisionmaking and the quality of adjudications in the administrative due process hearing. The American public will benefit by the establishment of uniform standards for professional conduct of administrative law judges that will be government wide in applicability with a government wide complaint resolution process for claimants. Public accountability of the administrative judiciary will be additionally insured by the establishment of a complaint resolutions board which has a public member and agency administrative law judges.

Since the Administrative Procedure Act (A.P.A.) was enacted over 50 years ago, there has never been any system for independent review of agency compliance with the A.P.A. and no process for reporting to the Congress on these important public safeguards for fundamental due process and the fair hearing process before administrative agencies. The ALJ Conference of the United States will provide for regular reports to the Congress on agency compliance with the A.P.A. This process will greatly assist the Congress in its over-

sight of agency compliance with the A.P.A. and will enhance the ability of the Congress to assess the status of individual rights in adjudications before Federal agencies. This reform permits the Congress to maintain oversight on constitutional safeguards such as the right to an impartial and independent decisionmaker, notice and opportunity to appear at a prompt hearing, and the receipt of a timely hearing decision. These protections are to be accorded to every citizen prior to the loss of important rights, property or benefits.

The ALJ Conference of the United States will assume all duties currently performed by the Office of Administrative Law Judges at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The budget currently used to operate this office at OPM will be transferred to the ALJ Conference. Agencies will continue to select ALJs but the selection process and ALJ register will be managed by the ALJ Conference. The Administrative Judiciary of the United States is the only merit selected judiciary and the ALJ Conference will maintain the high standards we have come to associate with the Federal ALJ Corps.

Establishment of the ALJ Conference of the United States would significantly increase public trust and confidence in the integrity and independence of decisionmaking by administrative law judges throughout the Federal Government. The current Administration advanced the concept of an ALJ administrative office or conference during negotiations over legislation to place all administrative law judges in a government wide unified corps. Therefore, this effort should be a bipartisan activity of the Congress in the interest of good government, and to that end I invite my fellow colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring this bill and in making the ALJ Conference a reality this year.

RECOGNIZING JULIAN "BUD"  
BATLAN ON HIS RETIREMENT AS  
POST COMMANDER

**HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I will be attending the Jewish War Veteran's Manalapan-Marlboro Post 972 installation ceremony for their 1998-1999 post officers. At this brunch, the post will also be honoring the retiring Post Commander, Julian "Bud" Batlan.

Bud is a direct descendant of the first known member of the Jewish faith to settle on the eastern shore of North America, whose extended family has served in our nation's armed services for the past 344 years.

In 1941, Bud volunteered for the Army and went on to earn the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster in World War II. After returning from the war, Bud was the founder and organizer of the very Jewish War Veterans Post that will be honoring him.

It is very fitting that this weekend, in which our nation celebrates Memorial Day and the service of those who have served, that we recognize the service of Bud Batlan for his service to our nation and his Post. I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Bud and the new officers of Post 972.

DEATH TAX REPEAL

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, the death tax is one of the most egregious forms of taxation. Frank A. Blethen, publisher of The Seattle Times, gave a compelling speech on May 14, 1998, on this subject at the Family & Independent Owners Conference in Washington, D.C. I rise today to bring the attention of all Members to Mr. Blethen's remarks, a summary of which follow. After hearing his comments, I urge all Members to support repeal of the death tax.

If repeal of a specific tax would actually decrease the federal budget deficit, wouldn't you think such repeal would be a non-partisan Congressional and White House priority? If repeal that tax would result in saving our country's family-owned businesses, including most minority and female owned businesses, wouldn't you think that such repeal would be the highest priority of every state's Congressional delegation, and every local community's Chamber of Commerce? If Congress had an easy way to create jobs, stimulate the economy and to be the champion of families, wouldn't you think they would jump at the chance? And, if in addition to job growth, the repeal of this tax stimulated other actions that our nation covets like long-term business investment, philanthropy, and saving money, wouldn't you think Congress would jump at the opportunity?

Repeal would turn one of our country's most harmful public policies into a powerful positive public policy overnight. So why isn't Congress jumping at the opportunity? Simply put, too few people understand, or appreciate, the negative economic impact of the Federal Estate Tax. And too few people understand the substantial economic and public benefit, which would come from repeal. Most people, including many family businesses still misperceive the tax as a "benefit for wealthy people" rather than the small and business public policy issue, which it is. Once one examines the facts, it is easy to see that this tax is very poor public policy because it destroys jobs, minority-owned and small businesses.

Once politicians understand the devastating negative impact of the death tax on today's economy and on America's families, their perceptions will change. Smart politicians in both parties will position themselves as champions of families, family businesses and minority businesses. They will stimulate jobs and investment in our local communities while reducing the federal deficit.

We need to create a new, accurate perception, that the death tax is, in fact, a very serious broad-based family and middle class issue as well as an economic and jobs issue. We need to educate people that this tax destroys family businesses, minority owned businesses, jobs, investment, and doesn't even contribute to the federal budget. We need to eliminate the perception that the death tax is a rich person's issue. Everyone has many opportunities to combine education with a grass roots effort.

Death tax repeal will not negatively impact Federal budget revenue. The estate tax generates only 1% of the Federal budget (approx.

\$16 billion). 65% of that so-called contribution is spent on compliance and enforcement. Consequently, less than 1/3 of 1% of the Federal budget revenue comes from this tax (approx. \$5 billion).

Repeal would dramatically help the economy and would reduce the Federal budget deficit. According to several studies at least 145,000 new jobs would be created in the first year of repeal, personal income would rise \$8 billion annually, family businesses would stay in business, job preservation would be enhanced, and long-term investment would be enhanced. Plant and infrastructure investment would be enhanced and the trend in most industries towards consolidation would be reversed. Philanthropic giving would go up, minority-owned business would be preserved, female-owned business would be preserved, business innovation, and creativity would be stimulated, and savings would increase.

Primarily because of the death tax 70% of family business don't survive the first generation, 87% don't survive the second generation, less than 5% survive the third generation, and this misguided tax is the primary reason for the inability of minority owned businesses to perpetuate themselves.

The burden of this public policy now falls on the middle class. When workers are laid-off and family businesses fail, the negative trend towards a two-tier society is accelerated—encouraging corporate takeovers and the consolidation of industries. This leads to workplaces characterized by layoffs, job reduction and disinvestment.

The death tax started early in the 20th century targeted at a few super rich families. Most people still believe this is a "soak the rich" law and that repeal would only benefit the rich. Most Americans are appalled that the death tax rate is 55% and that everything it applies to has already been taxed at least once.

What can you do? Educate yourself. Contact and lobby your Congress person and Senator. Identify and work with key Congressional staffers. Lobby the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee. Work with your local chamber and the U.S. Chamber, as well as any other business association you have a relationship with. Inform other industry groups. Contact and educate other family business owners. Use and promote the use of the free print ads we have developed at the Seattle Times. Use and promote the death tax web site (deathtax.com)

[The Seattle Times was found in 1896 by Alden J. Blethen. The newspaper is currently owned and operated by 4th and 5th generation family members. Six members of the Blethen family are employed full-time, three of whom are long-term members of senior management; another family member is actively involved in governance; and four more are employed during the summer. The Seattle Times is the largest evening newspaper left in the country. It is one of a handful of locally owned, family-owned metropolitan newspapers left in America. The Times and Blethen family are committed to perpetuating local, family ownership in spite of the overwhelming pressures to sell to large, public, foreign owned newspaper chains and despite personal and corporate resources that are drained away from the business and the community to deal with the estate tax. Individual family members have foregone significant personal wealth to continue family, local ownership. Fourth generation

deeply involved with estate planning since 1975.]

SOME PROBLEMS WITH  
CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2400

**HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives passed landmark legislation to improve our Nation's highways and transit systems. This legislation is an absolutely vital investment in our infrastructure. In my District, Highway 21—the deadliest road in Missouri and possibly the deadliest road in America—stands to see improvements that will save the lives of children and adults who drive on it daily.

But, there's a problem with this legislation. I am outraged that some of these very needed investments in our transportation system are funded on the backs of veterans—just before the day we honor the memories of those who have fallen for our country. It is also regrettable that additional funding was provided at the expense of our kids, who will lose vital child care at a time when we should be increasing our investment in children. The majority of my Democratic colleagues object to these cuts.

It is wrong that we have been forced to choose between safe roads and veterans health care, child welfare and other vital investments. The Administration proposed other ways to fund this bill, but Republican leaders refused to consider them.

I voted for the Democratic instruction to the negotiators of this agreement that we not use veterans health care as an offset for highway spending. The Republican leaders ignored this motion. Our veterans deserve better treatment than this.

I will support this legislation because of Highway 21 and the memory of those who have lost their lives on this road—dubbed Blood Alley. Action on a multi-year highway bill has already been delayed for months, and further delays could have serious adverse consequences on vital road and transit repairs across the country. But I believe we could have done much better than we have done today—and that we have simply created new problems that will have to be addressed in the future.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S REMARKS  
AT THE SIGNING OF THE NATO  
ENLARGEMENT RATIFICATION  
DOCUMENTS

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Clinton signed the documents completing United States ratification of the accession protocols for Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to become full-members of the NATO alliance. This is a historic occasion, Mr. Speaker, and one that places the United States firmly on the side of fostering democ-

racy, security in Central Europe, and the creation of viable civil societies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to President Clinton for playing a critical role in negotiating the agreements and winning the support of our other NATO allies for the admission of these three new countries to the alliance. His strong leadership at the Madrid Summit less than one year ago was crucial for this great victory.

I also want to acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, the leadership of Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who was responsible for carefully shepherding through the process of negotiating the admission of these three countries to NATO. She has also personally taken the lead in convincing the American people of the vital interest that the United States has in the admission of these countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remarks of President Clinton yesterday at the White House ceremony marking United Ratification of the accession protocols for Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON RATIFICATION  
OF NATO ENLARGEMENT

The PRESIDENT. Thank you very much. I suppose I should begin with an apology for having to dash off and pick up the paper, but I would hate to lose this document after all the effort we put into getting to this point. (Laughter.)

Mr. Vice President, thank you for your leadership on this issue. Senator Roth, Senator Biden, Secretary Albright, Secretary Cohen, General Ralston, Mr. Berger, to the ambassadors of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the other members of the diplomatic corps who are here, to Senators Levin and Lieberman and Lugar, Mikulski, and Smith, I thank all of you so much.

Let me say notwithstanding my good friend Senator Biden's overly generous remarks, we are here today because of the efforts of a lot of people who supported this effort: members of Congress and former members of Congress, present and former national security officials, present and former military leaders, representatives of our veterans, business unions, religious groups, ethnic communities. I especially thank Senators Lott and Daschle, Senators Helms and Biden, and you, Senator Roth, the chairman of our NATO observer group.

You behaved in the great tradition of Truman and Marshall and Vandenberg, uniting our country across party for common values, common interests, and a common future.

It's really amazing, isn't it, that Bill Roth and Joe Biden come from Delaware. I want you to know there is no truth to the rumor that I agreed to move the NATO headquarters to Wilmington in return for this vote. (Laughter.) However, it does say a lot for those small states that these two remarkable men have made such an indispensable contribution to this effort. I thank the other senators who are here for their passionate commitments.

I'd also like to mention one other person, my advisor on NATO enlargement who managed the ratification process for the White House, Jeremy Rosner. Thank you, Jeremy. You did a great job, too, and we thank you. (Applause.)

I see so many people here that—and I don't want to get into calling names, but I thank Mr. Brzezinski, Ambassador Kirkpatrick, General Joulwan and so many others who are here who have been a part of America's effort over the last 50 years to make sure that after World War II freedom triumphs.

We learned at great cost in this century that if we wanted America to be secure at