

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.