

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO YOUTH TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD statements by high school students from my home state of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert their statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

STATEMENT BY RACHEL SALYER REGARDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

RACHEL SALYER: My name is Rachel Salyer. I am a senior at the Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans.

I think there are so many issues surrounding the youth of today, things like success—we are pressured to succeed in life, whether that is monetarily, or just self. And the adults in the community don't seem to be helping very much. When adults, parents and other adults alike throughout Vermont and the nation characterize teenagers as all being troublemakers or all being people who drink or party, then they are sending a message to the youth of the community that they don't care about our future, because it is our future, and they are not going to be around for it, and it is our own fault, basically.

These stereotypes are wrong. Not all youth in Vermont are people who like to drink, people who like to do drugs, people who go to parties every weekend. That's why organizations such as Green Mountain Prevention Project are such an important part of Vermont youth, because they sponsor programs like the Green Mountain Teens, which is a group of teens who have gotten together, who try to make other teens aware that there are all these issues surrounding them, that parents and adults have this image of us, and we want to try and change it.

Basically, what the Green Mountain Teens do is, we are a peer-awareness and prevention group. We provide healthy alternatives to doing drugs or drinking and things like that. We have coffee houses, we have haunted houses, winter balls, dances, anything you can imagine, any other kind of healthy lifestyle habit, we promote that, in order to tell teens that there is something else out there. We are setting examples for teens by being teens, and telling them that there are other choices. And we are trying to show the adults in the community that we need their support also, that we recognize there is a problem, and that it needs to be changed.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY JOSH LEMIEUX, MARK BOYLE, CARL HALBACH AND RICHARD GONZALES RE- GARDING SKATEBOARD COMMUNITY BUILDING

CARL HALBACH: First of all, thank you for inviting us here. The point we are trying to prove today is, we have changed our community outlook and image from a negative to a positive outlook.

MARK BOYLE: A lot of groups here are talking about things they would like to do and things that they think need to be done, or processes they need to do. We would like to prove that works. We did a lot of community service and got help from a lot of community members in order to enhance what we enjoy. And this is one of those things that a lot of these groups out there need to think about doing, and this is how they need to do it, just like get a lot of help from the community and be able to follow the guidelines that the adult world uses, and not dwell on the fact that they need to let us do what we want to do, because we are going to do it anyway.

RICHARD GONZALES: Basically, I looked at the State of Vermont, and I seen that they don't recognize extreme sports as one of the big issues, as like physical activities, and, you know, we just took it upon ourselves to build our own park and raise money, and do stuff like that, try to help our city out.

JOSH LEMIEUX: Right now, we are building a new skate park. We just got done. It ran for like five years, and was getting too small. Right now, we are moving and expanding to a bigger skate park, and doing this by ourselves. And we have a grant from a couple of companies, and we are just raising money right now. We have the communities behind us, just trying to.

Carl, did you want to add something?

CARL HALBACH: Yes. Basically went around asking for donations, seeing who would like to help us. A lot of the times, we worked for the money, instead of having it handed to us. There is a sliding hill near our town. And we decided to go clean it up and put up all new fences and paint the buildings and take them down and rebuild them again, so they are in a much better condition, and made the sliding hill much more safe.

Congressman SANDERS: Are we talking about St. Albans?

CARL HALBACH: Yes.

Congressman SANDERS: Mark, did you want to add anything?

MARK BOYLE: We have done this all by ourselves. We have guidance of some outstanding citizens in our community, Miss Gridmore and Doctor Chip. I mean, they don't do work for us, but they help organize stuff, because not all community members are going to be totally accepting of a bunch of rag-tag kids coming and saying, can we do some work for money so we can do this, or can we have community support, and she helped us work through the right channels and we really appreciate it.

Congressman SANDERS: This is an excellent presentation.

STATEMENT BY JESS WALTERS, AND LINH NGUYEN, AND RYAN LAFEBVRE, AND GARY BAILEY REGARDING BURLINGTON'S OLD NORTH END

RYAN LAFEBVRE: Hello. My name is Ryan. I am here to represent Burlington's Old North End. We decided that one of the most important issues to us is how teens in the Old North End spend their out-of-school hours.

Each day, teens in the Old North End decide how they will spend at least five of their waking hours when not in school. For many of these, the hours harbor both risk and opportunity.

For many that are home alone, the out-of-school hours present serious risks for sub-

stance abuse, crime, violence and sexual activity, leading to unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. Time spent alone is not the crucial contributor to higher risk; it is what young people do during that time, where they do it, and with whom, that leads to positive or negative consequences.

According to a 1990 survey, my community contains 29 percent of the Burlington's population, and has the highest percentage of people of color in the city. Over half of the households are female-headed, and over 60 percent of these families live below the poverty line.

Poverty is especially pronounced for the Old North End's children, 42 percent of whom lived in poverty in 1990. That percentage is higher today. The Old North End has 32.1 percent of its residents living below the poverty level, compared with 19.3 percent for the city as a whole.

Recently, a number of focus groups were held, where youth, senior citizens, and business people spoke out about concerns they have about the Old North End. The following issues and concerns were continually mentioned: Public drinking, drug dealing, continuing poverty, racial tensions, and potential gang violence.

We proposed a teen center that would directly address many of our community concerns, as well as issues many of you will be presenting later today. Jessica is now going to tell you why there is a need for our teen center in Burlington.

JESSICA WALTERS: Hello. My name is Jessica Walters.

Yes, there are other teen centers in Burlington, but there are many reasons why they do not meet our needs.

First, they all have limited teen hours. For instance, I have nowhere to go after school until 5:30, and most youth centers close at 9:00 at night. My friends usually hang out on the street until teen hours start or until they have to go home.

Due to things mentioned by Ryan, North Street isn't really a safe place for teens to hang out. Most of the teens that live in the Old North End go to Burlington High School, where there is no computer and Internet access available to us after school. Currently, there is nowhere to go to do research or study after school hours. The other youth centers don't have a place for us to do this.

The final issue is the adults' role. Other youth centers have too much supervision and not enough opportunity for independence and creativity. There are also a lot of little kids around.

Now Gary is going to tell you about what our teen center will be like.

GARY BAILEY: Hello. My name is Gary, and I would like to tell you about our teen center.

Our teen center will be run by youth, it will be for ages 13 through 19, and it will be free of charge. We feel that it should be open for longer hours, like said she before, because other teen programs like the one we want to open will have to be open for younger children also, so we only have a section of the day that we can go there, so we are still out in the streets.

We feel that it should have a resource room run by adults, with a minilibrary, mentoring and tutoring facilities, a career college center, and information on social services. Also, a job board for a list for people to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

get jobs easily, and maybe once a week somebody in there helping them out, somebody like Becky Trudeau or something, where they won't have to go five different places to look for a job, they can just go there and have one place to look.

We feel that it should have a computer room, with Internet access. A lot of people work right after school, and they have to be there around 3:30, including us. And we don't have the time to go after school and work on the computers to get an essay done, so we feel that it should have computers where it will be available for us after work.

We think there should be recreational rooms, including a gym, a game room. Also special events, such as, once a month, a dance or some sort like that. We also think there should be a lounge so that we can relax and watch TV.

Congressman SANDERS: Good. Linh, do you want to begin?

LINH NGUYEN: My name is Linh Nguyen. We would like to ask for continued support in finding out how we should embark on this teen center and after school program. We strongly believe this would make the Old North End a better place for teens, and not only the teens, but the community as a whole. We would, as well, be a model to replicate in the rest of Vermont.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much. Thank you all very much.

REMEMBERING THE FLOOD VICTIMS OF FORT COLLINS AND LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall Monday, July 28, 1997 and to describe to the House, one year later, a natural disaster which occurred in Colorado on this date, when an intense storm produced record amounts of rainfall in Fort Collins and unincorporated Larimer County, Colorado. The storm devastated area residents as they watched their homes, schools, and churches roll into the immense current which swept through their city. However, the loss far more costly was that of human life. JoAnn Roth, Rose Marie Rodriguez, Sarah Payne, Estafana Guarneros, and Cindy Schulz died as they attempted to escape the storm. Although this event caused a multitude of pain and sorrow, it also enabled members of our community to reach out to one another as individuals struggled to put the pieces of their lives back in place. As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth District where citizens worked together to restore their way of life, I hereby commemorate the victory achieved through this widespread community spirit and recall the names of those who perished.

As we reflect on the events of the past year, we recall the words of Luke 8:23-24, ". . . A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm."

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, today I join with Congressman TIM ROEMER and Congressman DAVE CAMP to take a stand for common sense and fiscal responsibility when it comes to our budget.

When Congress first approved the International Space Station in 1984, the original price tag was \$8 billion. A recent General Accounting Office [GAO] report projects the station's total operating costs at \$95.6 billion. Congress keeps throwing taxpayer dollars into this money pit, and we have no tangible benefits to show for it.

Since its conception in 1984, the station has been redesigned three times. The latest model would accomplish only two of its eight original scientific missions. Furthermore, many of the remaining goals envisioned for the station could be accomplished aboard unmanned satellites or aboard the space shuttle for a small fraction of the cost.

Furthermore, the station's rising costs are a threat to other promising projects. Already, NASA has shifted \$200 million from other programs like space shuttle safety and space education grants to pay for station cost overruns. This year, NASA has requested the authority to shift an additional \$375 million. As the station experiences more cost overruns, the space station budget will literally consume the NASA budget at the expense of proven programs like probes within our solar system, the Space Shuttle, earth sciences, and aeronautics.

Every year we pour billions upon billions of dollars into NASA and the International Space Station at the expense of schoolchildren, the elderly and the infirm. We cannot afford the price of the space station when we have such pressing needs here on planet Earth. If we choose to look to the stars, we must first have our feet planted firmly on the ground.

THE LONG TERM CARE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the aging of the Baby Boom generation has been extensively discussed in Congress and among the American people, with particular attention to the impact on Social Security and Medicare.

What has not been widely discussed, however, is a related but very distinct trend: the rapid expansion of the group of Americans defined by the Bureau of the Census as "the oldest old"—those senior citizens aged 85 and above. Often lost during discussions of the Baby Boom generation is the fact that the fastest growing demographic age group in the United States is the "oldest old."

That is why I am introducing legislation, joined by my colleagues Phil English (PA), Ron Paul (TX), John Ensign (NV), and Chris Shays (CT) to help Americans better prepare themselves and their families for their long term health care needs of the future. The tax breaks contained in this legislation will go a long way towards providing families with peace and security against the massive costs of professionally provided long term care, including nursing home care, home health care, and adult day care services.

I am pleased that this legislation has already secured the support of the 60 Plus Association and the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey. The Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) has also endorsed the concept behind the bill.

Our Nation will soon be grappling with a long term care crisis unless Congress acts now to prevent it. From 1960 through 1994, the senior citizen population (age 85+) increased by 274 percent. And the number of Americans in the 85+ age cohort is expected to double in size by the year 2020, reaching 7 million. The number of senior citizens between the ages of 75 and 84 will reach nearly 15.5 million by 2020. The sixty four thousand dollar question is: how will we as a nation meet our parents' and grandparents' long-term care need?

This demographic change will put an enormous strain on our nation's fragmented system of long-term care. Already, our Medicaid program has demonstrated its financial shortcomings when providing long-term care services to increasing numbers of the frail elderly. The Medicaid program already spends over \$40 billion on long term care services for senior citizens. These expenditures are projected to double over the next 10 years.

A vital part of any comprehensive response to these trends must be the promotion of private long term care insurance (LTC) for Americans. Although the number of persons insured under LTC policies has nearly doubled between 1992 and 1996, this growth is from a very low base. The fact of the matter is that the overwhelming majority of Americans still do not have any private LTC insurance coverage at all. This needs to change, and soon.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Term Care Advancement Act of 1998 will assist Americans prepare for their future long term care needs. My bill will allow penalty-free withdrawal from IRAs and 401 (k) plans when the funds are used to pay for 'qualified' LTC insurance premiums (as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996).

In addition, a certain portion of the IRA/401 (k) withdrawals used for LTC will be excluded from taxable income. Depending on one's tax bracket, age, and type of policy purchased, the savings on a long term care insurance policy under my bill are considerable, and could range from 15 to 25 percent.

Lastly, the Long Term Care Advancement Act will provide a refundable \$500 tax credit for families caring for a dependent elderly

spouse or parent in the home. This tax credit is important because most of the long term care provided in America is provided by families in the home, and these families desperately need and deserve tax relief.

By encouraging more Americans to plan for their future care needs I believe we can improve the medical, social, and financial well being of families, as well as provide substantial future savings to the Medicaid and Medicare programs. According to the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, there is a 48% chance of any given individual of needing long term care in one's lifetime. And the costs of nursing home care for one year is approximately \$40,000. The potential for savings to American families, as well as the Medicaid and Medicare programs, by encouraging families to purchase LTC insurance is simply enormous.

I look forward to working on and discussing long term care issues with my colleagues during the remainder of the 105th Congress, and urge all of my colleagues to support this important initiative.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut who gave their lives last week in a vicious attack by a deranged gunman.

My heart goes out to the families of these officers, both of whom spent 18 years in courageous and devoted service to their country as members of the Capitol Police. They gave their lives, not only protecting Members of Congress, but the thousands of Americans and foreign visitors to this great monument, the people's house of government.

Officers Gibson and Chestnut were both known as kind, personable men who were especially devoted to their families. They performed their jobs with a special kind of pride in playing a small part in the smooth and efficient conduct of the processes of government.

As we go about our business in the Capitol, we tend to take for granted the freedom and protection we enjoy because of the selfless contributions of our Capitol Police who are constantly on guard against the type of insane acts which took the lives of Officers Chestnut and Gibson and wounded an innocent civilian.

This horrible act reminds us once again of the debt we owe to those officers who do their jobs daily in protecting those who work here and those who visit. With few exceptions, problems, large and small, are prevented so we are left free and comfortable to perform our jobs in peace.

We owe these men and their families a great debt of gratitude for their sacrifice. They will not be forgotten and their contributions will be forever recognized by the Members of the House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help express my thoughts to the families of slain Capitol police officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. I say "help express" because there is no total way to thank these men for laying down their lives for others. I would defer to the words of my wife, Freda, for these remarks, in the joint letter she sent to the Gibson and Chestnut families.

To the families of Officer John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut:

My heart today is filled with a tremendous sense of debt and gratitude to your fathers and husbands and the sacrifice they have made. Scripture tells us in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friend." Indeed, we consider each officer at the Capitol a friend. Daily we give thanks for their constant careful watch of the members of congress and the millions of visiting tourists. Last night as we welcomed my husband, Congressman Donald Manzullo, home we breathed a prayer of thanksgiving for his safe return. But also your families and great loss were uppermost in our thoughts. Our heartfelt thanks pour out to you. Our sorrow at your loss is overwhelming. Another scripture comes to mind, one that I believe the Lord said as he received your loved ones into this eternal kingdom, "Well done, good and faithful servants; you were faithful with a few things; enter into the joy of your master," Matthew 25:23.

With love and gratitude,†
FRED A. MANZULLO.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the two men who gave their last full measure of devotion in defense of the people's House, the U.S. Congress.

Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut leave behind friends and family who will mourn their sacrifice for years to come. Today, a grateful Nation mourns with them.

Thousands of Americans are paying tribute as we speak, filing past their caskets in the Capitol Rotunda just a few hundred feet from where they died.

In the last few days, we've learned a great deal about Officers Gibson and Chestnut—their love of family and country, the many kindnesses they showed over the years to everyone on Capitol Hill, from committee chairmen to wandering tourists.

The focus on the lives of these two courageous men has been a poignant reminder of what America is really all about.

In death, Officers Gibson and Chestnut have been hailed as heroes, but they were quiet heroes each and every day of their lives. They symbolize what all of us strive to achieve.

J.J. Chestnut served his country in Vietnam, raised five children, loved gardening, and helped raise money in his neighborhood for college scholarships. He and his wife were often seen bicycling around their home in Fort Washington, MD.

John Gibson, from the great State of Massachusetts, suffered from the regional malady known as Red Sox Fever and shared his tragic affliction with all who would listen.

John was married to the niece of my good friend and colleague JOE MOAKLEY. A deeply religious man, John was devoted to his wife and their three teenage children and worked hard to give them a stable and loving home. In the Lake Ridge neighborhood of Woodbridge, VA, John was known for an easy smile, a generous laugh, and the best-kept lawn on the street.

In some ways, these were ordinary men leading ordinary lives. But when duty called, they acted in extraordinary fashion. They acted just the way all who knew them always expected they would.

Every one of us in this chamber owes them a special debt of gratitude. They served the Congress faithfully. They served the country faithfully. They swore an oath to protect and serve, and they died as they lived—holding true to those vows.

There is nothing we can say or do to diminish the loss felt by those who loved these men and knew them best. But at one time or another, we have all lost friends, we have all lost brothers, we have all lost fathers, and so we share their loss as well.

And today, we pause to remember not just what we have lost, but what Officers Gibson and Chestnut gave to each and every one of us: a lesson of bravery and courage under fire and a reminder of the greatest love of all—that of laying your life down for others.

That's what these quiet heroes did. I'm grateful for the opportunity for us to come together as a Nation, here in the temple of democracy they gave their lives to defend, to offer them a final salute.

My heart goes out to their families and all those who feel their loss most of all.

Finally, I hope this tragic incident makes us look inside as a Nation to recognize the real meaning of Heroism—the selfless work that goes on each and every day by those who take an oath to protect us.

I would ask that we look around us today and take a moment to appreciate the men and women of our law enforcement community who serve with courage and devotion.

They are police officers and firefighters, soldiers and sailors, secret service and FBI agents. And, as we know too well, they are also mothers and fathers, husbands, sons, and daughters. Some serve in uniform, some do not, but each and every one carries the same badge of honor, and we should never, never, take them for granted.

Because of the sacrifice of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, I know I never will.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and John M. Gibson are

American heroes. They gave their lives protecting us, our staffs, and visitors to the United States Capitol. This tragedy reminds us that the members of the Capitol Police and other police officers across the country put their lives on the line for us every day.

We honor Officers Chestnut and Gibson for their bravery and sacrifice. We lost two good men and fine police officers. No words can adequately express our feelings on this sad occasion. Our hearts go out to their families and to their fellow officers.

This tragedy highlights a dilemma as old as democracy itself: the balance between security and openness. We have made a decision—the correct decision, I believe—to maintain public accessibility to the Capitol. The people's business must be open to the public gaze. Every year people from our districts, some traveling literally thousands of miles, visit the Capitol to share their views and urge us to support or oppose this or that bill. They come to partake of the history that walks these halls. They come simply to see us in the flesh, look us in the eye, and take the measure of the men and women whom they have elected to make our laws. Their right to do so is enshrined in the very concept of democracy. Nowhere is it more appropriate to exercise that right than here in the people's house.

At the same time, we can not escape the reality of the world in which we live. There are some individuals who would take advantage of that openness to enter this building and do violence to those engaged in the people's business. Their actions defile this temple of democracy. That is why it is necessary to have a Capitol Police force. Its members not only protect us as individuals, they defend the accessibility of this building, accessibility which is so important to our democracy.

On Friday, July 24, 1998, two of those officers made the ultimate sacrifice. Their bravery and devotion to duty enshrine the names of Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson among the heroes of our nation. We bow our heads in sorrow and gratitude. We pledge to honor their memories by keeping our nation's Capitol open, accessible, and safe for everyone who desires to enter this building, the people's house.

AN EXPRESSION OF CONGRATULATIONS TO COLONIA COUNTRY CLUB ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the officers and members of Colonia Country Club on the occasion of their Club's 100th anniversary.

Colonia, the name of both the Club and the section of Woodbridge, New Jersey in which it is located, is a derivation of the word, colony, a term defined by Webster as "a body of people living in a new territory." Colonia is a most appropriate designation for the community—originally Houtenville—that was the site of many Revolutionary War events. Immediately adjacent to Colonia Country Club is the highway on which George Washington traveled on his way to his first Inauguration. That roadway

was also a main north-south artery during the Civil War and was later named The Lincoln Highway. In Colonia, the highway is also bound, on its east side, by the nation's major east coast rail line.

It was in 1898 that a group of area residents agreed to form a golf and country club, using an Inn constructed just prior to the Civil War as its clubhouse. Designed to serve as a gathering place for sport and social occasions, their new "home-away from home" was to be called Colonia Country Club. Part of their agreement called for the purchase of a horse-drawn lawnmower to trim what would become a nine-hole golf course.

The century that followed will be remembered by the citizens of America and, indeed the world, as one filled with joys and achievements unparalleled in recorded history and with toils and tragedies that would test human endurance. A microcosm of that world, Colonia County Club rose from a small gathering of neighbors to become a proud and prominent member of its region's social fraternity, the site of a modern clubhouse and one of its region's most challenging 18-hole golf courses. In the process, those that charted the course of its progress proved they had the grit and determination to withstand depressions and years of mid-century decline. Colonia Country Club, like many venerable, sturdy American institutions both large and small, stands today as a model of a modern Americana. It is a story of people overcoming difficulty and proving their endurance as they share prosperity and camaraderie—and it offers its one hundred year history as evidence of that achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, my neighbors in the 7th Congressional District of New Jersey and my colleagues to join me in offering our congratulations to Colonia Country Club as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice today to the much-deserved tributes being paid to U.S. Capitol Police Officers Jacob Joseph Chestnut and John Michael Gibson. This is a sad day for Congress and our nation. Just a few short steps from here two American heroes lay in honor in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. This past Friday these men gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Their honored sacrifice no doubt saved numerous lives and served as a stark reminder of the reality of the violent world in which we live. This tragedy also reminds us of the price that must sometimes be paid for the great privilege of having our democratic form of government.

So today it is appropriate that all of us pause for a moment to thank officers Chestnut and Gibson for what they did last week. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. And we should also extend our thanks to all of the members of the Capitol Police force and all other law enforcement officers throughout our nation. They have an incredibly difficult mission—providing security while serving as

goodwill ambassadors for their communities. They do a terrific job day in and day out and frankly we don't do enough to show our appreciation for all of their hard work.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that this seems like a different place today than it did when I left here on Friday. The tragic events of last week seem to have pulled us together. Democrats and Republicans, Members and staff, as well as so many people of our country have all joined hands in coming to terms with what happened here. If there is a silver lining in these tragic circumstances perhaps it is that we all may gain a little more appreciation for the people we work with on a daily basis and for the wonderful country we are proud to call our own. The differences we have pale in comparison to the bonds we share as Americans. A tragedy like this reminds us of this simple truth and affords us the opportunity for a renewed perspective as we face the challenges ahead.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice made by Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob J.J. Chestnut while conducting their duty protecting the Capitol. I admire the tremendous sacrifice made by these individuals and my thoughts are with their families as they cope with the departure of their loved ones. Like countless others, I did not personally observe the tragedy. But like them, I have been shaken by the event and moved by the warm reception all have provided in memory of the fallen men.

No one can bring back these brave officers who gave their lives to protect us. But I stand today to recognize the risks that our law enforcement personnel face each day. I express the gratitude that I have for the dedication of these people, who each day leave the security of their homes and families to protect and serve those in need all across America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was recorded as voting in favor of agreeing to the conference report on H.R. 629, the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact.

As should be obvious from my vote against the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, I had intended to vote against the conference report itself.

I am in complete agreement with my colleagues from Texas and elsewhere who have fought against the imposition of what could become the nation's major depository for low-level radioactive waste on the largely poor and minority community of Sierra Blanca, Texas.

I understand and share the concerns of Sierra Blanca and other minority communities.

The siting of a disproportionate number of New York City's waste transfer and waste processing facilities in the Hunts Point area of my South Bronx congressional district, and the related particulate-spewing diesel truck traffic, have led to disproportionate levels of asthma and other respiratory illnesses among my Hunts Point constituents, especially the children. Without attention to environmental justice, the more disenfranchised a community is, the likelier it is to find itself the depository for more powerful people's waste.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LOUIS STOKES

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD:

I want to add my voice to the tributes offered by the Congressional colleagues of the Honorable LOUIS STOKES. When I first came to Washington, nearly six years ago, as the Assistant Secretary of Community Planning and Development at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, LOUIS STOKES was Mr. Chairman. He was the Chairman of the Subcommittee that controlled the purse strings for all the creative ideas that a new Administration wanted to implement—an unprecedented increase in funding for the homeless, funding for partnerships between the Federal Government and not for profit organizations to build and rehabilitate affordable housing, a new economic development grant program. And he agreed with those initiatives and helped restore the Department as the agency that is dedicated to assisting the most vulnerable among us and to revitalizing our cities and towns.

Now as ranking member of that same Subcommittee, he continues to help this Administration and me as Secretary of the Department. He has been with me every step of the way as we have "reinvented" HUD and I counted on his advice and counsel. Now that we are beginning to see the results of that reinvention, he has fought to give the Department the resources it needs to create jobs and economic opportunity to meet the challenges of the global economy and the demands of American cities. He has fought steadfastly to expand and preserve housing opportunities for renters in public and assisted housing, for homebuyers, and for the homeless. He has fought unabashedly to end the scourge of housing discrimination. He has taken on all these battles even in the face of terribly tight budget strictures.

Perhaps it was growing up in public housing, but, whatever the reason, Congressman Stokes sought to serve on the two appropriations subcommittees that reach those most in need—VA, HUD and Independent Agencies and the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies. And serve those in need, he has. He is a man who cares deeply about the programs of this Department and the people they impact.

So I want to pay tribute to him and to say how deeply I appreciate his long, hard work. I will miss him and the people who rely upon HUD's programs will miss him.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, upon my return from my home district of Guam yesterday, I had the privilege to pay respects to slain Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and John Gibson. As Members of Congress join the nation in mourning the passing of these two gentlemen who paid the supreme sacrifice for our safety and protection, I could not help but reflect upon my constituents from Guam, people who, like me, have to overcome the rigors of traveling several thousand miles in order to experience, to participate, or maybe even just to catch a glimpse of their government at work.

As with everyone, the highlight of my constituents' Washington, D.C. trip is a visit to Members' offices and a tour of the Capitol. Times like these remind us of the valuable service provided by police officers stationed at different posts within the Capitol complex ensuring the safety of constituents who travel the many miles in order to visit members who represent them in this body.

Speaking not only for myself but for the people of Guam, I wish to express appreciation to the Capitol Hill Police Force who, by the loss of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, demonstrated their willingness to lay down their lives for the safety and protection of Members of Congress and our constituents. As quoted from the Book of John, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut gave their lives so that others may live.

Roman Benavente, a retired Capitol Police officer—a native son of Guam who has chosen to reside in the State of Maryland, has called together members of the Guam Society of America to honor the slain officers in a Memorial Mass to be celebrated this Friday at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Oxon Hill, Maryland. I hope that my colleagues would be able to join Guam residents in the area for this memorial service.

The sacrifice of Officers Gibson and Chestnut will never be forgotten. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend sincerest thanks to Officer Chestnut and Officer Gibson for their sacrifice. To the families and loved ones of these two American heroes, we offer our most heartfelt sympathies.

FUNDING FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, this year, to my disappointment, the House of Representatives voted to continue funding the International Space Station. The amendment I introduced with Representative CAMP to cancel the space station program would have ended the single largest wasteful government program in history.

Today, I am proud and pleased to have introduced my amendment to the VA-HUD appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999 that was supported by 109 Representatives. I strongly believe that my amendment reflects the best interests of the United States, the taxpayers and certainly of NASA and the American space program.

Like most of my colleagues, I am a strong supporter of the American space program. However, I find it sad to see that productive and more worthwhile space programs are being shut down so that larger and larger amounts of NASA funding are claimed by a space station program that has already cost almost \$20 billion with no hardware in space to show for it.

In 1993, upon NASA's final redesign of the space station, we were told that the program would cost no more than \$17.4 billion and that our partnership with the Russian Government would save American taxpayers around \$2 billion. This was still a huge increase over the Reagan Administration's initial plan to build the station for \$8 billion and complete it by 1994. Now NASA has accepted the findings of the Cost Assessment and Validation Task Force, also known as the independent Chabrow committee, which concluded the program will cost \$24 billion and an additional \$130 million to \$250 million for each month that the station assembly is delayed. And it will be delayed—probably by at least two years.

Also, Mr. Speaker, GAO now tells us that the program will cost more than \$100 billion. This does not include additional costs associated with Russia's potential withdrawal from the partnership or the costs of upgrading the station's defense system to protect it against meteorites and orbital debris. Nor does the \$100 billion pricetag include disassembly costs, which GAO says could be "prohibitively expensive" and could exceed \$5 billion. These "unforeseen" funding contingencies are indeed shocking and clearly jeopardize the future and integrity of the entire U.S. space program.

The magnitude of these dramatic cost overruns and assembly delays are unacceptable and sure to result in the cannibalization of the so-called "smaller, better, faster, cheaper" space missions. If we do not move to cancel the space station now, then these smaller, but important, missions will most likely never share the tremendous success of projects like the Hubble Space Telescope and the Mars Sojourner Pathfinder. This is a shame, and a disappointment to the entire scientific community.

While the Russians remain competent in repeating missions that have been flown for three decades, they have been unable to fund development of reliable new technologies or to deliver critical component parts such as the Service Module. Everything that worked on Mir involves 20-year-old technologies. A year ago, when a fundamentally new space docking procedure was attempted, the result was a collision that punched a hole in the space station, crippling it and almost killing the crew. Other new Russian space vehicles such as the Mars probe and its plutonium batteries have also failed. This does not bode well for the space station.

The Russians have repeatedly promised to develop a series of new and improved space vehicles to help assemble the space station.

However, over the past several years, Russia's work on the components has fallen far behind schedule, causing significant delays and cost overruns which have spilled over into NASA's share of the work. Russia's Finance Ministry has repeatedly misled NASA and the American people, and we should not tolerate this continued foot-dragging. As I have said over the past six years, NASA's dependence on Russian participation in the space station will cripple other, more worthwhile U.S. space programs, and this will most likely continue to result in more assembly delays and cost overruns.

When the Administration approved the space station redesign in 1993, NASA promised the taxpayers that no more than \$2.1 billion would be spent each year for the program. At that time, it was estimated that Russia's inclusion as a partner would reduce costs by \$1.6 billion. Nevertheless, NASA has told us that the cap should be broken, despite Russia's repeated promises that the money and the critical hardware components like the Service Module would be delivered.

Far too many questions remain unanswered. NASA has yet to determine or release any cost figures for the program reflecting the likely scenario that Russia will drop out of the partnership, but continues to offer robust assurances that it will save money. While I support efforts to engage our former adversaries, and sharing our knowledge of important scientific issues, I do not believe it is prudent to perpetuate a back-door foreign aid project that makes Russia look more like an international welfare recipient than the major partner in the single largest construction project in the history of mankind.

While space station cost overruns to date are currently estimated at \$800 million, NASA has cut mission control, shuttle safety, and more deserving programs such as Mission to Planet Earth and space education grants. Already \$227 million has been diverted from space station science and \$200 million has been shifted from the space shuttle payload and utilization operations. This year, NASA has asked for the authority to shift an additional \$375 million.

Like our efforts aboard Mir, NASA has cannibalized the station's scientific research missions simply because all the funds are being consumed on construction. NASA has transferred a whopping \$462 million from its science funding to space station development in fiscal years 1996 through 1998. Case in point: NASA dropped the centrifuge, a critical research component, and now depends on negotiations with the Japanese Government to provide it.

Throwing more money at the space station is adding fuel to the fire. We should not continue to approve NASA's repeated request for supplemental funding. Rather, we should hold NASA and the Russian Government's feet to the fire. The American taxpayers deserve accountability and demand that the integrity of our space program be maintained. We should therefore end this program before it kills NASA and its mission.

Mr. Speaker, for several years, we have known the solution to the many problems associated with the space station. In fact, the House almost got it right in 1993, when my amendment to terminate space station funding lost by a single vote. I suggest that we allow NASA the time and resources to improve its

management structure, redefine its mission first, rather than move ahead with a mammoth, multi-billion dollar program whose costs will assuredly go over and beyond all reasonable budgetary expectations. All of the station's problems can be solved by simply canceling this wasteful, over-budget boondoggle, returning \$80 billion to the American taxpayers, and saving the life and health of the rest of the U.S. space program. I will continue to fight this program and strongly encourage my colleagues to closely monitor this program as cost overruns and schedule delays will most assuredly continue to cheat the scientific community of funding that could be better spent on more worthwhile space research endeavors.

TRIBUTE FOR MAJOR GENERAL
CLAUDE W. REINKE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge a brave soldier, strong leader, caring father and a very good friend. Major General Claude W. Reinke is the retiring Commanding General of the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, which is located in my District. I have grown very fond of General Reinke and would like to commend his leadership at the base.

General Reinke is a Texan by birth but has always been ready to move anywhere the Marines needed to send him, including a tour in Vietnam. The position of Commander General to a base like Pendleton is often like being the mayor of a city, as both require outstanding managerial skills. General Reinke has gone above and beyond the call of duty as Commander. His leadership has had a positive impact on both the Marines and the entire community.

Part of what makes General Reinke so special is how much he cares for his troops. Very few Commanding officers are more sensitive to the needs of their troops than Claude Reinke. General Reinke has become a champion for quality of life for our troops by emphasizing the need for improved base housing and training facilities for members of the Corps.

General Reinke has been decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon. He is a proud husband and father of five. I might also add that he plays a very good game of golf! If he reacts to the challenges of work like he reacts to the challenges on the golf course, I think the men and women of Camp Pendleton have been in very able hands!

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Claude my best and commend him on a job extremely well done.

A TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING HOUSE
BANKING COMMITTEE STAFF
ROBERT AUERBACH AND
STEFANIE MULLIN

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two dedicated members of the House Banking Committee Minority staff who are leaving the Committee this week to pursue endeavors in higher education. The efforts of Robert Auerbach, the Democratic staff economist, and Stefanie Mullin, the Democratic press secretary, will be greatly missed by all members of the Committee.

Bob Auerbach is a first-rate financial economist with a keen understanding of money and banking, the payments system, and the Federal Reserve System. He has served the members of the House Banking Committee well in more than 10 years and two separate tours of duty on Capitol Hill. During this time, he has worked on a number of initiatives from the deregulation of interest rates to the promotion of openness at the Federal Reserve Board. I have personally worked with Bob on a number of issues pertaining to monetary policy and have found his knowledge, insight, and guidance to be invaluable.

Bob is leaving Capitol Hill for the ivory tower of academia. Starting this fall, he will be a Professor at the LBJ School of Public Policy at the University of Texas where he will be teaching courses on money and banking. He also has plans to write a book. Though I will miss Bob's wise counsel here in Washington, I know that our loss is most definitely the University of Texas' and his students' gain.

As press secretary for the Democrats, Stefanie Mullin has the often thankless job of reminding the world that there is another perspective on the Banking Committee. For the past five years, she has accomplished this with grace and dignity, always making sure that the views of the minority were heard by the world outside the Rayburn Building. Stefanie is also leaving us to return to school, but as a student. She will be attending Columbia University in a masters program in the prestigious School of Journalism. I wish her luck, and look forward to the day when I meet her again as a member of the news media.

COMMEMORATING "HEARTS AND
STARS"

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize James M. McNeely's recent bronze sculpture "Hearts and Stars" that depicts the anguish, pain, honor and heroism displayed by young men and women while engaged in war.

Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, James M. McNeely, was drafted into the United States Army in May of 1969. He served as an infantryman with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, American Division, in I Corps, CCU Law, Vietnam. Serving courageously, McNeely

rose to the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the Purple Heart and 3 Army Commendation Medals. After being discharged, he joined the Ramsey County Sheriffs Department in June of 1972. He has worked in Detention, patrol division and is currently working in the court security unit.

Jim McNeely is a self taught artist and member of the Vietnam Veterans Art Group. In the past, Jim's sculptures have recaptured the experiences of war and its effects upon humanity. In 1985, the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Snelling, Minnesota commissioned McNeely to sculpt a bronze battle memorial of the Mexican American War to commemorate its bicentennial birthday. Currently, this celebrated bronze sculpture is on display at the Fort Snelling Museum in St. Paul, Minnesota.

His latest work, "Hearts and Stars" reminds us all that we must remember the suffering and agony endured by young men and women while engaged in war. The sculpture is a bronze sculpture of a soldier carrying another soldier on his back. The figures stand astride a creek bed with the silhouette of North and South Vietnam. A branch lays across the creek symbolizing the split between the North and South. On the front of the oak pedestal is a 10 inch bronze medallion of a bamboo grove and dragon with the words inscribed "Republic of South Vietnam 1965-1975." The stone is polished and crafted from rough cut limestone. After being on display at the St. Paul City Hall/Ramsey County Courthouse the sculpture is going to the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago on August 11th. Vice President ALBERT GORE and seven United States Senators who served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War will be attending the event. This ceremony will open McNeely's work and bring to life the experience and memories of Vietnam that might educate and guide the understanding of our history and the American experience. "Hearts and Stars" is a honorable and captivating tribute to those young men and women who have courageously served in the Armed Forces.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 315, 319 and 320 last week. Let the RECORD state that I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 315 and 320 and "yes" on 319.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today the American people are feeling the pressure of rising health care costs paired with dwindling health care choices. They have called on us to do something that will make their lives better, to put health care decisions back in their hands.

Given that mandate, we have two choices. We can choose to task the government and

lawyers with improving our health options. Or, we can choose to task the marketplace with offering us more health choices. My constituents have tasked me to do the latter.

For those who believe in the benevolence of lawyers, for those who believe in the wisdom of bureaucrats, the Dingell substitute is available to you today.

But for those who believe that the individual makes better choices about his family's health care than a government official does, you will share my excitement about the Patient Protection Act introduced by Speaker GINGRICH and Mr. HASTERT.

The Patient Protection Act protects the patient in three key ways. First, this legislation protects the patient's choice of doctors. For those patients in HMO's, the bill provides that they have a point-of-service option—so that patients can visit doctors outside of their HMO network. For those patients not in HMO's, the bill expands their access to Medical Savings Accounts—accounts that offer complete freedom of doctor and treatment. For all patients, the bill—for the first time—allows a woman to choose an OB/GYN as her primary care physician and allows a parent to choose a pediatrician as his child's primary care physician. These new choices assure patients that they will be able to choose the best doctor for their health care needs.

Second, the Patient Protection Act protects the individual's access to the care to which he is entitled. The bill moves the decision about access to care away from the insurance company and back to the patient and the doctor. For example, when a patient reasonably believes he or she is having a medical emergency, he or she should be able to seek care at a local emergency room and that care should be paid for by his or her insurance plan. Under the Patient Protection Act, the patient now has that freedom without being second-guessed by the insurance company. The Act also prohibits "gag rules"—insurance company restrictions on what information a doctor can give a patient. With the prohibition, we restore the complete disclosure—the complete freedom of communication—that is so essential to the doctor patient relationship.

Finally, the Patient Protection Act protects the individual from arbitrary decisions from the insurance company to deny care. We are all aware of the too familiar pattern of a patient calling his or her insurance company to request care and having the untrained, non-medical reviewer deny the care without even reviewing the patient's medical history. The Patient Protection Act ends that practice forever. Under this bill, if the patient and her doctor believe that a certain medical procedure is indicated—but the insurance company declines to cover the expense—the patient has the right to an immediate appeal to a panel of doctors—not bureaucrats—who will decide whether the medical care is necessary. This new right of appeal will ensure that only medical professionals will make decisions about a patient's need for health care.

We have heard so much in this debate about the patient's right to sue. I'm so tired of that red herring. Patients sue their doctors and sue their insurance companies every day. While I abhor the litigious nature of our society today, I certainly support the patient's right to be made whole when malpractice of breach of contract or any other misconduct occurs.

In all my years, however, I've never met a patient who really believes that the legal proc-

ess makes them whole. When you lose some of your hearing, or part of your sight, or any of your abilities, money is no substitute. Unfortunately, after the harm has occurred, money is all that society has left to offer. After the harm has occurred, it's too late to be made whole.

This is why the Patient Protection Act focuses on preventing the harm from occurring. Why spend two years to win a lawsuit for your injury when you can spend 1 hour on an appeal to your doctor that will prevent the injury all together. Our bill is about patients and doctors and healing. We provide access to the doctors, assure choice for patient, and believe that gives us the best chance at healing.

My constituents and I thank all of my colleagues for the many months of hard work that went into this bill. With the very first patient that is healed by a doctor rather than frustrated by an insurance company, we can all be certain that we have succeeded in our efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on July 27, 1998, I was away from the House on official business during Monday's rollcall vote No. 340, on agreeing to the resolution honoring the memory of Detective John Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes."

As the official designee of the House Minority Leader, I was present in Albuquerque, New Mexico on July 27 along with three of my Congressional colleagues representing the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader to join the President of the United States as participants in "The Great Social Security Debate #3." May I note for the record that immediately prior to the commencement of this debate President Clinton asked all in attendance, in person and via television, to observe a moment of silence in memory of the two heroic officers.

I join with my colleagues in the House to express my deepest condolences to the families of Detective John Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Chestnut who sacrificed their lives for our nation. For their acts of courage, this country is forever grateful; their memory will never be forgotten.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I spoke with Congressman HARRIS FAWELL, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, on the occasion of the passage of H.R. 4250, the Patient Protection Act. I told Chairman FAWELL that instead

of a 200 page bill full of mandates and Federal interference, I proposed a two-page clarification of the ERISA preemption that would get the Federal government out of the way of states to address these problems. I told him that the problem was with ERISA preemption. I asked Chairman FAWELL if he could assure me that the bill does not do anything to strengthen or broaden the ERISA preemption.

Chairman FAWELL assured me that H.R. 4250, the Patient Protection Act, does not amend the ERISA preemption clause. Therefore, it makes it neither broader nor narrower. We have left this to the courts to continue to develop.

Seeking further clarification, I told Chairman FAWELL that I appreciated his putting language in the committee report at the request of members of the Texas delegation to ensure that the Patient Protection Act neither broadens nor changes the current scope of the ERISA preemption as it is being developed in the courts. Again, Chairman FAWELL assured me that was the case.

I explained to Chairman FAWELL that the United States Supreme Court, in the last three years in cases like *Travelers*, *Dillingham*, and *DeBuono*, have narrowed the previously broadly interpreted scope of the ERISA preemption and clarified that ERISA does not preempt traditional state law areas of regulation such as "quality standards in health care." Federal Circuit courts of appeal have likewise been holding more recently that ERISA does not and should not preempt patient quality of care cases against HMOs like the 3rd Circuit held in the *Dukes* case. Five different Federal judges in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, all Republican, have also held that quality of care cases are not preempted by ERISA. Again, Chairman FAWELL assured me it would not.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Texas last year passed state patient protection legislation that is more comprehensive than the Patient Protection Act. Such protections include the right to sue HMOs for affecting the quality of health care treatment decisions. Aetna has gone to court in Houston to assert that Texas legislation is preempted by ERISA. I am glad that Chairman FAWELL could assure me that the Patient Protection Act would not affect the decision of the court in that case.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE AND SERVICE OF THE FIREFIGHTERS FROM AROUND THE NATION TO THE STATE AND PEOPLE OF FLORIDA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Congressional Fire Service Institute I rise today to echo the sentiments of many of my colleagues in expressing my thanks and appreciation for all the firefighters who have worked so hard in battling the wildland fires in Florida.

The magnitude of the fires and the destruction they have caused is almost incomprehensible. In the last two months more than 500,000 acres in 67 counties have been burned by 200 separate fires. At least 367 homes and more than 33 businesses have

been destroyed. Estimates are that it may take over 100 years for some of the burned acreage to return to normal. In short, Mr. Speaker, it has been a devastating disaster.

Thankfully, no lives have been lost. However, 95 people, mostly firefighters, have been injured. Many of the firefighters who are on the front lines are not even from Florida. Approximately 7000 first responders from 46 states have volunteered their time, effort and talent to help the people of Florida. From Maryland alone, over 200 firefighters left their homes and loved ones to battle fires that were threatening land they did not own and to protect people they have never met.

For anyone not familiar with the fire service it may sound amazing that firefighters from across the country would drop everything to help the people of Florida. However, it does not surprise me at all. In fire companies across the country firefighters do just that, day in and day out. They do not do it for money and they do not do it for fame. They do it because, Mr. Speaker, they are committed to bettering their community and serving their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in acknowledging their service, I would like to include in the RECORD a complete listing of all the Maryland firefighters who volunteered to battle the Florida wildfires.

Anne Arundel County: John Devine, William Evans, Tom Frankhow, David Owen; Baltimore County: Adam Bosely, Bob Bury, Andy Caladerge, Matt Fox, Charles Janney, Dawn Kaszek, Robert Lepin, William McCabe, Richard Muth, Randy Perky, Ron Sheldon, Claude Melcher; Calvert County: Ted Allen, Mike Cox, Joe Deltacame, John Gott, Gary Harrison, Rob Helms, Jean Miller, Seth Randelma, Rob Schultbur, Walter Taylor, Donnell Wallace, Kevin Whittington; Caroline County: Richard Baker, Steven Chaall, Donald Hill, Wayne Winchester, Heath Wroten; Carroll County: Robert Schoenber; Cecil County: Kevin Bell, Jim Bennett, Shawn Buckanian, Robert Caffrey, Adam Dommenic, Josh Eller, Mike Fifona, John Graham, Mike Lipka Jr., Mike Lipka Sr., Ron Miller, Aaron Neely, Tom Scott, John Smith, John Upp; Charles County: Tim Allen, Michael Carroll, Paul Donaldson, Trevor Forrester, Christi Grey, Brian Harrison, Jimmy Herbert, Wayne Higdon, Justin Hutchinson, Scott Hutchinson, Dick Irby, Jimmy Jackson, David Jenkins, Tom Jenkins, Tom Kellom, Chris Maddox, Tim Massey, Chris Mattingly, Brent O'Neil, Billy Pirner, Duane Rice Jr., Tony Rose, Billie Stevens, Chris Thompson; Dorchester County: Thomas Coghlan, Brad Dickerson; Frederick County: Paul Cullen, Claude Droneberg, Paul Hackey, Mike Hayter, Jeremy Hutton, Chris Scneel, Bradyn Thomas; Harford County: Chris Rach; Howard County: Jeff Hooasis, Tom Norman, Robert Freeman, David Moynihan, George Pearman; Kent County: Randy Barr, Matt Burge, Chris Carter, Bobby Helmer, Jimmy Kirby, Antonio Leonardi; Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Kenneth Jolly; MEMA: Warren Campbell; Montgomery County: Jeff Bennett, Mark Brown, Paul Brubaker, Jay Bureau, John Collins, Seth Condon, Tim Dowd, Wayne Drapean, Bill Dunn, Jack Ferguson, Sarah Fields, Pam Foltz, Robert Golian, Mark Hopkins, Ken Knopp, Larry Lease, Drew Lermond, Bill Lucas, Mike McAdam, William McLaghtin, Peggy Miller, Joseph Mills, Rick Morrisey, Jim Roy, Barry Smith, Rick Tatum, Justin Thorew, Gina Young; Prince George's County: Ernie

Alsop, Robert Bramhall, William Corrigan, Bill Edwards, Patrick Feehley, Shannon Foster, Scott Glazer, William Hinton, Abree Johnson, Gary Kirchbaum, Thomas Maddox, Angela Moore, Chris Ranson, Floyd Richerson, Larry Robey, Fred Sheckles, Jack Spencer, Ed Torrence, Michael Warhurst, Shannon Welch; Queen Anne County: Eric Arcane, Robbie Dixon, Sarah Holloman, Greg Johnston, Andy Robertson, David Steel; Somerset County: David Barnett, Brian Barnette, Grover Chatham, Chris Holland, Steve Mitchell, Scott Sturgis; St. Mary's County: Kevin Bannagan, Gerard Campbell, Andy Cather, Jim Foster, Boots Garner, George Gatton, Steve Gobson, Billy Hill, Bill Houle, Michael Huseman, Billy Long, C.J. Mattingly, George McKay, LeRoy Owen, and Francis Raley.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASTERWORKS CHORALE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 25th Anniversary concert season of the Masterworks Chorale in Belleville, Illinois and its founder and director, Dr. A. Dennis Sparger.

Masterworks Chorale began under the sponsorship of Belleville Area College as the BAC Community Chorus. In 1982, the chorus left the college and officially incorporated under the name Masterworks Chorale, Inc. The 65 members of the adult chorus must audition for their place in the group. The chorus has been awarded the first place gold medalion at the Great American Choral Festival competition, made the European Tour twice, sung with the St. Louis Symphony under the direction of Leonard Slatkin, and has been a major force in the arts in our community.

Dr. Sparger recently retired from the music faculty at Belleville Area College, where he served for 32 years. Under his baton, the Chorale has performed more than fifty major choral-orchestral works in the past 25 years. In addition to founding the Chorale, Dr. Sparger also founded the Masterworks Children's Chorus and was their director until 1990. In 1986, he was appointed music director and conductor of the Bach Society of St. Louis.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Sparger began musical studies at the age of eight and began conducting at sixteen. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Illinois University. In 1981, he was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in conducting from the University of Illinois, where he studied under Harold Decker. According to Dr. Sparger, Harold Decker is responsible for teaching about 75 doctoral candidates during his career. These students have taken position at major universities and with symphonies around the nation. Dr. Sparger is the only one who chose to make his career at a community college. All of this makes Dr. Sparger's selection for the Harold A. Decker Choral Award, presented to him by the American Choral Directors Association of Illinois earlier this year, even more meaningful.

Masterworks Chorale is a member of the Arts and Education Council of Greater St.

Louis and a member of Chorus America, the association of professional vocal ensembles. This special 25th anniversary concert is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dennis Sparger and Masterworks Chorale for 25 years of wonderful music.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LOUIS STOKES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, while I rejoice in the opportunity to sing the praises of my friend and mentor, the Honorable LOU STOKES, the Dean of the Ohio Delegation, I am saddened by the realization that he will be retiring from this body at the end of this Congress. His departure from Congress will constitute a great personal loss to me and a great loss to the nation.

LOU STOKES' Congressional contributions were legendary to me long before I came to the Congress. His successes toward developing health programs for underserved and disadvantaged populations were well known to me and to health care workers throughout the country. During my 15 years in the Virginia legislature, I was active in developing programs to prevent infant mortality. LOU STOKES was our champion in the Congress on this issue then, and since I came to the Congress has continued to be our champion on the issue.

I serve with Representative STOKES on the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust. Year after year, he has provided absolutely stellar leadership as Chairman of the Braintrust by focusing the attention of the Congress and the nation on efforts to improve the health care status of disadvantaged populations. Not only will he leave a legacy of legislative accomplishments such as the Minority and Disadvantaged Health Care Improvement Act, but his annual Spring and Fall Health Braintrust programs will leave a record, that will be difficult for us to maintain, of pulling together the sharpest minds and most accomplished people to focus on pressing health concerns.

Mr. Speaker, in all of his endeavors, LOU STOKES has shown himself to be the consummate professional, a distinguished legislator, and an outstanding human being. I will miss you, LOU. I thank you for all you done for me, for this Congress and for this nation. God bless you Representative LOUIS STOKES, and Godspeed on your future endeavors.

HONORING THE NORTH CAROLINA
COOPERATIVE BRIGHT IDEAS
PROGRAM

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as a former Superintendent of Public Instruction for the

State of North Carolina, I closely follow matters related to the quality of public education in my district and state. Nothing gives me more pleasure than acknowledging a joint public-private initiative at the local level that is having a positive impact on the quality of classroom instruction.

In North Carolina, our community-minded electric cooperatives have a grant program for teachers called Bright Ideas. It was established in 1994 while I was Superintendent to improve classroom instruction by encouraging innovative teaching techniques. Bright Ideas has been a great success. Bright Ideas awards up to \$2,000 to teachers K-12 with no restrictions on subject matter. This year they received almost 2,000 applications and made more than 400 grants.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, which provide power to 22 percent of my state's population and operate in 93 out of the 100 counties, made an early decision to consider any school's application regardless of its power supplier.

In 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives authorized \$225,000 a year for a state-wide Bright Ideas Program, which would have put the program over the \$1,000,000 mark by the 1998-99 school year. However, through generous additional funding in their respective areas, the cooperatives were able to reach \$1 million a full year ahead of schedule. I congratulate them for their achievement.

Chuck Terrill, Executive Vice President and CEO of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, says that the program will break \$1.5 million by the end of the 1998-99 school year, making the title of "Bright Ideas Classroom" a badge of honor in our schools.

In my district I have many cooperatives and thousands of cooperative members whom I count as friends. I salute these fine corporate citizens for their extraordinary contributions; more than \$1 million benefiting more than 400,000 students and still counting.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today we continue to mourn the loss of two of the finest men this Capitol has known. John 15:13 states that, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Had John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut not put themselves in harm's way, the lives of many would have been lost in last week's tragic event. These two men of courage laid down their lives so that their friends, coworkers and tourists visiting from around the world would be safe. We are truly blessed to have men and women of such noble character and bravery serving on the Capitol Police force.

As thousands of visitors came together yesterday to walk through the Capitol Rotunda to pay their respects to these men of courage, I realized that we are only able to safely visit this building which is a symbol of freedom because of the service of the many members of law enforcement we have here in Washington. We must never take for granted those who serve to protect and preserve the freedoms

that we enjoy here in the United States Capitol, and across this nation.

My prayers go out to the families of these two heroes who died that we might live. The memory of their actions will not be soon forgotten.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT
CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT GORE
AND THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit this open letter on behalf of many associations and federations from the state of Ohio:

We respectfully and urgently request you to reject efforts to accept the United Nations treaty signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and further revised in Kyoto, Japan that deals with greenhouse gas emissions.

Acceptance of this treaty would bind the U.S. to restrict fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and petroleum) use which together provide 80% of America's energy, while exempting 2.5 billion people in foreign countries from these reductions. These reductions will greatly force up the price of coal, natural gas, gasoline and electricity. Ohioans' cost for each of these necessities could rise by roughly 50% by 2010.

The result will be anti-family; as families are forced to pay much more for the basic necessity of electricity, anti-farm; as the cost of farming and supplies soar, anti-jobs; as 56,000 Ohio-based jobs are lost, many going to the exempted foreign countries. All of this will devastate Americans and Ohioans in particular. Economic estimates suggest by the year 2010, Ohioans will pay \$350 more for every man, woman and child in our state. This means we will together annually pay \$3.8 billion dollars more to heat our homes, run a business, or care for our loved ones. This will be especially harsh and unfair to Ohio seniors, the poor and others.

Global warming warrants thoughtful study but it does not make sense to strangle 80% of America's energy foundation while over half the world's population is exempted for this treaty's reach. Ohioans deserve better than this.

Please don't force Ohio families, seniors, those on the edge of poverty, our farmers and businesses to be saddled with this United Nations treaty.

Joel Hastings, Director of Local Affairs, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Columbus—192,000 members; Kelly McGivern, Director of Environment and Health Care Policy, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Columbus—5,000 members; John C. Mahaney, Jr., President, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Columbus—3,000+ members; Alon Apel, Director of Government Affairs, Ohio Pharmacists Association, Dublin—4,000 members; Tom King, Executive Vice President, Ohio Trucking Association, Columbus—1,000 members; Sherry Weisgarber, Managing Director, Ohio Aggregates Association, Columbus—197 members; Ruth Ann Wilson, Executive Secretary, Ohio Assoc. of Meat Processors, Delaware—500 members; Gary A. Murdock, President, Ohio Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association, Hilliard—1,000 members; Roger P. Jones, President, Ohio Ready Mixed, Concrete Association, Columbus—210

members companies; Michael H. Cochran, Executive Director, Ohio Twp Assoc., Columbus—8,600 members; Holly Saelens, Director—Public Policy Services, The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Columbus; Sheila Adams, President/CEO, Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati—700 members; Bernard Shoemaker, President (Master), Ohio State Grange, Columbus—17,000 members; Bryan Bucklew, Director-Governmental Affairs, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Dayton—3,350 members; C. Clark Street, Executive Vice President, Ohio Contractors Association, Columbus—585 members; James H. Lee, Executive Director, Ohio Forestry Association, Columbus; Susie Calhoun, Executive Director, Ohio Soybean Council, Columbus—1,500 members; Jack Heavenridge, Executive Vice President, Ohio Poultry Association, Columbus—200 members

David M. Kelly, General Manager, Ohio Potato Growers Association; Tim Williams, Executive Vice President, Ohio Manufactured Housing Association, Dublin—500 members; David L. Kahler, Executive Vice President/CEO, Ohio Equipment Distributors Association, Dublin, 121 members/2,420 employees; Michael L. Wagner, Executive Director, Ohio Corn Growers Association, Marion—1,800 members; Jim Sylvania, Executive Director, Ohio Association Security & Investigative Services, Columbus—33,000 members; John R. Langhirt, President, Mid-Ohio Electric Co., Columbus; Carmine J. Torio, Executive Vice President, Home Builders Association of Great Akron, 750 member companies, 10,000 employees; Robert D. Horne, President, United Steel Workers of America, Local 5L—Akron, 175 members; Daniel L. Neff, Executive Director, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, Cambridge, serves a 10 county area; Judy R. Bastian, President, Ohio Glass Association, Cleveland—250 members; Roger Tedrick, Secretary/Treasurer, Ohio Dairy Farmers Federation, Gahanna—1,000 members; Robert T. Lambert, Executive Vice President, Ohio Auto and Truck Recyclers Association, Columbus; Donald L. Buckley, President/Secretary, Midwest Dairy Foods Association, Inc., Columbus—52 companies; Amira F. Gohara, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Medical College of Ohio at Toledo, Toledo—3,400 members; Peggy J. Smith, Executive Director, Ohio Chemical Council, Columbus—100 members; Patricia R. Cooksey, President, True Blue Patriots, Cincinnati—10,000 members; Thomas L. Hart, Executive Director, The Building Industry Association of Central Ohio, Columbus—1,226 members; Richard Greenwalt, Camp Secretary, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War—McClellan Camp, No. 91—Alliance;

Joseph Divito, Financial Secretary & Treasurer, Iron Workers Local Union No. 172, Columbus—723 members; Sue Yang, Program Coordinator, International Community Empowerment Project A.S.I.A., Inc., Akron—50 families served; Rochelle Peoples, Director of Volunteers, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Akron, Akron—100 volunteer members; Carole Richards, President, Creative Education Institute, Chagrin Falls—50 people served; Mike P. Reilly, President-Elect, Cincinnati Master Plumbers Assoc., Cincinnati—80 contractors; W. Paul Kilway, Jr., M.D., Summit County Medical Society, Akron, 460 members; David L. Kahler,

Executive Vice President/CEO, Ohio-Michigan Equipment Dealer Association, Dublin, 865 members/14,272 employees; Edward Tumulty, Regional Director, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, Central Region Columbus; Russell K. Tippett, Dean, School of Natural Resources, Hocking College, Nelsonville; Randy Smith, Financial Secretary, Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastic and Allied Workers Local 7A, Tiffin—573 members; Margaret F. Planton, Mayor, City of Chillicothe, 270 employees; Bill Hueckel, President, Central Ohio Flower Growers, Delaware—100 members; Hal Mullins, President, Central Ohio Chapter, Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Columbus—106 member companies; James Tann, President, Brick Institute of America, Mid East Region, North Canton; Ronald L. Kolbash, President, Ohio Mining & Reclamation Association, Columbus, 121 member companies; Richard C. Hannon, Jr., Chairman of Legislative Committee, Board Member, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Carrollton—150 members; John Nave, Director, Associated Risk Managers of Ohio, Powell; Jim Frost, Secretary/Treasurer, Akron/Medina County Labor Council AFL-CIO, Akron—18,000 members.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to explain why I cannot vote for the Patient Protection Act (H.R. 4250). However, I would first like to express my support for two of the bill's provisions, relating to Medical Savings Accounts and relating to the proposed national health ID.

Earlier this week I introduced legislation, the Patient Privacy Act (H.R. 4281), to repeal those sections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 that authorized the creation of a national medical ID. I believe that the increasing trend toward allowing the federal government to track Americans through national ID cards and numbers represents one of the most serious threats to liberty we are facing. The scheme to create a national medical ID to enter each person's medical history into a national data base not only threatens civil liberties but it undermines the physician-patient relationship, the cornerstone of good medical practice. Oftentimes, effective treatment depends on a patient's ability to place absolute trust in his or her doctor, a trust that would be severely eroded if the patient knew that any and all information given their doctor could be placed in a data base accessible by anyone who knows the patient's "unique personal identifier."

While I was not here in 1996 when the medical ID was authorized, it is my understanding that this provision was part of a large bill rushed through Congress without much debate. I am glad that Congress has decided to at least take a second look at this proposal and its ramifications. I am quite confident that, after Congress hears from the millions of Americans who object to a national ID, my colleagues will do the right thing and pass legislation forbidding the federal government from instituting a "uniform standard health identifier."

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased that Congress is addressing the subject of health care in America, for the American health care system does need reform. Too many Americans lack access to quality health care while millions more find their access to medical care blocked by a "gatekeeper," an employee of an insurance company or a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) who has the authority to overrule the treatment decisions of physicians!

An OB/GYN with more than 30 years experience, I find it outrageous that any insurance company bureaucrat could presume to stand between a doctor and a patient. However, in order to properly fix the problem, we must understand its roots. The problems with American health care coverage are rooted in the American tax system, which provides incentives for employers to offer first-dollar insurance benefits to their employees, while providing no incentives for individuals to attempt to control their own health care costs. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," it is inevitable that those paying the bill would eventually seize control over personal health care choices as a means of controlling costs.

Because this problem was created by distortions in the health care market that took control of the health care dollar away from the consumer, the best solution to this problem is to put control of the health care dollar back into the hands of the consumer. We also need to rethink the whole idea of first-dollar insurance coverage for every medical expense, no matter how inexpensive. Americans would be more satisfied with the health care system if they could pay for their routine expenses with their own funds, relying on insurance for catastrophic events, such as cancer.

An excellent way of moving toward a health care system where the consumer is in charge is through Medical Savings Accounts (MSA's). I enthusiastically endorse those provisions of this bill that expand access to MSA's. It may be no exaggeration to say that MSA's are vital to preserving the private practice of medicine.

MSA's provide consumers the freedom to find high-quality health care at a reasonable cost. MSA's allow consumers to benefit when they economize in choosing health care so they will be more likely to make informed health care decisions such as seeking preventive care and, when possible, negotiate with their providers for the lowest possible costs. Most importantly, MSA's are the best means available to preserve the patient's right to choose their doctor and the treatment that best meets their needs, free from interference by an insurance company or an HMO.

Mr. Speaker, all those concerned with empowering patients should endorse H.R. 4250's provisions lifting all caps on how many Americans may purchase an MSA and repealing federal regulations that discourage Americans from using MSA's. For example, a provision in the tax code limits the monthly contribution to the MSA to one-twentieth of the MSA's yearly amount. Thus, MSA holders have a small portion of their yearly contribution accessible to them in the early months of the year. The Patient Protection Act allows individuals to make the full contribution to their MSA at any time of the year, so someone who establishes an MSA in January does not have to worry if they get sick in February.

This legislation also allows both employers and employees to contribute to an employee's MSA. It lifts the arbitrary caps on how one can obtain MSA's and expands the limits on the MSA deductible. Also it provides that possession of an MSA satisfies all mandated benefits laws as long as individuals have the freedom to purchase those benefits with their MSA.

However, as much as I support H.R. 4250's expansion of MSA's, I equally object to those portions of the bill placing new federal standards on employer offered health care plans. Proponents of these standards claim that they will not raise cost by more than a small percentage point. However, even an increase of a small percentage point could force many marginal small businesses to stop offering health care for their employees, thus causing millions of Americans to lose their health insurance. This will then lead to a new round of government intervention. Unlike Medical Savings Accounts which remove the HMO bureaucracy currently standing between physicians and patients, the so-called patient protections portions of this bill add a new layer of government-imposed bureaucracy. For example, H.R. 4250 guarantees each patient the right to external and internal review of insurance company's decisions. However, this does not empower patients to make their own decisions. If both external and internal review turn down a patient's request for treatment, the average patient will have no choice but to accept the insurance companies decision. Furthermore, anyone who has ever tried to navigate through a government-controlled "appeals process" has reason to be skeptical of the claims that the review process will be completed in less than three days. Imposing new levels of bureaucracy on HMO's is a poor substitute for returning to the American people the ability to decide for themselves, in consultation with their care giver, what treatments are best for them. Medical Savings Accounts are the best patient protection.

Perhaps the biggest danger these regulations pose is ratification of the principle that guaranteeing a patients' access to physicians is the proper role for the government, thus opening the door for further federal control of the patient-physician relationship. I ask my physician-colleagues who support this regulation, once we have accepted the notion that federal government can ensure patients have access to our services, what defense can we offer when the government places new regulations and conditions on that access?

I am also concerned that this bill further tramples upon state autonomy by further preempting their ability to regulate HMO's and health care plans. Under the 10th amendment, states should be able to set standards for organizations such as HMO's without interference from the federal government. I am disappointed that we did not get an opportunity to debate Mr. BRADY's amendment that would have preserved the authority of states in this area.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, while the Patient Protection Act takes some good steps toward placing patients back in control of the health care system, it also furthers the federal role in overseeing the health system. It is my belief that the unintended, but inevitable, consequence of this bill, will require Congress to return to the issue of health care reform in a few years. I hope Congress gets it right next time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday morning July 29, 1998 I was in my district attending to official business and as a result missed two roll call votes.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 343 (the "Rule" on H.R. 629) "Aye"

Rollcall No. 344 (final passage of H.R. 629) "Aye".

INTRODUCTION OF THE JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT-JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER ACT OF 1998

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Jacob Joseph Chestnut-John Michael Gibson United States Capitol Visitor Center Act of 1998 (Chestnut-Gibson Act). I feel a special obligation to do so because I represent the District of Columbia in which the Capitol is located. I also introduce the bill because the residents of the District have a special relationship with the Capitol Police. In 1992, when there was a large spike in crime in the District, Congress passed the United States Capitol Police Jurisdiction Act, a bill I introduced authorizing the Capitol Police to patrol parts of the Capitol Hill residential community closest to the Capitol where various facilities of the Capitol are located. Capitol Police officers were not only willing; they were enthusiastic to use their excellent training and professionalism for the benefit of residents and the many tourists and visitors whose safety might be compromised by having to travel through high-crime areas in order to get to the Capitol.

My bill authorizes the Architect of the Capitol "to plan, construct, equip, administer, and maintain a Capitol Visitor Center under the East Plaza of the Capitol" grounds. The primary purpose of the bill is to increase public safety and security. A second purpose is to provide a place to welcome visitors who are seeking tours, taking into account their health and comfort. To guard against excessive costs and to obtain quick action, the bill requires the Architect to consider existing and alternative plans for a visitor center and to submit "a report containing the plans and designs" within 120 days.

I have supported a Capitol Visitor Center since it was first extensively discussed in 1991. During this decade of high deficits, the reluctance of Congress to appropriate funds for such a center has perhaps been understandable, until last Friday. No one knows whether Officer Chestnut or Detective Gibson or, for that matter, any other officer or individual would have been spared had a visitor center been in place. What we do know is that our nineteenth century Capitol was not built with anything like today's security hazards in

mind. According to the Capitol Police and the United States Capitol Police Board, a visitor center would provide significant distance between the Capitol and visitors, and for a host of reasons they have documented, would make the Capitol more secure.

Our foremost obligation is to protect all who visit or work here and to spare no legitimate consideration in protecting the United States Capitol. The Capitol is a temple of democracy and is the most important symbol of the open society in which we live. It is more so than the White House, in part because the President's workplace is also a residence and cannot be entirely open. However, the Capitol symbolizes our free and open society not only because it is accessible but also because of what transpires here. It is here that the people come to petition their government, to lobby and to persuade us, and ultimately to discharge us if we stray too far from their democratic demands. Thus, we neither have nor would we want the option to make the Capitol more difficult to access. After last Friday's tragedy, we have an obligation to demonstrate that security is not inconsistent with democracy.

There is a second reason why this bill is necessary. Visitors are safe when they come to the Capitol, but the conditions they encounter do not ensure their health, convenience, and cordiality, nor afford them the welcome to which they are entitled. Members address constituents seated on stone steps outdoors. In the blistering heat and merciless cold of Washington, visitors wait in line outdoors to tour the Capitol. During this summer, the hottest on record in the United States, it has not been uncommon for tourists to faint during lengthy waits on line and then be rushed inside to be treated by our physicians. Even if the Capitol had not incurred a terrible tragedy, we would be in need of a more civil way to welcome the people we represent.

I will seek cosponsors for this bill at once. I have not waited to do so because I believe a bill requiring plans for a visitor center is necessary to provide the assurance of safety and comfort the public has a right to demand. We must do more than try to recover from the shock of the invasion of the Capitol by a gunman. We must do more than mourn the irreplaceable loss of two fine men. We must do what we can and we must do it now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 29, 1998, I was unavoidably detained while conducting official business and missed rollcall vote No. 344. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

SHAME ON THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it was 15 years ago that American soldiers liberated

the small island of Grenada from the authoritarian government that, under the direction of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, had overtaken that nation.

During the time the Castro regime manipulated the government of the island in an attempt to expand communism in the Americas, the people of Grenada lost all semblance of civil liberties and human rights that was then returned to them.

Unfortunately, it seems that the present Grenadian government has forgotten the repression brought upon their country by the Castro regime and it has invited the dictator to visit the island this week.

The visit comes as the nations members of the Caribbean Economic Community (CARICOM) continue to flirt with the Cuban tyrant, who desperately wants to enter the organization to obtain economic benefits that will strengthen his oppressive regime.

How sad that after 19 American soldiers died to liberate Grenada, that island's government now receives, with open arms, the dictator who orchestrated the repression of that island's citizens.

Shame on the government of Grenada!

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY CALDWELL
BEESON

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Peggy Caldwell Beeson, who passed away this month. I, along with many other Northern Californians, cherished the friendship of Peggy who, with her husband Phillip, contributed greatly to our community.

Peggy had a special talent for sharing her visions with others and making them want to be a part of her ideas. This talent for consensus building and motivating others allowed her to accomplish things that most people would never attempt.

Over the years, Peggy was involved with a number of community action committees, including the Parent Teacher Association, the Lake Elephants Club, and the Konocti Lioness Club. She also served as Executive Director for Californians for a Drug Free Youth, President of the Conejo Republican Action Committee, and Director of the Riviera Yacht and Golf Club.

Peggy and Phillip raised four daughters: Karen, Lindsay, Cynthia, and Heidi. She also is survived by 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Peggy Beeson's dedication to community and family should be held as a model for others. I have personally seen the results of Peggy's efforts and was impressed time and again with her hard work and determination. Her vision, innovation and accomplishments will benefit the people of Lake County for a long time.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE GREAT
GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the people of Geauga County on the 175th anniversary of the Great Geauga County Fair. This special gathering has always been a time for people and families throughout Ohio to come together. It's also a wonderful way to celebrate community and the values we hold dear.

The Great Geauga County Fair brings to mind homemade pies, baking contests, 4-H club activities, the annual petting zoo, music, and pony rides for children. The Fair is also about celebrating the locally produced maple syrup, used in nearly every home throughout the region. Finally, the Fair provides a special moment for the community to honor area veterans and their service to Ohio and the nation.

The history of the Great Geauga County Fair is as rich as the Fair itself. In 1823, a group of pioneers, some of whom were among the first settlers in Ohio's Western Reserve, formed one of our state's first trade societies—called the Geauga County Agricultural and Manufacturing Society. The society was formed to promote the region's growing farming and manufacturing industries. To display and share the bounty from their farms, society members organized an annual county-wide fair. While the early Fairs alternated between the towns of Burton and Chardon, the Fair has been held in Burton at the County Fairgrounds since the mid-1800s.

This year's Fair also celebrates another birthday. Known as the oldest and only all-volunteer band in the Buckeye State, the Great Geauga County Fair Band turns 60 this year. To most people who go to the Fair today, the Band is a major presence. In a fitting tribute to this milestone, the band this year will play with three of the original "charter" band members.

Labor Day is always a bittersweet time. For kids, the holiday means back to school; for parents, it means a welcome day off to enjoy the good weather. Labor Day also means Fairtime—the "grand finale" to summertime in Geauga County. Without doubt, the Fair is one of our region's most important annual community events—for families and all residents of northeast Ohio. In fact, the "Great" in the Fair's name was officially added early this century to signify the Fair's senior standing as the "Great Granddaddy" of Ohio's county fairs.

The Great Geauga County Fair's motto says it all, "Something for Everyone Since 1823." On the 175th anniversary of the Great Geauga County Fair, I'm proud to represent the people of Geauga County, and proud to be a part of this community.

THE ORPHAN FOUNDATION: MAK-
ING A DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIVES OF YOUTH

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, in the Tuesday, July 21, 1998 copy of the Washington Post, there is a front page story about how difficult it is to survive in society when you're an orphan and you turn 18. I would like to insert this article in the record, Mr. Speaker, without objection. According to this article, in many states, when orphans turn 18 years of age, they are dropped from the state's child protection system. This means they have to pay their own rent, buy their own groceries and manage their own budget. Without parents to teach these orphans the importance of fiscal responsibility, and to provide for their needs when they do run out of money, it should not be a surprise that 4 out of 10 of the nation's homeless are orphans.

There is one statement in the Post article that sticks out in my mind. That statement reads, " * * * there is little public attention focused on how to keep foster children from migrating from their bureaucratic family to the streets." I agree that the public could be better informed about the problems many orphans face, but I wish the article had listed a group I work with called the Orphan Foundation of America as part of the solution. OFA has worked hard over the last two decades to provide financial assistance and counseling to orphans, help which has made a tangible difference in the lives of many.

Founded in 1981, the Orphan Foundation has awarded over \$500,000 in scholarships to orphans in 44 states through its OLIVER Project, with the help of generous private and corporate donors such as: American Airlines; Gateway Computers; Kraft Foods, Inc.; General Electric; Prudential Securities; AT&T; J.C. Penney Company; Bristol Myers-Squibb Company; Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue; Lockheed Martin; Fannie Mae; Lucent Technologies, Northrop Grumman; Time Warner, Inc.; The Limited, Inc.; Williams & Jensen; ESOP; and Kerr-McGee Corporation. OFA also teaches orphans how to successfully manage their money and other basic life skills they will need to know to survive in an unforgiving world, and does this through volunteers in their communities.

Most of all, OFA and its tireless director, Eileen McCaffrey, provides orphans with something they receive all too little—an ear to talk to when they need encouragement, and a little love and understanding. Most of the staff is all volunteer, a true sign of their dedication. I have had the pleasure of meeting and talking with several orphans whose lives have been impacted by OFA, and these youth are quick to point to the organization as one big reason why they have a job and a good education, as opposed to being locked up in jail, or being forced to sleep in their car.

The Orphan Foundation receives no state or federal funding, and yet it has managed to improve the lives of orphans across America. To learn more about OFA, you can visit their web page at www.orphan.org. The Orphan Foundation of America is a great cause well worth assisting, and a testimony of the power of Americans who care.

[From the Washington Post, July 21, 1998]
 AT 18, IT'S SINK OR SWIM—FOR EX-FOSTER
 CHILDREN TRANSITION IS DIFFICULT
 (By Barbara Vobejda)

CINCINNATI—Seventeen-year-old Carrie Lucas has spent the past two years in the embrace of the state. Her mother was mentally ill, her father in jail, and Ohio's child protection officials considered it their business to place Carrie in a safe foster home.

Now she's about to be dropped. At the toll of her 18th birthday next spring, Carrie will be released from the state's child protection system. The federal and state bureaucracies that fashioned themselves into a substitute family will declare themselves done. And like 20,000 other young people across the country each year, Carrie will be left to pay her own rent, fill her own refrigerator, manage her own budget. In essence, she will be expected to become her own parent.

"It's sort of scary to think I have to do this on my own," Carrie said. "I don't want to think about it too much."

If ever there was proof that, for many children, the foster care system does not offer a stable, surrogate family, it comes at the point they turn 18. The day the money stops, the care stops too.

While a minority of teenagers stay on for some time with their foster families, most grow up knowing exactly when their funding will end. They accept that they will be forced to leave on or near that birthday, knowing they'll be replaced by a younger child, who comes with money attached. If the foster families had wanted to make a permanent commitment to one child, experts say, they would have adopted. Most don't.

"We can't dump them fast enough at 18," said Robin Nixon, director of youth services at the Child Welfare League of America, referring to the federal-state system that has responsibility for more than 500,000 children, most of them abused or neglected by their parents. "But kids in the average community are 25 and 26 years old before they're expected to live alone."

It is this large but mostly forgotten population of America's disadvantaged that social researchers now believe makes up a significant component of the nation's homeless population: One study found four of 10 of the nation's homeless are former foster children. Experts on homelessness say it is predictable—that young people isolated from their families often suffering from emotional problems, many of them former runaways, would end up in an emergency shelter. While some of these teenagers can go to grandparents or siblings for help, most are on their own.

The most recent study on the fate of foster children, conducted by University of Wisconsin researcher Mark Courtney, found that 12 to 18 months after they left foster care, just half were employed, one-third were receiving public assistance, one-fifth of the girls had given birth and more than one-quarter of the boys had been incarcerated.

Most of the teenagers had less than \$250 in savings when they went out on their own.

Yet while other subgroups among the disenfranchised—the mentally ill, victims of domestic violence, welfare workers—have their vocal advocates in policy debates, there is little public attention focused on how to keep foster children from migrating from their bureaucratic family to the streets.

For Carrie Lucas, the journey to independence has already begun. It is both tangible and psychological. She is a 17-year-old constantly aware of a clock ticking. Nine more months of financial help. That's it. One minute she's sure she can handle it. The next, she's in a panic about what lies ahead.

The state will keep paying an agency more than \$1,000 a month to help her until her 18th

birthday. But after that, she can make no mistakes. Blow her rent money on a car, she may be sleeping in that car. Anger her landlord, she could be looking for a place to sleep. The same mistakes other kids make, but nobody to bail her out.

A month ago, she moved into a tiny attic apartment by herself. It is stifling, with no air conditioner, and the stairway leading up smells of cat urine. But she chose it because she loved the bathtub—an antique with claw feet and flowers painted on the side.

Carrie had trouble sleeping when she first moved in, frightened of the nighttime sounds echoing around her old building. But now she's more relaxed, cuddled on the living room carpet beside her worn, thrift store couch, or in her narrow bedroom, surrounded by stuffed toys.

When Carrie was 4, her grandmother took her in because Carrie's mother would stay away from home for long periods of time, leaving Carrie and her three siblings to care for themselves. Carrie grew up cooking for herself, washing her own clothes.

"I think my mother is mentally insane," Carrie said. "She was never reliable, always working, or out with whomever."

But Carrie's grandmother died of cancer two years ago, and the child protection system took over. Carrie moved in with a foster mother, a woman in her late sixties who had raised 10 children of her own. "Her message was, 'I'm here for you,'" Carrie said, "but there was distance between us."

Under the state's policy, her foster mother received more than \$400 a month to keep Carrie, but that ended when Carrie asked to move out. She had heard of a program that would help her move into her own apartment, and her foster care money would go toward rent and utilities. So she left her foster mother's home and moved into her apartment. And since then, neither has picked up the phone to stay in touch.

In fact, Carrie says she's lucky. She lives in one of the few places around the country—Hamilton County, Ohio—where the child protection system places people as young as 16 in apartments to prepare them to live on their own. The program pays rent and sets up a savings account with a \$60 weekly stipend—until she's 18.

Carrie likes living by herself. But already, her days play out with the rhythms of an adult, not a girl of 17.

This summer, she gets herself up at 6 each morning, eats a bowl of cereal and leaves her apartment by 7, catching a bus to work as an intern at a downtown bank, where she spends her days checking account numbers and ATM receipts. At 5 p.m., she heads home and fixes her own dinner. She is in bed by 9 p.m. On the weekends, she works a second job at a restaurant.

For now, she has \$594 in savings, and in the fall, she'll return to finish her senior year in high school. The county and the judge overseeing her case could extend her funding long enough to help her get her high school diploma. But even if that happens, she'll be cut loose in less than a year.

She worries most about how she will pay her \$240 monthly rent, or if she'll be able to afford college.

"I pray I can go to college," she said. "I'm going to try everything in my power to get a scholarship."

Some of the half-million children in the child protection system are allowed to stay with their biological families. But for those who are taken out of their homes, a combination of federal and state funds provides payments—averaging \$431 a month for 16-year-olds—to foster families. The government may pay much more for group homes or residential treatment facilities, where many foster teens reside.

In 1986, after researchers began to notice the link between foster care and homelessness, Congress reacted by establishing an "independent living program" for states to help prepare foster children for life after 18. States can extend the program to older teens, which is common for those with disabilities.

While states have established these programs, many are cursory—occasional weekend seminars on housekeeping and budgeting, for example. And Courtney's study in Wisconsin found that one out of four teenagers had received no help in preparing for independence before they left the system.

In a handful of jurisdictions, however, welfare offices have gone to great lengths to ease this passage.

Los Angeles County, where about 800 young people leave foster care each year, has pulled together a package of subsidized housing, job training and some entry-level employment to help those moving out of the system.

And in Hamilton County, Ohio, where Carrie lives, dozens of teenagers, some as young as 16, are living in apartments as a transition to independence.

"Independent living without housing experience is like driver's education without the car," said Mark Kroner, who runs an independent living program for Lighthouse Youth Services, a nonprofit agency contracted by Hamilton County to put young people in apartments.

"You learn to budget food money when you go a day without food. You learn to budget utilities when you come home to a dark apartment," he said.

When young people come into his program, having been referred by county social workers or juvenile judges, they are matched with an adult on Kroner's staff who helps them find an apartment, shops with them for furniture and helps them move. The social worker stops by weekly, and the agency becomes the newest surrogate family.

But this family is dedicated to a daunting goal: sending a child, often one with emotional difficulties, out into the world.

It is not uncommon for Kroner to get a call saying one of his teenagers has been arrested. He has had kids knocking on a landlord's door asking for money just a week after moving in. Some have been kicked out of the program for failing to follow the rules.

Despite the problems, studies have found that placing kids in their own apartments is probably the most effective way to help them become independent.

One of Kroner's newest "clients," as the former foster children are called, is 16-year-old Ricky Bryant, who has dropped out of high school.

He lives in a second-floor, two-room apartment, where he sleeps on the living room floor. The dishes are carefully soaking in soapy water, and the refrigerator is virtually empty.

In just over a month of living on his own, it has become clear to Ricky that some things are beyond him: "My laundry. I cannot afford to do it. And keeping groceries in my house," he said. "I buy it and it's gone."

He says this on a Wednesday, five days until he gets his paycheck from Wendy's where he works nights. He has cereal in the cupboard, but no milk to pour on it. A loaf of bread, but nothing to put between the slices. He has, literally, one penny in cash.

When Kroner hears this, he gives Ricky a dollar and tells him to take the bus to the agency office and someone there will give him an advance on his weekly \$60 stipend.

"I was afraid to ask," Ricky said. "I don't want to aggravate nobody."

Ricky landed here after years in the child welfare system, where he lived in 12 to 15 places, he estimates.

"My mom is the type who is a bar hopper," he said. "She was never home. She left us kids wherever." He was often home alone when he was just 7 and 8 years old. When his mother brought home a new boyfriend, and Ricky saw him abusing her, he left to live with his dad.

But that didn't work out either, "because I was a 'hood rat.'" And child protection workers moved Ricky to his first foster home. That began a long and sad list of fighting, running away, ending up in juvenile detention, until he was finally allowed this spring to return to his father.

That was the home Ricky had wished for all the years he was in foster care, he said. But three months later, in May, his father died of pulmonary disease.

Once again, a caseworker was ready to put him with a foster family, but Ricky wanted no more.

"I've never had a mother-father type deal in my life, so I wouldn't be ready for it," he said.

The next step for Ricky was his own apartment.

Last week, he sat huddled over a spiral notebook, the kind most kids his age would use for geography or math. He is no longer in any math classes, but the notebook is perfect for managing his money.

He budgets \$144 for two weeks of groceries, \$6 for "hygiene," \$50 for "recreation," \$20 for miscellaneous and \$20 to pay back a debt. But when he totals up his expenses, he compares it with the paycheck he expects to get and realizes he's \$3 short. He decides he will take it out of groceries.

He has written all this out carefully, underscoring the totals in pink highlighter.

Ricky has two years before his safety net is folded up.

He hopes he'll get a high school equivalency degree and a better job. In the meantime, he is learning to navigate the adult world. He lost his electricity in the middle of the night recently when he plugged in an old air conditioner he had found in the basement. But when he called the power company and heard they weren't going to send over any help right away, he told them he was blind. That got them over.

But for every victory, he discovers another trap. He is out of money because he blew a bundle on a Fourth of July cookout. He and his friends bought food and cases of soda pop and cigarettes, and that sent him way over budget.

"It was the first night of really enjoying myself," he said. It was Independence Day.

Struggling in the Adult World

Children leaving foster care at age 18, when federal and state funding ends, face a difficult future. Many suffer from emotional problems and are without financial help from relatives, making them vulnerable to homelessness and other problems. One study found that nearly four in 10 of the homeless population are former foster children.

12 to 8 months after leaving foster care system:

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE

\$210 for males
\$157 for females

PHYSICAL INJURY

26% of the males had been beaten or otherwise seriously injured.
15% of the females had been beaten.
10% of the females had been raped.

INCARCERATION

27% of the males had been incarcerated.
10% of the females had been incarcerated.

OTHER

33% were receiving some public assistance.
19% of the females had given birth to children.

37% had not finished high school.
50% were unemployed.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

Before leaving foster care: 47 percent were receiving some kind of counseling or medication for mental health problems.

After leaving foster care: 21 percent were receiving treatment, although there was no reduction in mental problems.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to place in the RECORD further tributes to the police officers who died protecting the United States Capitol last Friday.

SUSAN HIRSCHMAN, CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE MAJORITY WHIP

John Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice last Friday defending us. John's professional skills saved each of us. We will always remember John's sacrifice. But we will also remember the many other contributions John made to our lives. John's official duty was protecting Tom, the role that ultimately cost him his life. However, I will also remember that John had a quiet way of helping each of us do our job better. For example, as the person who spent more time with Tom than any of us, he was usually the first person to see when things weren't working right. Often, as I walked into the office passing his desk at the back door, he would look at me and simply say "Have you talked with the boss yet?"—gently letting me know that something was on Tom's mind. As we have gathered over the past few days to discuss how much we will miss John, I was not surprised that he had a similar way of helping each and every person in the office. John was a friend to each of us and he made our entire team work more effectively.

MONICA VEGAS KLADAKIS, MAJORITY WHIP STAFF

I got to know John Gibson better during the Republican Convention in 1996. I remember squeezing into a cab with him and a bunch of other staff people as we drove from place to place, and I thought, "He must really hate this." I had thought he was reserved and maybe even a little distant, but after that week I not only realized that he had a lot of patience to deal with all of us raucous staff people, I also discovered what a great sense of humor he had, how kind he was, and how much fun he was to be with.

And now he has saved my life. I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude toward him, from a depth which I don't know if I've ever reached before. We can never thank him properly for what he did for us, but I hope he knows that we will never forget it.
I'll miss him.

SPECIAL AGENT BOB GLYNN AND DETECTIVE DOUG SHUGARS

Detective John M. Gibson and Officer Jacob J. Chestnut are American heroes. Their heroic actions and personal sacrifice was responsible for saving numerous lives and ensuring the freedoms which all American enjoy continue.

Officer Jacob J. Chestnut was a very professional member of the United States Capitol Police. The polite and friendly manner in which he did his job will always be remembered. Every evening as Congressman

DeLay and his security would leave the U.S. Capitol, Officer Chestnut would always extend a friendly, "Have a good evening sir." This remark always made for a nice ending to a very long day.

Detective John M. Gibson was a cop's cop. Anytime John was working and there was some police action happening on Capitol Hill, John would be there. It might be standing in an intersection wearing a suit and directing traffic, assisting with the evacuation of a Congressional building that was on fire, or providing a backup for a fellow officer. John was always there. It was no surprise that John was involved in this kind of heroism. He would have had it no other way. John loved working the security detail for Congressman DeLay and took great pride in the assignment. John was considered to be a part of Congressman DeLay's staff and a very close friend to the DeLay family. John's unselfish actions and personal sacrifice ensured the safety and the lives of Congressman DeLay, his staff, and the public. John was an excellent police officer, a great partner and a wonderful friend. You will be missed.

There is an inscription on the National Police Memorial in Washington, D.C. by Vivian Eney, another survivor of a fallen Capitol Police Officer. This inscription is a fitting tribute to both Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson: "It's not how these Officers died that made them heroes. It's how they lived."

KELLY POTTER, A TRUSTEE FOR THE D.C. LODGE OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

I keep this poem on my refrigerator at home, which I thought was appropriate:

A PART OF AMERICA DIED

Somebody killed a policeman today, and
A part of America died.
A piece of our country he swore to protect
Will be buried with him at his side.
The suspect who shot him will stand up in
court,

With counsel demanding his rights,
While a young widowed mother must
Work for her kids
And spend alone many nights.
The best that he walked was a battlefield,
too,

Just as if he'd gone off to war.
Though the flag of our nation won't fly at
half mast,

To his name, they will add a gold star.
Yes, somebody killed a policeman today.
It happened in your town or mine.
While we slept in comfort behind our locked
doors,

A cop put his life on the line.
Now his ghost walks a beat on a dark city
street,

And he stands at each new rookie's side.
He answered the call and gave us his all,
And a part of America died.

SHAWNNA BARNETT, FORMER DELAY STAFFER

May John's kind nature and selfless acts remind us always of our fallen hero. He is out of our grasp but so very close to our hearts.

TOM VINCENT, DE LAY STAFFER

The biggest thing I remember was his sense of humor. I keep thinking of John taking a special effort to joke and tease Shawna Barnett and keep a smile on her face when she was down. It wasn't just Shawna he kept smiling, he made us all smile.

WILLY IMBODEN, DE LAY STAFFER

When I reflect on John Gibson, I remember a man of quiet dignity, integrity, and resolve. He possessed a calming presence about him, his steady bearing lending a tranquil air to the constant chaos of Capitol Hill. In many ways, his 18 years of patient service to Congress and to the American people culminated finally in the greatest and noblest

sacrifice, the laying down of his life for others. I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's words in the Epistle to the Philippians: 'Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus . . . ' John Gibson's life and final sacrifice personified this ethic, and we are all humbly and eternally indebted to him."

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
CARL S. SMITH OF HOUSTON,
TEXAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a legend in both Houston and Texas politics, my constituent, the Honorable Carl S. Smith, who died Tuesday afternoon, at the age of 89.

Carl S. Smith dedicated his life to public service. He was first appointed as Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector in 1947. He was elected in 1948 and re-elected an unprecedented 12 times, serving a total of 51 years. In fact, Carl was so dedicated to public service that he never considered his job "work." That's not just an assertion—Carl never retired. Throughout all these years, Carl helped Harris County residents meet their common obligations to one another and to their government by making it more convenient for citizens to pay taxes and register to vote. He was also responsible for car registration, alcohol license fees, and a host of state levies.

Carl lived a long and good life. He was born just as the combustible engine was first being applied in cars. He ended his life riding the crest of the information age. Not only can Carl's life chart the course of American history, his acts of courage foreshadow great changes in American history. For example, in 1952, Carl was the first county official to promote an African-American employee to an important government position, a deputy clerkship. This was a small but significant act in the early days of the Civil Rights movement. Additionally, Carl was an advocate for the elderly. He wrote the statewide property tax exemption for senior citizens that was later adopted as a constitutional amendment. Finally, Carl was able to adapt to the times. In the past few years, Carl received accolades for automating and computerizing his office's operations.

Carl's dedication to public service is an example to all Americans of what government is capable of accomplishing. Carl was first elected to office just two years after our victory in World War II, when it was thought that we could accomplish anything. He held on to that belief even in this cynical era where government is among the least trusted of public and private institutions. He is a model to all Americans involved in public service and especially elderly Americans. A few years ago, Carl joked that while his body had aged, his doctor said he had the "mind of a 20-year-old."

While he was tax assessor at the time of my birth and I remember learning his name at an early age, I first came to know Carl when I be-

came the Chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party in 1990. Ever since then, whenever I was in the Harris County Administration Building, I would stop to say hello. Whether I was there on business or to register a car, Carl would always call me in to sit down and talk politics in his office, which consisted of maps, floor to ceiling boxes, and records. Just a few years ago, I was picking up new license plates, and Carl summoned me to another part of the office where he was helping staff and conducting a seminar. In his 51 years at the helm, it is fair to say that Carl S. Smith probably did every job there was to do in the Tax Assessor-Collectors' Office he ran.

Carl S. Smith was a good and great man. He was my constituent, but more importantly, he was my friend and one whose counsel I often sought. As much as Harris County loved and respected Carl, his family has suffered an even greater loss.

I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD at this point an article and obituary which appeared in the Houston Chronicle on July 29, 1998.

[From the Houston Chronicle, July 29, 1998]

CARL SMITH, TAX CHIEF FOR 51 YEARS, DIES

(By Bob Tutt)

Carl S. Smith, who served 51 years as Harris County's tax assessor and collector and was the senior elected official here, died Tuesday afternoon. He was 89.

His death came at St. Luke's Hospital where he had been confined just over two weeks for treatment of heart problems and other complications.

The Harris County Commissioners Court appointed him to the tax assessor's office in 1947 upon the death of the incumbent, Jim Glass. The next year Smith won election to the post, then was re-elected 12 times. If he had completed the last two years of his term, he would have been 91.

County Judge Robert Eckels announced Smith's death during Tuesday's session of Commissioners Court, prompting gasps from the audience.

"The county has lost someone who's been an institution here," Eckels said. "He was a great leader . . . and someone who cared a great deal for the people of this country."

Eckels then led the court in a moment of silence in Smith's memory.

Commissioner Jim Fonteno, a 24-year veteran of the court, said Smith made him look like the new kid on the block.

"He's been a good one," Fonteno said. "He's been dedicated. He'd get with you too. If you said something he didn't like, he'd take you to task on it."

District Clerk Charles Bacarisse joined other department heads in praising Smith, calling him an "icon" of county government.

"He clearly was a man of honor and integrity and ran his office in an honorable fashion," Bacarisse said.

Jack Loftis, Chronicle executive vice president and editor, reflected, "To say that Carl Smith was the consummate public official would not be giving him proper credit for the 51 years of honest and gracious service he provided to the citizens of Harris County. He was an extraordinary man in every way."

Eckels added, "I remember that he would be down here many times at midnight helping people to file their taxes by the deadline so they wouldn't have to pay a penalty."

The court appointed Loretta Wimp, Smith's chief clerk, as temporary tax assessor-collector. Later it will appoint an acting assessor-collector to serve until a replacement is elected in November.

Under state law a successor to fill out Smith's term will be selected in an election

held as part of the Nov. 3 general election. Had Smith died after Aug. 30, Commissioners Court would have named his successor.

Smith had considered retiring in 1996. He said he decided against it because his doctor had pronounced him very fit and he wanted to oversee installation of a new computer system to process motor vehicle titles and licenses. David Minberg, the Democratic County Chairman, also had urged him to run again.

At the time, Smith joined, "My doctor said I have the mind of a 20-year-old, but that's stretching a bit."

He noted at the time that his years of service in the county's employ would make him eligible for a pension greater than his \$93,000 salary.

In winning re-election in 1996 Smith captured almost 60 percent of the vote. He and state District Judge Katie Kennedy turned out to be the only Democrats to win county-wide elections that year.

Reflecting on his tenure in office, Smith said he took special pride in establishing tax office substations around the county to dispense automobile and voter registrations and provide other services.

That, he pointed out, enabled citizens to avoid long lines at county offices downtown.

Smith also said he was proud of efforts he and the late state Sen. Criss Cole made in support of state legislation allowing homestead exemptions to reduce property taxes for senior citizens.

Smith boasted that in keeping with changing times he had computerized and upgraded his office's operations.

His responsibilities also included directing registration of voters and maintaining voter registration rolls.

A native of Lindale in Smith County in northeast Texas, Smith spent most of his life in Houston. A graduate of Reagan High School, he got a law degree from the Houston Law School in 1934, in addition to taking courses at the University of Houston.

Smith had served as president of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas as well as the International Association of Assessing Officers.

His wife of 59 years, Dorothy, died in 1991. They were parents of two daughters, Nancy Stewart and Pam Robinson, both of Houston.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the Geo. H. Lewis & Sons Funeral Home, 1010 Bering Dr. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer.

CARL S. SMITH

HARRIS COUNTY WILL MISS ITS LONG-TIME
PUBLIC SERVANT

The secret of Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Carl Smith's five decades in office has to be that he changed with the times yet managed to remain an old-fashion public servant. His reputation is that of an effective manager and an admirable man.

In his last terms in office, Smith became used to hearing about himself as "an institution" and "the dean" of Harris County government. He made no bones about his advancing years, sometimes joking that he could tune out nonsense by turning down the volume on his hearing aids. Smith was appointed to head the tax office after the death of the incumbent, Jim Glass, in 1947, and was fond of noting that he was elected in 1948, the same year Harry Truman was elected president.

"Youth and inexperience are no match for age and determination," Smith would say, crediting the comment to former President George Bush.

Well liked and respected at Commissioners Court, Smith was revered by many of his employees, from whom he insisted on unwavering courtesy to the public. A number of Smith's employees have been with him for decades. It was frequently said that when Smith finally left office, the average age of tax office employees likely would decline significantly.

Smith, a native of Lindale, Texas, took a law degree from Houston Law School before a great many of his Harris County constituency were born. Talk around the county was that Smith, one of the Harris County's last remaining Democrats elected countywide and serving his 12th term, was clinging to the office to keep it out of Republican hands. But there is no denying he managed an efficient shop.

Through the years, Smith fought off usurpers to his domain of tax collection and tax bill distribution, voter registration, motor vehicle registration, alcohol license fees and other state levies. Smith fended off a proposal by powerful former Mayor Bob Lanier to give a portion of his office's tax collection function to a law firm. And in his most recent re-election, Smith put down a challenger's campaign to shutter the tax office, pass voter registration duties to the county clerk and privatize tax collection.

Smith, in 1952, was the first county official to promote a black employee to an important government position, a deputy clerkship. And he wrote the statewide property tax exemption for citizens over 65 that was later adopted as a constitutional amendment.

Smith's wife of 59 years, Dorothy DeArman Smith, died in 1991. They were parents of two daughters, Nancy Stewart and Pam Robinson, both of Houston.

His mind clear, his wit sharp and his sense of humor intact, Smith's heart failed him in the end. He died at 89 at St. Luke's Hospital, where he was being treated for heart problems. Carl Smith will be long missed and remembered always.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STAND
DOWN AUTHORIZATION ACT OF
1998

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1998. This important legislation will build up and expand the VA's role in providing outreach assistance to homeless veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), more than 275,000 veterans are without homes every night and twice as many may be homeless during the course of the year. Based on this statistic, one out of every three individuals who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served our country. Unfortunately, these numbers are only expected to increase as the military downsizes.

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefield to a place of safety. This procedure was known as "Stand Down." Today, Stand Downs which help veterans are held across our nation. Stand Downs are grassroots, community-based intervention programs designed to help the estimated 275,000 veterans without homes in our country. To-

day's battlefield is too often life on the streets for our nation's veterans.

The Stand Down Authorization Act of 1998 will direct the VA to create a pilot program that would establish Stand Down programs in every state. Currently, only 100 Stand Down events take place in a handful of states annually. In addition, my legislation would also authorize the VA to distribute excess supplies and equipment to Stand Downs across the nation.

The first such special Stand Down, held in 1988, was the creation of several Vietnam veterans. The goal of the event was to provide one to three days of hope designed to serve and empower homeless veterans. Since, the, Stand Downs have provided a means for thousands of homeless or near-homeless veterans to obtain a broad range of necessities and services including food, clothing, medical care, legal assistance, mental health assessment, job counseling and housing referrals. Most importantly, Stand Downs provide a gathering that offers companionship, camaraderie and mutual support.

Thousands of volunteers and organizations over the past decade have done an outstanding job donating their time, expertise an energy to address the unique needs of homeless or near-homeless veterans and their families. Currently, the VA coordinates with local veteran service organizations, the National Guard and Reserve Units, homeless shelter programs, health care providers and other members of the community in organizing the Stand Down events annually. However, much more action is needed to address the persistent and growing number of homeless veterans who have fought honorably to preserve our freedom and now face personal crisis in their lives.

Veterans in past service unconditionally stood up for America. Now we must speak up and stand up for veterans today. I urge all members to join with me in providing outreach assistance to veterans without homes by co-sponsoring the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1998.

CLEVELAND HOPKINS
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very important issue in my district, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

Just yesterday, the United States House of Representatives passed the Transportation Appropriations bill, an important piece of legislation for this country. The Honorable Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Committee, Mr. WOLF, has crafted a bipartisan piece of legislation that will serve this country's transportation needs for the coming fiscal year.

Accompanying this bill is the House Committee Report (105-648). I would like to clarify something in the RECORD that is contained in this report as it relates to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

Cleveland Hopkins is vitally important to Northeast Ohio. It not only connects Northeast Ohio with the rest of the world, it provides jobs

and economic opportunity for the people who live there. Cleveland Hopkins is also within the city limits, and is surrounded by residential communities that are being asked to adjust to the growing demands being placed on the airport.

Because the airport is very close to reaching overcapacity, the city of Cleveland has embarked upon a plan to expand the capacity of the airport and to improve it so that it may meet the needs of the 21st century. Improving the airport and expanding its capacity in the least intrusive manner to surrounding communities is something that I wholeheartedly support.

However, there is language in the Transportation Appropriations Committee Report that needs to be clarified. The language states on page 78, "The Committee urges the FAA administrator to give priority consideration to a request for discretionary funding for site and engineering studies for the proposed runway expansion at the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

The case to expand a specific runway has not yet been made, and singling out this one aspect of the proposed expansion could be misleading. Expanding the capacity of the airport to handle increased air traffic would not necessarily be advanced by merely lengthening one runway.

It is my understanding that it was not the intention of the Committee to determine particular airport improvements. The Committee wishes to urge the FAA to give priority to necessary studies of airport improvements at Cleveland Hopkins. Such studies might include a wide range of possible projects. All legitimate proposals for expanding the airport deserve equal consideration, as well as scrutiny by the FAA, air traffic controllers, local officials from the affected communities, residents, and my Congressional office.

To this end, I intend to work with the House-Senate Transportation Appropriation Conference Committee to clarify that the House Committee did not mean to specify a runway expansion, but to instruct the FAA to make Cleveland Hopkins airport improvements generally a priority for engineering and site studies.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to clarify the Committee's intention for the RECORD.

HONORING ADMIRAL ROBERT E.
KRAHEK

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Admiral Robert E. Kramek, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, for his devoted service to the U.S. Coast Guard and his commitment to our country.

Admiral Kramek began his long road to become the 20th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard when he graduated with honors from the USCG Academy with a B.S. in Engineering in 1961. He attended post

graduate schools at the University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Alaska. He has received Master of Science Degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Engineering Management. He also attended the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI and graduated with Highest Distinction. Admiral Kramek was selected for Flag rank in 1986. After selection for Flag rank, he completed the "Capstone" Program at the National Defense University Institute of Higher Defense Studies.

ADM Kramek had many assignments before relieving ADM J. William Kime as Commandant on June 1, 1994. He was Chief of Staff of the U.S. Coast Guard and commanded two Coast Guard Districts: the 13th District in the Pacific Northwest and the 7th District in the Southeast U.S. and Caribbean. He commanded the Coast Guard Base at Governors Island, New York. He led the interdiction and rescue of 37,000 Haitians when he commanded the High Endurance Cutter *Midgett* and the Haitian Migration Task Force. During this same time period, he was also on the Drug Czar's Coordinator for the War on Drugs in the Southeast U.S. and Caribbean. He served as Regional Emergency Transportation Coordinator (RETCO) for the Secretary of Transportation in the Pacific Northwest. He also commanded Maritime Defense Zone sectors Pacific Northwest and Sector 7 Southeast U.S., which are Navy Coastal Defense Commands.

During his four years as Commandant, ADM Kramek has been responsible for many achievements within the U.S. Coast Guard. He launched four new classes of cutters: The *Keeper-* and *Juniper-*class buoytenders, the 87 foot Patrol Boat, and the Polar Icebreaker. He led the Coast Guard in an international effort to target chokepoints in the illegal drug trade, while overseeing record-setting cocaine seizures in Operations Frontier Shield, Gulf Shield, and Frontier Lance. He oversaw the integration of Reserve forces with the active-duty Coast Guard and advanced the Coast Guard's reputation as the world's premier maritime service. He created a fully integrated leadership development program that led to the Leadership Development Center of Excellence. He negotiated a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federal Border Service that led to joint U.S.-Russian operations in the Bering Sea. He also set a government-wide example in National Performance Review improvements and signed a memorandum of agreement with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation defining the Coast Guard's unique defense role in the post-Cold War era.

In addition to his accomplishments, ADM Kramek has received many awards. These awards include two CG Distinguished Service Medals, two Legion of Merit awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, four CG Commendation Medals, the CG Achievement Medal, CG Unit Commendations, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Special Operations Ribbon with silver star, the Humanitarian Service Medal with bronze star, and the Sea Service Ribbon with bronze star.

Admiral Kramek has left his own personal influence on the Coast Guard, which has helped make the United States Coast Guard such a valuable part of this country. Let us not forget the man we honor today, who lives his life to serve the United States of America.

Congratulations to Admiral Robert E. Kramek on his extraordinary life and career, and may God continue to bless him, his wife Patricia, and his four children, Tracy, Joseph, Suzanne, and Nancy.

“VIETNAM: THE LAND WE NEVER KNEW”—GEOFFREY CLIFFORD'S PHOTO EXHIBIT ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT WAR

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to call to the attention of my colleagues the work of an exceptional Bay Area photographer, Mr. Geoffrey Clifford. In an exhibit of his photographs—“Vietnam: The Land We Never Knew”—he shares with us his images of the people of Vietnam. I believe that it would be helpful for all of us to view Mr. Clifford's beautiful pictures, to obtain a greater understanding of the innate beauty of Vietnam, its ancient culture and its strong people. Those photographs are on display this week in the Cannon Rotunda here on Capitol Hill, and I urge my colleagues to stop for a moment to enjoy this outstanding exhibit.

Geoffrey Clifford first arrived in Vietnam not as a photographer, but as a soldier. He served his country as a helicopter pilot for 10½ months during the early 1970's, flying combat assaults and supply missions from bases in Chu Lai and Da Nang. He experienced Vietnam during its greatest turmoil, when its citizens were divided and its communities and landscapes ravaged by war.

Upon his return to the United States in 1972, Mr. Clifford built a career and started a family. But he never forgot Vietnam, and his inescapable memories led to his return many years later. As he wrote in the introduction of his stirring book “The Land We Never Knew” (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1989):

I was never able to wander along Vietnam's back roads, experiencing life as it might be in that country; never able to see, feel, smell, touch or taste what I wanted; and most frustratingly, never able to make friends with the Vietnamese, to share common feelings in conversation with innocent people. . . . Vietnam was a trauma that had been lingering inside me for more than a decade. Photography allowed me to return and assemble a body of work that might benefit our progress. My sincerest wish is that this book, this “work in progress,” will aid others with their perceptions of Vietnam and help guide us away from future tragedies.

“The Land We Never Knew” has achieved tremendous critical success, as Clifford's pictures are skillfully laid out and beautifully complemented by the poetic and thoughtful text of John Balaban, a professor of English at Pennsylvania State University. The brilliance of this book reflects years of diligent effort by these men; of the 10,000 photographs taken by Clifford over a period of several years, only the finest 200 made it into the book. Wrote the Los Angeles Times: “His handsome pictures celebrate the beauties of the land and the resilience of its people.” Since “The Land We Never Knew” was published, Clifford's work has appeared in Life, Travel and Leisure, Fortune, and the New York Times Magazine.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the House will debate the future of our relationship with Vietnam. Trade, security, and POW/MIA issues may be discussed. Regardless of one's position on these important matters, I believe that it would be of great benefit to each and every one of my colleagues to view this exhibit, as the true beauty of Clifford's pictures rests in its apolitical content.

In contrast to most of the Vietnam images that we have seen over the past half-century—war, destruction, bloodshed, assassination—the theme of “The Land We Never Knew” is one of resilience. Despite decades of destruction to the culture and communities of Vietnam, we see in Clifford's photographs a people that refuse to allow a legacy of three millenniums collapse in a heap of napalm, bombing, and death. We witness in this beautiful book landscapes that reflect this irrepressibility—beautiful forests, river villages, and lotus ponds that display a pristine radiance seemingly unaffected by years of military strikes and counterstrikes. “The Land We Never Knew” is about the Vietnamese nation, not the Vietnamese government. It is about the people of Vietnam, not the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in praising Geoffrey Clifford, who so ably uses his wondrous talents to communicate a greater understanding and appreciation for Vietnam. I strongly urge my fellow Members to admire his exhibit this week in the Cannon Rotunda.

TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jefferson Elementary School. Jefferson Elementary has been credited as a California Distinguished School. The faculty and students of Jefferson Elementary exemplify excellence with exceptional student achievement.

Reflecting their school's motto, “High Above the Rest”, Jefferson students demonstrate the highest tradition of individual academic success, school pride and ownership of their educational facility. Jefferson Elementary's mission is to enable each student to have equal access to the core curriculum regardless of his/her academic and language proficiency. Jefferson's school-wide goals are linked to their District's Mission. Jefferson has developed strong partnerships with the School Site Council (SSC) and the Bilingual Advisory Committee (BAC). Their “Student Compact” actively involves students, parents and teachers in focusing on the importance of student achievement and accountability, both academic and social.

Jefferson School is a well-established K–6 campus located on the southeast side of Dinuba (population 13,950) in rural Tulare County. Jefferson School serves approximately 700 students and their families. They are one of five schools (K–6) in the Dinuba Elementary School District. Dinuba Elementary School District has been experiencing steady growth in the student population over a number of years. Today it serves nearly 3,000 students.

Jefferson School's state-of-the-art technology gives students an added dimension to their educational program. Each teacher has a personal classroom computer that is networked to a school-wide web. E-mail and Internet will soon enhance teacher communication and professional discourse. To prepare students for a successful transition to middle school, their sixth grade students are introduced to a morning core block rotation, stressing reading/language and math. Jefferson Elementary, in recognition of the importance of solid study skills, provides all intermediate students with a Student Agenda, organizational tools and a vital home/school connection.

Student success in the result of a collaborative effort of all members of the Jefferson learning community. Their growth and achievement is showcased by their mathematics program, effective reading strategies, instruction of second language learners, judicious use of well-trained instructional assistants, Extended Day programs, use of technology and their P.E. and sports program.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Dinuba Elementary School District Jefferson Elementary School. The students and faculty in this school exemplify a care for the community and a dedication to hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Jefferson elementary many more years of success.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4059,
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Military Construction Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 1999 (H.R. 4059).

I am particularly pleased the House and Senate authorizing and appropriating committees have listened closely to the case I have been making for many years on behalf of funding the P-208 Lakehurst Aircraft Platform Interface (API) laboratory, and they are now responding.

I also want to extend my thanks to the support extended to the API lab by the Chairman of the Military Appropriations Subcommittee, RON PACKARD, and on the Senate side, by my New Jersey colleague, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG. It is very encouraging to see that the report language contained in the House and Senate versions of H.R. 4059 have survived and are included in the final product tonight. As a result, H.R. 4059 includes directive report language that earmarks \$1.65 million in planning and design funds to be used to begin designing the P-208 Lakehurst API lab project.

At my urging, the House reaffirmed its support for the P-208 project in the report accompanying H.R. 3616, the Fiscal Year 1999 Defense Authorization Act, and now Congress is specifically appropriating the funds to adequately finance the planning and design of the P-208 API lab.

I also want to commend the Navy for moving forward with this vital project in an expedi-

tious manner. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), in response to one of my inquiries, has informed me that on May 22, 1998, the Navy issued the necessary authorization to begin the planning and design of those military construction projects listed for fiscal year 2000, which includes the Lakehurst API lab. The only questions remaining now are how many square feet the facility will have and what it will look like.

Mr. Speaker, today is a very good day for America, for naval aviation, and for the people of the 4th Congressional District. It has been a long, grueling fight to successfully get the Lakehurst API consolidation project to this point, and the battle is by no means over. However, in the end, our Navy pilots and carrier crew will be able to operate more safely, more efficiently, and more effectively because of the improvements that will be brought about by the P-208 API lab project.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER JACOB
CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT
JOHN GIBSON

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memories of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson. The untimely and tragic deaths of these two men demand from all of us contemplation as to the awesome costs of freedom as well as the delicate nature of life.

The freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy today are a direct result of a brave decision made long ago by the first Americans, a decision reaffirmed by every generation of the nation's citizenry. This was the decision made by Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson this past Friday. The measure of America's greatness, a greatness in which Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson share, is this brave commitment to a free society.

The burden of this commitment is an unflinching vigilance against those who threaten our freedoms. Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson devoted their lives to providing the very security that allows our free society to flourish. It was in providing this security that these two men lost their lives, a sacrifice which demands the reverence of a grateful nation.

My fellow colleagues, let us learn from the sacrifices of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. The legacy of these two patriots offers important lessons to us all.

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE
CHATTANOOGA ALL-STAR TRAM-
POLINE AND TUMBLING TEAM

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Courtney Bailey, Allison Bovell, Alice Ann Caldwell, Lindsay Davis, Sarah Harris,

Lori Hughes, Samantha Robinson, Nat Davis, Caleb Hicks and Ashley Nickols for their competitive performances at the USA Trampoline and Tumbling National Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota on July 1-8, 1998. During these competitions, these fine young athletes earned eight first place national championships and made Tennesseans proud.

Even more outstanding that recognition, medals or fame is how these students have overcome the obstacles of our society and let their determination and perseverance win the ultimate goal. With all the negative publicity brought on our youth today, it is good to know that children like these are our true future of tomorrow. Their persistence has brought honor, pride and dignity not only to the state of Tennessee, but to the nation as a whole. With these achievements, these remarkable young athletes serve as role models for members of the younger community. I would also like to congratulate the coaches, teachers, parents and/or guardians who have provided these "champions" with spiritual and mental guidance. Without this influence, these extraordinary young men and women might not have learned how to excel in all realms of life.

I want to conclude with a special "thank-you" to Courtney, Allison, Alice Ann, Lindsay, Sarah, Lori, Samantha, Nat, Caleb and Ashley for their achievements. And I encourage them to continue to strive for their goals and to be a positive influence on those around them.

FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO ITZHAK
OREN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in bidding farewell to Itzhak Oren, who for the past four years has been the Minister for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy of Israel here in Washington, D.C. During this time, he has been a major influence in maintaining and fostering the strong and friendly relationship between the United States and the State of Israel. For Members of Congress and for congressional staff, Itzhak has been a ready source of information and assistance.

Mr. Oren will shortly take up his new position as the Ambassador of Israel to Nigeria and Benin.

Mr. Oren has served in the Israeli Foreign Ministry for 17 years. Prior to assuming his position in Washington, he was head of the Foreign Ministry's Coordination Department and served as political advisor to Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Yitzhak Shamir. In 1991 and 1992, he was a participant in the multilateral peace talks in Moscow, Tokyo and the Hague. He has served a number of years in the United States as Consul of Israel in Boston, and prior to that he was posted in New York City.

Prior to joining the Foreign Ministry, Itzhak served as an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces and as an intelligence analyst. He holds a B.A. degree from Bar Ilan University and an M.A. from the City University of New York.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
FRESNO BEE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno Bee on receiving the first-place award for general excellence from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. This is the second straight year the newspaper has won the organization's highest honor and the Fresno Bee is very deserving of this award.

The Fresno Bee has a daily circulation of 158,851 and a Sunday circulation of 191,963. It was judged against other daily newspapers with circulations of 75,001 to 200,000 copies. Clearly, this award displays the outstanding efforts of not only the Fresno Bee journalists, but of an entire newspaper staff who are committed to giving Fresno and the Central Valley a comprehensive, first-class newspaper. Naturally, the Fresno Bee exhibits strong local coverage, outstanding local photography and good local enterprise stories.

In addition to the general excellence award, the Fresno Bee received first-place awards for editorial comment, illustration/information graphics and design.

Associate Editor Russell Minick was honored for an editorial on a white supremacist groups' spreading of propaganda on the California State University Fresno campus. Mr. Minick took second place in the same category one year ago.

Bee artists John Alvin, Bob Campbell, Andrea Cooper and Severiano Galvan were given the graphics award for a two-page layout on the once-dominating Central Valley wetlands. Mr. Galvan earned the first-place award in the same category one year ago.

Bee photographer John Walker took second place for his photos featured in his portrait of Little Rascals star Tommy "Butch" Bond.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate the Fresno Bee on receiving the first-place award for general excellence from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. The Fresno Bee has provided 75 years of outstanding service to the Central Valley, using its excellent staff to create what truly is a first-class production. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Bee and its staff many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was unable to be present for roll call votes 279 through 308. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on roll call votes 279, 281, 286, 287, 288, 290, 294, 295, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 303, 305 and nay on roll call votes 280, 282, 283, 284, 285, 298, 291, 292, 293, 296, 302, 304, 306, 307, and 308.

HONORING GRAND MASTER SEOUNG EUI SHIN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NASHVILLE COMMUNITY AND THE SUCCESS OF THE SOUTHERN U.S.A. TAE KWON DO CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Grand Master Seoung Eui Shin and the 23rd Southern U.S.A. Open Tae Kwon Do Championships, of which he is director. Master Shin has served the Nashville community faithfully for more than twenty years, donating his time and talents to make a difference in the lives of countless children and young adults.

Master Shin was born in North Korea and grew up in South Korea during the turbulent times following World War II. By the age of 13, he had earned his black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He began to teach the art in high school and, later, in the Korean Army. He came to the United States and Nashville in 1974, and has been an invaluable member of the community ever since.

Now a ninth degree black belt, Master Shin is recognized around the world for his Tae Kwon Do abilities and his contributions to the martial art. He has become a leader in Nashville's Korean community and operates Shin's Martial Arts Institute in Bellevue. He gives freely of his time to programs at local elementary schools and community centers. Through his instruction, Master Shin has influenced the lives of many of his students. His students learn the value of control and self-discipline while gaining new respect for themselves and others. Several of Master Shin's students have gone on to teach Tae Kwon Do themselves, passing on what they have learned.

Seoung Eui Shin, by giving selflessly of his time to the youth of Nashville, has quietly made our world a better place and his become a role-model for us all. I thank you Master Shin for your contributions to our community and congratulate you and all the participants in the 23rd Southern U.S.A. Tae Kwon Do Championships.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Chairman, it is with deep regret that I rise today in opposition to

the VA-HUD Appropriations measure for fiscal year 1999. I believe it provides inadequate funding for veterans' health care, and I cannot support a bill that shortchanges America's veterans in such an unjust manner.

As a veteran, I am acutely aware of and deeply grateful for the sacrifices that America's veterans have made in service to their country. As a legislator, I am committed to ensuring that the needs of these citizens are accorded the highest priority. I have great respect for Chairman LEWIS and Representative STOKES and am convinced of their concern for the welfare of our veterans. I also recognize the budget constraints which have forced them to make many difficult decisions. However, I believe that we can do better, and I am voting against this measure with the hope that veterans' health care and other programs will be granted the funding they deserve once it is made clear that this House will not tolerate such treatment of veterans' programs.

The funding levels provided in this measure are simply not sufficient to ensure the high quality health care our veterans deserve. The tragic result of such a shortfall will surely be the elimination or reduction of many VA specialized care programs and the inability of the VA to guarantee adequate care to the veterans who depend on its services. I trust that my fellow Members will agree that this is not the way we should demonstrate our appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this measure in an effort to make it clear to the American people and to the leadership of this body that we assign the utmost importance to funding programs that will meet the needs of America's veterans, and that this bill is a woefully inadequate expression of that priority.

COMMEND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE EFFORTS TO REVIVE FAST TRACK

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would take a moment to commend the members of the Senate Finance Committee for their efforts last Tuesday to give "fast-track" authority to the President by attaching fast-track legislation to S. 778, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. This action by the Senate was also applauded on the editorial page in the July 24, 1998, edition of The Omaha World-Herald, as necessary to protecting the economic health of our nation by giving the President the flexibility and authority to negotiate international trade agreements expeditiously.

Unfortunately, the Clinton administration, which initially stated fast track was one of their top legislative priorities, labeled this initiative by the Senate Finance Committee as "political mischief." Why is it that the Nebraska press can readily identify legislation designed to safeguard the interests of U.S. workers and consumers when all the administration can do is play politics?

[From the Omaha World-Herald, July 24, 1998]

CLINTON'S SWITCH ON FAST-TRACK A
PUZZLING POLITICAL MANEUVER

The Senate Finance Committee has resurrected a plan that was considered dead: giving President Clinton "fast-track" authority to negotiate international trade deals. But now the administration seems to be balking.

Fast-track authority enables presidents to negotiate international trade agreements without interference from Congress. When a deal is made, Congress can say "yes" or "no," but cannot rewrite it. Presidents have had the authority, granted by Congress, since 1974. But in 1994, the authorizing legislation lapsed.

Efforts to revive it earlier this year were supported by President Clinton, many congressional Republicans and business groups. But opposition was strong from protectionist labor groups and environmental organizations worried about pollution abroad. Those groups with the cooperation of Democrats, helped kill the proposal.

Maverick Republicans also had a hand on the ax. They attempted to hold fast-track hostage until Clinton agreed to reduce family-planning aid to Third World countries.

The Finance Committee voted 18 to 2 Tuesday to attach fast-track to a bill, already passed by the House, that would expand trade with Africa. President Clinton should be delighted.

But no. Press Secretary Mike McCurry asserted that the committee vote was "political mischief" rather than a commitment to free trade. Senate Democrats, too, were unhappy with the revival of the potentially divisive issue before an election.

Fast-track eases the way for U.S. negotiators to join in drafting international agreements. Without it, possible trading partners aren't motivated to make their best deal because they know Congress can always revise any agreement that is reached.

International trade has become increasingly important to the U.S. economy. That is especially true in the Midlands, where agricultural exports are growing fast. In Nebraska, for instance, exports have increased fivefold in the last five years.

Surely something that was so important just a few months ago remains important, even though an election is approaching. The president still needs the flexibility and authority granted by fast track to deal with trade agreements expeditiously.

When President Clinton declared that fast-track authority was one of his top legislative priorities, he was speaking out of a concern for U.S. trade relations. Senators and members of the House who pushed the issue had the same worthy motive.

Political maneuvering had to place in the conversation then. It still does not.

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONDEMN PERSECUTION OF CHINESE IN INDONESIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I call to the attention of my colleagues in the House a resolution condemning the persecution of Chinese in Indonesia which was recently adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the city of San Francisco. I want to mention in particular two outstanding Supervisors—Mabel Teng and Leiland Yee—who took the initiative in calling for

a resolution to condemn the at-times brutal treatment of ethnic Chinese living in Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, the recent popular unrest in Indonesia led to gross abuse of the human rights of the Chinese population there. At my direction the Congressional Human Rights Caucus holds a briefing for Members of Congress and congressional staff today to understand the dimensions of this tragic assault against ethnic Chinese in Indonesia. The U.S. Government must make clear to the government in Jakarta that such abuses are totally unacceptable, and we must be certain that the Indonesian Government works to prevent the recurrence of such actions.

At a hearing of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights which was held last Thursday (July 23) and which focused on human rights in Indonesia, I raised the issue of Chinese human rights violations in Indonesia with our Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, John Shattuck. I want to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, what I said on that occasion. I earnestly hope that the cataclysmic changes which are sweeping over Indonesia today and which will have enormously negative ramifications for tens of millions of Indonesians in an economic sense, will herald the opening up of the process of democratization and respect for human rights—and particularly, respect for the rights of the Chinese population living in Indonesia.

One of the sad aspects of our Nation's own human rights record has been our failure to press for equal rights for the Chinese population of Indonesia, which has been pivotal in the economic development of that country. In the hearing last week with Assistant Secretary Shattuck, Mr. Speaker, I asked and received assurance that the Department of State will press the government of Indonesia for a full investigation of the brutal and violent acts taken against the ethnic Chinese community there and that we will actively and aggressively urge full observance of the human rights of Chinese in Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution recently adopted by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is an important statement on this important issue, and I commend Supervisor Teng and Supervisor Yee for their initiative. I submit the full text of this resolution to be placed in the RECORD.

CONDEMNING THE PERSECUTION OF CHINESE IN
INDONESIA

Condemning the persecution, racial violence and sexual brutality against ethnic Chinese in Indonesia and urging our congressional representatives to call for a full investigation into these atrocious acts of violence and pressure the Indonesian government for a full investigation to seek accountability and justice.

Whereas, recently 1,200 people died in Indonesia as a result of targeted and vicious attacks and riots; and

Whereas, ethnic Chinese in Indonesia were targeted for racial violence, looting and sexual brutality; and

Whereas, various human rights groups report that at least 70 Chinese women were systematically raped, and 20 of those women died due to complications from their injuries; and

Whereas, rape victims included young girls; and

Whereas, Indonesian Chinese have been subjected to organized persecution that included looting, burning of churches and homes and mass raping in public; and

Whereas, human rights groups, including the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute, have accused the Indonesian government represented by security forces of failing to control the violence, and encouraging the brutality; and

Whereas, the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute and other human rights groups have filed a class action lawsuit against the Indonesian government for these attacks; and

Whereas, much of the media worldwide covered the student demonstrations in Jakarta, however, the specific reports of the widespread violence and attacks against the ethnic Chinese have been largely ignored; and

Whereas, the United States must condemn and denounce these horrific atrocities of violence and express the moral outrage of the American people; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors in the City and County of San Francisco condemns the persecution, racial violence and sexual brutality against ethnic Chinese in Indonesia; and be it

Further Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors in the City and County of San Francisco urges that our Congressional Representatives call for a full investigation into these atrocious acts of violence and pressure the Indonesian government for a full investigation to seek accountability and justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my Congressional District, it is with deep regret that I was unable to vote in support of roll call vote 340, a resolution honoring the slain capitol police officers, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson. My sincerest condolences go out to their families and loved ones.

IN MEMORY OF ALAN J. GIBBS,
LIFELONG PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Alan J. Gibbs, died Saturday, July 25, at the age of 60. Most recently, Alan served as the Director of the National Transit Institute (NTI) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

He was dedicated to public service, having worked for over 35 years at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

I join with his family, as well as my colleagues at Rutgers and throughout the State of New Jersey in remembering him, and honoring his accomplishments and great leadership. I know Rutgers is particularly proud of Alan's accomplishments at the National Transit Institute. Established at the Rutgers-New Brunswick campus in New Jersey's Sixth District in 1992, the NTI was created by Congress to develop education and training programs for transportation professionals and transit agencies across the nation. The NTI has trained thousands of individuals from transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, state departments of transportation, and employees of

federal-aid transit systems to improve public transit in the United States.

Prior to heading the NTI, Alan served as the State Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, to which he was appointed by Governor Jim Florio in 1990. Under his leadership, the largest department in the State government underwent a major downsizing, reallocated resources to focus on non-institutional care for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill, developed a managed care program for Medicaid recipients, and implemented a welfare reform program.

Mr. Gibbs began his public service career in 1963 with the National Labor Relations Board. In 1968, Alan became the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) first Area Director for Alabama and Tennessee. He then

moved to Washington, DC to continue his work at the EEOC at the federal level. From 1970 to 1974, Alan served in the New York City Health Services Administration. In 1972, he was the first layperson to be appointed First Deputy Commissioner of Health.

Then, in 1974, Governor Brendan Byrne of New Jersey appointed Mr. Gibbs to serve as Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services. In that capacity, he was responsible for all management, planning, and budgetary activities in support of the State's corrections, mental health, mental retardation, public welfare, Medicaid, social services, and veteran programs. In 1981, as Secretary of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Mr. Gibbs was honored by the National Governor's Associa-

tion for reducing spending by \$200 million, without eliminating or negatively affecting high-priority services for dependent populations.

As President Carter's appointee to the Assistant Secretary of the Army, he was presented with the Distinguished Civilian Service Award for his contribution to our nation's defense in 1981.

Clearly, Alan Gibbs' accomplishments were extensive. The national recognition he received throughout his career for his exemplary management of the most vital public services at all levels of government certainly was well deserved. I join his family, and those at Rutgers and elsewhere, in honoring Alan for his talent and deep commitment to public service. I know he will be missed.