STATEMENT BY JOSH LEMIEUX, MARK BOYLE, AND JACQUELINE BAILEY REGARDING BURLINGTON'S OLD NORTH END
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, 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.

RACHEL SALTER: 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 our town. One thing that I think is important is that 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. Many adults, and 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.

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. We are just trying to tell you why we are asking for your help, and it is for 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 HALBACH: Yes. Basically we 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 all new fences around it and fix them and make them safe, and then build a new skateboard park. And we are just raising money to do that. We have the communities behind us. We are trying to tell you why we are asking for your help.

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 may not like to do and things that they think need to be done. We did a lot of community service and got help from a lot of community members in order to enhance what we want to do. And this is one of the things that I think 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 you have 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, to help our city out.

JESSICA WALTERS: Hello. My name is Jessica Walters. There is a need for our teen center in Burlington. 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 8:00 or 9:00. My friends normally hang out on the street until teen hours start or until they have to go home. Due to things mentioned by Ryan, North Sanderson, it 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. 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 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.

GARY BAILEY: I think the center would be a resource room run by adults, with a minilibrary, mentoring and tutoring facilities, a career college center, and information on social services so, a job card for a listener people to...
get jobs easily, and maybe once a week someone in there helping them out, some-
body like Becky Trudeau or something, where they won't have to go five different
places to try and find 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.

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

REMEMBERING THE FLOOD VIC-
TIMS 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, Estefana Guanerros, and Cindy Schulz died
as they attempted to escape the storm. Al-
though this event caused a multitude of pain
and sorrow, it also enabled members of our
community to reach out to one another and
individuals struggled with 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 per-
ished.

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 AF-
FAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPEND-
ENT 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
on the State of the Union had under
consideration H.R. 4194, making approp-
riations for the Departments of Veter-
ans Affairs and Housing and Urban
Development, and for sundry independent agencies,
boards, commissions, corporations, and of-
fices 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 Inter-
national Space Station in 1984, the original
price tag was $8 billion. A recent General Ac-
counting Office [GAO] report projects the sta-
tion's total operating costs at $95.6 billion.
Congress recently threw taxpayer dollars into
this money pit, and we have no tangible bene-
fits 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 sat-
elites 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 pro-
grams like space shuttle safety and space
education grants to pay for station cost over-
runs. This year, NASA has requested the au-
thority to shift an additional $375 million. As
the station experiences more cost overruns,
the space station budget will literally consume
the NASA budget by the end of the decade. As
Congress keeps throwing taxpayer dollars into
the space station budget, it leaves little
money to fund the other priorities in our
budget.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the
American people, with particular attention
to the needs of the elderly and the infirm, have
been hit particularly hard by the Baby Boom
age wave. Every year we pour billions upon billions of
dollars into NASA and the International Space
Station at the expense of schoolchildren, the
aging of the Baby Boom generation has been

What has not been widely discussed, how-
ever, is a related but very distinct trend: the
rapid expansion of the group of Americans de-
fined by the Bureau of the Census as "the oldest
old"—those senior citizens aged 85 and above.

As we reflect on the events of the past year,
pressing needs here on planet Earth. If we
remember the Baby Boom generation has been
designed to provide a refundable $500 tax credit
for families caring for a dependent elderly

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old"—those senior citizens aged 85 and above.

As we reflect on the events of the past year,
House of Representatives.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important initiative.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the two courageous men who gave their last full measure of devotion 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.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut who served with courage and devotion.

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. Capitol.

Mr. BERG of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the two officers whose acts of bravery and kindness have touched the hearts of all who saw what they did.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, Officers Jacob Chestnut and John M. Gibson are being hailed as heroes, but they were quiet heroes each and every day of their lives. They symbolize what all of us strive to achieve.

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 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, ever, take them for granted.

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the two officers whose acts of bravery and kindness have touched the hearts of all who saw what they did.

Mr. BERG of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Officers Jacob 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 Officer 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 who 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 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 Town 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 near 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 Country 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, stands today as a model of a modern America. 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 those 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 make 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 re-invention, 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 loss 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 1993. Now NASA has accepted the findings of the Cost Assessment and Validation Task Force, also known as the independent Chabrow committee, which concluded that 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 inability to pay its share of the partnership or the costs of upgrading the station’s defense system to protect it against meteors 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 happen. These so-called “smaller, better, faster, cheaper” space 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 missed NASA and the American people, and we should not tolerate this any longer. 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 manage 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 $75 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 we amended our 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.

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**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. In fact, 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 Commanding General. 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.

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**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 McNeeley'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. McNeeley was drafted into the United States Army in May of 1969. He served as an infantryman with the 16th Light Infantry Brigade, American Division, in I Corps, CCU Law, Vietnam. Serving courageously, McNeeley...
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 experiences 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 would 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 choice.

Second, the Patient Protection Act protects the individual’s access to the care 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 this 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. 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, nonmedical reviewer deny care to the patient 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 process 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 the 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 that we were working on did 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 cases in years 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 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. STERY 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 that has 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 whom are on the front lines and 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 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 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: William Evans, Tom Frankhown, David Owen; Baltimore County: Adam Bosely, Bob Bury, Alan Calangered, Matt Fox, Charles Janney, Dawn Kaszek, Robert Lepin, William McCabe, Richard Muth, Randy Perky, Ron Sheldon, Claude Milchert, John Lunden, Mike Cox, Joe Deltsacme, John Gott, Gary Harrison, Rob Helms, Jean Miller, Seth Randelma, Rob Schultbur, Walter Taylor, Donnell Wallace, Kevin Whittington; Caroline County: Richard Baker, Steven Chaai, Donald Hill, Wayne Winchester, Heath Wroten; Carroll County: Robert Schoenener; Cecil County: Kevin Bell, Jim Bennett, Shawn Buckanick, Robert Caafrey, Adam Dommeniek, Josh Adler, Mike Filona, John Graham, Mike Lipka Jr., Mike Lipka Sr., Ron Miller, Aaron Neely, Tom Scott, John Smith, Jeff Tatum; Charlotte 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 Piner, 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, Brandyn Thomas; Harford County: Chris Rach; Howard County: Jeff Hooasis, Tom Norman, Robert Freeman, David Moyninahan, George Pearman; Kent County: Randy Barr, Matt Burge, Chris Carter, Bobby Helmer, Jimmy Kirby, Antonio Leonardi; Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Kenneth Jolly; MDFA: Warren Camp- bell; 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 Fritz, Robert Golan, Mark Hopkins, Ken Knopp, Larry Lewle, Drew Lemmond, Bill Lipka, Bill Luczn, Moll Luczn, Gail Murlitre, Adama Washington, Lighthin, Peggy Miller, Joseph Mills, Rick Morrissey, Jim Roy, Barry Smith, Rick Tatour, Justin Thorew, Gina Young; Prince George’s County: Emie Alsup, 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 Shiekurst, Jack Spencer, Ed Torrence, Michael Warhurst, Shannon Welch; Frederick County: Bobboe Dixo, Sarah Holloman, Greg Johnston, Andy Robertson, David Steel; Somerset County: David Barnett, Brian Barnett, Grover Chatham, Chris Holland, Steve Mitchell, Scott Sturgis; St. Mary’s County: Kevin Bannagan, Gary Combs, Campbell, Michael Carbon, Ben Foster, Boots Gobson, 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 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 medal 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 direction, 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 its 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 choirs 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 Di- rectors Association of Illinois earlier this year, even more meaningful.

Masterworks Chorale is a member of the Arts and Education Council of Greater St.
Godspeed on your future endeavors.

HONORING THE NORTH CAROLINA
bless you Representative LOUIS S TOKES , and
for this Congress and for this nation. God
you, LOU. I thank you for all you done for me,
mate professional, a distinguished legislator,
together the sharpest minds and most accom-

Act, but his annual Spring and Fall Health
and Disadvantaged Health Care Improvement
the health care status of disadvantaged popu-
the Braintrust by focusing the attention of the
absolutely stellar leadership as Chairman of
Braintrust. Year after year, he has provided
has continued to be our champion on the
issue then, and since I came to the Congress
was our champion in the Congress on this
nation.

Mr. Speaker, in all of his endeavors, LOU
STOKES’ Congressional contributions were legendary to me long before I came to the
Congress. His successes toward developing
health programs for underserved and dis-
advantaged 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 pro-
grams 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 popu-
lations. Not only will he leave a legacy of leg-
islative 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 to-
gether the sharpest minds and most accom-
plished people to focus on pressing health
concerns.

Mr. Speaker, in all of his endeavors, LOU STOKES has shown himself to be the consum-
mate 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.

In 1994, North Carolina’s electric coopera-
tives 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 con-
gratulate them for their achievement.

Chuck Terrill, Executive Vice President and
CEO of the North Carolina Electric Member-
ship 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
Chairman” a little bit of honor to 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 benefitting more than
400,000 students and still counting.

In 1994, North Carolina’s electric coopera-
tives had a grant program for
school’s application regardless of its power
ties, made an early decision to consider any
population and operate in 93 out of the 100 coun-
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school’s application regardless of its power
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 MSAs. 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, so they may 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. MSA's are the best solution to this problem because the American tax system, which provides insurance benefits to their employees, while preserving the private practice of medicine.

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!

Some AGNY 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.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to explain why I cannot vote for the Patient Protection Act (H.R. 4250). However, I would 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, however, that 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.”
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 provided 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. Implying 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 controls 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 pre-empting their ability to regulate HMO’s and health care plans. Under the 10th amendment, states are responsible for setting 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 any federal law will require Congress to return to the issue of health care reform in a few years. I hope Congress gets it right next time.
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!

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY 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—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's name 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 Fair-time—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 northeastern 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: MAKING 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 are no longer dependent, they should be a model for other Northern Californians, cherished the friendship of Peggy who, with her husband Phillip, contributed greatly to our community.

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.

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 contributing to, and a testimony of the power of Americans who care.
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 young people leave foster care for life after 18. States can extend the program to older teens, which is common for those with disabilities.

But few states have established these programs, many are cursory—occasional weekend seminars on housekeeping and budgeting, for example. And Courtney’s study in Hamilton County, Ohio, where welfare offices have gone to great lengths to ease this passage.

The Los Angeles County, where about 8000 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 18, are living in apartments as a transition to independent living, he said.

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.

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But this family is dedicated to a daunting goal: sending a child, often one with emotional difficulties, out into the world.
“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 finally took 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 as he kids his 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 budgeted 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 an air conditioner he had found in the basement.

This 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 assaulted
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.

JULY 30, 1998

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE
$157 for females

19% of the females had given birth to children.

10% of the females had been raped.

15% of the females had been beaten.

ECONOMIC AND MENTAL HEALTH

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.

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 Americans enjoy today.

Detective John M. Gibson and Officer Jacob J. Chestnut were a very professional member of the United States Capitol Police. The police and friendly manner in which he did his job will always be remembered. Every evening as Congressman DeLay and his society 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 a police action at the 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 done 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 unselish 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, and we will be able to begin.

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.

SHAWNA BARNETT, FORMER DELAY STAFFER

I remember the time I was working for her kids.

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

A PART OF AMERICA DIED
IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
CARL S. SMITH
OF HOUSTON, 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 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.

Fact: Carl was so dedicated to public service that he never considered his job “work.” That’s not just an assertion—Carl never tired. 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 age of 89.

Carl S. Smith was an icon to all Americans of what government is capable of accomplishing. Carl was first elected as Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector to serve until a replacement can 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.

In his last terms in office, Smith became 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 many years of 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’s final wish probably was to do in the Tax Assessor-Collectors’ Office he ran.

Carl S. Smith was a great and good 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, Smith, CARL S., TAX CHIEF FOR 51 YEARS, DIES]

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.

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, J. M. Gibson. He was elected to fill the post, then was re-elected 12 times. If he had completed the last two years of his term, he would have been 91.

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

“You have lost someone who’s been an institution here,” Eckels said. “He was a great leader and a man who cared a great deal for the people of this county.”

Eckels then read a court in a moment of silence in Smith’s memory.

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

“He’s been a good one,” Fonteno said. “He’s been dedicated. He’s got 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 be unfair to him.”

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

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

Visit 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.
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 day. Approximately 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. Sadly, their heart failed them 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.

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. 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 goals 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 ad 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 its capacity, 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. KRAMEK

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 career 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 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 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 signed a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federal Border Service for the 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 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, a Silver Star, a 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.
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, the 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, offers 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 APPROPRIATIONS 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 made long ago by 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 some reflection 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 TRAMPOLINE AND TUMBLING TEAM

SPEECH OF
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 championship titles.

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 being put out by our youth today, it is clear 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

SPEECH OF
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 graphics and design.

In addition to the general excellence award, the Fresno Bee received first-place awards for editorial writing, commentary, illustrations, information graphics and design.

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

Bee photographer 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 product. I ask my colleagues to use its excellent staff to create what truly is a first-class production. I ask my colleagues to congratulate the Fresno Bee on receiving the first-place award for general excellence from the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Mr. Speaker, 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 fiscal constraints that compel 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?
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 Le- land Yee—who took the initiative in calling for a resolution to condemn the at-times brutal treatment of ethnic Chinese living in Indonesia.

Whereas, 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 for equal rights for the Chinese popu- lation 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 popu- lation 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 aggress- ively urge full observance of the human rights of Chinese in Indonesia.

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 Super- visors in the City and County of San Francisco urges that our Congressional Rep- resentatives call for a full investigation into these atrocious acts of violence and pressure the Indonesian government for a full inves- tigation to seek accountability and justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, 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 honor- ing the slain capitol police officers, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson. My sincerest con- dolences 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 in both the federal, state, and local levels of government.

I join with his family, as well as my col- leagues at Rutgers and throughout the State of New Jersey in remembering him, and honor- ing his accomplishments and great leader- ship. I know Rutgers is particularly proud of Alan’s accomplishments at the National Tran- sit Institute. Established at the Rutgers-New Brunswick campus in New Jersey’s Sixth Dis- trict in 1992, the NTI was created by Congress to develop education and training programs for transportation professionals and transit agen- cies across the nation. The NTI has trained thousands of individuals from transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, state de- partments of transportation, and employees of...
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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 Association 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.