

household has to put up with. Not that I'm complaining, but nineteen years of the Muppets and Sesame Street can be a little extreme. I think Nicole has been a blessing to our entire family. I don't know what we would have done without her.

There are so many stories to tell, but most of them are the ones that only a mother, or sister, could tolerate. Whenever you have a family with two girls close in age, there is competition. You would think that with us there wouldn't be any. Big mistake. Nicole has a boyfriend named Jason (cute couple!). I have a boyfriend named Jeff (cuter couple!) Nicole figures she should have both guys so she hits on mine. The sad part is, my boyfriend falls for her mischievous ways. Thinking from her point of view, I guess we really don't compete. She has everyone wrapped around her finger, and I think she knows it, too.

I might have missed out on some things related to sisterhood, like the part where Nicole was supposed to break Mom in to parenting a teenager. You know, all the bad habits: boyfriends, curfews, driving, and all the other things that every parent looks forward to. Things I haven't missed include time together styling her hair, polishing her nails, and going shopping. We recently had our first adventure together where she and I picked out some really cool clothes for her. Her eyes and smile told me that she thought it was the coolest thing!

We've grown up not only physically, but emotionally. We've developed an admiration for one another, and I'm very lucky to have a sister like her.

#### THE C-130 PROGRAM

### HON. BOB WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of debate over the past couple of months regarding the C-130 aircraft included in the FY99 National Security Appropriations bill. These planes have been referred to as wasteful, unnecessary pork. I must respectfully disagree. Continuation of the C-130 program is of critical importance to our national security because it allows for a more complete integration of the Air National Guard with their active duty counterparts.

Although these aircraft have provided consistent and reliable service to our country, some of the ANG's fleet of C-130s are approaching 40 years of service. After the numerous years of activity, time has taken its toll on the planes. Some of the aircraft are heavily corroded and nearing the end of their service life. Mr. Speaker, replacing outdated aircraft is not "pork;" it's an operational necessity. Replacing outdated aircraft is not "pork" it's a safety issue.

For example, the 143rd Airlift Group of the Rhode Island Air National Guard is one of six units in the country still using the C-130Es. The requirements of the ANG and the active forces have outgrown the capability of the C-130Es. The cost of maintaining and updating these 30-year-old planes to operationally safe standards exceeds the cost of the modern, more capable C-130J or H aircraft. In addition, the Rhode Island ANG planes lack defensive systems that are a necessity in today's global climate. In particular, Rhode Island's C-130s have documented corrosion due to their years of service in the Pacific.

While serving our nation in Operation Desert Storm/Shield, Operation Provide Hope and in Bosnia, the 143rd was forced to use aircraft from other states due to their own inadequate fleet. Despite this hardship, the 143rd performed admirably.

Modernization of the fleet is a priority of the ANG and replacing the C-130 aircraft is a significant component of their plan. The ANG has outlined a modernization roadmap to reach their goals. This roadmap, based on sound operational necessity, calls for allocating aircraft based on military need, a plan endorsed by Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr., Director of the ANG. As I am sure you are aware, the 143rd is scheduled to receive the next eight C-130s, which moves the Air Guard one step closer to completing its modernization.

In my view, modernization of our forces is an absolute necessity if we are to maintain an effective national security strategy. By first replacing the oldest and most inefficient aircraft, we can ensure our armed forces will be well equipped should the time come to act. I believe allocating the eight C-130s will be a significant step toward modernizing the ANG's fleet.

#### HONORING THE PHILADELPHIA PROTESTANT HOME

### HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Philadelphia Protestant Home on the occasion of the grand opening of their new healthcare center, Pathways at PPH. This outstanding organization has a 108 year tradition of caring for the senior citizens of all faiths of Philadelphia.

Located in Northeast Philadelphia, PPH provides care for seniors from that area and the surrounding counties. Over the years, the non-profit home has grown from one small rowhome on York Street to a bustling 12 acre campus housing over 500 residents. PPH offers independent living, assisted living, and skilled health care. PPH strives to provide quality, affordable care and to create an environment in which seniors can enjoy their retirement years to the fullest. That environment includes a full activities program with concerts, swimming, bowling, exercise classes, crafts, religious services, trips, and other events. Each year, PPH provides almost one million dollars in benevolent care for seniors who have exhausted their resources.

PPH strives to be a good neighbor and assist other community groups. They provide assistance to seniors who remain in their homes through their non-profit home healthcare agency, CareMasters of PPH. They contribute to the quality of life in their neighborhood by opening their facility to these groups so that they have a place to meet and conduct their work. They sponsor free community events and always try to assist seniors from the community and their families and caregivers.

Pathways at PPH was made possible, in part, through the generous donations of time and money from many PPH residents, employees, family members, community members, supporting congregations, PPH Ladies Auxiliary, local businesses, and numerous oth-

ers. I am grateful to them for their support of the senior citizens of Philadelphia and commend them for their dedication and hard work.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my vote on House Resolution 525. Rollcall vote 425 took place on Friday, September 11. I was present and was participating on the floor during the vote, but failed to have my vote officially recorded by the electronic voting device. I wish to affirm that I fully support this resolution and would have been recorded as a "yes" if recorded electronically.

#### IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, a month long celebration beginning on September 15, and lasting until October 15.

America strives on the diversity of its people. As a nation, we pride ourselves on the fact that our national character is magnified by citizens who assert and respect cultural customs brought from other lands. Hispanics, nearly five-hundred years ago, came to this country in search of democracy, freedom and a better way of life.

Throughout history, Hispanic Americans have immensely contributed to the well-being and advancement of our nation. Through science, business, government, agriculture, academics and the Armed Forces, Hispanic Americans have made their presence known in American history. They have undauntedly fought to preserve democracy in America, having served in the United States Armed Forces in dimensions much larger than their percentage of the population.

Hispanic Heritage month is a time to acknowledge the contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our country, and are continuing to make. Communities all over the nation are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, each in their own distinct manner. In Cleveland, the Cuyahoga Community College Hispanic Steering Council is coordinating the Festival Hispano, featuring performances, workshops and lectures celebrating Hispanic culture and tradition.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in sending a special thanks to the following organizations for their outstanding contributions to making the Cleveland Festival Hispano, such a success: Beck Center for Cultural Arts, Case Western Reserve University, Centro Cultural Hispano de Cleveland, City of Cleveland, The Cleveland Cinematheque, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University, Julia de Burgos Cultural Art Center, Cleveland Public Library, M.Q. Productions, Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio Hispanic Social Service Workers