

officers. Joe's number one goal was to insure that each and every officer, regardless of position or rank, was properly equipped and mentally prepared to confront any situation they might encounter.

When involved in training scenarios, he always stressed officer safety and demanded that each and every person practice safe weapons handling. To bring as much realism as possible to the training, he made available to the department a state-of-the-art system he was responsible for designing. The training scenarios simulate real life situations officers encounter daily and require them to rapidly evaluate and assess a set of circumstances in complex "shoot/don't shoot" situations. Joe believed this type of decision-making training was essential for every police officer.

While the new Police Department Administration Building and Jail were being planned, Joe was busy assisting with the design of the range. It was obvious to everyone this was his "love" and he gave totally of himself as the facility was under construction and the range was opened for operation in August 1997.

In recognition of Joe's contributions to the Police Department and City of Santa Ana, he received top honors as the 1997 Exceptional Quality Service Award winner. When not involved in range training, Joe enjoyed shooting, bicycle riding, camping, rock climbing and weightlifting. Perhaps the most enjoyment in Joe's life came from spending time with his twin three-year-old grandsons, Patrick John and Shane Joseph. They were the joy of his life and he never passed up an opportunity to tell you how proud a grandfather he was. In a personal biography Joe wrote to the Department when he was hired, he said the following: "My interests are in police training and my goal is to make a positive contribution to the field of law enforcement." Let there be no doubt that the many contributions Joe Boyd has made to all of law enforcement are appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Joe is survived by this loving wife, Marion, whom he married 34 years ago; his son, Keith, who was recently married to Kim; his daughter, Cynthia Journeay and her husband John; twin grandchildren Patrick John and Shane Joseph Journeay; his sister, Patricia Frankenberg; and brothers Andrew and Robert Boyd.

A Memorial Fund has been established to assist the family. Please send any donations to the Joe Boyd Memorial Fund, c/o Security First Bank, 141 W. Bastanchury Road, Fullerton, CA 92835.

COMMENDING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SK DESIGN GROUP

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of the tenth anniversary in business of SK Design Group, Inc., of Overland Park, Kansas.

SK Design Group, Inc., was established in 1989 and since its founding has provided professional engineering services to such clients as the Stowers Institute, the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the Department of Defense, the Blue Valley School District, the University of Missouri, and many more. SK Design provides a full range of civil engineering and construction phase services, including site designs, storm sewers, roadways, sanitary sewers, and water lines.

Mr. Speaker, I join with SK Design Group's employees in congratulating the firm's president, Sassan Mahobian, and its vice president, Katerah Mahobian, for their ten years of successful service in providing civil engineering and professional design services to the Kansas City community. We wish them many more successful years to come.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND
FRANCIS M. BEDNAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rev. Francis M. Bednar for his many years of service and countless contributions to his community.

Father Bednar, a Cleveland native, graduated from Cathedral Latin School and studied for the priesthood at Borromeo College and St. Mary Seminary. In 1974, after his ordination to the priesthood, he became the associate pastor at the St. Justin Martyr parish in Eastlake, Ohio. Between 1979-1985 he served at the St. Clement Church in Lakewood, Ohio. Since 1989 Rev. Bednar has served as pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cleveland.

In addition to his service with the Church, Father Bednar was diocesan director of the Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In 1982 he was named spiritual director of the Cleveland Division of the Blue Army of Fatima. In July 1997, he was elected district chairman of the Southeast District.

Rev. Bednar was a wonderful man who was warm, caring, and deeply devoted to the Church. Away from his duties to the Church Rev. Bednar was also deeply devoted to his family. In recent years Rev. Bednar provided care for his parents with the same passion and determination that he pledged to the Church. His dedication was an inspiration to all who knew him. He touched many lives and his passing is a great loss.

Rev. Bednar is survived by his parents, Michael and Agnes; brothers Richard, Philip, Jerome, and Michael; and sisters Mary and Bernadette.

My fellow colleagues, I ask that we remember Rev. Bednar for his service to the Catholic Church and to the Cleveland community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NARAL ON
30 YEARS OF PRO-CHOICE ADVOCACY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) celebrates 30 years of pro-choice advocacy, those of us dedicated to preserving a woman's right to choose know that the need for pro-choice advocacy and activism is greater than ever.

America recently commemorated the 25th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that recognized the freedom to

choose as a fundamental right, while opponents of choice worked to put the private decision about abortion into the hands of government. The anti-choice Congress has pushed a wave of legislation requiring women to endure increasing obstacles in order to exercise a right that should be non-negotiable. Reproductive choice continues to be debated on the floor of the House on a near-daily basis.

NARAL has long been a fierce defender against infringements on the right to choose. For thirty years, NARAL has worked to increase Title X funding for federal family planning programs, promote contraceptive research and the development of contraceptive options for women and men, to protect the right of Medicaid-eligible women to make choices about their reproductive health, and to ensure that women have safe access to reproductive health facilities by condemning clinic violence and harassment.

Pro-choice Members of Congress have never underestimated the powerful impact of NARAL's message, that we all want to see abortion made less necessary. NARAL tirelessly exposes the irony of the abortion debate—that the strongest opponents of the right to choose also oppose programs promoting comprehensive sex education and birth control, which actually reduce unplanned pregnancies. Instead, anti-choice politicians would make access to family planning options more difficult, more dangerous, more expensive and more humiliating.

We must continue to support legislation to help reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies. Specifically, we must rededicate our efforts to require that health insurance plans provide coverage for contraceptives to the same extent that they provide coverage for other prescription drugs.

Our job in Congress is to move our nation toward a reproductive health care policy that promises to make abortion less necessary and protects the right of Americans to do what they believe is best for their families. We congratulate you on thirty years of advocacy, and look to NARAL for leadership as the 106th Congress prepares to defend a woman's right to choose.

AFRICAN GROWTH AND
OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I join with 65 of my colleagues in reintroducing bipartisan legislation that the House passed last year to firmly establish sub-Saharan Africa on the U.S. trade and investment policy agenda.

Overall, the African Growth and Opportunity Act represents a trade-centered approach to development that will complement traditional forms of assistance. Increased U.S.-African trade and investment is a win-win proposition, one that can facilitate and strengthen the development of sub-Saharan African countries and create opportunities for U.S. firms and workers. Already, U.S. exports to the sub-Saharan region exceed by 20 percent those of all the former Soviet states combined. Sub-Saharan Africa is a continent with vast opportunities for U.S. companies and many U.S. businesses

are poised to increase trade and investment in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time, a strong trade and investment relationship between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the United States will reduce poverty and expand economic opportunity in Africa. Moreover, a stronger, more stable and prosperous Africa will be a better partner for security and peace in the region and a better ally in our mutual fight against narcotics trafficking, international crime, terrorism, the spread of disease, and environmental degradation.

Some 30 sub-Saharan countries have begun dynamic economic reform programs, including liberalizing exchange rates and prices, privatizing state-owned enterprises, ending costly subsidies, and reducing barriers to trade and investment. The African Growth and Opportunity Act is designed to complement economic reforms such as these which African nations have decided to pursue by creating greater opportunities for partnerships between Americans and Africans.

Specifically, the bill offers increased access to the U.S. market for non-import sensitive goods and increased dialogue with the United States on deepening our trade relationship. The benefits available under the bill provide incentives for the most aggressive reformers to liberalize their markets even further. This legislation would not impose new conditions for maintaining existing trade and aid benefits. However, to qualify for enhanced trade benefits, the African Growth and Opportunity Act requires that countries make continual progress toward achieving the bill's market-based criteria. For countries that choose to follow this course, the bill requires the President to develop a plan to solidify our economic partnership through the creation of a United States-Sub-Saharan African Free Trade Area.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act is strongly supported by political and economic leaders across sub-Saharan Africa. Every African Ambassador in Washington, D.C. has endorsed this bill. Never before have the 48 diverse nations in the region been united in support of such an initiative. In addition, the African Growth and Opportunity Act has a high profile throughout the continent and the response has been clear—Africans want to be trading partners with the United States and the world.

In order to continue to grow, African economies need to have enhanced access to U.S. markets, capital, management expertise, and technology. The bill is the first step toward making that happen and is a long overdue response to change led by Africans themselves across the continent. I urge my colleagues to support this historic legislation when it is considered on the House floor in the coming weeks.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MISSOURI
FARMERS AND TRADERS BANK
PRESIDENT JOE W. SCALLORNS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, It has come to my attention that a distinguished career in the banking industry has come to an end.

Joe W. Scallorns, bank president of Farmers and Traders Bank, retired recently after over 30 years of serving Missouri's banking needs.

Scallorn's distinguished banking career began as a bank collector in Columbia, Missouri while finishing his degree as a student at the University of Missouri. After college, he joined Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York as a credit analyst. He returned to Columbia in 1967, eventually rising to the position of Vice President of the First Bank of Commerce and later as President of the First National Bank and Trust Company. He joined Eagle Bank of Highland, Illinois, as its President in 1987. In June 1988, he purchased Farmers and Traders Bank in California, Missouri.

Additionally, Joe is active in professional organizations, chairing the committees on Banking Education, Legislative Affairs, and the Political Action Committee of the Missouri Banking Association, also serving on its Board of Directors. He also served on the Government Relations Council of the American Bankers Association and its National BancPac Committee.

As he prepares for quieter time with his wife, Fran and his son, Joseph, I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to my good friend Joe Scallorns and in wishing him the best in the days ahead.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
JUDGE AARON MENT FOR HIS
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 1999, the Honorable Judge Aaron Ment of Fairfield, Connecticut, will retire after 14 years of dedicated service as Chief Court Administrator for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. I rise today to honor Judge Ment and salute his distinguished career spanning over 20 years serving the people in the State of Connecticut.

Aaron Ment's career as a judge began in 1976 when he was first appointed to the bench. Only eight years later, on September 18, 1984, Judge Aaron Ment was appointed as the Chief Court Administrator for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. Here Judge Aaron Ment's vision and leadership helped shape the Connecticut Judicial Branch forever.

Judge Ment's innovative foresight and ambition helped to foster a more positive working relationship between the courts and Connecticut communities. He has been diligent in improving operations and trying to better serve the people of Connecticut. The multiple innovative programs he has helped pioneer have been studied and reproduced all over the United States.

Under Judge Ment's leadership, judges and citizens have benefited from programs such as the one day/one trial jury system, an expanded prebench orientation program, a wellness program for Judges, a centralized infraction bureau and a statewide alternative incarceration program. He has also implemented special sessions of the Superior

Court, including drug sessions, truancy dockets, the complex litigation docket and a National Demonstration Program for Domestic Violence.

It is with great pleasure that I join with the friends and family of Judge Aaron Ment in congratulating him on his retirement. The State of Connecticut's Judicial Branch will feel his absence for years to come. I thank you, Aaron, for all that you have accomplished in your very distinguished career. My very best wishes to you for health and happiness in your retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPAND &
REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS
ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce school construction legislation that I spearheaded in the 105th Congress. The Expand & Rebuild America's Schools Act is a progressive step forward to resolve America's ever-expanding school overcrowding crisis. I was disappointed to see the 105th Congress end without the passage of meaningful school construction legislation. The President, myself, and other members of Congress offered beneficial and positive measures to renovate and improve America's schools, but we were blocked every step of the way by a Republican leadership unwilling to commit needed resources to our education agenda. I hope our new Speaker will use the opportunity of a new Congress to do more, and to prove to the American people that we care about our schools and our children.

School overcrowding remains a tremendous obstacle in my congressional district and, I am positive, all across America. The Secretary of Education annually releases a Baby Boom Echo report which highlights trends in school populations across the country. The dismal scenario we saw in the 1997 report became even more bleak in 1998. This year total public and private school enrollment will rise to a record 52.7 million, and over the next decade public high school enrollment is expected to increase by 11 percent! Twenty states will have at least a 15 percent increase in the number of public high school graduates, with a 78 percent increase projected for Nevada, 39 percent for Hawaii, and 38 percent for Florida. Largely because of the high school enrollment increase, the total number of new teaching positions for public and private high school teachers is expected to rise by 115,000—a 9 percent increase. The Secretary of Education also anticipates that 6,000 schools need to be built in the next ten years to accommodate school population increases. We can no longer ignore these facts. School overcrowding is a national dilemma that needs a nationwide solution.

The Expand & Rebuild America's Schools Act, H.R. 415, is that solution. This bill is focused, effective, and tax-payer friendly. H.R. 415 develops a pilot bond program to help our local schools save money on bond initiatives. Through the creation of a new class of bonds, the Federal Government will provide a tax credit to lenders equal to the amount of