EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CBO COST ESTIMATE OF H.R. 707, THE DISASTER MITIGATION AND COST REDUCTION ACT OF 1999

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on March 4 the House passed H.R. 707, the ''Disaster Mitigation and Cost Reduction Act of 1999.'' The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) was unable to submit a cost estimate of H.R. 707 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure before a Committee report was filed. In lieu of the CBO estimate, the Committee provided its own estimate of the cost of the legislation. The Committee estimated that H.R. 707 would result in savings to the Federal Government of approximately $100 million over the first five years, and significantly more savings in the longer run. This estimate was based on the CBO cost estimate on virtually the same bill that was reported out of the Committee in the 105th Congress. (For details see House Report 106–40, pages 20–21.) At the time the report was filed the Committee committed to submitting CBO's cost estimate, once completed, of H.R. 707 for the Record.

CBO's analysis, presented in its entirety below, estimates implementing H.R. 707 would increase discretionary outlays by a total of $2 billion over 1999–2004. On its face, this estimate is at odds with the Committee's estimate that the bill will save $100 million over the same period. There are two important factors which account for the difference in these estimates. First, $1.3 billion of CBO's estimated $2 billion in costs are due to an acceleration in outlays CBO now estimates will happen over the first five years. This contradicts CBO's report on what was essentially the same bill in the 105th Congress. The acceleration is caused by a provision in H.R. 707 that streamlines the assistance program allowing FEMA to end the assistance process in disaster areas much faster than in the past. This provision will reduce paperwork for disaster victims and reduce the Federal presence in these areas. It is important to note that CBO estimates this provision will not change total spending in the long term.

The second important factor that accounts for the difference between the Committee and CBO's cost estimate is that CBO does not estimate any savings from pre-disaster mitigation spending. CBO states it cannot predict the timing or magnitude of future disasters and, therefore, cannot predict the savings from mitigating against future damage. However, CBO states ''If the authorized funding for pre-disaster mitigation efforts is provided and used judiciously, enactment of this legislation could lead to savings to the Federal Government by reducing the need for future disaster relief funds.'' The Committee cost estimate assumed that every dollar of mitigation spending will result, on average, in at least one dollar of Federal assistance avoided. (The Committee believes this is a conservative assumption based on testimony it received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency indicating mitigation typically pays back two to three times the amount spent.) Using this assumption, the Committee estimated the Federal Government will save approximately $100 million over the first five years if H.R. 707 is enacted into law.

CBO's estimates on H.R. 707 follow:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 15, 1999.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 707, the Disaster Mitigation and Cost Reduction Act of 1999.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are John R. Righter (for federal costs), who can be reached at 226–2860, and Lisa Cash Driskill (for the state and local impact), who can be reached at 225–3220.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen).

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE—MARCH 15, 1999

H.R. 707: DISASTER MITIGATION AND COST REDUCTION ACT OF 1999, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON MARCH 4, 1999

SUMMARY

H.R. 707 would amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a predisaster mitigation program and make changes to the existing disaster relief program.

The legislation would authorize the appropriation of $105 million over fiscal years 1999 and 2000 for a predisaster mitigation program. (Public Law 105–276 appropriated $25 million to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for this purpose in fiscal year 1999.) Other provisions in H.R. 707 would also result in changes in discretionary spending, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 707 would increase discretionary outlays by a total of $2 billion over the 1999–2004 period. Most of the estimated increase in outlays—$1.3 billion of the five-year total—would result from provisions that would accelerate spending from FEMA's disaster relief fund, but would not change total spending over the long term.

If the authorized funding for predisaster mitigation efforts is provided and used judiciously, enactment of this legislation could lead to savings to the federal government by reducing the need for future disaster relief funds. CBO cannot estimate the timing or magnitude of such savings because we cannot predict either the frequency or location of major natural disasters. Over the next 10 years, savings could exceed the $80 million that the legislation would authorize for predisaster mitigation efforts, although we expect that any such savings would be small over the next five years.

H.R. 707 also would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates that the net annual increase in direct spending would, on average, be less than $500,000.

The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would significantly benefit the budgets of state, local, and tribal governments.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LEGISLATION'S MAJOR PROVISIONS

Title I would establish a program to provide financial assistance to state and local governments for predisaster mitigation activities. It also would require the President to transmit a report to the Congress that would evaluate efforts to implement the predisaster hazard mitigation programs and recommend a process for transferring greater authority over the program to states. In addition, this title would remove a yearly cap of $50,000 per state on the grants that FEMA makes for improving and maintaining disaster assistance plans and would increase the maximum federal contribution for mitigation costs from 15 percent to 20 percent.

Title II would combine any disaster relief expenses incurred by states but not chargeable to a specific project into a single category called management costs. It would direct the President to establish standard rates for reimbursing states for such costs.

Title II also would establish new requirements that certain private nonprofit facilities (PNPs) would have to meet in order to receive funds for repair and replacement of damaged facilities. In order to receive moneys from the disaster relief fund, PNPs would have to be ineligible for a loan from the Small Business Administration (SBA), or have obtained the maximum possible loan amount from the SBA. The title would require that the President exempt from this requirement PNPs that provide ''critical services,'' such as utilities, communications, and emergency medical care. (The definition of critical services would be left to the President.)

In addition, the legislation would reduce the federal government's share of costs for repairing damaged facilities from 90 percent to 75 percent, but would allow the President the flexibility to vary the contribution between 50 percent and 90 percent if doing so would be more cost-effective. Title II would also allow the President to use the estimated cost of repairing or replacing a facility, rather than the actual cost, to determine the level of assistance to provide. H.R. 707 would establish an expert panel to develop procedures for estimating the cost of repairing a facility.

The legislation would combine the Temporary Housing Assistance (THA) and Individual and Family Grant (IFG) programs into one program, and would eliminate the community disaster loan program, a program that assists any local government that has suffered a substantial loss of tax revenues as a result of a major disaster. Finally, H.R. 707 would add several reporting requirements for FEMA and the General Accounting Office (GAO).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 707 would result in additional discretionary outlays of $2 billion over the 1999–2004 period. The estimated increase in outlays includes

$0.7 billion in additional costs and $1.3 billion from the faster spending of future appropriations. Because the faster spending of disaster relief funds would not affect long-term costs, a corresponding net decrease in outlays would occur over the 2005–2009 period. The legislation also would affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that the annual net increase in such spending would, on average, be less than $500,000.

The estimated budgetary impact of most of the provisions in H.R. 707 is shown in the following table. The table does not reflect some potential savings and costs from provisions that may affect discretionary spending but for which CBO cannot estimate the likely effects. In particular, we cannot estimate the potential savings in the costs of future disaster relief from the increased spending on predisaster mitigation activities that would be authorized by H.R. 707. While such savings could be significant in the long run, we expect that any savings would be small over the next five years. In addition, CBO cannot estimate the effects of provisions that would establish standardized rates for reimbursing management costs and that would reduce the amount of general assistance that FEMA can provide state and local governments in lieu of providing the federal share of costs to repair or replace a facility. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 707 will be enacted by the end of this fiscal year and that the amounts authorized and estimated to be necessary will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year.

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION [a]						
Spending for Disaster Relief Under Current Law:						
Budget Authority/Estimated Authorization Level [b]	1,214	1,240	1,266	1,295	1,323	1,351
Estimated Outlays	3,250	2,587	2,349	2,216	1,870	1,692
Proposed Changes:						
Specified Authorizations for Predisaster Mitigation:.						
Authorization Level	0	80	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	32	32	16	0	0
Estimated Authorizations:						
Authorization Level	0	372	94	77	76	75
Estimated Outlays	0	-8	171	201	136	75
Estimated Change in Outlays from Baseline—Budget Authority:						
Authorization Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	518	465	345
Spending for Disaster Relief Under H.R. 707:						
Budget Authority/Estimated Authorization Level	1,214	1,692	1,360	1,372	1,399	1,426
Estimated Outlays	3,250	2,611	2,552	2,951	2,471	2,112

[a] H.R. 707 also would increase direct spending, but CBO estimates that such changes would be less than $500,000 a year.

[b] The 1999 level is the amount appropriated for that year, including $906 million for an emergency supplemental appropriation provided in Public Law 105–277. The remainder of the 1999 level is the regular appropriation of $308 million. The levels shown for 2000 through 2004 are CBO baseline projections assuming increases for anticipated inflation. Alternatively, if the comparison were made to a baseline without discretionary inflation, the authorization level for current law would be $1,214 million each year, and the incremental change in estimated outlays would be $1.87 billion over the five years.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

H.R. 707 contains provisions that would result in both costs and savings to the federal government. CBO estimates costs associated with provisions that would: Authorize appropriations for predisaster mitigation, increase the federal contribution for mitigation costs, combine the Individual Family Grant program and the Temporary Housing Assistance program, add several new reporting requirements and establish an interagency task force, remove a cap on grants for disaster assistance plans, provide grants for improved floodplain mapping technologies, and establish a pilot program to determine the desirability of state administration of parts of the disaster relief program.

CBO estimates savings associated with provisions that would: Require certain PNPs to apply to the SBA for disaster loans, allow FEMA to use the estimated cost of facility repairs rather than the actual cost, and eliminate the community disaster loan program.

CBO cannot estimate the effects of provisions that would: Achieve long-run savings associated with the predisaster mitigation efforts, reduce the amount of general assistance that FEMA can offer state and local governments in lieu of providing its share of the costs to replace or repair a damaged facility, and establish standardized rates for reimbursement of management costs.

In addition, CBO estimates that outlays would be accelerated by allowing the President to disburse future appropriations for disaster relief to states before projects are completed, based on the estimated cost rather than on the actual cost.

Provisions with Estimated Costs. H.R. 707 would establish a program for predisaster hazard mitigation and would authorize the appropriation of $25 million for fiscal year 1999 and $80 million for fiscal year 2000 for that program. Because the first $25 million has already been appropriated, the legislation would increase projected spending by the $80 million authorized for 2000.

Other provisions also would increase costs. For example, under current law, FEMA provides grants to states for post disaster mitigation activities based on the total amount of grants made for each major disaster. H.R. 707 would increase the federal contribution for post disaster mitigation grants by one-third for all major disasters declared after January 1, 1997. Based on data provided by FEMA, CBO estimates that raising the federal contribution by one-third would result in an additional $247 million in grants to states for disasters that occurred between January 1997 and January 1999, by $61 million for the remainder of fiscal year 1999, and by $92 million a year for each of the next several years. The estimate of additional costs for the remainder of 1999 and for fiscal years 2000 through 2004 assumes that payments under current law would total about $275 million per year. In total, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would require the appropriation of $768 million over the 2000–2004 period. This estimate assumes that the funds to pay for the provision would come from future appropriations and that the outlays from the additional budget authority would occur over several years.

In addition, CBO estimates that combining the Individual Family Grant program and the Temporary Housing Assistance program would result in higher costs of $30 million in fiscal year 2001 and $60 million each year thereafter. Under current law, the federal share for the IFG program is 75 percent of the actual cost incurred. In addition, the federal government contributes an amount equal to 5 percent of total IFG assistance to the states to help cover their share of the administrative costs. Combining the IFG and THA programs would change the federal match to 100 percent and eliminate the federal contribution for administrative costs. Assuming an annual IFO program under current law of slightly more than $200 million, CBO estimates that the net effect of those changes would be to increase annual federal costs by about $60 million. The estimates costs are lower in the first two years because the consolidation would not take place until 18 months after enactment. As part of the consolidation, H.R. 707 would make several changes to the IFG and THA programs, including broadening the type of assistance available to disaster victims and emphasizing the provision of financial assistance over the provision of temporary housing, CBO has no basis for estimating any costs or savings that could result from these other changes.

The legislation would require the President, FEMA, and GAO to prepare several reports, and would require the President to establish an interagency task force to coordinate the implementation of the predisaster mitigation program. Over the 1999–2004, CBO estimates that completing the five reports and operating the task force would cost around $2 million.

We also estimate that removing the yearly cap of $50,000 per state on the grants that are made to states for improvement of disaster assistance plans would increase such costs by less than $500,000 a year. Based on information from FEMA, we expect that it would rarely provide more than $50,000 in grants and that the amounts allocated above $50,000 would be small.

Finally, CBO estimates that the provisions that would authorize grants for improved flood plain mapping technologies and establish a pilot program for the devolution of certain responsibilities for the states would not significantly affect annual costs. FEMA currently provides less than $500,000 a year in grants for floodmapping technologies, and CBO expects that agency assistance in this area would not increase significantly.

Provisions with Estimated Savings. CBO estimates that requiring certain PNPs to apply to the SBA for a disaster loan before receiving funds from the disaster relief fund would yield savings of approximately $4 million per year from 2000 through 2004. The savings would result because the government would, in some cases, be providing loans instead of grants to these institutions. CBO estimates that about 115 PNPs would receive SBA loans instead of disaster relief grants, resulting in additional loans totaling about $5 million. The estimated savings is the difference between the reduction in FEMA assistance and SBA's subsidy cost for the new loans.

Based on data and information provided by FEMA, CBO estimates that allowing FEMA to use the estimated cost of repairing or replacing a facility, rather than the actual

cost, to provide assistance to state and local governments would result in administrative savings at FEMA of approximately $46 million in fiscal year 2002 and slightly larger amounts each year thereafter. Based on information from FEMA, CBO estimates that, on average, FEMA spends between $250 million and $300 million a year administering the public assistance program. The estimated savings assumes that FEMA would reduce those costs by between 15 percent and 20 percent, primarily by eliminating staff and contractors. FEMA would incur some additional costs for operating the expert panel, estimating the cost of repairs with more precision, and evaluating the accuracy of estimates. Administrative savings would not occur before fiscal year 2002 because H.R. 707 would first require the President to establish an expert panel to develop procedures for estimating the cost of repairing or replacing a facility.

Allowing FEMA to substitute the estimated cost for the actual cost in providing disaster relief to state and local governments could also affect both the amount and the timing of assistance provided. Under the legislation, if the actual costs of repair are greater than 120 percent or less than 80 percent of the estimated costs, FEMA could receive compensation for overpayments or provide compensation for underpayments. The provision would not provide for adjusting assistance if the project's actual costs fall between 80 percent and 120 percent of the estimate. Thus, using an estimated cost could substantially increase or decrease the federal government's cost to repair or replace public facilities if these estimates consistently fall below or above the actual costs of such projects. Because the federal government spends well over a $1 billion each year on such projects, a bias of 10 percent in either direction would change the annual cost of disaster relief by more than $100 million. Because we have no basis for predicting a bias in either direction, CBO cannot estimate the net change in the cost of disaster relief projects from substituting estimates for actual costs. The effects of this provision on the timing of outlays are discussed below.

Finally, based on data provided by FEMA, CBO estimates that eliminating the community disaster loan program would result in savings of approximately $25 million each year from 2000 through 2004.

Provisions with Effects CBO Cannot Estimate. CBO does not have sufficient basis to project potential budgetary effects of some provisions of H.R. 707 because they depend upon the extent and nature of future disasters, the manner in which the Administration would implement certain provisions, and the extent to which states would participate in certain programs.

CBO cannot estimate the potential savings associated with the predisaster mitigation efforts proposed in this legislation. Mitigation efforts could achieve significant savings if damages from future disasters are lessened as a result of the predisaster mitigation measures provided for in the legislation, although we expect that any savings in the first five years would be small.

The legislation also would lower the amount of general assistance that FEMA can provide to state and local governments in lieu of the federal government's share of the cost to repair or replace a facility. Under current law, state and local governments can elect to receive a payment equal to 90 percent of the federal government's expected costs to repair or replace a damaged facility. H.R. 707 would lower that rate to 75 percent. While lowering the contribution rate would decrease disaster relief costs in cases where state and local governments continue to accept general assistance, it also would increase costs in those cases where states and localities choose to forgo the general assistance and seek the federal share of repair costs instead. The two effects could offset one another. Thus, while the provision has the potential for substantial savings, CBO has no basis for estimating the amount of such savings.

Finally, H.R. 707 also would require that the President establish by rule standardized reimbursement rates that should reduce FEMA's administrative burden of compensating states for indirect costs not chargeable to a specific project. Because it is uncertain how these rates would be established, CBO has no basis for estimating the amount of potential savings.

Provision Affecting the Timing of Outlays. H.R. 707 also would substantially increase the rate at which new budget authority is spent from the disaster relief fund. Under current law, funds appropriated for such assistance are often spent years later. But we expect that disbursements would occur more rapidly because of the provision allowing FEMA to provide funds for disaster relief to states and localities based on an estimate of a project's costs rather than on its actual costs. (This provision would not apply to FEMA's current balances of previously appropriated funds.) CBO estimates that this change would result in a net increase in outlays of $1.3 billion over the 1999–2004 period, but that it would have no net effect over the 1999–2009 period. Because H.R. 707 would require the President to convene an expert panel within 18 months of enactment, this estimate assumes that this provision would not affect relief for disasters that occur before fiscal year 2002.

Direct Spending

If enacted, H.R. 707 would increase direct spending by allowing FEMA to retain and spend future proceeds from the sale of temporary housing, such as mobile homes and manufactured housing. Under current law, receipts from the sale of such properties are deposited into the general fund of the Treasury (and thus are not available for spending). According to FEMA and the General Services Administration, which conducts most sales of personal property for the federal government, since liquidating FEMA's entire inventory of temporary housing units in 1996, the federal government has sold only a handful of units. Instead of maintaining an inventory, FEMA now purchases new units to accommodate disaster victims and then either donates the unneeded units to take governments or transfers them to other federal agencies. Under current law, CBO expects that the federal government will continue to sell only a small number of units each year. Consequently, we estimate that allowing FEMA to retain and spend receipts from sales of temporary housing would, on average, increase net direct spending by less than $500,000 a year. Any increase in offsetting receipts relative to current law would be offset by an equivalent increase in new spending.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. Pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to H.R. 707 because it would allow FEMA to retain and spend any proceeds from the sale of units of temporary housing. CBO estimates that allowing the agency to retain and spend such receipts would, on average, increase direct spending by less than $500,000 a year.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 707 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would significantly benefit the budgets of state, local, and tribal governments. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of $80 million in 2000 to assist states in predisaster mitigation projects. If the necessary appropriations are provided, it also would increase the funds available to states for postdisaster mitigation activities by an estimated $308 million for major disasters declared between January 1, 1997, and the end of fiscal year 1999, and by about $92 million per year after that. In addition, beginning 18 months after enactment, the 25 percent state match for individual and family grants and certain housing assistance would no longer be required, reducing the burden on states by an estimated $60 million per year. These benefits would be partially offset by the repeal of the community disaster loan program, which would result in a loss of about $25 million in grants to communities each year.

Estimated impact on the private sector: The legislation would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: John R. Righter (226–2860). Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Lisa Cash Driskill (225–3220).

Estimate approved by: Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

A TRIBUTE TO THE STONY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and emotion that I rise today in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the girls high school basketball team from Stony Brook, on Long Island. Culminating a successful season, marked with 15 wins and 4 losses, the ''Bears of Stony Brook'' were crowned the ''1999 Suffolk County Class D'' basketball champions.

With a proud history, the girls basketball team had to overcome past disappointments, to band together as a team and win the championship. In the previous two years, the Bears had traveled to the Suffolk County tournament only to be denied the prestigious championship. This season, led by coach Keith Singer, the girls were finally successful in their quest for the title. Their journey ended the weekend of February 20 with the overwhelming victory over Pierson High School. After receiving the number one seed in the playoffs, the Bears defeated Pierson High School, ranked second in the tournament, by a score of 61–30.

The strong 15 and 4 record is a testament to the hard work and determination of the Bears. Coach Keith Singer's leadership kept these young women poised on winning the championship. On the basketball court, the Bears were blessed with a well-balanced offensive team. Senior Rebecca Fischer led the Bears offense by scoring 18 points, and adding 14 rebounds. Fellow senior, Sara Kiernan, further contributed to the bears success with 13 points. The team's success would not have occurred without their determination and teamwork.

The Bears' success is also attributed to their dominating defensive style. The team has frustrated numerous teams with their suffocating defensive play. Led by senior Sara

Kiernan, who amassed five steals, the Bears put together a stringent zone defense. The success of their defense is most easily seen in their domination of rival Pierson. In the final, the Bears' defense devastated Pierson. In the first period, Pierson was held to a mere 7 points. Overall, Pierson was only able to score 30 points against the Bears, despite being ranked second in the County.

The work ethic and determined spirit of this high school basketball team are a true reflection of my Congressional District. The entire community is filled with pride for these young women, who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much to reach their goal. So I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and all my neighbors in saluting the Stony Brook Bears, the ''1999 Suffolk County Class D'' girls high school basketball champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 52, on House Congressional Resolution 24, Expressing Congressional Opposition to the Unilateral Declaration of a Palestinian State, I was unavailable to vote because I was returning from a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip to Russia. The objectives of this four-day trip included meetings with the Russian Duma and other governmental officials concerning the missile defense threat as outlined in the report of the Rumsfeld Commission. Our delegation was joined in Moscow by former Secretary Don Rumsfeld and two members of his commission, Mr. Jim Woolsey and Mr. William Schneider, Jr.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

FEDERAL MONEY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a recent Op-Ed written by Dr. Arthur H. Rubenstein about the benefits federal money has produced for medical research. Dr. Rubenstein is the Dean of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, one of New York City's and the country's premiere teaching hospitals.

MORE AID MEANS MORE RESPONSIBILITY—FEDERAL MONEY PUTS MEDICAL RESEARCH ON THE THRESHOLD OF A GOLDEN AGE

(By Arthur H. Rubenstein)

NEW YORK.—Congress has now approved billions of dollars in research money to complete the elements of what could be the Golden Age of Medical Research.

We now have scientific excellence, outstanding technology, public support and greatly increased funding aligned to make possible a quantum leap forward in our search for better treatments, prevention and hopefully cures of some of the most dreaded diseases on earth.

But as we celebrate this unique opportunity, scientists and physician researchers must understand that with it comes a new, and perhaps higher, level of responsibility. If we ignore this responsibility, we risk losing this newly won support.

A combination of forces has brought us to this unique opportunity.

The media continues to follow the rapid pace of scientific breakthroughs and gives medical news front page status.

The public, particularly patients and their families, clamor for life saving and life prolonging treatments.

In addition, many recent discoveries are now being applied in actual practice. Leading lawmakers in Congress took particular notice of these forces during the last congressional session. Realizing that a big boost in funding could capitalize on the intensifying scientific knowledge of the past decade, thoughtful lawmakers brought about a $2 billion increase in the NIH budget.

As a physician and a Dean of a major medical school, I am elated over this opportunity. During my lifetime, basic science has advanced and accelerated so rapidly that we are on the verge of unprecedented discoveries. Just 45 years after the discovery of the structure of DNA, we are on the road to examining how tens of thousands of genes function.

That will be the key to understanding how many diseases occur. And that is the shaft of light that can lead us to curing or controlling the disease.

We will look back on these years with the same awe as was felt for the wondrous age after Newton discovered the Laws of Motion or Einstein discovered the Laws of Relativity.

However, if I put my own scientific excitement to the side for a moment and focus on my role as the leader of an entity which depends heavily on research funding, I must also offer a cautious warning about this great rush forward.

All over the country, in clinical and research laboratories, the scramble is on to garner a share of this new funding. This competition is healthy and will lead to better science. My own school will compete as hard as the next.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), though, faces a formidable challenge to allocate money to research laboratories. Clearly, the funds must be spent in a wise and responsible manner.

But which scientists working on what diseases will get an infusion of money to throw their research into high gear or get it off the ground? How much ''politics'' must be considered? What markers will be laid out to show if the money was wasted or well spent? I don't envy the NIH at all!

The Institute of Medicine recommends the public be given a strong say in this process and that a public advisory board be created. Those are excellent and appropriate ideas.

The funding decisions must not be solely made in meetings amongst administrators and scientists.

To maintain public support, the scientific community must make the public a greater part of the discussion of what could be literally life and death decisions for generations to come.

But we, as scientists and leaders of the academic community, must also be mindful that our individual and collective actions are appropriately facing a higher level of scrutiny than ever before. We must embrace this examination, respond appropriately, or else face great peril.

We have an obligation to find ways to share our work with the lay public, to do our best to make it intelligible to non scientists. We have an obligation to be cautious with our pronouncements of progress.

As exciting as incremental progress is to the scientist, its reality, that it is progress but not yet a cure, can be exceptionally cruel to the human being looking for solace. We have an obligation to shun fleeting fame when it is premature, and fortune when its potential jeopardizes the credibility of our work.

Science is tantalizingly close to so many discoveries! To me, it is simply breathtaking to even begin to comprehend that within five to ten years we may—I underscore ''may''—have the understanding to cure or prevent various infectious diseases, mental illnesses, birth defects, and would be killers like heart disease, cancer, AIDS, and diabetes.

If the medical and research communities are perceived as not using public funding wisely or let false optimism blind us to the often unpredictable nature of scientific exploration, we will have failed in a monumental and tragic manner.

Besides the discoveries lost or delayed, and the lives that would be affected, there could be a public backlash against those who failed to act responsibly.

The Golden Age of Medical Research then would be replaced by an era of suspicion and skepticism about science's ability to improve life.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES E. CADO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that James E. Cado of Lexington, MO, passed away on February 4, 1999.

Born November 27, 1936 in Lexington, MO, the son of Henry and Minnie Margaret (Rostine) Cado, Mr. Cado married Janet Lee Dickmeyer on December 27, 1958. He was a graduate of Wentworth Military Academy Junior College in Lexington and a 1959 graduate of the University of Missouri. He received his Masters in Mathematics degree in 1964 from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, MO.

Mr. Cado, a friend of mine through the years, was a good role model who gave encouragement to many students. He was a teacher for 35 years at Lexington R–5 School District, retiring in 1994. He was also a member of the United Methodist Church, Lexington, and the Missouri Teacher Association.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his wife, Janet; one son, Mark; one daughter, Lee Ann O'Brien; two sisters, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD E. CARLSON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and recognize an outstanding citizen from Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Richard Carlson will be retiring from his distinguished career with the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers later this month. He is a Chicago institution in the water resources field and will be retiring after a significant 36-year career with the Corps in the

planning and management of civil works projects.

Rich began his career with the Corps after graduating from the University of Illinois in 1963, where he worked his way through the ranks to become Chief of the Planning Division. Since 1988, Rich has held the position of Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management. During his tenure, Rich was instrumental in the development of the reservoirs for the award-winning Chicago Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) which is authorized for over $600 million in flood control reservoirs. The construction of these reservoirs will reduce flooding to over 500,000 homeowners and will improve the water quality of the Chicago area rivers and streams.

Rich was also instrumental in the development, authorization and recent approval of the Chicago Shoreline Project. This project, which Rich helped formulate, will allow for a partnership with the Corps and the City of Chicago for construction of a $270 million shoreline restoration project protecting Chicago's lakefront from collapse and loss of many millions of dollars in public lands and infrastructure.

Throughout his career, Rich has received many awards and distinguished recognition for this unique design efforts, including the prestigious Society of American Engineers Goethals Award for engineering design and methods in 1996. The O'Hare Reservoir, dedicated in 1998, which Rich was also instrumental in, received the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers design award in 1998.

Rich Carson has been a tremendous leader in his field and mentor to the scores of engineers who have been privileged to work with him. He leaves a tremendous legacy for excellence and advocacy for partnership between the federal and local governments that will live on at the Corps of Chicago District for many years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join in honoring this excellent public servant, Rich Carlson, and to the wonderful example he has set for others.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY MARKS SKOLNICK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emily Marks Skolnick, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

Emily Marks Skolnick has pursued her quest for human rights, equality and economic justice since she was a child. A 1937 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wellesley College where she majored in Labor Economics, Emily has given generously of her time and resources as a volunteer for over 60 years. She fought for school desegregation in the 1940s, helping to instigate the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case. In 1946 she helped found the Co-Op Nursery School and organized a pilot preschool program which was a model for the Headstart program. She participated in the desegregation of the San Mateo Union High School District in the 1950s, and in 1958 she led a field study which resulted in passage of the San Mateo City Fair Employment Practices Ordinance. Emily helped launch the Lawrence Child Care Center and the local chapter of the ACLU.

Mr. Speaker, Emily Marks Skolnick is an extraordinary woman. I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

DON'T SMOKE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to an excellent composition on the dangers of smoking written by Katherine Sommer, a student at Byrd Elementary School in Glen Rock, New Jersey. The composition was the winning entry in a competition held as part of a week-long anti-smoking program currently under way at Byrd Elementary. The composition is as follows.

DON'T SMOKE

(By Katherine Sommer)

Things can happen. Some things can't be helped. Some things can. Some people die of old age, heart attacks, and many other things, but a lot of people die a long, horrible death. They die of smoking. It could happen to you if you make one bad decision. Think of it this way—if you choose to smoke, you'll be doing something really stupid. You could get very sick or even die. That wouldn't be worth it, would it? The worst part is it would be all your own fault!

Some teenagers and younger children start smoking for some really silly reasons. Some kids may want to join a popular group at school, and think smoking will make them look older. Some girls think smoking will make them look cool and boys will like them more. What they don't know is if what happened on the inside of your body happened on the outside, you would look really ugly.

If you think that most kids smoke, you're wrong. The average kid doesn't smoke, and if you're anywhere near average, you won't either. You could really hurt yourself. You could get lung cancer, throat cancer, gum cancer, or lip cancer. These are only some of the horrible diseases you can get from smoking. And think, you could die just from trying to be cool.

Another reason you may start smoking is that a family member or really good friend may already smoke. You might think that it's harmless. You may think, I'll try one smoke, and if I don't like it I won't have any more. Well, it's not that easy. Smoking is addictive. That means that once you start something you can't stop. Once you try, it could be too late.

I don't intend to smoke. You shouldn't either. Don't let anything interfere with your dreams. Just don't try smoking. It's not healthy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EXPEDITED MILITARY MEDALS ACT

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans Expedited Military Medals Act, legislation that will address an inexcusable situation—the growing backlog at the Department of Defense in providing replacement military medals and unawarded decorations to our nation's veterans.

Unfortunately it can now take years for veterans to receive medals that they earned through their service to our nation. I know from personal experience. In my own congressional district there are several veterans, some who have waited over two years, to receive medals they earned, but were never awarded. One veteran from the town of Milan, Illinois has waited almost two years to receive his Good Conduct Medal. Another vet from Princeton has tried to get his American Campaign Medal, but has now waited almost a year with no results. My district office has pursued these cases aggressively, but the reality is that no amount of pressure the follow-through can overcome what is essentially a resource problem.

The issue revolves around back-up cases. The personnel centers who process applications for the separate services for never-issued awards and replacement medals have accumulated unconscionable backlogs in requests by veterans. In one personnel center alone, around 40,000 requests have been allowed to back up. The resulting time delays have denied veterans across the nation the medals and honors they have rightfully earned.

DOD claims that it doesn't have the people or resources to speed up the process. But it wouldn't take much to make a dent in the problem. For example, the Navy Liaison Office was averaging a relatively quick turnaround time of only four to five months when it had only five personnel working cases. Now that it has only three people in the office, it is having a hard time keeping up with the crush of requests. DOD must make putting more resources towards this problem a priority. However, it seems like the same old story—our government forgets the sacrifices servicemen and women have made as soon as they leave military duty. We can do better.

My legislation, which is the companion bill to Senator HARKIN'S legislation in the Senate, would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish and carry out a plan to make available the funds and resources necessary to eliminate the backlog in decoration requests. The bill would also direct that funding and resources should not come at the expense of other personnel service and support activities within DOD. It is a common sense approach which will allow DOD to be involved in solving the situation while structuring a quick and direct solution to the problem.

I am proud that the legislation enjoys the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). I hope that it is something Congress can quickly act on in the near future. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation which would follow through on our

commitment to ensure that the service of our fighting men and women is properly honored and not forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNIE LEWIN AND MR. RALPH FREEMAN

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to two very special Long Island citizens, Mr. Ernie Lewin and Mr. Ralph Freeman. These two citizens recently received well-deserved honor for their service to Long Island's community. Throughout their career as farmers on Long Island, both individuals have greatly benefited their fellow farmers and their less fortunate neighbors.

Mr. Lewin received the Amherst Davis Memorial Farmer Citizen Award at the Long Island Farm Bureau's annual awards dinner dance, held on Saturday, March 27. This honor recognizes the many sacrifices that Mr. Lewin has made over his career to aid the less fortunate. His farm in Calverton, Long Island regularly donates surplus produce to local soup kitchens and churches. He has also helped to set up a program where people can pick their own produce and operate their own farm stand. This program has enabled many people to get first hand experience as an entrepreneur and learn the responsibility of running a company.

Lewin has served for 45 years with the Grange League Federation and is a member of the National Potato Council, Potato Board, Potato Advisory Committee of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Credit Board and the advisory board for Cornell University's research lab. Mr. Lewin is also involved in many notable community organizations, such as the Lions Club in which Lewin has had a 25-year membership. Lewin is also a proud trustee of the Baiting Hollow Congregational Church.

Mr. Freeman was the 1999 recipient of the Long Island Farm Bureau's Citizen Award for his contributions to the community. This honor is a true testament to his work in helping his fellow farmers. Mr. Freeman has worked as an Cornell Cooperative Extension educator to directly help the farmers in his community. His role as educator is to instruct owners and managers of commercial production and marketing firms in greenhouses and related industries. His efforts have helped local businesses increase their profit and productivity.

Mr. Freeman is also a widely published author and a frequent speaker. He is known nationally and internationally for his expertise in floriculture. In the community, Mr. Freeman is an active member of the Eastport Bible Church and Gideon's International.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the efforts of these two very special Long Islanders who have devoted their lives to help others. I only hope that we learn from these two individuals and that they continue their fine work in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 51, on House Congressional Resolution 774, Women's Business Center Amendments Act of 1999, I was unavailable to vote because I was returning from a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip to Russia. The objectives of this four-day trip included meetings with the Russian Duma and other governmental officials concerning the missile defense threat as outlined in the report of the Rumsfeld Commission. Our delegation was joined in Moscow by former Secretary Don Rumsfeld and two members of his commission, Mr. Jim Woolsey and Mr. William Schneider, Jr.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

IN HONOR OF THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CHILD STUDY CENTER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the NYU Child Study Center, a unique multi-specialty program at New York University School of Medicine.

The NYU Child Study Center is an innovative program dedicated to offering complete child and adolescent psychiatric care that is fully integrated with scientific research and education.

The Center's research considerably advances the understanding of the causes and treatments of child mental disorders. In addition, the Center collaborates with public, parochial and private school systems to provide invaluable preventive resources to families.

The NYU Child Study Center is an indispensable resource for parents, educators and child health and mental health professionals both in New York and across the United States.

The premier clinicians at the NYU Center implement the knowledge gained from research and translate it into care that incorporates the most up-to-date information about the causes, symptoms and treatments of mental disorders.

Some of the programs in the Center's clinical care area include: Furman Diagnostic Service to assess treatment and long-term follow up; NYU Summer Program for Kids with ADHD; Young Adult Inpatient Program; Port Washington Alternative Learning Program for at-risk adolescents; Family Studies Program to prevent future problems in couples and families at risk; Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program to promote healthy relationships; Unique Minds, to assist families of learning disabled children; and NYU Child Study Center East for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and learning disorders.

The Center's other main missions include advanced training for mental health professionals; research in areas such as pediatric psychopharmacology, children at risk, attention deficit hyperactivity and related disorders, and child and adolescent anxiety disorders; and educational outreach and prevention for parents, educators, pediatricians and other mental health professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the NYU Child Study Center. The Center provides an invaluable service to New York's children and their families, and for children across the country. It is an honor to have such an important institution located in my district.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DALE O. SNODGRASS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize a truly outstanding naval officer, Captain Dale O. Snodgrass, U.S. Navy. Captain Snodgrass will soon be completing his assignment as the Director of the Navy Liaison Office to the House of Representatives, which will also bring to a close a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Navy. It is a pleasure for me to recognize just a few of his many outstanding achievements.

A native of Long Island, New York, Captain Snodgrass graduated from the University of Minnesota and was commissioned an Ensign in August 1972. He was designated a naval Aviator in December 1973. He reported to Fighter Squadron 124 as one of the first two newly winged Aviators selected for F–14 training. After being the first non-fleet experienced Aviator to carrier qualify the F–14, he reported to Fighter Squadron 142 in January 1975. Completing his tour in May 1978, he reported to Fighter Squadron 101, the F–14 Training Squadron, as a Fight Instructor and Landing Signal Officer. Following his Instructor tour, he reported to Carrier Air Wing 8 as the Senior Landing Signal Officer.

After a 2 year tour in Air Wing 8, he reported to Fighter Squadron 43 as an Adversary Instructor, serving as Operations Officer. Returning to the Fleet in January 1985, Captain Snodgrass served in Fighter Squadron 143 as Operations and Maintenance Officer. In 1986 Captain Snodgrass was selected as the Navy's ''Fighter Pilot of the Year'' and ''Top Cat of the Year.''

Reporting to Fighter Squadron 101 in January 1988, he served as the Executive Officer until May 1988. Captain Snodrgrass subsequently joined Fighter Squadron 33 as Executive Officer later the same month. He assumed command of Fighter Squadron 33 in September 1989, while embarked in the USS *America* (CV 66) in the Red Sea. Upon completion of his sixth deployment, he led his squadron through an accelerated training cycle that culminated with combat operations in support of ''DESERT STORM.'' His Commanding Officer's tour ended with yet another underway Change of Command in the Red Sea in February 1991.

Captain Snodgrass then reported to the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) as Navigator. Assuming additional duties as Battle Group Navigator, he planned coordinated and safely executed Battle Group navigation and transit in the Red Sea, Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Caribbean. His Navigation Department

and Staff was subsequently selected for the U.S. Atlantic Fleet's Navigation award for 1992. Transferring in March 1993, he reported to the Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare as Head, Aviation Manpower, Undergraduate Flight Training and Trainer Aircraft sections. In September 1994, Captain Snodgrass reported as Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Under his command, TOMCAT precision strike and single citing of the entire community as NAS Oceana became a reality. His tour as Commodore ended with a Change of Command in January 1997. In February 1997, Captain Snodgrass relocated to Washington, DC, as Director, Navy Liaison, U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, Dale Snodgrass has made many sacrifices during his 26 year naval career. Dale has spent a significant amount of time away from his family to support the vital role our naval forces play in ensuring the security of our great Nation. Captain Snodgrass, a great credit to the U.S. Navy and the country he so proudly served, will retire on 23 March 1999 and move to St. Augustine, Florida. As he now prepares to depart the Navy for new challenges ahead, I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish him every success, as well as fair winds and following seas, always.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL FOREST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Forest, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame of Friday, March 26, 1999.

Carol Forest has spent more than thirty years in education and has dedicated herself to alternative education. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Jefferson Union High School District's GED Center in 1986, and under her leadership, this program has grown from graduating fifty students per year to more than two hundred per year. Carol has focused on getting at-risk youth back on track. She's done this through providing counseling, intervention and prevention programs, vocational training and employment services.

In 1990 she helped to form the Daly City Youth Health Center. This facility has secured over $2 million in grant funding and has provided critical services to over seven thousand teens. Since its inception the staff has grown from five to thirty one and includes three paid teen health advocates.

Carol Forest did not stop there. She also established the Tools for Survival Program which gives added support to high school dropouts who are seeking their Graduate Equivalent Degree. Carol has been instrumental in establishing the San Francisco Buddhist Center, where she mentors other women in their search for spiritual development.

Mr. Speaker, Carol Forest is an outstanding woman and I salute her for her compassion, for her vision and for her commitment to making sure every child has a chance. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS OF BYRD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THEIR ANTI-SMOKING PROGRAM

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the students of Byrd Elementary School in Glen Rock, New Jersey, on their efforts to spread the word about the dangers of smoking. The students, assisted by representatives of the New Jersey Breathes program, are conducting a week-long tobacco awareness program, including a school-wide assembly, demonstrations, a poster contest and a composition contest. In addition, the school nurse, Ms. Judy Mullane, has visited each class to discuss smoking and health. The initiatives taken by these students, their teachers and the school district should be commended and mirrored in schools across our nation. As a former teacher myself, I know how extremely important it is to teach children to say no to tobacco. This is a problem that adds thousands of children to the tobacco addiction rolls every day. One of the most effective ways to stop it is through educational initiatives similar to the one we are seeing at Byrd Elementary School.

As a Member of Congress, I have long supported legislation that would limit the spread of tobacco addiction to young people. It is essential that we stand up for the health of our children and help keep them from becoming addicted to the most widespread drug threatening our society—tobacco. The average smoker takes his or her first puff of a cigarette at age 11. If adults choose to smoke, that's a poor decision but one they are allowed to make for themselves. But if children are lured into smoking, that is a moral crime and should be a statutory crime.

Last year, I was a co-sponsor of the NOT for Kids Act, which would raise the price of a pack of cigarettes by $1.50 over 3 years. Raising the price of cigarettes has a direct and measurable impact on reducing smoking among children. From 1982 to 1992, the price of cigarettes went up 50 percent and the percentage of teen-agers who smoke steadily dropped. Cigarette prices leveled off in 1992 and we've seen an increase since.

I have also supported the national settlement of tobacco lawsuits. First, we must be certain that none of the settlement money is diverted by the federal government. To ensure that, I have co-sponsored H.R. 351. At least part of the money from these settlements should be used for public education programs about the dangers of smoking to young people. These programs should be directed at our young people through their schools so that we can reach them before it is too late. It is far more effective to prevent tobacco addiction that to stop it once it has begun.

It is important to note that the anti-smoking effort in Glen Rock goes beyond the school system. Matthew Kopacki, owner of Rock Ridge Pharmacy, has stopped selling cigarettes in his pharmacy after the death of one of his employees from lung cancer. Mayor Jacquelyn Kort is among those speaking at Byrd Elementary School. And the New Jersey Breathes program is being supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

I would like to ask all my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in thanking Principal Hal Knapp, Mayor Kort, Nurse Mullane, Mr. Kopacki, New Jersey Breathes Director Dr. Larry Downs and all the teachers and other staff involved in this important project. But beyond this group, I want to make a special appeal to the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, big sisters and brothers and all other adults who play an influential role in the lives of the students of Byrd Elementary School. We all know that children imitate the behavior of adults. Please set a good example for these and all children by not smoking.

A FREE PRESS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE FREEDOM IN RUSSIA—HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 67

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing House Concurrent Resolution 67, which expresses the sense of the Congress that freedom of the news media and freedom of expression are vital to the development and consolidation of democracy in Russia and that the United States should actively support such freedoms. Joining me in introducing this legislation are the gentleman from New York, Mr. GILMAN, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations; the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. GEJDENSON, the ranking Democratic member of the Committee on International Relations; and the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. BEREUTER, who is a senior member of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker, we are introducing this legislation today because this afternoon the Prime Minister of Russia. Yevgeny Primakov, arrives in the United States for meetings with Vice President GORE. I doubt, Mr. Speaker, that media freedom in Russia is a leading topic on the agenda for the meetings that are scheduled to take place over the next few days during Prime Minister Primakov's visit to our country. It is an issue, however, that ought to be very high on that agenda.

This resolution expresses our unequivocal belief in the necessity of a free and vibrant news media in Russia. No other institution is as essential to the growth of a democratic society than a press unhindered by pressure from governmental authorities, one with the unquestioned ability to shed light upon the deeds and intentions of those with power and influence. Russia—a nation which has been fighting for the last decade to replace communist oppression with strongly-rooted institutions that respect individual freedoms—must ensure the independence of its media in order to maintain and continue the progress of the last ten years.

The enormity of the Russian reform process is breathtaking, and few can doubt the success of governmental initiatives in drastically improving the human rights situation across this immense nation. I vividly recall my service in this House during the 1980's, when many of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, worked doggedly to oppose the repressive policies and practices of the Soviet regime. We focused attention of the persecution of Nobel

Laureate Andrei Sakharov, of political dissidents locked up in Siberian gulags, and of my friend Natan Sharansky, then an imprisoned refusnik and now a senior minister in the government of Israeli.

Fortunately, those days are behind us. But without the fundamental building blocks of a democratic society, the most notable of which involves freedom of the media and freedom of expression, such advancements may only be temporary. The means of informing the citizenry must not be obstructed. Tyranny knows no better friend than silence.

While the Russian Constitution offers firm guarantees of freedom to the news media, such protections have not prevented numerous violations of this principle. The State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1998, which was released just last month, states that during 1998 ''federal, regional, and local governments continued to exert pressure on journalists by depriving them of access to information, using accreditation procedures to limit access, removing them from their jobs and bringing libel suits against them, and violating their human rights.'' Furthermore, the State Department estimates that ''between 250 and 300 lawsuits and other legal actions were brought by the Government against journalists and journalistic organizations during the year in response to unfavorable coverage of government policy or operations. . . . In the vast majority of such cases, the Government succeeded in either intimidating or punishing the journalist.'' Mr. Speaker, this is a dangerous and an ominous precedent, one that could be exploited in the future by autocratic leaders to trample on the liberties of the Russian people.

The threats to the Russian media vary both in their nature and their severity. The State Department identifies an alarming range of specific cases, from the efforts of federal tax authorities to shut down Novaya Gazeta (a Russian daily ''known for its relative independence and aggressive reporting on corruption at high levels'') to the detention of well-known journalist Irina Chernova, who was allegedly blackmailed by Volgograd police officers. According to the report, the officers were ''threatening to release pictures and videotapes of her engaged in sex acts'' in response to critical articles about the department's performance. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to carefully examine the State Department's report in order to obtain a better understanding of the seriousness and scope of this problem.

My concerns about this serious matter were piqued last week by the Russian Duma's passage of legislation to tighten state control of television and radio. If it becomes law, this bill would provide a government-appointed ''supreme council'' with unreasonable powers to regulate media content, and the council would have the authority to suspend or revoke a broadcaster's license. I ask my colleagues to join me in urging President Boris Yeltsin to veto this misguided and dangerous initiative.

Mr. Speaker, one of this century's great statesman, President Dwight David Eisenhower, voiced the following words of reason forty-five years ago when he delivered the commencement address at Dartmouth College: ''Don't join the book burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed.'' I sincerely hope that the leaders of Russia will honor this advice, and that they will recognize that the free exchange of ideas is the foundation of any stable democracy.

It is important that we here in the Congress affirm our commitment to the principles of freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Our resolution does this in clear and unequivocal terms. I invite my colleagues to join in cosponsoring this important legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I ask that the text of the resolution be placed in the RECORD.***HD***H. Con. Res. 67

Expressing the sense of the Congress that freedom of the news media and freedom of expression are vital to the development and consolidation of democracy in Russia and that the United States should actively support such freedoms.

Whereas the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union has brought new and unique opportunities for democratic political change and the development of market-oriented economic reform in Russia, but the recent economic difficulties in that country have created turbulent and difficult conditions for the Russian people;

Whereas one of the most important means of assuring the continuation of democratic government and the ultimate guarantee of individual freedom and respect for human rights is an open, independent and free news media;

Whereas a free news media can exist only in an environment that is free of state control of the news media, that is free of any form of state censorship or official coercion of any kind, and that is protected and guaranteed by the rule of law;

Whereas freedom of the news media and freedom of expression in Russia today are threatened by elements in the Government, the Duma and elsewhere throughout Russian society which are opposed to freedom of the press and freedom of expression;

Whereas the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1998 notes that ''federal, regional, and local governments continued to exert pressure on journalists by depriving them of access to information, using accreditation procedures to limit access, removing them from their jobs and bringing libel suits against them, and violating their human rights'';

Whereas the Country Reports further notes that in the past year ''between 250 and 300 lawsuits and other legal actions were brought by the Government against journalists and journalistic organizations during the year in response to unfavorable coverage of government policy or operations'' and ''in the vast majority of such cases, the Government succeeded in either intimidating or punishing the journalist; and

Whereas the Duma recently adopted legislation establishing a ''Supreme Council'' with a mandate to review the content of television and radio programs and authority to suspend and/or revoke a broadcaster's license: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) a free news media is vital to the development and consolidation of democracy and the development of a civil society in Russia:

(2) freedom of the news media and freedom of expression must be safeguarded against those forces which would limit or suppress these fundamental human rights;

(3) Russian Government leaders, including the President, the Prime Minister, and Members of the Russian Parliament, should fully support freedom of the news media and the right of free expression in Russia;

(4) the United States should actively support freedom of expression and freedom of the news media through our programs of assistance to Russia;

(5) when considering requests by the Russian government for loans or other economic assistance from the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions, the United States government should take into account the extent to which Russian government authorities support the full, free, and unfettered freedom of the news media and freedom of expression in deciding whether to support such requests; and

(6) the President and the Secretary of State are requested to convey to appropriate Russian Government officials, including the President, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this expression of the views of the Congress.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL RICHARD F. ROTHENBURG

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I call to your attention the outstanding public service of one of our nation's finest military attorneys and a dear personal friend of mine, Colonel Richard F. Rothenburg the Chief Judge of the United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. On May 1, 1999, Colonel Rothenburg will retire after 30 years of especially distinguished service. Colonel Rothenburg was born in Washington, DC. After graduating from Catonsville High School, Maryland, he received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Maryland in 1964, and his bachelor of law (LLB) degree in 1967 from the University of Maryland School of Law. The Chief Judge received his commission in 1964 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. After completing his legal studies, Colonel Rothenburg entered active duty in 1967. Colonel Rothenburg was first assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. In 1969, Colonel Rothenburg was assigned to Headquarters 7th Air Force, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. In addition to serving as both a prosecutor and defense counsel, Colonel Rothenburg sat as a military trial judge on 27 courts-martial during his tour in Vietnam. Colonel Rothenburg is the only officer still on active duty to have served as an Air Force judge advocate in Vietnam. Colonel Rothenburg's other early assignments included positions as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, and Staff Judge Advocate at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. Colonel Rothenburg attended Air Command and Staff College between 1978 and 1979, then took the reins as Staff Judge Advocate at Langley Air force Base, Virginia; then the home of Tactical Air Command. Colonel Rothenburg was next selected to serve as a military judge for all air bases in Europe, where he presided at more than 150 felony

trials. Colonel Rothenburg returned from Europe in 1986 to serve as the Air Force Tactical Fighter Weapons Center Staff Judge Advocate at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Then, from 1988 to 1992, he served as the 15th Air Force Staff Judge Advocate at March Air Force Base, California. In 1992, Colonel Rothenburg was selected to serve as the Director of the United States Air Force Judiciary in Washington, DC. As Director, Colonel Rothenburg oversaw a 3.5 million dollar budget and 350 people directly involved in the Air Force's worldwide military justice system. Based on his vast experience in military justice and impeccable judicial temperament, Colonel Rothenburg was selected in 1997 to serve as the Chief Judge of the nine-member Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. He was sworn in as Chief Judge on April 2, 1997. In the face of a blistering docket average of 600 appellate opinions per year and an undermanned Court, Chief Judge Rothenburg led the Court to its lowest backlog of cases awaiting review in a decade. At the same time, Chief Judge Rothenburg guided the Court into the uncharted waters of electronic pleading at the federal appellate level. Chief Judge Rothenburg's influence on the shape of military appellate law and practice will endure well into the next century.

Colonel Rothenburg's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm leaf. Colonel Rothenburg is a member of the bar in Maryland and the District of Columbia. He is married to the former Linda Lee Gossard of Hagerstown, Maryland. They have two children: Richard and Anne. I ask that you join me, his colleagues, and Colonel Rothenburg's many friends in saluting this distinguished officer's three decades of service to the United States of America. I know our Nation, his wife Linda, and their children are extremely proud of his accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 18, I was visiting with officials in Albania and consequently was not present for Roll Call votes 57 through 59. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 57, agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 4. I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 58, the motion to recommit with instructions. I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 59, passage of H.R. 4, a bill to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSEUMS AT STONY BROOK

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to pay tribute to The Museums at Stony Brook. This year marks the 60th anniversary for the historic museums located in beautiful Stony Brook, Long Island.

Since the Museums at Stony Brook first opened their doors in 1939, they have helped to spread the wonderful history of our local community. Their praise and revival of Long Island's celebrated past has been a great benefit to our families, schools and neighborhoods. The museums have helped countless numbers of Long Islanders remember their history and increase their respect for its rich and vibrant culture.

Led by Museum President, Deborah Johnson, the Museums have enriched Long Islanders by spreading the legacy of Ward and Dorothy Melville, two of Long Island's most respected citizens. The Museum has reached out to all members of our community, young and old, to keep sacred Long Island's past. The museum's importance to our community is truly evident in their success for sixty strong years.

In particular, one Museum program deserves special recognition, it is their summer program for children. The Museum enlists community volunteers to help teach their children about their past, while creating an enjoyable environment. The success of this program has contributed to the vital and vibrant participation of the Museum in our community. This is a fine example of the community spirit that is evident in my Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring 60 years of devoted service to our community. I only hope that the Museums at Stony Brook will be able to continue to further enrich our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 50, on House Congressional Resolution 819, Federal Maritime Commission Authorization Act of 1999, I was unavailable to vote because I was returning from a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip to Russia. The objectives of this four-day trip included meetings with the Russian Duma and other governmental officials concerning the missile defense threat as outlined in the report of the Rumsfeld Commission. Our delegation was joined in Moscow by former Secretary Don Rumsfeld and two members of his commission, Mr. Jim Woolsey and Mr. William Schneider, Jr.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF KRIKOS, A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH HELLENISM AND THE WORLD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to KRIKOS, an outstanding Hellenic cultural organization located in my district, as it celebrates its 25th Silver Anniversary.

Since its founding in 1974 and ensuing incorporation in 1975, KRIKOS has served as a vital link between the various communities of the Hellenic world. KRIKOS aims to foster and promote cooperation and fellowship among Hellenes and phil-Hellenes throughout the world and to preserve and enrich the Hellenic heritage of Hellenic communities worldwide.

Over the past 25 years, the organization has taken many important initiatives to attain its goals. KRIKOS has organized over forty conferences throughout the world and, where possible, published the proceedings. The conferences have covered such topics as energy alternatives for Greece, media coverage of Greece, a history of Byzantium, Greek-American Letters and Arts, the Macedonia-Tinderbox of Europe and the Yugoslav Civil Wars, to name a few.

KRIKOS has also organized a Medical Task Force and, since 1982, held annual medical conferences. The Task Force has supplied various hospitals with kidney dialysis machines, medical publications and other needed supplies. KRIKOS has also guided college and college-bound youth; made arrangements for students to visit abroad through a work-study program: established and assisted in locating and listing the treasures of St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai through computer technology; created ''information banks'' of available expertise in a wide spectrum of specialities; donated 5,000 books to the Polytechnic University in Athens; and published a newsletter. The organization has also experimented publishing a quarterly magazine of social commentary.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention this important event in the history of KRIKOS. This organization has played a significant role in the Hellenic community both here in the United States and abroad. I am pleased to recognize them on their Silver Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH WHITMER KOZLOSKI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judith Whitmer Kozloski, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

In 1998, Judith Whitmer Kozloski became the first woman in San Mateo's County's history to serve as Presiding Judge of the San

Mateo County Superior and Municipal Courts. Before her appointment to the Municipal Court in 1984, Judith served as an Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco, where she headed the Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Unit. Throughout her career Judge Kozloski has worked tirelessly to educate people about the dangers and consequences of child abuse and domestic violence and she has been a key member of San Mateo County's Task Force on Domestic Violence.

Mr. Speaker, Judith Whitmer Kozloski is an outstanding woman and a highly respected jurist. I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO DOUDE WYSBEEK

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and a great leader, Doude Wysbeek, Doude served two separate terms on the San Fernando City Council; from 1982–85 and 1989–99. Doude was a member of the council for the simple reason that he loves San Fernando, where he has lived since 1956. He ran for office to help make a good city even better. I can say without hesitation that he succeeded in reaching his goal.

I have been lucky to work with Doude on several occasions in the past. I must say that in more than 25 years of public service, I have met very few people with Doude's intelligence, dedication and strength of character. He had a seemingly endless supply of innovative ideas to improve the quality of life for all the people of San Fernando. I know I could always count on Doude for sound advice on what the federal government could—and should—do for his city.

It would require a book to list all of Doude's accomplishments as a member of the San Fernando City Council. His role in bringing businesses to the city, helping to guarantee public safety for all residents, and serving as San Fernando's diplomat to the outside world cannot be overstated. By mentioning a few of his proudest achievements, I don't mean to suggest that this is the complete picture. Doude left a legacy that few public-spirited citizens could expect or hope to equal.

Doude was instrumental in securing passage of anti-gang ordinances at two local parks, which in essence returned the parks to law-abiding citizens. At the same time, Doude secured funding to hire a County probation department to work exclusively with at-risk grammar school students in San Fernando, and helped to implement a citywide tattoo removal program. San Fernando Police Chief Dominic Rivetti has praised Doude for his successful efforts to reduce the gang problem within the city.

Doude also played a key role in bringing Home Depot to San Fernando, which created some 40 jobs.

Doude is a true citizen of San Fernando. In addition to being a member of the council, he was President of the San Fernando Chamber of Commerce, was Chairman of the Morningside Elementary School Advisory Board, held a variety of posts with the San Fernando Lions Clubs and was a scout master. he was also San Fernando's representative on the Metropolitan Water District Board for 10 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Doude Wysbeek, a dedicated public servant, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His commitment to his community inspires us all. I am proud to be his friend.

THE SOLANO PROJECT AND THE CITY OF VALLEJO

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, water supplies for California cities are extremely limited. Whenever possible, cities attempt to use their water storage and conveyance systems in the most efficient ways they can.

The city of Vallejo has tried to use its water supply facilities more efficiently, but has been frustrated by a limitation in Federal law that prohibits the city from sharing space in an existing Federal water delivery canal.

The city of Vallejo simply desires to ''wheel'' some of its drinking water through part of the canal serving California's Solano Project, a water project built by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950s. Vallejo is prepared to pay any appropriate charges for the use of this facility.

Allowing Vallejo to use the Solano Project should be a simple matter, but it is not. Legislation is required to allow the city to use the Federal water project for carriage of municipal and industrial water.

Congress in recent years has expanded the scope of the ''Warren Act'' to apply to other communities in California and Utah where there existed a need for more water management flexibility. The legislation I am introducing today is similar to legislation I introduced in the 105th Congress. It will simply extend similar flexibility to the Solano Project and to the city of Vallejo.

WYOMING LEADER SPEAKS OUT AGAINST HATE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last fall, when we received the terrible news of the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, who was savagely beaten to death simply because he was a gay man, one of the calls I received which heartened me came from Peter Simpson from the University of Wyoming. Mr. Simpson is not only a distinguished individual in his own right, he is the brother of the former Senator from Wyoming, Alan Simpson, whom many of us remember with great respect and fondness from his years of leadership in the United States Senate. At that time Mr. Simpson shared with me an eloquent speech that had been made by Philip Dubois, President of the University of Wyoming.

Tragically, another gay man was a victim of brutal prejudice recently in Alabama, when Billy Jack Gaither was beaten to death by two vicious thugs in a manner sadly reminiscent of the murder of Matthew Shepard. In a grim coincidence, this was the week that we had planned to introduce a new version of the Federal hate crimes legislation which does not seek to supersede State law enforcement, but does seek to add a weapon against brutality based on prejudice.

With Congress about to take up consideration of hate crimes legislation, I think it is appropriate that the eloquent words of President Dubois be shared with the Membership. I am appreciative of Peter Simpson sharing them with us, and I hope the Members will read this and pay close attention to the wise words included.

MATTHEW SHEPARD MEMORIAL SERVICE
(OCTOBER 19, 1998)

Good Evening. Let me thank each of you for being here, and for the tremendous amount of support you have shown over the past ten days to the family and friends of Matt Shepard, the University community, and the city of Laramie.

As your program indicates, we have attempted tonight to assemble just a few of the literally hundreds of people affected by this tragedy—those personally involved because they were Matt's friends and those who came to be involved as the events of the last ten days have unfolded. I very much appreciate—as does the planning committee—the understanding of the many individuals and groups who wanted to be represented in this program but who also recognized the limitations of time.

A little over a week ago, we gathered on the lawn outside the Newman Center. Joined at that time around a common purpose, we found ourselves united as a community to pray for Matthew, to demonstrate our concern for his family, and to speak out against the kind of hatred and bigotry that found expression in the vicious attack upon him.

When I finished speaking that evening, I stood next to my new friend, Jim Osborn, and realized that both of us were shivering. It was a chilly night, but it seemed colder than it really was. I looked around at the hundreds of men, women, and children gathered there. With each speaker the crowd seemed to draw closer together, perhaps fighting the cold or perhaps chilled by the thought that somehow we might have been able to prevent the attack upon Matt.

We closed that evening with the singing of ''We Shall Overcome,'' knowing in our hearts that Matt would probably not win his battle. He would not overcome.

I was awakened the next morning at 5 a.m. with a telephone call. A news organization was calling me to get my reaction to the word of Matt's death. The reporter's voice was filled with emotion. He had watched this community for several days. He had seen the pain on the expressions of nearly everyone on campus and in town. He knew how much this hurt. But he needed a quote.

I recall only that my mind flooded with an unimaginable mix of personal emotions and professional responsibilities. What must Dennis and Judy Shepard be going through right now? Did I have the authority to lower the flags on campus? How could I get a statement out that would provide comfort and reassurance to our gay students? What would I ever say to my children if I had to tell them that their brother had died?

The rest of this past week has been a neverending repeat of that dreadful morning.

Other than the death of my own father three years ago, I cannot remember a week in which I have felt such overpowering sadness.

The sadness of thinking about Matt, his parents, his brother, and his close friends. The sadness of thinking about Matt's gay colleagues, struggling to express simultaneously both their resistance to this violence and their fear that it could have been them in Matt's place.

The sadness of the University faculty and staff who have struggled so hard to create a truly inclusive climate here, only to have others tear down years of work in just a few hours of unspeakable horror.

The sadness of a closeknit community trying to defend itself against ignorance and stereotypes. The sadness of occasionally hearing expressions of such ignorance.

Life is not fair, we've all been told, and this week we lived that lesson again.

But with this sadness have come some small moments of triumph. The Homecoming Parade and the march for Matt. A moment of silence as the football game, broken only by the sound of tears.

The Sunday community vigils and the coming together of this community to ''Remember Matthew'' on Monday afternoon. Gay Awareness Week, and the courage of our Lesbian, Gay, bisexual, and Transgendered Association (LGBTA) to stay the course and not to let fear ruin their plans.

The leadership of our student organizations, ASUW, the Multicultural Resource Center, the Residence Halls, the Greek Community, and our student-athletes to find ways to express their solidarity and support for Matt and their collective opposition to violence, discrimination, and bigotry—regardless of any personal philosophical differences or religious beliefs they might have about homosexuality.

And the professional and personal involvement of our faculty and staff in counseling students and in three days of teach-ins on campus to demonstrate that education and free expression are the most powerful weapons we have against forces that would divide us as an academic community and as a society.

What now can we do? The answer is not simple, but we must begin.

We must begin by reaffirming that UW and Laramie welcome all people, without regard to who or what they are.

We must reexamine all that we have done to cultivate an appreciation of diversity and make sure that we haven't missed a teaching opportunity.

We must find a way to commemorate this awful week in a way that will say to the entire state and nation that we will not forget what has happened here.

And, working closely with the leaders of the local community, we must be vigilant in making sure that the climate for those who are different—whether defined by their sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, national origin, disability, or any other personal characteristic—not only meets the letter of the law but lives up to the standards of our hearts.

I hope that our elected legislators will also seize this moment. I recognize that the question of hate crimes legislation is a matter over which reasonable and thoughtful people who are neither homophobic nor bigoted can and will disagree. No hate crimes statute, even had it existed, would have saved Matt. But Matt Shepard was not merely robbed, and kidnapped, and murdered. This was a crime of humiliation. This crime was all about being gay. No group of people should have to live in this kind of fear.

I speak only for myself and not this University, but it is time our state makes a public statement through the passage of such legislation that demonstrates our values, our commitment to the state motto, and our collective zero tolerance for hatred. Once was more than enough.

All of us have reacted to the events of the last ten days in our own personal way. Matt meant something different for each of us. That is how it should be. Matt could have been my son. He could have been your brother. He was our friend. All of us will remember him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS AMERICAN DREAM HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, thousands of former servicemen and servicewomen in five states are currently prohibited from receiving state-financed home mortgages. That is why Congressman HERGER and I, along with 21 of our colleagues, are introducing the Veterans American Dream Homeownership Assistance Act. This legislation is similar to bills we introduced in the 104th and 105th Congresses.

In order to help veterans own a home, Congress created a program where states could issue tax-exempt bonds in order to raise funds to finance mortgages for owner-occupied residences. Five states—Wisconsin, Alaska, Oregon, California, and Texas—implemented such a program for their veterans. Under a little-known provision in the 1984 tax bill, Congress limited the veterans eligible for this program to those who began military service before 1977.

As a result of the 1984 tax bill, veterans who entered military service after January 1, 1977 are prohibited from receiving a state-financed veterans mortgage. This means veterans who served honorably in Panama, Grenada, or the Gulf War cannot get veterans home mortgages from their state government. Are those who began serving our country after January 1, 1977 any less deserving than those who served before?

This arbitrary cutoff was created to rise additional revenue in the 1984 tax bill by limiting the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. When this provision was enacted, post-1976 veterans were a small percentage of all veterans, without much voice to protest this discriminatory change. But, nineteen years later, there are thousands of veterans who have served our nation honorably.

Mr. Speaker, as time goes by, this legislation takes on increasing importance. The State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has informed me that if the cap on veterans bonds is not lifted this year, the State will be forced to disband the program because too few veterans are eligible for the program.

This legislation would simply eliminate the cutoff that exists under current law. Under our proposal, former servicemen and servicewomen in the five states who served our country beginning before or after January 1, 1977 will be eligible to quality for a state-financed home mortgage. This legislation does not increase federal discretionary spending by 1 cent. It simply allows the five states that have a mortgage finance program for their veterans to provide mortgages to all veterans regardless of when they served in the military.

There is no justification to allow some veterans to qualify for a home mortgage while others cannot. Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to help those veterans who have served after January 1, 1977 to own a home and pass this important legislation into law.

TRIBUTE TO DEBERAH BRINGELSON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deberah Bringelson, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who is being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Deberah Bringelson has served San Mateo County for more than 14 years, both as a professional and a volunteer. She has brought her energies and expertise to the issues of civil justice reform, child protection, toxic cleanup, as well as water and land use policies. Deberah has made significant contributions in the field of criminal and juvenile justice reform, reforming the system and creating efficiencies of operation. Her commitment to the issues of drug abuse and violence arise from her own personal experiences.

Deberah helped create the County Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts, and designed a comprehensive life skills treatment program which serves female offenders and focuses on mothers. Deberah serves as a mentor for young women, coaching several girls' athletic teams. She's been honored for overcoming the personal trauma and violence of her childhood and for bringing her talents, compassion and energy to our community.

Mr. Speaker, Deberah Bringelson is an outstanding woman and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

LEARNING THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Capuchino High School of San Bruno, California, for an extraordinary program they have instituted called ''Sojourn to the Past.'' Envisioned by Jeff Steinberg, a history teacher at Capuchino High School, this ten-day trip recently led eighty-five high school students through a history of the civil rights movement that was made very personal.

The trip began in Washington, D.C., and ended in the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, in the hotel room where Martin Luther King, Jr., was martyred. Along the way the students met with several major figureheads of the civil rights movement, including Chris McNair, father of one of the Birmingham Four, Elizabeth Eckford, who de-segregated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and my own good friend, Congressman JOHN

LEWIS, who introduced the students to his philosophy of non-violence.

History came alive for these young people as they followed the trail of the most significant movement of the twentieth century. They found it impossible to take their own civil rights for granted when confronted with first-person accounts from those who risked their lives fighting to attain those very rights.

But a sense of the reality of history was not the only thing the students took home. The testimonies of the people with whom they met emphasized forgiveness and tolerance, fairly foreign concepts to American high school culture. The idea of using non-violence and tolerance as a mode of dealing with day-to-day problems was initially received with suspicion but seemed to have hit home by the end of the trip.

In a letter written to Congressman JOHN LEWIS, junior Kristin Agius wrote: "Your message has made me rethink my idea of what it means to be important. . . . I've come to the conclusion that a step forward, even a small step, is better than aspiring for something that will only benefit myself."

Mark Simon, a reported from The San Francisco Chronicle, accompanied the students on their journey to the past. I ask that Mr. Simon's excellent report on this outstanding educational experience be included in the RECORD.

CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 28, 1999]

Day 1: Thursday, Feb. 11, Washington, D.C.

They had flown east all day, leaving the morning light of the Bay Area for the nighttime darkness of the nation's capital. With barely a pause, they piled into two buses, went to dinner, and then, as the hour neared 10 p.m., they went as a group to the Lincoln Memorial, where they sat on the steps, huddled together.

Then they listened to a recording of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s conscience-rousing sermon to the 1963 March on Washington, in which he told an assembled multitude of 250,000 that he had a dream of true equality and justice for a nation riven by hatred and racism.

And so it began.

Eighty-five students from Capuchino High School in San Bruno, the most diverse in the San Mateo Union High School District, had embarked on a 10-day journey called ''Sojourn to the Past.'' It was organized by Jeff Steinberg, a history teacher gifted with energy and devotion to match his vision.

The students went wherever the civil rights movement had gone, seeing the people who had been there, hearing tales of heroism and sacrifice and walking in the footsteps of greatness large and small.

This was a spiritual journey—a journey of forgiveness and tolerance, of faith and hope, a journey to the past and for the future.

It was to be an education. There were lessons to be learned.

FORGIVENESS

It was a sustaining theme of the trip. Everywhere the students went, they met historic figures who had been mistreated, neglected, imprisoned and beaten.

And to a person, these people had found within themselves the capacity to forgive.

At the Jewish Community Center in Washington, D.C., they met Ernest Green, one of the Little Rock Nine, who integrated the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957, amid violence, daily torture and taunts.

Short, balding, bespectacled and a little portly, Green was good-humored, upbeat and remarkably short on the details of his year at Central, something that clearly frustrated the students.

But his message was that the students should keep looking forward, not back.

''Life is not like a VCR. There's no reverse,'' he said.

In Birmingham, Ala., they met with Chris McNair, a county commissioner and father of one of the four little girls killed in a Birmingham church bombing in 1963.

''I'm a happy man, in spite of the things that happened to me,'' he said in a deep, rough voice.

''You're precious to me,'' he said. ''In this world, justice means so much. I hope you can reach a point where you can get out of the hate mode. In that mode, you're the one who truly suffers.''

When the trip was over, and the students had been to the deepest South and the deepest parts of their soul, African American senior Ke'Shonda Williams said she had learned something from the spirit of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

''(King) never had hate in his heart for anybody. He found the goodness in his heart to forgive people. If someone did something wrong to me, I just couldn't forgive them for it. I haven't been through half the things he'd been through. If he could forgive them and move on, I think I should be able to forgive. I'm going to try.''

The student's capacity for forgiveness was put to its hardest test in Montgomery, Ala., in the office of George Wallace Jr., associate commissioner of the Alabama Public Service Commission, and son and namesake of the famous governor.

Wallace has just moved into his office, and the floor, chairs and tables were covered with yet-to-be-hanged pictures and memorabilia.

Dressed in a pinstripe suit, his voice soft and his words thoughtfully chosen, Wallace told the students about his father.

In his most famous speech, his inaugural address in 1963, Governor Wallace declared ''Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.''

That was urged upon him by his political advisers, said his son.

''His choice was not to use the word segregation. His choice initially was to use the word freedom,'' Wallace said.

His father made peace with the state's African Americans—a peace brought by a Christian revelation—and sought their forgiveness. He also sought their votes, and won re-election in 1972 with a substantial bloc of black votes.

''I hope you'll look at his life in totality. . . . I know he deeply regretted some of the things he said. If he was a leader in the Old South, he sought to be a leader in the New South,'' he said.

Anne Kelly, a white junior, stormed from the room, angry tears in her eyes.

On another day, Anne also had tears in her eyes while discussing her own Methodist Church's refusal to sanction same-sex marriages.

''Would Jesus have turned his back on these people? You don't need to like it, but you need to tolerate it. That's what tolerance is about,'' she said.

On this day, she had found Wallace wanting.

''He couldn't admit there was no justification for what (his father) did. He never said opportunism is wrong. In order for an apology to mean something, you have to accept responsibility for what you did,'' she said.

During the trip, students were required to write letters to the people they met that day. Jennifer Lynch, a white junior, wrote Wallace that she had tried to remain open-minded.

''I think it did become apparent that your father had become a changed man,'' she said.

TOLERANCE

They went to Little Rock's Central High School, a brick, fortress-like building with white-topped towers.

There, they heard from Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan Massery, who are locked together forever in one of the most famous photographs of the 1950s.

Eckford, a slender black girl in dark glasses, can be seen walking alone through a hostile crowd. Behind her is Hazel Bryan, her face contorted as she shouts an epithet at Eckford.

Five years later, Bryan, now Hazel Massery, apologized. Forty years later, the two are close friends.

On this day, they were on stage together to, as Massery put it, ''make sense of the experience.''

In a carefully prepared and delivered presentation, they took turns telling of their experiences.

As Eckford described her year at Central, her voice choked repeatedly and she often wiped tears from her face.

Finally, the time came for questions.

No, Eckford said, she would not do it again, if she had the chance.

Then, Darnell Ene, an African American junior, rose and asked what word Massery was saying in the picture.

In fact, it's fairly obvious what she was saying—it's a word so sensitive that it is simply called the ''n'' word.

Before Darnell could finish his question, Eckford, her voice heavy with pain, cried out, ''No, no!''

Massery said, ''I choose not to repeat that.''

Said Eckford: ''Hate speech is always hurtful. There is nothing you can learn by repeating it.''

But later, Darnell said he know what word Massery had used.

''I wanted to know what was in her mind,'' he said, ''I wanted to know what was going through her mind when she did it, what forced her into it, what was pushing her into doing it.''

And when the trip was over, Mamoud Kamel, a junior whose family came to the United States from Egypt five years ago, found himself rethinking his own habits.

Mamoud said it is common practice among high school students to use the word ''nigga,'' a slang form of the notorious racial slur.

It's used frequently in rap music, and young people, at least at Capuchino, have come to accept it as slang and to distinguish between the harsher form of the word.

''That's the way we all talk right now, but I'm going to stop saying this word,'' he said.

NONVIOLENCE

This one may be the hardest for the students.

They met often with people who had been beaten and then stepped up for more.

In Atlanta, in a theater at the Martin Luther King Jr. visitors' center, they met with Representative John Lewis, D–Ga.

Lewis is one of the icons of the civil rights movement—former head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, arrested more than 40 times in nonviolent demonstrations, the youngest speaker at the 1963 March on Washington and leader of the first march from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery, the state capital.

That march, on March 7, 1965, made national headlines when state troopers savagely beat the marchers as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

Two weeks later, King led a second march that successfully reached Montgomery.

Lewis, who suffered a broken skull in the first march, was asked if he'd ever felt the urge to strike back.

''I never had any desire or urge to strike back in any sense. I believe in nonviolence, not just as a technique, not just as a tactic, but as a way of life and a way of living,'' he said.

In the back of the theater sat Darnell Ene, his fists clenched as Lewis described the Selma beating.

''It's not right,'' he said later. ''You shouldn't do that kind of stuff, and to make things worse, (the marchers were) doing it nonviolently. They had a perfect reason to turn violent, but they didn't. That shows signs of strength.''

It's a strength Darnell and his friend Chris Ramirez, a Latino junior, said they don't have.

Darnell said he tries to walk away from disputes, but he doesn't shrink from physical violence if he's pushed to it.

''I don't like backing down,'' Chris said. ''I can't back down.''

The most spontaneous outburst by the students came in Selma for a woman who did not back down.

In the rear room of Lannie's, a locally famous diner where the students were served fried chicken, fried catfish and fried pork chops, they met Annie Lee Cooper.

Cooper was a part of a group that in 1964 tried to enter a local courthouse to register to vote.

Her path was blocked by Sheriff Jim Clark, an enthusiastic and violent racist, who struck her.

Cooper, no devotee of nonviolence, hit the sheriff across the side of the face, and a melee ensured that ended only after Clark clubbed Cooper on the head with a nightstick and two other police officers wrestled her into handcuffs.

When the students heard the story, they jumped to their feet and applauded at length.

The applause was led by the otherwise quiet Michael Mosqueda, a Latino junior, who said later that Cooper was a hero.

''She didn't just take it and take it,'' he said.

But for Will Hannan, a white junior, and for others, the message of nonviolence rang truest.

''You don't need to arm people with weapons, you need to arm people with a certain philosophy, and if they really intend to be warriors in the nonviolent battle, they need to live nonviolence as a way of life,'' he said.

FAITH

Everywhere the students went, they went to church.

They visited Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where King had been pastor at the time of his death; Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, a stone's throw from the state capitol, where Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the Confederacy and where King has his first pastorship; and the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, where the four girls were killed.

In the basement of the church, where the girls had been going to Sunday school when 12 sticks of dynamite exploded, the students heard from Lola Hendricks.

She had marched in Birmingham, and her 8-year-old daughter spent five days in jail during the ''Children's Crusade,'' in which the black youth of Birmingham were sent out against the white establishment's fire hoses and police dogs.

Hendricks was asked if she was scared. No, she said.

''I felt the way we were being treated in the South, we might as well be dead. So we had no fear,'' she told the students.

And she knew God was with them, she said. He knew what they had been through.

The students heard testimony—in the back room of a diner in Selma, in church basements and in community theaters, and in the offices of elected officials in Montgomery—that God has played a hand in the civil rights movement, protecting those who were marching, reassuring, those who were in doubt and bringing light to those who had been on the wrong side of the issue.

''In struggle, you need something to believe, a hope and a faith to believe in,'' said Katie Gutierrez, a Latina junior and herself a devout Christian. ''With all the hatred, you need love somewhere, and God is love.''

THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

On the sixth day of the trip, history teacher Steinberg rose early to appear on a local TV morning show in Montgomery. He said he hoped the trip would have a meaningful impact on the students.

''Maybe they become more compassionate and tolerant, and maybe they get inspired to do better in school. * * * I think the kids are going to come back changed people,'' he said.

They probably will. But not all of them will. And not all of them will right away.

Near the end of the trip, Monique Jackson, an African American senior, said she didn't come back changed, but she came back better informed and touched by the realization that everywhere she went, Martin Luther King Jr. had been there.

''The struggle back then is what led us up to now. * * * It's not really that bad now. You can't stop a racist from being a racist, so what can you do? In these days, nobody goes around hosing people down. Yes, there is still race discrimination, sex discrimination. You just have to deal with it as it comes.''

In a letter to Ernest Green, one of the Little Rock Nine, Kristin Davis, a white junior, wrote: ''I believe in your philosophy that you cannot live in the past. Those experiences help shape your future, but you can't let them run your life.''

African American junior Aisha Schexnayder wrote to Green: ''I've been through a lot in my life, but I can't see myself going through all of that and still be able to crack a smile.'' In a letter to John Lewis, white junior Kristin Agius wrote: ''Your message has made me rethink my idea of what it means to be important and what it means to make a difference. I've come to the conclusion that a step forward, even a small step, is better than aspiring for something that will only benefit myself.''

As she contemplated the Montgomery's Civil Rights Memorial, a setting of granite, smoothly flowing waters and a roll call of civil rights martyrs, Clarissa Pritchett, an African American junior, said: ''All the people worked so hard to get us where we are today, and I worry that we're going to leave it undone.''

Theresa Calpotura, a junior of Filipino descent, said she would return from the trip determined to overcome her innate shyness and to work on matters of racial and social inequality.

''You have to start with yourself before you can change anything else, and that's what this trip did for me,'' she said. ''You have to know that tolerance is important. It's basically the glue of our society.''

Theresa's close friend, Ronita Jit, a junior of Indian descent, said she would return determined to start an organization on campus that would include all races, and give them the chance to connect across cultural lines.

''It just confirmed my determination,'' she said. ''I want (us) to spend time with each other and get to know each other. I know these things are far-fetched, but I'm going to try.''

One of those who said she'll join Ronita's effort was LaDreena Maye, an African American junior whose shyness belies a depth of thought and feeling.

She wants to be a doctor, and she found inspiration to push for her goal from those with whom the students met. She also learned about those who did nothing while injustices and cruelty were taking place.

''When I see something going on, I'll probably want to be more quick to address it now, instead of just sitting and letting it pass by,'' she said.

''I guess that now from the trip—knowing what we know—that there is a bit of an obligation. I think we should all want to come back and educate people about some of the things we've learned on the trip. . . . I think something needs to be done.''

DAY 10: Saturday, February 20, Memphis

The buses rolled up to the Lorraine Motel and into a time warp.

Parked in front were a white Dodge Royal with massive, olive-green tail fins and a white Cadillac convertible.

There was a plaque, bearing a quote from Genesis: ''Behold, here cometh the dreamer. . . . Let us slay him and see what becomes of his dreams.''

As the students stood outside the motel, Steinberg played an excerpt from King's final speech, delivered with a mystical passion the night before he was killed.

''Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land.''

The students then took a guided tour of the adjacent National Civil Rights Museum, an interactive experience with vivid displays that create a sense of time and place.

It was like watching their trip unfold before them on fast-forward—except that the tour ended outside Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel.

The covers of one bed are slightly rumpled. A plate of catfish is set on the bed. Cigarette butts are crushed out in an ashtray.

It was as though Martin Luther King Jr. might step back through the door in just a moment.

Students who had been stoic throughout the trip stared into the room as if stricken.

Some cried quietly.

Then, they went to a conference room upstairs and had lunch.

Afterward, they stood, one at a time, and talked about what the trip meant to them.

Many cried. Some had to leave the room.

Then they stood together and held hands and sang one chorus of ''We Shall Overcome'' before heading home.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COMBAT THE CRIME OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE VICTIMS

HON. LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to combat the crime of international trafficking, a fundamental violation of human rights to which this Nation has a responsibility to act.

Trafficking involves the use of deception, coercion, abuse of authority, debt bondage, or

fraud to exploit persons through forced prostitution, sexual slavery, sweatshop labor, or domestic servitude. Faced with difficult times in their home countries, women are often lured by advertisements for job opportunities overseas. Women will often answer these ads hoping to make enough money to take care of their families and fulfill their dreams in far away places. Unfortunately, these dreams soon turn into nightmares as the women have their passports seized, are sold for profit, and then forced to sell their bodies to recover the cost of a debt they did not incur. In many cases, they are constantly monitored and supervised to prevent them from escaping. Trafficked women are often subject to physical and mental abuse including, but not limited to battery, cruelty, and rape.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on my efforts over the past several years to bring attention to the problem of trafficking, particularly with respect to the sale of Burmese women and children into brothels in Thailand. Unfortunately, as we learn more about this problem, it is becoming tragically clear that trafficking knows no national or regional borders. Throughout the regions of Southeast Asia, as well as within a number of nations across the former Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, criminal organizations are capitalizing on poverty, rising unemployment, and the disintegration of social networks to exploit and abuse women and children.

This legislation would create an Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking within the Office of Secretary of State, that would submit an annual report to Congress on: (1) The identification of states involved in trafficking; (2) the complicity of any governmental officials in those states; (3) the efforts those states are making to combat trafficking; (4) the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking; and (5) the level of international cooperation by such states in internal investigations of trafficking. It would also bar police assistance to governments that are involved in this practice, and would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow trafficking victims brought to the United States to remain here for three months so that they may put their lives back together and at the same time testify against their traffickers in both civil and criminal proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Senator WELLSTONE, who has introduced the Senate companion legislation, in supporting this bill to end the abhorrent practice of trafficking both home and abroad.

TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND OF MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Alfred Berkowitz, who was an active supporter of the Wayne State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professionals. Sadly, Mr. Berkowitz died on February 25 in a car accident in Northern Michigan.

Mr. Berkowitz began his relationship with the pharmaceutical profession in Detroit over 60 years ago when he attended the Detroit Institute of Technology, which merged with Wayne State University in 1957. Once completing his education, he joined the United States Army where he spent seven years on active duty and 27 years as an active reservist. Mr. Berkowitz retired from service in 1975 with the rank of Warrant Officer IV. Although his professional career was in business, after maintaining his license for 50 years, he was honored by the Michigan Board of Pharmacy, in 1987.

Mr. Berkowitz was generous in his philanthropic support of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professionals with a specific focus on benefiting students. He was an invaluable resource to the college by supporting scholarships and by taking a personal interest in students faced with financial hardships. He received Wayne State's Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 1996 as a result of his outstanding support and was recognized at the Cornerstone Club level of the Anthony Wayne Society.

Through his service and dedication to Wayne State University and the community, Mr. Berkowtiz made a big difference in many lives and his legacy that he gave the college will help students for years to come.

HONORING NEW PENSACOLA CHIEF OF POLICE, JERRY W. POTTS

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, across America, the peace and prosperity enjoyed by our citizens owes much to the tireless efforts by our law enforcement personnel. And in my hometown of Pensacola, Florida, the proud policemen that preserve the peace in our community are led by a great American, Jerry W. Potts.

Chief Potts brings a positive reassuring style of leadership to his job while exhibiting a strength of character in his personal and professional life. Chief Potts' professional and personal life has been characterized by excellence, leadership and service to others. His public service began in earnest in 1965 when he joined the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division. The leadership skills he developed in the service quickly transferred to excellence in law enforcement.

Chief Potts began his law enforcement career in 1973 when he joined the Pensacola Police Department as a dispatcher. Jerry quickly worked his way up the ranks being promoted to police officer, Sergeant, Assistant Chief of Police, and early this year, Chief of Police.

Jerry Potts' service to others goes beyond law enforcement. Chief Potts has always been involved in our community. He has served on the Judges' Task Force for Children, the mayor's Task Force on Community Values, and the Board of Governors for Fiesta of Five Flags.

Mr. Speaker, by any measure of merit, Chief Potts is one of America's best and brightest law enforcement professionals, and he will continue to be an asset for Northwest Florida in his new role. As a father of two young boys, I sleep better at night knowing that our streets are safer and that our children are protected because of his life-long efforts.

Chief Jerry Potts has devoted his life to preserving the public safety enjoyed by the people of the City of Pensacola and the entire State of Florida. We are grateful for his continuing public service.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA MARIE JENKINS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jessica Marie Jenkins, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Frame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

Jessica Marie Jenkins is a brilliant high school student who has earned National Merit Semifinalist status. Jessica entered high school with an aggressive plan to take the most challenging courses offered. She has set high goals for herself despite the fact that she is legally blind.

While maintaining a heavy academic load, Jessica volunteers in a local business and at the Peninsula Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, where she teaches Braile and helps organize youth group activities. She's a leader in her church where she serves as a Eucharistic Minister. An accomplished pianist, Jessica is a thoughtful person, always willing to help anyone, whether they need a tutor or a friend. Jessica's future plans are to combine her interests in community building, and the rights of the disabled and international relations to benefit others.

Mr. Speaker, Jessica Marie Jenkins is an outstanding young woman and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being named a Young Woman of Excellence by the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Frame.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALL-PAYER GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the All-Payer Graduate Medical Education Act, legislation that improves the funding of America's teaching hospitals and eases the burden on the Medicare Trust Fund.

We have recently learned that medical care costs will double in the next ten years. Health care budgets, including Medicare, will be caught in the vise of increasing costs and limited resources. We must try to restrain the growth of Medicare spending, while protecting our teaching hospitals that rely on Medicare and Medicaid as major sources of funding for graduate medical education (GME).

America's 125 academic medical centers and their affiliated hospitals are vital to the nation's health. These centers train each new generation of physicians, nurses and allied health professionals, conduct the research and

clinical trials that lead to advances in medicine, including new treatments and cures for disease, and care for the most medically complex patients. To place their contributions in perspective, academic medical centers constitute only two percent of the nation's nonfederal hospital beds, yet they conduct 42% of all of the health research and development in the United States, provide 33% of all trauma units and 31% of all AIDS units. Academic medical centers also treat a disproportionate share of the nation's indigent patients.

To pay for training the nation's health professionals, our academic medical centers must rely on the Medicare program. But Medicare's contribution does not fully cover the costs of residents' salaries, and more importantly, this funding system fails to recognize that graduate medical education benefits all segments of society, not just Medicare beneficiaries. At a time when Congress is revising the Medicare program to ensure that the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund can remain solvent for future generations, GME costs are threatening to break the bank.

The All-Payer Graduate Medical Education Act distributes the expense of graduate medical education more fairly by establishing a Trust funded by a 1% fee on all private health care premiums. Teaching hospitals receive approximately $3 billion annually in additional GME payments from the Trust, while Medicare's annual contribution to GME decreases by $1 billion. The current formula for direct graduate medical education payments is based upon cost reports generated more than 15 years ago, and it unfairly rewards some hospitals and penalizes others. This bill replaces the current formula with a fair, national system for direct graduate medical education payments based upon actual resident wages. Children's hospitals, which have unfairly received only very limited support for their pediatric training programs, will receive funding for their GME programs.

Critics of indirect GME payments have sought greater accountability for the billions of dollars academic medical centers receive each year. The All-Payer Graduate Medical Education Act requires hospitals to report annually on their contributions to improved patient care, education, clinical research, and community services. The formula for indirect GME payments will be changed to more accurately reflect MedPAC's estimates of true indirect costs.

My bill also addresses the supply of physicians in this country. Nearly every commission that has studied the physician workforce has recommended reducing the number of first-year residency positions to 110% of the number of American medical school graduating seniors. This bill directs the Secretary of HHS, working with the medical community, to develop and implement a plan to accomplish this goal within five years. In doing so, we ensure that rural and urban hospitals that need residents to deliver care to underserved populations receive an exception from the cap.

Medicare disproportionate share payments are particularly important to our safety-net hospitals. Many of these hospitals, which treat the indigent, are in dire financial straits. This bill reallocates disproportionate share payments, at no cost to the federal budget, to hospitals that carry the greatest burden of poor patients. Hospitals that treat Medicaid-eligible and indigent patients will be able to count these patients when they apply for disproportionate share payments. In addition, these payments will be distributed uniformly nationwide, without regard to hospital size or location. Rural public hospitals, in particular, will benefit from this provision.

Finally, because graduate medical education encompasses the training of other health professionals, this bill provides for $300 million annually of the Medicare savings to support graduate training programs for nurses and other allied health professionals. These funds are in addition to the current support that Medicare provides for the nation's diploma nursing schools.

The All-Payer Graduate Medical Education Act creates a fair system for the support of graduate medical education—fair in the distribution of costs to all payers of medicare, fair in the allocation of payments to hospitals. Everyone benefits from advances in medical research and well-trained health professionals. Life expectancy at birth has increased from 68 years in 1950 to 76 years today. Medical advances have dramatically improved the quality of life for millions of Americans. And it is largely because of our academic medical centers that we are in the midst of a new era of biotechnology that will extend the advances of medicine beyond imagination, advances that will prevent disease and disability, extend life, and ultimately lower health care costs.

The Association of American Medical Colleges, the National Association of Public Hospitals, the National Association of Children's Hospitals, the American Medical Student Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the American Speech-Language, Hearing Association, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing have all expressed support for the bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting America's academic medical centers and the future of our physician workforce by cosponsoring the All-Payer Graduate Medical Education Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GEORGE A. HURST, M.D.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, who has dedicated his life to those less fortunate—Dr. George A. Hurst, M.D., of Tyler, Texas. In honor of his tireless sacrifices and endless contributions to the medical community, Dr. Hurst will be named as Director Emeritus at the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler on March 31, 1999.

The son of American missionaries, Dr. Hurst was born in Brazil, attended high school in Georgia and graduated from Austin College. He earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas and interned at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

In 1964, he came to Tyler as the Clinical Director of the East Texas Chest Hospital. In 1970, he was named Director and worked in that capacity until January of 1998. In 1977, the hospital became a part of the University of Texas System and was renamed the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler (UTHCT).

Working with the leadership of the UT System, he has guided the institution through a remarkable period of growth in its facilities including: the Patient Tower in 1980, the Biomedical Research Building in 1987, the Medical Resident Center in 1987 and the Ambulatory Clinic Building in 1996. More importantly, UTHCT evolved from a chest hospital to an acute care facility with a multiple mission of patient care, medical education and biomedical research. To help fulfill this mission, The Family Practice and Occupational Medicined Residency Programs were begun during his tenure.

A dedicated servant, he has served his institution, community, family and church with humility and insightful leadership. A godly man, placing others before self, he dedicated his life to caring for those in need and in so doing achieved a high level of respect from his peers, as signified by the many honors bestowed upon him.

The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler is honored to recognize, Dr. George A. Hurst, Director Emeritus, for his exemplary service to mankind as its Director from 1970–1998.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor and respect for this great American—Dr. George A. Hurst, M.D.

TRIBUTE TO EARL HENDRIX—PROGRESSIVE FARMER'S MAN OF THE YEAR IN SOUTHEAST AGRICULTURE

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and pleasure to rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Earl Hendrix of Hoke County, North Carolina. Mr. Hendrix was recently named Man of the Year in Southeast Agriculture by Progressive Farmer.

Earl Hendrix is a lifelong farmer, known for his quiet, unselfish leadership. He has made outstanding contributions to North Carolina agriculture as a producer of soybeans, tobacco, corn, small grains, cotton, tobacco seed and swine.

Mr. Hendrix has served on many agricultural boards over the years including the state boards of the Cotton Promotion Association, the Small Grain Growers Association and the Soybean Producers Association. He is former president of the Soybean Producers.

Nationally, Hendrix is serving his third term on the United Soybean Board and is chairman of the USB Production Research Committee which oversees more than $6 million annually for soybean research nationwide.

Mr. Hendrix has been honored by the North Carolina Association of County Agriculture Agents and has been the recipient of the state commissioner's ''Friend of Agriculture'' award. He has received the Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservationist of the Year award and he and his wife, Hazel, are the recipients of the Extension Area Farm Family of the Year Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendrix have three children, two of whom are partners on the family farm.

Mr. Hendrix devotes time and money to support the local 4–H and his optimistic outlook for agriculture is noticed and appreciated by all in the farm community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the distinguished service to agriculture and the State of North Carolina of Earl Hendrix for his leadership and professional commitment to stewardship of the land and providing food and fiber to the world.

TRIBUTE TO PHELICIA JONES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phelicia Jones, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

Phelicia Jones is the Project Coordinator for the San Mateo County Nia Mentoring Program, a program which provides both personal and professional guidance for African American youth. Phelicia has overcome both family tragedy and a drug addiction to become a positive role model for others to emulate. Through the Twilight Basketball for Youth program, Phelicia works with at-risk youth to help them avoid many of the same pitfalls she encountered. She has also been instrumental in establishing a crime prevention program benefiting young girls through the Sisters in Style program.

While a student at the College of San Mateo, she earned a 3.75 grade point average and went on to earn a Bachelors Degree from the College of Notre Dame, while simultaneously being actively involved in student government and community affairs. She is currently pursuing a Masters Degree at San Francisco State University and working toward a Drug and Alcohol Certificate.

Mr. Speaker, Phelicia Jones is an outstanding woman and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 16, 1999, I was conducting official business in my congressional district and missed rollcall votes 50, 51, and 52. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

HONORING COLORADO BOYS STATE BASKETBALL 2A CHAMPIONS—CALICHE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Caliche High School boys basketball team on their impressive Colorado State 2A Championship. The victory, a hard fought 54–50 win over Hoehne High School, was a thrilling contest between two talented and deserving teams. In championship competition, though, one team must emerge victorious, and Caliche proved themselves the best in their class—truly second to none.

The State 2A Championship is the highest achievement in high school basketball. This coveted trophy symbolizes more than just the team and its coach, Rocky Samber, as it also represents the staunch support of the players' families, fellow students, school personnel and the community. From how on, these people can point to the 1998–1999 boys basketball team with pride, and know they were part of a remarkable athletic endeavor. Indeed, visitors to this town and school will see a sign proclaiming the Boys State 2A Championship, and know something special had taken place there.

The Caliche basketball squad is a testament to the old adage that the team wins games, not individuals. The combined talents of these players coalesced into a dynamic and dominant basketball force. Each team member also deserves to be proud of his own role. These individuals are the kind of people who lead by example and serve as role-models. With the increasing popularity of sports among young people, local athletes are heroes to the youth in their home towns. I admire the discipline and dedication these high schoolers have shown in successfully pursing their dream.

The memories of this storied year will last a lifetime. I encourage all involved, but especially the Caliche players, to build on this experience by dreaming bigger dreams and achieving greater successes. I offer my best wishes to this team as they move forward from their State 2A Championship to future endeavors.

ENCOURAGING MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE DRUG TRAFFICKERS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate the commitment of my colleagues and I to win the war on drugs and encourage the Mexican government to cooperate with our efforts.

Recently a Mexican judge dismissed charges against two drug kingpins, Jesus and Luis Amezcua-Contreras. These brothers have both been indicated on narcotics charges by federal grand juries in separate cases in Southern California. Mexico has claimed for years now to be allies of the United States in the war against drugs, but the fact of the matter is that the Mexican government has yet to extradite a national drug kingpin for trial in the United States to date.

Mr. Speaker the fact is that United States drug laws are stricter than those in Mexico and drug criminals fear our judicial system. We must send a message to our neighbors to the south and these criminals that we will not be intimidated or weak willed when dealing with this serious issue.

It is vitally important for the United States to continue to stand firm in our commitment to win the war on drugs. Without the full cooperation of our neighbors, we have little chance of meeting this goal. The United States, and southern California in particular, cannot afford yielding in our efforts to stop the flow of illegal drugs over our borders and into the hands of our children.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Mexican government to release drug traffickers which have been indicted by our government back to United States officials so they can be properly tried in our country. We must protect our children from such diabolic criminals.

TRIBUTE TO MARY HARRIS EVANS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Harris Evans, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

Mary Harris Evans has a rich and varied background as a professional and a volunteer. While attending California College of Podiatric Medicine, Mary founded an outreach program at Laguna Honda Hospital and treated senior citizens in their homes at no charge. Mary is now a Financial Advisor and Retirement Specialist with Dean Witter, where she assists clients with the management of their portfolios. Throughout her career, Mary has always made a great commitment to volunteerism, most notably fifteen years service to the California 4–H.

Mary also serves as President of the American Baptist Women of the West and helped found the African-American Community Health Advisory Committee. Mary is also a trained mediator and was recently instrumental in helping Mrs. Tom Lantos put together a Homeless Theater Project.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Harris Evans is an outstanding woman and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NURSE APPRECIATION ACT OF 1999

HON. STEVE C. LaTOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, imagine if the Congress singled out a mostly female workforce of 39,000 federal employees and, under suspension, passed legislation that:

allowed the workers to go up to 5 years in a row without a single raise;

allowed them to have their pay cut by as much as 8% in a single year;

or provided for an annual increase as minuscule as one-tenth of one percent.

Now imagine that a president not only signed this measure into law, but that it's been

the law of the land for nearly a decade. Which group of federal workers has suffered this unthinkable injustice? None other than the 39,000 nurses who work for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and have devoted their careers to caring for our nation's ailing veterans.

In the 101st Congress, the House and Senate passed the Nurse Pay Act, well-intended legislation that was designed to ease a national nursing shortage by allowing VA medical center directors to forgo the annual general schedule (GS) pay schedule that applies to virtually all federal employees. In theory, this new law enabled directors to give nurses higher annual raises than other federal workers so they could recruit and retain a quality workforce. Unfortunately, as soon as the national nurse shortage eased, the intent of the law was manipulated and directors started using their discretion to deny raises, provide tiny raises, and even reduce pay rates.

Today, I introduced the VA Nurse Appreciation Act of 1999, legislation that will rectify the pay injustice VA nurses have suffered. This legislation will ensure that Title 38 VA nurses receive the annual GS increase plus locality pay so they will be on equal footing with other federal workers in their area. It will also give the VA Secretary the discretion to increase pay, or delegate this authority to directors, if they have trouble recruiting or retaining quality nurses.

In the last few years some congressional attention has been focused on the VA nurse problem, and the VA has quietly ''encouraged'' directors to give raises. Still, VA nurses have fared far worse than other federal workers. Overall, the average annual increase for VA nurses was 50% lower than the standard GS increase in 1996; 60% lower in 1997; 25% lower in 1998; and about 17% lower in 1999.

Furthermore, abuse from the Nurse Pay Act is widespread and knows no geographic boundaries. From 1996–1999, nurses at 16 different VA medical centers had their pay rates reduced by as much as 8% while other federal workers received annual GS increases ranging from 2.4% to 3.6%. In addition, from 1996–1999, NO raises were given to Grade I, II or III nurses (statistically 98% of the VA nurse workforce) at about 80 VA medical centers around the country. Worse still, some nurses go several years without raises, such as in Long Beach, CA, where VA nurses received no raises in 1996, 1997, 1998 or 1999. At other centers, meanwhile, nurses have received embarrassingly low annual increases—often 1% or lower.

Mr. Speaker, the Nurse Pay Act deserves credit for ending a nursing shortage and making salaries competitive. For example, in its first year nurse pay increased by at least 20% at 82% of all VA medical centers. Unfortunately, the well-intentioned measure's locality-based pay system eventually ended up punishing many of the 39,000 VA nurses.

Our VA nurses deserve praise for standing by our nation's veterans. Many could have sought higher paying jobs in the private sector, jobs that offer annual increases and signing bonuses. Instead, most have chosen to stay with the VA because they care deeply for our ailing veterans and enjoy a sense of reward and patriotism from their specialized work. In fact, most VA nurses have devoted their entire careers to caring for our nation's veterans. The average VA nurse is a 47-year-old female with 11 years tenure.

As a Congress we strive to take care of our veterans. Therefore, we should feel embarrassed that we haven't taken better care of the dedicated nurses who care for our veterans. The Congress never meant to create a mechanism where a VA nurse could receive an annual raise worth 92 cents a week before taxes or go several years without a raise. It's no way to treat those who care for our nation's veterans, and we have an obligation to fix it.

Mr. Speaker, our VA nurses perform a vital service for our Nation's veterans with great care, professionalism, and compassion. We now have an opportunity to demonstrate to our nurses that they are truly appreciated by passing the VA Nurse Appreciation Act of 1999.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATALIA TORO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Natalia Toro, who took top honors in the Intel Science Talent Search. Ms. Toro is a 14 year-old senior at Fairview High School in Boulder, Colorado.

In winning this prestigious award, Natalia bested 40 finalists, who were selected from a nationwide pool of 300 semi-finalists. In addition, she is the youngest winner ever of the Intel Science Talent Search.

Ms. Toro's entry was a physics project in which she studied oscillation of neutrinos, the most elusive of subatomic particles. She completed her research on this subject while participating in the Research Science Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology last summer.

While I take pride in highlighting Ms. Toro's achievement in this competition, I am equally happy to salute her love of science and learning. I firmly believe that we can offer our children no greater gift than to instill in them a love of learning. The Toros are an example of how parental involvement can play a critical role in a child's intellectual development, as well as the child's overall success in life.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to share with my fellow members of the House of Representatives the outstanding achievement of Natalia Toro. I would like to acknowledge her parents, Beatriz and Gabriel Toro, for inspiring her thirst for knowledge. The Denver Post Recently highlighted Natalia's achievement. Mr. Speaker I submit a Denver Post article to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Denver Post, July 14, 1998]

THE SCIENCE OF NURTURING

Congratulations to Natalia Toro, who at age 14 already has become a role model, especially for other first-generation American youths.

Natalia's proficiency in mathematics and science propelled her into first place in the Intel Science Talent Search for her work in high-energy physics. She is the youngest winner ever in the 58-year-old contest formerly run by Westinghouse.

With her prize $50,000 scholarship, the Fairview High senior now plans to attend either Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology or the California Institute of Technology.

How did this daughter of Colombian immigrants achieve academic excellence?

Her mother credits Natalia's natural curiosity.

''She's very curious. And she's a hard-working person, and I think she really has a passion for learning. I don't think we did anything special,'' says Beatriz Toro.

But while Natalia's parents won't take credit for her accomplishments, they surely fueled her love of learning.

Beatriz and Gabriel Toro came to America from Colombia in 1979. they chose to teach their only child English as her first language. She learned Spanish later ''with our help,'' her mother says, and is fluent in both.

Toro, a civil engineer, and his wife, who has degrees in psychology and nursing, sent Natalia to the small, private Bixby Elementary School in Boulder, then to the public Fairview. She also has attended classes at the University of Colorado.

''Those schools, they did their part with my daughter.'' Mrs. Toro says.

But the parents did their part, too. When Natalia asked questions, they tried to answer them. When they didn't know the answers, they headed to the library to find the answers.

''I think the most important thing is that your kids are happy,'' Mrs. Toro says. ''When you're telling the kid, 'You have to do this and you have to do that,' I don't think it works. I wouldn't push a child.''

''It sounds funny, but I didn't do anything special with my daughter,''

That depends on what constitutes ''special.''

Not all parents take a child's questions seriously enough to research until they find the answers. But doing so surely send the message that learning is fun.

Not all immigrants are able to make sure their children learn English before the parents' native language. But doing so surely eases a child's way through U.S. schools.

And not all families place a priority on happiness. But it seems only natural that a happy child would be a curious, alert and motivated child.

We salute Natalia for the path she has taken, and we commend her parents and her schools for helping her to find that path. This is a girl who does Colorado proud.

SERVICEMEMBERS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on March 18, 1999, I introduced H.R. 1182, the Servicemembers Educational Opportunity Act of 1999, along with Mr. SPENCE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. QUINN, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. HAYWORTH, Ms. CHENOWETH, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. BILIRAKIS. This measure would enhance benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill for persons who enlist in the armed services for 4 years of active duty service or reenlist for 4 years of such service effective October 1, 1999.

In exchange for a 4-year enlistment or reenlistment, individuals would receive an enhanced Montgomery GI Bill that would (a) pay 90 percent of the costs of tuition and fees, (b) pay a sum equal to the reasonable costs of books and supplies, (c) pay a monthly stipend of $600 per month for full-time enrollment (or

proportional amount for less than full-time enrollment), and (d) repeal the current $1,200 reduction-in-pay to be eligible for the benefit. Each individual would be eligible for 36 months (4 academic years) of benefits.

Our goal in introducing H.R. 1182 is twofold. First, when high school students consider their post-high school plans, we want them to consider military service as their first option, not their last. It is no wonder the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard are experiencing major recruitment problems. Most college-bound youth and their parents see a tour of military service as a detour from their college plans, not as a way to achieve that goal. We want to reverse that way of thinking.

Second, we want to empower the youth of America—our future veterans—with a GI Bill that would be limited only by their aspirations, initiative, and abilities. We want a GI Bill that would allow a young person to be able to afford any educational institution in America to which that individual could competitively gain admittance.

Our legislation is inspired by, and is substantively very similar to, a recommendation made in the comprehensive January 14, 1999, report of the Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance, chaired by Anthony J. Principi.

As we look to the future, I believe it's instructive to glance at our past. As my colleagues are aware, 55 years ago the Congress sent to President Roosevelt's desk a piece of legislation that truly transformed our Nation—arguably the greatest domestic legislation since the Homestead Act. Legislation that is popularly known as the GI Bill of Rights. The World War II GI Bill was one of the boldest investments our Nation has ever made. It was certainly one of Congress' finest hours, because World War II veteran-students did not just pass through the American system of higher education, they transformed it. That legislation, and those veteran-students, created today's leaders and the modern middle class.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot recount how many times in my 22 years here that a Member of this body has said he probably would not be here today if it were not for the World War II GI Bill. Our proposal to return to a World War II-type GI Bill is not about a program of the past, it's about empowerment for the future. Has society, and our values, changed so dramatically that a revered education program that was so successful 55 years ago no longer applies to today's servicemembers?

For 223 years, military service has been our Nation's most fundamental form of National Service. When we talk about education policy in this country, I think our starting point is that we owe more to those who voluntarily have worn the uniform because they have earned more by virtue of their years of service. The fundamental difference between the GI Bill that we propose and other meritorious Federal student financial aid programs is that ours is truly earned.

About 60 percent of active duty servicemembers are married when they separate from the military, and many have children. They find out quickly that the gulf between the purchasing power under the Montgomery GI Bill and current education costs is indeed a large one. Today's Montgomery GI Bill, properly named for our distinguished former colleague who worked indefatigably on the legislation for almost 7 years prior to its enactment, unfortunately falls short by $6,007 annually in paying tuition, room and board, fees, books, and transportation at public institutions, and $15,251 at private institutions. Veterans deserve better. And I note the cost figures I cite are for 1996—the most recent data available.

Through fiscal year 1997, some 13 years after the enactment of the Montgomery GI Bill test program, only 48.7 percent of veterans have utilized it. Conversely, between 1966 and 1976, 63.6 percent of Vietnam-era veterans used their education benefits.

We need a GI Bill that harnesses the unique resource that veterans represent. We want to accelerate, not delay, their entry into the civilian work force. We need a GI Bill that rewards veterans for faithful service and that makes it more likely that they will serve among the ranks of the country's future leaders and opinion shapers.

What better investment can we make in the youth of this country? A GI Bill that would be limited only by the aspirations, initiative, and abilities of the young man or woman involved. A GI Bill that largely would allow a young person to afford any educational institution in America to which that individual could competitively gain admittance. What a powerful message to send across America. What an emphatic statement to send to working and middle class families who go into great debt to finance their children's higher education because they are told they make too much money to qualify for Federal or State grants.

In closing, I submit to my colleagues that why my cosponsors and I are proposing is not just about an education program that we believe would serve as our best military recruitment incentive ever for the All-Volunteer Force; or after their service provide unfettered access to higher education at the best schools; or provide unbounded opportunity for our youth that cuts across social, economic, ethnic, and racial lines. What we have proposed is what is best for America.

I believe the notion of service to our Nation, service in an All-Volunteer Force, and the corresponding opportunity for all of us to participate in our great economic system sustained by that service, is a core value we simply must pass on to the next generation. It is a core value we can neglect, but only at our own peril.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to join me in support of H.R. 1182.

THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER EQUIPMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with Mr. ENGLISH from Pennsylvania, to introduce the Volunteer Firefighter Equipment Enhancement Act of 1999.

Communities in my district and around the nation rely on volunteer firefighters to protect lives and property day in and day out. My district includes 54 towns, and there are 91 volunteer fire departments. These brave men and women leave their jobs and get up in the middle of the night to battle fires, respond to auto accidents, and provide a wide range of other emergency services. These services would not be available without these volunteers. We must do as much as we can to help our firefighters as they put their lives at risk to help people in their communities.

Many of our nation's volunteer firefighters companies have taken on tasks far beyond firefighting. Years ago, volunteer companies could fulfill their mission with one pumper truck and a few ladders. Today, as we ask our volunteers to take on more and more tasks, they need much more equipment. However, our tax laws have not kept up with the changing demands.

Section 150 (e)(1) of the tax code states: ''A bond of a volunteer fire department shall be treated as a bond of a political subdivision of a state if * * * such bond is issued as part of an issue 95 percent or more of the net proceeds of which are to be used for the acquisition construction, reconstruction, or improvement of a firehouse * * * or firetruck used or to be used by such department.''

The law only allows volunteer fire departments to use the benefits of municipal bonding if the department is builing a fire station or buying a firetruck. They cannot issue bonds to buy ambulances, rescue trucks or other emergency response vehicles which are critical to to protecting citizens across our nation.

The legislation that Representative ENGLISH and I are introducing today would simply change this provision by striking the phrase ''or firetruck'' and inserting ''firetruck, ambulance or other emergency response vehicle.'' It is a simple change in law that will help volunteer fire companies acquire the tools they need to carry out their expanded mission. The bill would also extend the tax treatment that volunteer fire companies receive to volunteer ambulance companies.

I believe that if we are going to ask our volunteers to take on these additional burdens, we must help them obtain the equipment they need.

This is a small first step in the United States recognizing volunteer firefighters as the heroes that they are. Unpaid, but not underappreciated, we have much more to do to help firefighters, but this will be a good first step.

COLUMNIST DENNIS ROGERS ON THE PLIGHT OF TOBACCO FARMERS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I grew up on a tobacco farm, and I continue to grow tobacco today. Higher federal taxes and litigation by the states have severely altered the market for tobacco and have led to income losses of thirty five percent for tobacco farmers in the past two years alone. The actions that have led to this point have been taken in retaliation against the industry and its practices, but the harm has been felt on the farm. Tobacco farmers need help.

Since coming to the House two years ago, I have tried to articulate to Congress the plight tobacco farmers are in as a result the ongoing tobacco wars. Earlier this month, Dennis Rogers, a columnist with The News and Observer

daily newspaper in Raleigh, North Carolina, wrote an excellent essay on the position tobacco farmers find themselves in 1999. Mr. Speaker, I request that Mr. Rogers' article be placed at this point in the RECORD, and I hope it will provide guidance to us all as we debate issues related to tobacco in the future. Congress can benefit greatly from the clear-eyed perspective of this insightful North Carolinian whose feet are planted firmly on the ground.

[From the News & Observer, Mar. 3, 1999]

IT'S NOT GREED, BUT DESPERATION

(By Dennis Rogers)

The numbers are so obscenely large as to be meaningless: There is $4.6 billion to be paid by the tobacco industry to the state of North Carolina over 25 years. There is $1.97 billion for a trust fund to be spread among the state's tobacco farmers over the next 12 years.

But regardless of how much money tobacco farmers eventually get, if any, what are they supposed to do then?

Unless you're a farmer, you probably don't care. You've made it clear in your e-mails and phone calls that many of you think tobacco farmers are whiners trying to hang on to a dying business. Nobody guarantees me a living, you've cynically said, so why should we do it for them?

But unlike you, I've heard from the farmers, too, strong men and women who are scared about their futures. It is enough to break your heart.

What they talk about most is not the money, but losing their souls, their culture, their foundation and their heritage. They talk about the land their ancestors entrusted to their care and the shame they would feel in losing it.

They talk about wanting to give their children the chance they had, to stand under a hot Carolina sun and feel your own land beneath your feet, the same land that once nurtured the old folks buried in the church cemetery just down the road.

''What am I going to do if I stop farming?'' asked Johnston County's John Talbot as we rode in Monday's protest through the streets of Raleigh. ''I'm 45 years old. Who is going to hire me?''

Who, indeed? If the tobacco farmers of Eastern North Carolina stop farming, what will become of them? A rootless corporate culture is all a lot of city folks around here know. They do not understand or feel sympathy for the middle-aged farmer who senses that the very ground beneath his feet is moving away.

A country family's desperate need for independence may not mean much to those of us who have never had it. There are a lot of us who have never known anything but the slavery of working for a paycheck. We might even resent a farmer's plea that he should be helped to maintain a way of life that seems so alien to us.

But what option do they have? There are few good jobs in the tobacco country where they live? We've kept most of the good jobs for ourselves and left country folks who live a long way from town with precious little to turn to now that their lives and times have gotten tough.

But before you turn your back on them, ask yourself whether they helped make your good job possible. Farmers have long seen their tax dollars pay corporations to bring jobs to the state that they, because of where they live and the skills they don't have, can never hope to get.

Now, they say, that same government is reluctant to given them what they see as their fair share of the money from tobacco companies they have depended on for their livelihood.

There was a sign on a tractor driven by a woman in Monday's protest that read, ''We are not greedy. We are desperate.''

We may yet succeed in forcing our farmers from their fields, and contrary to their hollow threats, no, we will not go hungry.

But they will. Their souls will wither just as surely as a spring daffodil fades away when it is picked and brought indoors.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL EMPLOY THE OLDER WORKER WEEK AND GREEN THUMB OF NEW ENGLAND

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Employ the Older Worker Week and Green Thumb, Inc. of New England. National Employ the Older Worker Week (March 14–20) recognizes the contribution that older workers make in America and encourages participation in the Green Thumb program. It celebrates the unique skills, and talents that are gained through years of experience and hard work. It also brings attention to one of the greatest resources in America: the older worker.

Green Thumb is a non-profit organization that aims to strengthen our families and communities, as well as our nation, by equipping older and disadvantaged individuals with opportunities to learn, work, and serve the community. Founded in 1965, Green Thumb has helped over 500,000 seniors. The services are provided to numerous older citizens. Some are retirees who have not yet begun collecting Social Security and require additional income from full or part-time employment. Other recipients take part in the program in order to develop new skills, pursue individual interests, or utilize their time in a productive manner. It benefits the older worker's well-being and enhances the community. Green Thumb will recognize America's Oldest Worker as well as 52 Outstanding Older Workers from each state following National Employ the Older Worker Week.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognition of National Employ the Older Worker Week. I also applaud Green Thumb of New England and wish them continued success in improving the lives of our senior citizens.

HONORING PETER R. VILLEGAS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Peter R. Villegas, president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Orange County for 1998.

During his presidency, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce accomplished many goals. The Chamber increased its membership and corporate sponsors, produced many successful events such as the ''Estrella Awards and Installation Dinner,'' Job and Career Fair, Business Finance Forum, Business Without Borders International Conference, and the Business Development Conference.

Mr. Villegas has also represented the chamber in many official capacities. He has met with Vice President AL GORE, officials of the Department of State, Members of Congress, State, county, and local officials, as well as leaders of enterprise and industry.

Mr. Villegas has provided leadership locally and nationally, by serving on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute based in Washington, DC, as a board member of the University of Southern California—M.A.A.A., the corporate advisory board of the Latin Business Association, and as a board member for the Puente Learning Center. Other memberships include the Challengers Boys and Girls Club, board member of the Chicano Federation of San Diego, and committee member of the Martin Luther King Legacy Association. He is the recipient of the 1997 Minorities in Business Magazines Latin American Corporate Prism Award, and the City of Santa Ana Exceptional Volunteer Award.

Mr. Villegas manages regional relationships with key community coalitions, including the WaMu Community Council and regional WaMu Diversity Advisory Group. He is responsible for managing the Corporate Giving Program with a focus on the Community Reinvestment Act qualified grants. He also serves as the regional contact for governmental officials, provides corporate representation in the regional market, and provides leadership in the ethnic market. In addition, Mr. Villegas is the regional manager of Washington Mutuals $120 billion commitment to the community.

Colleagues, please join with me today in saluting Peter R. Villegas, an individual who has dedicated his knowledge and expertise to the betterment of the Hispanic community and business relations on every level.

CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF ROSEMARY NELSON AND URGING PROTECTION OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bipartisan resolution which condemns the brutal murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Rosemary Nelson and calls on the British Government to launch an independent inquiry into Rosemary's killing.

The resolution also calls for an independent judicial inquiry into the possibility of official collusion in the 1989 murder of defense attorney Patrick Finucane and an independent investigation into the general allegations of harassment of defense attorneys by Northern Ireland's police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). I am pleased that Mr. GILMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. MENENDEZ are original sponsors of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Rosemary Nelson was a champion of due process rights and a conscientious and courageous attorney in Northern Ireland. She was the wife of Paul Nelson and the mother of three young children: Christopher (13), Gavin (11), and Sarah (8). Her murder was a cowardly act by those who are

the enemies of peace and justice in Northern Ireland. Her death is a loss felt not just by her family and friends, but by all of us who advocate fundamental human rights.

I first met Rosemary Nelson in August, 1997, when she shared with me her genuine concern for the administration of justice in Northern Ireland. She explained how, as an attorney, she has been physically and verbally assaulted by RUC members and how the RUC sent messages of intimidation to her through her clients. Many of her clients were harassed as well.

Notwithstanding these threats, Rosemary Nelson still carried an exhaustive docket which included several high profile political cases. She became an international advocate for the rule of law and the right of the accused to a comprehensive defense and an impartial hearing. She also worked hard to obtain an independent inquiry into the 1989 murder of defense attorney of Patrick Finucane.

For this, Rosemary Nelson was often the subject of harassment and intimidation. For her service to the clients, on March 15, 1999, Rosemary Nelson paid the ultimate price with her life—the victim of a car bomb.

Last September, 1988, Rosemary testified before the subcommittee I chair, International Operations and Human Rights. She told us she feared the RUC. She reported that she had been ''physically assaulted by a number of RUC officers'' and that the RUC harassment included, ''at the most serious, making threats against my personal safety including death threats.'' She said she had no confidence in receiving help from her government because, she said, in the end her complaints about the RUC were investigated by the RUC. She also told us that no lawyer in Northern Ireland can forget what happened to Pat Finucane, nor can they dismiss it from their minds. She said one way to advance the protection of defense attorneys would be the establishment of an independent investigation into the allegations of collusion in his murder.

Despite her testimony and her fears, the British government now wants to entrust the investigation of Rosemary Nelson's murder to the very agency she feared and mistrusted most, the RUC. Instead, I believe that in order for this investigation to be beyond reproach, and to have the confidence and cooperation of the Catholic community that Rosemary Nelson adeptly represented, it must be organized, managed, directed and run by someone other than the RUC. It just begs the question as to whether or not we can expect a fair and impartial investigation when the murder victim herself had publicly expressed deep concern about the impartiality of RUC personnel.

Mr. Speaker, the major international human rights groups, including Amnesty International, Laywers Committee for Human Rights, British/Irish Human Rights Watch Committee for the Administration of Justice, and Human Rights Watch have all called for an independent inquiry. Param Cumaraswamy, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, who completed an extensive human rights investigative mission to the United Kingdom last year, has also called for an independent inquiry of Rosemary Nelson's murder.

At our September 29, 1998 hearing, Mr. Cumaraswamy stated that he found harassment and intimidation of defense lawyers in Northern Ireland to be consistent and systematic. He recommended a judicial inquiry into the threats and intimidation Rosemary Nelson and other defense attorneys had received. It's hard not to wonder if the British government had taken the Special Rapporteur's recommendations more seriously, Rosemary Nelson might have been better protected and still with us today.

I express my hearfelt condolences to the Nelson family and I urge my colleagues to support the following resolution.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT MUST BE REFORMED

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act was originally enacted in 1973 with overwhelming support in the House by a vote of 355 to 4 and in the Senate 92 to 0. The original intent: to conserve and protect American species of plant and wildlife that are threatened with extinction, with species taken off the list when their numbers have recovered. However, during ESA's 25 years, over 1,154 animals and plants have been listed as endangered or threatened yet only 27 species have been removed from the list. ESA has protected important species, including our Nation's most prized symbol—the bald eagle which is one of the few actually removed from the list. Today, it appears as though the Fish and Wildlife Service, especially within California, is working outside of the ESA and essentially undermining its original intent. Fish and Wildlife in California has overstepped their bounds.

As the Congressman for western Riverside County in southern California, ESA enforcement is an important issue for me and my constituents because southern California is home to one-third of all listed endangered species. I have received a large number of complaints about the overzealous enforcement of ESA from landowners, farmers, former Fish and Wildlife employees, and community leaders. Complaints have increased dramatically in the last year compared to what I was hearing when I was first elected 6 years ago. A lot of my colleagues have been asking me about Fish and Wildlife's questionable enforcement of the ESA in southern California and in my district. I am here to share some clear examples of Fish and Wildlife's outrageous conduct in their enforcement of the ESA. Riverside County led the charge in working with the Federal Government to comply with the ESA, and had the original Stephen's kangaroo rat plan which ultimately took 8 years to get approval and cost over $42 million. Later on, Riverside County formed the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Advisory Committee in order to ensure a strong working relationship with conservation agencies and Fish and Wildlife.

Yet, it seems to be a cardinal rule in dealing with the Fish and Wildlife Service that ''No Good Deed Goes Unpunished.'' Riverside County, the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, several cities, and Fish and Wildlife all signed a planning agreement which laid out a conservation plan for the entire western half of Riverside County. Under that agreement, Fish and Wildlife would be required to provide the benefits and the ultimate cost of the plan within 6 months of signing the agreement. Now, 2 years later, Fish and Wildlife is refusing to provide this information to the planning agency which they had contractually agreed to do. This was a bad faith effort on the part of Fish and Wildlife.

Specifically, there are two recent cases where Fish and Wildlife has shown how destructive they can be in southern California. The first case is the Delhi-sands flower-loving fly. A handful of flies were discovered at the proposed site for the San Bernardino County hospital. Fish and Wildlife ordered the county to move the building 300 feet, at a cost of $3.5 million. That's about $10,000 a foot. The Galena Interchange, a freeway construction project in my district is being held hostage by this fly. The Galena Interchange is not an expansive new highway program—we are not talking about building the Golden Gate Bridge. It's a simple project connecting Interstate 15 to Galena Street and it received $20 million in Federal, State, and local funds last year for a desperately needed project. After the plans were designed and the funds allocated, Fish and Wildlife now claims the county needs to establish a preserve for the Delhi-sands flower-loving fly. Fish and Wildlife wants as many as 200 acres of the Inland Empire's priciest industrial land for habitat mitigation. Two hundred acres could cost as much as $32 million; $32 million for a $20 million project. On top of all of this, not one fly has been found in this area. Apparently, the Branch Chief of the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office heard the buzz of the fly, but did not see it, and now wants $32 million. In testimony before the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, this person said—and I quote—''. . . if you hear a car down the street that's your favorite model, you kind know the engine sound and you know that it's the car that you like—so you know for someone that studies this sort of species you get a feel for the noise.'' This is ludicrous. Fish and Wildlife is using Dr. Seuss methods from ''Horton Hears a Who'' to make policy for millions of citizens. At the very least, we should amend the ESA to require than an endangered species must actually be seen, not just heard.

The other case involves the Quino checkerspot butterfly. Once again, after poorly handling several listings, Fish and Wildlife has precipitated another crisis in southern California. Recently the Service published a ''survey protoco'' for the Quino checkerspot butterfly, which requires landowners to survey their property for the Quino before beginning any development. They did so less than a month before the beginning of the butterfly's very short flying season. However, Fish and Wildlife went a step further and issued a survey protocol that prohibited development of all land until at least early June 2000. The other day, in a seeming reversal of this earlier position, Fish and Wildlife is allowing surveys to be done this year. But, the Service still reserved the right to invalidate any survey due to the shortened flying season. This is like the IRS giving you your tax bill and noting that they have the right to charge you more later—which is something they have actually done and why Congress passed IRS reform legislation. Fish and Wildlife should take notice. So, the Service is allowing landowners to spend thousands of dollars to conduct a survey that they may or may not consider valid next year.

The current Fish and Wildlife problem has become so large, expensive, and harmful to our community that it cannot be overlooked any longer. In 1995, ESA costs exceeded $325 million of Federal money. However, the cost to local and State governments was billions and billions of dollars. Taxpayer funding has increased 800 percent since 1989. This is a call to common sense. Fish and Wildlife's district offices at the very least have the responsibility to balance the rights of species with the rights of landowners and taxpaying citizens of the United States. Local bureaucrats are undermining of Americans' desire to save truly endangered species by engaging in arbitrary and unreliable rulemaking. Our citizens and our endangered species deserve better. While we build a consensus in the Congress on how to update the Endangered Species Act, we should, at the very least, expect two things: (1) Fish and Wildlife must keep its commitments; and, (2) Fish and Wildlife should use its discretion, under the law, not as a weapon against landowners, but as a tool to help communities comply with the law.

COMMENDATION OF MARGARET GONTZ

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Ms. Margaret Gontz, who at the age of 72, gave up something that most people look forward to: her retirement. That was 10 years ago. Today, at 81, Ms. Gontz is one of the top employees in the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency in Harrisburg. She came back for family: to help her grandson pay for college. And she came back for herself: she just wanted to be on the job. Ms. Gontz has been cited as an exemplary employee at PHEAA—where most of her coworkers are in their 20s and 30s. Now she is being honored as ''Pennsylvania's Outstanding Older Worker,'' and is being recognized as part of Prime Time Awards, a national celebration of the contributions of older workers taking place this week in Washington. Ms. Gontz cites accuracy, timeliness and productivity as contributing to her success. ''I rate myself as a normal person doing my job like I should do,'' she says. Ms. Gontz, you are not a ''normal'' person. You are very rare indeed.

THE URGENT NEED FOR A NATIONAL DRUG EXPERT

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following paper as a request for a constituent of mine from Burleson, Texas. His name is Kenneth Hunter and he collaborated with Prof. Rinaldo DeNuzzo on the following article which cites a need for a federal office with a national drug expert. This is not an endorsement either for or against their effort, but a submission of their idea.

THE URGENT NEED FOR A DRUG EXPERT

In recognition of the dynamic changes which continue to occur in the delivery of health care services in the United States and globally, it is suggested that the President and/or Congress re-establish the office of Apothecary-General which disappeared from the United States Army in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. This skilled health care professional of equal status, while working in tandem with the Surgeon-General, would provide advice and counsel to the office of the President, the Congress and others. This professional with offices in Washington, DC, will serve to coordinate and oversee all aspects of mandated and other programs involving drug use or abuse by the general public, military, veterans, and others.

Originally, the Office of Apothecary was created by action of the American Congress in 1775. The need for such an official became evident to Dr. John Morgan, the second of four Medical Directors of the American Revolutionary Army. Morgan recognized the need for coordination of the valuable skills provided by the apothecaries as well as those by the surgeons. The Congress also established a military hospital to care for the 20,000-man militia involved in the Revolutionary War. As with other medical care personnel, the apothecaries were directed to visit and tend to the needs of those who were sick or wounded.

Dr. Morgan, physician-apothecary, as director of the Department of Hospitals wrote to Dr. Jonathan Potts, deputy director, informing him that ''a warrant to Mr. Andrew Craigie to act as an apothecary'' had been issued. Potts was advised that the appointment of Craigie will be particularly useful due to his experience. ''Without such a one, I know not how you could either procure sufficient medicines for your department or dispense them when got.'' Dr. Morgan was an influential advocate for the separation of medicine and pharmacy in America. He taught pharmacy and is credited with the introduction of prescription writing in America.

Morgan, additionally admonished Dr. Potts ''to make it a part of the duty of mates to assist the apothecary in making up and dispensing medicine.'' He states, ''The Apothecary to all intent is to be looked on in rank as well as pay in the light of the surgeon and respected accordingly and if he is capable, he should in return, do part of the surgeon's duty.'' During the period of 1775–1780, there were several Apothecary-Generals serving in three of the four Revolutionary War Districts. In 1780, a reorganization of the military medical department concentrated all authority in one medical staff, and Andrew Craigie became sole Apothecary-General. He served as such until the end of the War when a treaty with Britain was signed in 1783.

Many apothecaries played vital roles in the American Colonies' struggle for independence. Among them was American military hero Dr. Hugh Mercer, physician-apothecary, who operated a pharmacy in Fredericksburg from 1771 until the beginning of the Revolution. General Mercer suffered wounds and died on the battlefield in 1777. Following his death, the Congress approved a monument to be erected in Fredericksburg with the following inscription:

''Sacred to the memory of Hugh Mercer, Brigadier-General in the Army of the United States. He died on the 12th of January, 1777, of the wounds he received on the 3rd of the same month, near Princeton, NJ, bravely defending the liberties of America. The Congress of the United States, in testimony of his virtues and their gratitude, has caused this monument to be erected.''

Dr. Mercer's historic apothecary shop is currently maintained by the Association for the Preservation of Virginian Antiquities in Fredericksburg, VA. It is open to the public.

Apothecary Christopher Marshall was commissioned by the Continental Congress in 1776, the year the Declaration of Independence was signed, to oversee service given to the needs of soldiers in Philadelphia hospitals. Two years later, the first Military Pharmacopea was issued in Philadelphia.

It is noted that the American Revolutionary War served to provide us with independence and a foundation upon which the practice of pharmacy in America is based. For example, we had shops where medicines for consumer use were used to provide necessary supplies for militia. The role of apothecary was defined by Dr. Morgan as ''Making and dispensing medication.'' Dr. Craigie facilitated the establishment of laboratories and storehouses where medicines were prepared and implemented, and the army apothecary visited (counseled) the sick. From those humble beginnings, we have a pharmaceutical industry which is second to none in the world.

The last Apothecary-General, Colonel James Cutbush was also an author and a teacher. He was appointed in 1814 as assistant Apothecary-General of the United States Army and served admirably during the War of 1812. By an act of Congress in 1815, the Army was reduced to a minimum and many officers were retired. President Madison, the same year, directed that the Apothecary-General and two assistants be retained in the ''Military Peace Establishment of the United States.'' The office of Physician and Surgeon General was abolished and the Apothecary-General became the ranking officer in the Medical Department until 1818, when the first Surgeon General was appointed. As a professor at West Point Military Academy, James Cutbush became a pioneer in the chemistry of explosives.

In support of the proposal to re-establish the office of Apothecary-General nationally, pharmacy practitioners with expertise in drug use and misuse (abuse) make daily contributions to the delivery of medical care. Pharmacists are the most readily available and approachable professionals, often working seven days a week and sometimes 24 hours a day. Frequently, they are the initial portal of entry into medical care by advising the appropriate non-prescription drug for non-serious ailments, championing healthy life styles, and making referrals to other or professionals for needed care when appropriate.

Pharmacists provide the greatest number of professional daily exposures to the population as more than two billion prescriptions are dispensed annually. They also provide a high level of pharmaceutical care by monitoring prescription and non-prescription drug use to insure that therapeutic objectives are achieved. Additionally, for the tenth successive year, the Gallop Poll found that the American consumer ranks the pharmacy practitioner as the most trusted professional in the land.

During the 1986–96 decade, alcoholism and drug addiction were key elements in the explosion in our national prison population. In a recent Columbia University study, the number of inmates in federal, local, and state prisons tripled from 500,000 to 1,700,000. Drugs and alcohol were involved in 80% of the incarcerations. The President's appointments of the last two drug Czars consisted of an educator and a military officer which led to a spirited attempt to solve our war on drugs with *limited positive results*. It is time to appoint a drug expert to solve the problems. Pharmacists' specialty lies in the

knowledge of drugs. They relate well to people in a positive fashion, and have been found to be outstanding administrators.

The authors of this paper hope that their actions will start a ground swell movement to give new recognition to the practice of pharmacy and its practitioners in a rational and accountable way. If action is taken, the use of an Apothecary-General may lead to an increase in efficiency in the Federal bureaucracy, a significant decrease in the number of citizens incarcerated, and reduce Federal and State spending. We have the talent and leadership ability; so let's save the taxes. This is now the time to re-establish the office of Apothecary-General.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY—178 YEARS OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues and the people of Illinois' 9th Congressional District to celebrate the 178th year of Greek independence.

Much like the United States, Greece's independence did not come easily. Greece had to struggle for several years in its battle for independence from the Ottoman Empire. The perseverance that ultimately led to freedom for Greece is a symbol of the solid character of her people.

I am happy to commemorate the independence of a nation that has contributed so much to the inception and development of the United States.

Our Founding Fathers drew significantly on the democratic principles of the ancient Greeks, and our representative government is an extension of their philosophy, values, and wisdom. Their contributions have translated into an invaluable gift to the United States and other nations around the world, which enjoy the benefits of a democratic society.

Today we celebrate Greek independence and those of Greek heritage who are living in the United States. They have brought so much flavor and beauty to our country.

In my district, the beauty of Greek culture is not hard to find. It can be seen in the work of artists, felt in the drama of the theater, and tasted in the many Greek delicacies that Americans have grown so fond of.

Greece has been a steadfast ally to the United States since the last century. As we approach the 21st century, I look forward to our nations' continuing cooperation and our peoples' lasting friendship. Once again, I wish to congratulate the people of Greece and all Greek-Americans on this special day.

TRIBUTE TO LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the retired citizens of the newly founded city of Laguna Woods, formerly known as Leisure World of Laguna Hills, CA.

As California's 472nd city, Laguna Woods represents the Nation's first city designed exclusively for retired homeowners.

Laguna Woods is a 3.2-square-mile senior community that lies adjacent to Laguna HIlls in what are now the last remaining natural coastal canyons open to the public from Los Angeles to San Diego. With nearly 35,000 trees growing within the city, it is appropriate that Laguna Woods has already been titled ''one of the jewels of Orange County.''

The tireless efforts made by the citizens and homeowners' association of Laguna Woods are to be commended. March 24, 1999 will serve to remind us of the beginning of a community that will benefit retired homeowners and communities throughout our nation. It is my distinct honor to congratulate the citizens of Laguna Woods and to welcome them as California's next great city.

FORTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, March 20, 1999, was the forty-third anniversary of independence of the Republic of Tunisia. With increasingly strong ties between our two governments, the American people congratulate the people of Tunisia on this historic anniversary. For the last forty-three years, Tunisia has been a model of economic growth and the advancement of women in society.

It may be difficult for many Americans to appreciate Tunisia's situation. Its only two neighbors are Algeria, which has been racked by civil war for several years, and Libya, whose dictator has supported the most nefarious and subversive kinds of terrorism. Mr. Speaker, this is not a good neighborhood.

Nevertheless, Tunisia has maintained internal stability—not without its own controversies—in the face of external chaos. At the same time, years of hard work have produced one of the highest standards of living in the region. Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and join the developed world. For these accomplishments, Tunisia should be applauded and supported.

In 1956, the United States was the first great power to recognize the independence of Tunisia. Upon receiving Ambassador Mongi Slim, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, ''At the dawn of a new era in the history of Tunisia, we ask you to consider us as friends and partners.''

Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of 43 years of independence for Tunisia, I urge my colleagues reflect on our strong commitment to Tunisian people, who are still our friends and partners in North Africa.

THE MORRIS K. UDALL WILDERNESS ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I once again stand before Congress to introduce the ''Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act.'' This bipartisan legislation truly shows that both Democrats and Republicans alike can come together and work on the important conservation issues facing Congress today and strive to preserve America's last great frontier, the 1.5 million acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Although the introduction of the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act brings anticipation for the year to come, it is not a cause to celebrate for tomorrow marks the ten year anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Ten years did not heal the wounds inflicted on Prince William Sound, and neither did it lessen our memory of this terrible event. Yet a decade later, despite the lessons that should have been learned, powerful, special interests seek to plunder this wilderness, and threaten the existence of an entire ecosystem for oil that will yield no return at today's oil prices.

Thanks to the late Chairman Mo Udall's perseverance and dedication to the environment, the Arctic Refuge has been spared from the oil companies and the scarring effects of oil and gas exploration. We must remain united and continue his legacy to fight for the permanent preservation of the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain. Preventing the exploitation of the coastal plain is one of many solutions that can be employed today to protect Alaska's natural beauty and to prevent another tragedy similar to the one that occurred in Prince William Sound ten years ago. The exploitation of the coastal plain's virgin land threatens the existence of a 1,000 generation old culture, the Gwich'in of Northeast Alaska who rely on the 150,000 strong Porcupine Caribou herd—one of the world's largest and North America's last free roaming herd. The displacement of this herd as result of oil exploration and development could throw nature's delicate balance into a tailspin. Bringing this balance to equilibrium is further complicated because of the extremely long recovery period of the Arctic. In addition to the Porcupine Caribou, the Arctic Refuge is home to more than 200 species of wildlife ranging from muskoxen to polar bears. If we destroy a species, it could send a shockwave through the entire ecosystem and impact every species in its footprint—a devastating biological echo.

The United States, as a world leader in preserving lands of significant and symbolic value, cannot let this sort of degradation occur to its land or wildlife. We have only one chance to save the beauty of this natural landscape, the crown jewel of America's wilderness system, for generations of younger Americans. Once it is gone, it is gone forever—nature can never truly recover from such adverse actions visited upon its fabric, an attack upon the scope and breadth of life that, for now, call this place home.

THE POISON CONTROL CENTER ENHANCEMENT AND AWARENESS ACT OF 1999

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Rep. ED TOWNS in introducing the ''Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act.'' I am also pleased

to note that Rep. BILIRAKIS, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, which has jurisdiction, is an original cosponsor of this bipartisan bill.

Poison control centers provide vital, very cost-effective services to the American public. Each year, more than 2 million poisonings are reported to poison control centers throughout the United States. More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home, and over 50 percent of poisoning victims are children under the age of 6. For every dollar spent on poison control center services, seven dollars in medical costs are saved.

In spite of their obvious value, poison control centers are in jeopardy. Historically, these centers were typically funded by the private and public sector hospitals where they were located. The transition to managed care, however, has resulted in a gradual erosion of this funding. As this funding source has been drying up, poison control centers have only partially been able to replace this support by cobbling together state, local, and private funding sources. The financial squeeze has forced many centers to curtail their poison prevention advisory services and their information and emergency activities, and to reduce the number of nurses, pharmacists, and physicians answering the emergency telephones. Currently, there are 73 centers. In 1978, there were 661.

The ''Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act'' will provide up to $28 million per year over the next five years to provide a stable source of funding for these centers, establish a national toll-free poison control hotline, and improve public education on poisoning prevention and poison center services. The legislation is designed to ensure that these funds supplement—not supplant—other funding that the centers may be receiving and provides the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the authority to impose a matching requirement. Further, to receive federal funding, a center will have to be certified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services or an organization expert in the field of poison control designated by the Secretary.

I encourage my colleagues to support this very cost-effective investment in the safety and health of the American public, especially our children. If you would like further information or would like to cosponsor this legislation, please let me know or call Jane Williams of my staff at 5–3761.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC ORPHAN SOCIETY

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Louisville, Kentucky's most valuable institutions. For 150 years, the St. Joseph's Catholic Orphan Society has reached out to our most vulnerable children and provided them with food, shelter, education, and most of all love. The problem of neglected children in our society is not new. In the 1840's a plague of cholera and malaria struck Louisville, ending the lives of hundreds of people leaving many children without parents. This epidemic led to the founding of St. Joseph's Catholic Orphan Society as a home and refuge to these children.

Throughout the past 150 years, St. Joe's has provided a variety of services to boys and girls of all faiths and races. Today, St. Joe's continues to understand the unique needs of today's children. The organization works hard to keep groups of siblings together as the search for a new and loving family moves forward. St. Joe's also provides 40 beds for children who are abused or neglected and recently started the Home Base program to provide care to help stop child abuse and neglect. A child development center which provides weekday care for 150 children, 20 percent of whom have disabilities such as autism or Down's Syndrome, was founded in 1982.

Since 1849, St. Joseph's has been a Louisville institution performing a job that is desperately needed by our society. Love and caring are critical to any child's well being and St. Joe's dedicated volunteers and caregivers not only provide for the physical needs of children, but they share their love and dedication. I am proud to honor St. Joseph's Catholic Orphan Society on its 150th anniversary.

DECLARATION OF POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4. This legislation would state unequivocally our position as a nation is to develop and deploy a missile defense system. In fact, the Pentagon has for years already been working on such a defense barrier. I oppose this legislation precisely because its passage will impede progress on proliferation and nuclear arms control, all for the sake of a feel-good but impractical change in our national defense policy.

In January, the Clinton administration announced it would increase to $10 billion the funds necessary to develop a national missile defense, through the budget year 2005. I share the concern of administration officials who report that ''rogue nations'' like Iraq, North Korea or Libya may have technology which would allow them to deliver fatal warheads atop long-range missiles. However, that is exactly what the Pentagon's increase would address—how to prevent these missiles from landing on American soil. Their research program, similar in philosophy to the Patriot Missile we saw used during the Gulf War, is one I support.

However, if the Congress passes this legislation, its policy effects will be far-reaching. Progress in nuclear non-proliferation and arms reduction with Russia will be jeopardized, as their leaders have stated this policy change will abrogate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. It makes no sense to me to send a dangerous signal to both our allies and treaty partners when in fact we are already underway in exploring the feasibility of a national missile defense system. The administration next spring will rule on whether the deployment of such a system is in our national interest, and therefore this legislation is premature in that regard as well. I intend to vote ''no'' on H.R. 4.

TRIBUTE TO MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the achievements of a very special school located on the Northwest Side of Chicago: Madonna High School. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Madonna High School as it celebrates on March 25 fifty outstanding years in the education of young women.

Since 1949, Madonna High School has been working diligently to shape the minds of young women and create the leaders of tomorrow. Founded by the Franciscan Sisters at the St. Vincent Orphanage of Chicago, the school began with just three students and consisted of only four rooms. Today, after five decades of outstanding dedication and service to the communities of the City's Northwest Side, Madonna High School has become a nationally recognized institution with an enrollment over 300 students.

In fact, Madonna High School's commitment to excellence in education has won the recognition of numerous institutions. In 1987, they received a ''For Character Award'' from the University of Illinois-Chicago for building and reinforcing self-esteem in young women. In 1991, the school was honored by the U.S. Department of Education as ''Recognized School Of Excellence.'' Three years later, the Horatio Alger Association for Distinguished Americans recognized Madonna High School by awarding a scholarship to one of its outstanding students.

Mr. Speaker, Madonna High School has enriched the minds of its students, challenged their imaginations, and given generations of young women the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Theirs is a record of which we all can be proud. I ask my colleagues to join me today in wishing Madonna High School a wonderful 50th Anniversary and in extending our best wishes as it begins a new era of excellence in education for the young women of Chicago