

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NO BILLIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS CAN MAKE OUR PRESENT FOR- EIGN POLICY EFFECTIVE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have come forward in the past to suggest that the history of this century has shown us that the foreign policy of so-called "pragmatic interventionists" has created a disastrous situation. Specifically, I have pointed to the unintended consequences of our government's interventions. Namely, I have identified how World War One helped create the environment for the holocaust and how it thus helped create World War Two and thermonuclear war. And, I've mentioned how the Second World War resulted in the enslavement of much of Europe behind an iron curtain setting off the cold war, and spread the international communism and then our own disastrous foray into Vietnam. Yes, all of these wars and tragedies, wars hot and cold, were in part caused by the so-called "war to end all wars."

Today I do not wish to investigate yet again the details of this history but rather to examine, at a deeper level, why this sort of policy is doomed to fail.

The base reason is that pragmatism is illogical and interventionism does not work. The notion that we can have successes without regard to the ends to be sought is absurd.

It should be obvious to practical people that you cannot have "progress," for example, without progressing toward some end. Equally as apparent ought to be the fact that human effectiveness cannot occur without considering the ends of human beings. Peace, freedom and virtue are ends toward which we ought to progress, but all reference to ends is rejected by the so-called pragmatists.

Because of this lack of clarity of purpose we come to accept an equally unclear contortion of our language. Our military is "too thin," it has been "hollowed out" and it is "unprepared." But for what are we unprepared? And what policy is our army "too hollow" to carry out?

If we remain unprepared to conduct total warfare across the globe, we should be thankful of this fact. If we are unprepared to police the world or to project power into every civil war, or "to win two different regional conflicts," this is good.

We are distracted by these dilemmas which result from unclear thought and unclear language. We convince ourselves that we need to be effective without having a goal in mind. Certainly we have no just end in mind because our pragmatic interventionists deny that ends exist.

"Preparedness" is a word that has been thrown around a lot recently, but it begs the question "prepared for what?" No nation attacked ours, no nation has threatened ours, no sane leader would do so as it would be the

death warrant of his own nation, his own people, and likely his own self. We are prepared to repel an attack and meet force with force but not necessarily to protect our nation and the populace. We are still vulnerable to a missile attack and have done little to protect against such a possibility.

Thus or contortions and distortions that have led to dilemmas in our thoughts and dilemmas in our policy have led also to real paradoxes. Because our policy of globaloney is so bad, so unprincipled and so bound up with the notions of interventionism, we now face this strange truth: we ought to spend less on our military but we should spend more on defense. Our troops are underpaid, untrained and poorly outfitted for the tasks we have given them. We are vulnerable to missile attack, and how do we spend our constituents money? What priorities have we set in this body? We vote to purchase a few more bombs to drop over Serbia or Iraq.

Our policy is flawed. Our nation is at risk. Our defenses are weakened by those people who say they are "hawks" and those who claim they "support the troops." Our policy is the end to which we must make ourselves effective, and currently our policy is all wrong. Our constitution grants us the obligation to defend this nation, and the right to defend only this nation. I should hope that we will never be prepared to police the world. We should not be militarily prepared nor philosophically prepared for such a policy. We need to refocus our military force policy and the way to do that is clear. It is to return it to the constitutionally authorized role of defending our country. Again, this is not simply a question of policy, and not merely a political question. No Mr. Speaker, the source of our quandary is the minds and hearts of human beings. Bad philosophy will always lead to bad policy precisely because ideas do have consequences.

Here the bad idea to be found at the source of our malady is absurd pragmatism, a desire to be "effective" without having any idea what the end is that we trying to affect. It becomes evident in our policy and in our language.

"Now we are in it we must win it." But we know not what "win" means, other than "be effective." But we are "unprepared," but unprepared for what? Unprepared to be effective! But what is it, we are ineffective at achieving? "Well, winning," is the reply. Without ends our policies become tautological. And with the wrong policy, our execution becomes disastrous. We must reject this absurd pragmatism and reestablish a military policy based on the defense of our nation. Only then we will be able to take the steps necessary for effectiveness, and preparedness. No billions in appropriations can make our present policy effective.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BENNETT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an individual who, for the last eight years as Mayor of Aspen, has provided a strong voice and dynamic leadership in Colorado. Former Mayor of Aspen, John Bennett, served with great distinction for four terms. It is this service, Mr. Speaker, that I would now like to pay tribute to.

Elected as mayor in Aspen, Colorado, John Bennett is completing his fourth term and has chosen to retire. During his time in office, Mayor Bennett focused his concerns on preservation of the culture and values of the small community that is under economic pressure to change and grow to meet it's demands. Through his leadership, Bennett has made the city of Aspen more livable to the local citizens. Mayor Bennett also worked to control growth of the city, as well as protect the environment, build affordable housing and still protect Aspen's historic heritage. He has also put great effort into creating a transportation system that would reduce the number of single person automobiles.

An intelligent man and graduate of Yale University, Mayor Bennett ran his office along the principle which he terms the New Governance. This principle involves the solving of community problems by direct citizen involvement in their own governance.

1999 marks the end to Mayor John Bennett's tenure in elected office and the state of Colorado has benefited from his leadership. There are few people who have served as selflessly and distinguishedly as Mayor Bennett. His career epitomized that of the citizen-legislator with such distinction that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Aspen owe Mayor John Bennett a debt of gratitude and I wish him well during the next phase of his life.

CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE CREATIVE GROWTH ART CENTER, OAK- LAND, CA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Creative Growth Art Center in Oakland, California. This milestone was commemorated on May 7th with friends, distinguished guests, collectors and partners from many communities of the arts, business, educational, therapeutic and political, who joined in tribute to the organization's 25 years of community service.

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

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

Creative Growth Art Center was the first program of its kind in the country for people with disabilities. It provided national leadership in innovative programming in the fields of art and disabilities. Open to any adult who is physical, mentally or emotionally disabled and interested in art, it is internationally renowned for the quality of the art work by its studio artists, and is a model for many other programs throughout the country. The mission of the organization is to provide an environment where the visual arts can flourish, where people with disabilities have opportunities for creative expression and can achieve at the highest level. The organization also serves as an advocate for the arts and artists with disabilities.

Initiated with a National Endowment for the Arts grant, more than 4,000 people a year visit the art gallery, the first gallery in the country dedicated to the art produced by people with disabilities. The organization has been a trendsetter, featuring exhibitions which paired the work of well-known Bay Area artists beside that of severely disabled artists. Creative Growth presented the first exhibition in the United States of Russian Outsider artists from the Humanitarian Center Museum in Moscow. In 1994, in conjunction with the Oakland Museum, it held the first Outsider Art symposium on the West Coast. The Center's enriched environment, as well as the creative process itself, provides beneficial results to program participants. Many studio artists have developed into award-winning artists whose works are exhibited and sought after by collectors the world over. Dwight Mackintosh, Gerone Spurill, William Scott, to name a few, are classic examples of Outsider artists who crossed over from the alternative gallery scene into mainstream art. A younger group of studio artists is carving out its own success with Camille Holvoet, featured in *Truth from Darkness*, a traveling exhibition of the work of people with mental illness. Creative Growth artists Juan Aguilera and Carmen Quinones were paired with Mexican artist Maria Luisa de Mateo in *Arte Sin Fronteras*, to demonstrate the artists' unique cultural influences. Studio artists just completed a 109 square foot tile wall mural at the Palo Alto city entrance. Adding Light is a limited edition print portfolio by able and disabled artists, a project cosponsored by the California arts Council. In San Francisco, the Grill of the Tenderloin, of the California Culinary Academy, is decorated with imaginative art by artists from Creative Growth Art Center.

Among its artists whose works have been immortalized in books are Dwight Machintosh and Judith Scott. Scott, who is deaf and has Downs Syndrome, has been in the studio for 11 years and creates wrapped sculptures of yarn and fabric, using armatures of discarded materials.

I build on the words of my predecessor, Congressman Ron Dellums, ". . . that creativity is a human quality that not only transcends boundaries presented by mental and physical disabilities but national boundaries as well." Creative Growth Art Center provides the opportunity for us to understand that people with disabilities enrich and revitalize the community's cultural life.

MAKE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON MINORITY VETERANS PER-
MANENT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that is vital to the interests of minority veterans in our nation. Current law mandates the termination of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV) as of December 31, 1999. My bill would simply repeal the provision of law that discontinues this important committee's mandate so that its critical work on behalf of minority veterans can continue into the next century. Saving the Advisory Committee will require no additional taxpayer funding.

The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans operates in conjunction with the VA Center for Minority Veterans. This committee consists of members appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and includes minority veterans, representatives of minority veterans and individuals who are recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of minority veterans. The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans helps the VA Center for Minority Veterans primarily by advising the Secretary on the adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting minority veterans, and by making recommendations to the VA for the establishment or improvement of programs in the Department for which minority veterans are eligible.

The unique concerns of minority veterans will become increasingly important for our nation during the next decade. The majority of African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American and Native American veterans served in the armed forces during Vietnam and post-Vietnam eras. The percentage of U.S. veterans who are minorities is expected to continue to increase as we enter the 21st century.

The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans has helped to ensure that our veterans programs address the unique concerns of these men and women. Outreach to diverse veterans communities, from Native American reservations to inner-city neighborhoods, has helped inform thousands of minority veterans about opportunities for assistance at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I believe that these tasks are essential to the success of the VA in serving all veterans in our nation.

Nevertheless, many specific issues of concern to minority veterans need to be addressed further. Minority veterans confront the debilitating effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse in greater numbers. Minority veterans suffer from a higher incidence of homelessness. Access to health care for Native Americans is a common problem. In addition, access to adequate job training is a difficulty for many minority veterans, a high percentage of whom qualify as low-income, category A veterans. Unfortunately, discrimination and cultural insensitivity remain problematic for minority veterans at many VA facilities.

This is the only advisory committee in the VA that is not permanent. The Department of

Veterans Affairs has a VA Center for Women Veterans and an advisory committee on women veterans. We should act now to assure that the VA Center for Minority Veterans maintains its own advisory committee.

Mr. Speaker, the specific issues of importance to minority veterans will not disappear on December 31, 1999. I ask my colleague to support this vital legislation.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

**SECTION 1. REPEAL OF SUNSET PROVISION FOR
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY
VETERANS.**

Subsection (e) of section 554 of title 38, United States Code, is repealed.

MISSING PERSONS IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designed to declassify the records of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia. In doing so, I am joined by my colleagues: Mr. TAYLOR from Mississippi, Mr. TALENT from Missouri, and Mr. ROHRBACHER from California.

I served as a member of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia during the committee's period of existence in the 1970's. At the time, the Select Committee was tasked with the responsibility of determining whether American servicemen had been left behind in Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War.

At the time the committee was dissolved, its records were subject to House classification rules, which mandated the material be kept classified for 50 years. Similar regulations covered the records of the Senate's counterpart committee.

Several years ago, the Senate agreed to reduce the period of secrecy to 20 years, and as a result, declassified all of their committee files. This legislation would simply make a change in House rules to open all of the Select Committee's files and boxes of material to the public.

Mr. Speaker, the end of the cold war has resulted in the discovery of literally hundreds of documents which had previously been out of reach behind the Iron Curtain. I see no need for the House to maintain a veil of secrecy over its Select Committee files. Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join in supporting this worthwhile legislation which would bring the House rules on this subject in line with those of our counterpart committee in the Senate.

H. RES.—

Resolved, That the Archivist of the United States is authorized and directed to make available for public use the records of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia (94th Congress).

REMARKS OF BENJAMIN MEED ON
THE HOLOCAUST

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the remarks of Mr. Benjamin Meed who recently gave an exceptionally moving speech about Yom Hashoah, The Days of Remembrance, at the United States Capitol. Mr. Meed is Chairman of both The Days of Remembrance Committee, United States Holocaust Memorial Council and the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO). He is also the President of The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Mr. Meed is a champion of humanitarian causes around the world.

REMARKS BY BENJAMIN MEED, CHAIRMAN,
DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE, UNITED
STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

REFUGEE DENIED: THE VOYAGE OF THE SS ST.
LOUIS

Members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, members of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, distinguished guests, fellow survivors and dear friends.

Welcome to our 20th national Days of Remembrance commemoration.

For at least a decade, the magnificent flags that surround us now have been part of our annual observance here in the nation's Capitol. Every time the American flag, and the flags of the United States Army Divisions that liberated the concentration camps, are brought into this Hall for this commemoration, a special pride as an American citizen sweeps over me, as I am sure it must for all Holocaust survivors. These pieces of red, white and blue cloth were the symbols of freedom and hope for those of us caught in the machinery of death. Discovery of the German Nazi concentration camps by the Allied armies began the process that restored our lives. Although we have many dates this month to remember, we recall with special gratitude the date of April 11, 1945, when American troops, in their march to end the war in Europe, came across the Buchenwald concentration camp. We will always remain grateful to the American soldiers for their bravery, kindness and generosity. We will always remember those young soldiers who sacrificed their lives to bring us liberty.

Many revelations over the last half a century have unveiled the Holocaust as a story of massive destruction and loss. It has been shown to be the story of an apathetic world—world full of callous dispassion and moral insensitivity, with few individual exceptions. But more, it has been shown to be a tale of victory—victory of the human spirit, of extraordinary courage and of remarkable endurance. It is the story of life that flourished before the Shoah, that struggled throughout its darkest hours, and that ultimately prevailed.

And after the Holocaust, as we rebuilt our lives, we also built a nation—the State of Israel. This was our answer to death and destruction—new life, both family and national life—and Remembrance. Minister Ben-David, please convey to the people of Israel our solidarity with them as they, too, Remember today on this Yom Hashoah.

Today, our thoughts turn back sixty years. On May 13, 1939, the SS St. Louis sailed from Hamburg bound for Havana with more than nine hundred passengers, most of them Jews

fleeing Nazism. For these passengers, it was a desperate bid for freedom that was doomed before it began. Politics, profit and public opinion were permitted to overshadow morality, compassion and common sense. It is so painful now to realize that not only Cuba but our own beloved country closed her doors and her heart to these People of the Book who could see the lights of Miami from the decks of the ship but were not allowed to disembark. This group of nine hundred could have been saved, but instead the voyage became a round-trip passage to hell for many of them. Less than three months after the St. Louis docked at Antwerp, the world was at war. And in less than three years, the "Final Solution of the Jewish Problem" in Europe was fully operational.

Could this happen today? Hopefully, not. But we—all of us—must be vigilant—ever mindful that once such a course of destruction of a people has been chartered, it can be followed again, and again, and again.

And what lessons did we derive from these horrible experiences? The most important lesson is obvious—it can happen again, the impossible is possible again. Ethnic cleansing, genocide, is happening as I speak. It can happen to any one or any group of people. The slaughter in Kosovo and in other places must be brought to an end.

Should there be another Holocaust, it may be on a cosmic scale. How can we prevent it? All of us must remain vigilant—always aware, always on guard against those who are determined to destroy innocent human life for no other reason than birthright.

There are some passengers of that unfortunate voyage of the SS St. Louis who are with us here today. Like most of us Holocaust survivors, they are in the winter of their lives. Even so, all of us look toward the future, because we believe that, in sharing our experiences—by bearing witness—there is hope of protecting other generations who might be abandoned and forgotten, robbed and murdered. The telling and retelling of the stories of the Holocaust with their profound lessons for humanity must become a mission for all humankind. In this way, future generations, particularly future generations of Americans, can Remember and can use the power of this knowledge to protect people everywhere.

In these great halls of Congress, we see symbols of the ideals that this country represents. It was the collective rejection of these ideals by many nations that made the Holocaust possible. Today, let us all promise to keep an ever-watchful eye for those who would deny the principles of liberty, equality and justice, and for those who would defy the rules of honorable and peaceful conduct between peoples, and nations. Together, let us remember. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE
RODRIGUEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading ladies, and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Catherine Rodriguez. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for many years, has exhibited dedication and experience to the court system of San Luis Valley.

As a District court reporter for the last 15 years, Ms. Rodriguez has been an active par-

ticipant and leader for the Colorado's court reporters. Before becoming its president in 1996–97, Catherine Rodriguez served on the Colorado Court Reporter's Association board for 7 years. She has proven to be valuable in creating a page-rate increase, as well as voicing Colorado's need for computer-integrated courtrooms.

Catherine Rodriguez has more than proven herself as a valuable asset to the court system of San Luis Valley, therefore, earning Colorado's highest honor for court reporters. This is a great achievement considering that she is only the second recipient in recent years.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Catherine Rodriguez on a truly exceptional career as a Colorado court reporter. Due to Ms. Rodriguez's dedicated service, it is clear that Colorado is a better place.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE
BETH TORAH

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Temple Beth Torah. This synagogue serves the Jewish community in Northeast Philadelphia as well as the surrounding suburban neighborhoods of Montgomery and Bucks Counties.

Boulevard Temple was the original name of the synagogue when it was formed in 1949. In 1965, it was necessary to change the location of the temple in order to better serve the Jewish community. Since this expansion, the synagogue has been known as the Temple Beth Torah.

Temple Beth Torah enriches the community in many ways. Beyond meaningful and significant services, the synagogue has formed and manages a highly regarded School of Religion and an excellent Nursery School. In addition, the members of Temple Beth Torah improve their community through a wide array of events and activities. The Sisterhood, Men's Club and PTA strive to develop programs that will engage and educate congregants of all ages.

I wish to sincerely honor the Temple Beth Torah for its many accomplishments and offer my congratulations on the 50th anniversary. I hope the Temple continues to help the Jewish community prosper, flourish and benefit for many more years into the future.

CONGRATULING THE FAIR LAWN
POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
MCDONALD'S ON "A SAFE PLACE
FOR SMALL FRIES"

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fair Lawn Police Department and

the McDonald's Corp. for a pioneering new program intended to help young children contact police in times of need. This program is extremely worthwhile and I am certain it will serve as a model that will be copied by many communities throughout our northern New Jersey region if not nationwide. Nothing in the world is more priceless than our children.

The Fair Lawn police and the local McDonald's restaurant this weekend will begin operation of a new project called "A Safe Place for Small Fries." Under this program, children who are lost, injured or otherwise in trouble can come to the restaurant and receive help in calling the police. The police department and McDonald's are circulating flyers advising the public of the new service, and McDonald's staff are being trained in how to respond to requests for help.

This program was the idea of Fair Lawn Police Officer Glen Callons. Officer Callons and his family were walking along a Jersey Shore boardwalk last Father's Day when they encountered an obviously lost 3-year-old girl. After his own young children approached the girl, the off-duty officer took the youngster to a nearby police substation, where she was reunited with her family.

Officer Callons couldn't stop thinking about the girl in the days that followed, worried that other small children might now know where to go if lost. It then struck him that almost all small children recognize the golden arches trademark of the ubiquitous McDonald's restaurant chain. Callons, assigned to the community policing division in Fair Lawn, approached the manager of the local McDonald's and began to develop plans for the program. The program is carefully structured, with children urged to dial 911 from a public phone if not close to the restaurant, and not to pass up a police station, fire station or hospital in order to reach the restaurant. A special training video has been prepared for McDonald's employees by police, and workers are supplied with multi-language information cards to help them deal with children who don't speak English.

McDonald's Corp. officials say they are looking at the program as a pilot. If successful, the company may enter similar arrangements with other police departments, potentially establishing a similar program nationwide. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has supported the proposal, noting that the Boys and Girls Clubs of America have established similar "save havens" at their clubhouses.

If this program can save even a single child from being lost or worse, then it is worthwhile. I am glad there are people like Officer Callons thinking pro-actively about the safety of our children in today's dangerous world. Officer Callons, Acting Chief of Police Rodman D. Marshall, and McDonald's Regional Marketing Coordinator Teresa Monohan deserve special recognition. I offer my support and wish this program success.

ASSAULT WEAPON BAN
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I joined with several of my colleagues to introduce the

Assault Weapon Ban Enhancement Act of 1999. This legislature is designed to strengthen the existing ban and to respond to efforts by gun manufacturers and importers to cosmetically alter their weapons to avoid the ban.

I was a proud cosponsor of the Assault Weapon Ban Enhancement Act that passed in 1994, and I remain a strong supporter of that law. It specifically prohibited nine categories of pistols, rifles, and shotguns. It also had a "features test": that is, it bans semiautomatic weapons with multiple features (e.g., detachable magazines, flash suppressors, folding rifle stocks, and threaded barrels for attaching silencers) that appear useful in military and criminal applications, but that are unnecessary in shooting sports.

The Department of Justice recently released a report on the "Impacts of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban: 1994-96." Among the report's key findings are that "criminal use of the banned guns declined, at least temporarily, after the law went into effect." It said that further studies were needed to assess the long-term effects. It also stated that "evidence suggests that the ban may have contributed to a reduction in the gun murder rate and murders of police officers by criminals armed with assault weapons."

But the report also observed that the ban could be easily avoided by gun manufacturers and importers. It said that "shortening a gun's barrel by a few millimeters or 'sporterizing' a rifle by removing its pistol grip and replacing it with a thumbhole in the stock, for example, was sufficient to transform a banned weapon into a legal substitute."

That is why we have to do more. We have witnessed, in gun shows and advertisements on the Internet and in magazines, a new brand of assault weapon, specifically designed to avoid the ban, but still lethal and potentially harmful to the American public. The BATF has recently approved a new weapon—the VEPR. We fear that gun makers will use the VEPR as a prototype of a new generation of weapons that seek to avoid the ban and flood the U.S. market with high-powered deadly assault rifles—assault rifles in fact; but evading the 1994 legal definition.

Our gun import laws are like a series of sieves. The first sieve is the 1989 ban on the importation of assault weapons, and the 1994 ban on the domestic manufacture of assault weapons. But there are some holes in this sieve. The second sieve—the Clinton Administration's April, 1998 ruling—has slightly smaller holes and blocks a few more weapons, including some guns that were cosmetically altered to avoid the first ban. The final sieve is the Nadler bill, which has the smallest holes. It stops guns that would have been determined to be assault weapons except for the fact that they had a thumb hole stock instead of a pistol grip. It stops guns that can be easily modified to accept high capacity magazines, or that use .22 caliber ammunition. Now, some guns will still make it through the Nadler sieve. Regular sporting rifles, and weapons that can't be modified to accept large capacity magazines would still be able to be imported. But the Nadler bill is designed to strengthen an already good law and to prevent manufacturers from evading the assault weapons ban.

This legislation was designed to head off the influx of this next generation weapon, before these guns are used in the next round of

deadly violence. This is a forward-looking bill, that will take strong preventive action now, so that we do not hear about another awful tragedy later. If we act quickly, we can do a world of good, and save countless lives.

A TRIBUTE TO COALINGA POLICE
CHIEF LUELLE "KAY" HOLLOWAY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the induction of former Coalinga Police Chief, Luella "Kay" Holloway into the National Police Officer's memorial.

Chief Holloway's law enforcement career began when she was hired as a police matron and file clerk at the Torrance police Department in August 1963. In June 1964, she became a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff. The majority of her career was spent with the department until she relocated to the city of Coalinga as the Chief of Police.

Chief Holloway was the first woman Chief of Police in California history. At the time of her service in Coalinga, she was one of six female police chiefs in the country. During Chief Holloway's three and a half years in Coalinga, she was responsible for obtaining several important grants and initiating several new programs for the community.

On January 3, 1980, Chief Kay Holloway and her husband, California Highway patrol Officer Don Holloway, were killed in an airplane accident while returning home from a California P.O.S.T. training session in Sacramento. She died in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the induction of former Coalinga Police Chief Luella "Kay" Holloway into the National Peace Officer's memorial.

HONORING THE LENOX HILL
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Lenox Hill Democratic Club. This month, the Lenox Hill Club celebrates 44 years of service to the community. Founded as part of the reform movement in Democratic politics, the Lenox Hill Club has developed a reputation for championing progressive causes and candidates.

The Lenox Hill Democratic Club is composed of a concerned group of citizens eager to assist their neighbors. For the tenant, the elderly, or the women facing discrimination, the Lenox Hill Club is a place to turn for help.

In addition to working on behalf of the community, the members of the Lenox Hill Club have helped ensure the election of numerous progressive leaders. Located in the "silk-stocking district" on the East side of Manhattan, the Lenox Hill Club has been a source of strength for many of the most prominent leaders of our era, including Ed Koch, Mario Cuomo and Jimmy Carter.

Since its founding, the Lenox Hill Club has been dedicated to reforming the political process and expanding citizen participation. For more than forty years, the Lenox Hill Club has championed education, the environment, civil rights, world peace and many other causes.

Through their efforts to assist individuals, the Lenox Hill Club has improved countless lives. Through their help in electing progressive leaders, Lenox Hill has helped transform the political landscape of our city, state and nation. This is indeed an admirable testament to the valuable contributions of the Lenox Hill Club.

HONORING ED HASTEY'S 46 YEARS
OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Hasteley upon his retirement after 46 years of public service. Ed brought a new philosophy to the management of public lands in California and Northern Nevada through his astute leadership. His guidance has set a high standard for the stewardship of the 16 million acres of public lands managed by the California State Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Born in Pacific Grove, Ed is a fourth generation Californian. He joined the Bureau of Land Management in 1957 after service as a paratrooper in the Army Airborne. In the mid-1960's, Ed worked as an engineer building campgrounds, public access routes and other facilities throughout the state and was active in resolving personnel management issues in support of his employees. Ed then went to Washington, DC, serving first as a budget officer, then as assistant director and finally as associate director of BLM. When Ed was tapped to be California State Director, he began building the coalitions that have resulted in effective land use planning that now safeguard California's diverse natural resources.

In 1991, Ed founded the California Biodiversity Council, bringing state and federal agencies together to collaborate on resource management. Ed directed a land exchange and acquisition program in cooperation with the State and private land conservancies which has protected the King Range National Conservation Area; the Carrizo Plain; the Santa Rosa Mountains; the Cosumnes Preserve; and Headwaters Forest. He headed a four-state oversight management group on the threatened desert tortoise to facilitate the species recovery while minimizing the impact on public land use. Ed planned and implemented the California Desert Plan, coordinating with hundreds of organizations and agencies as well as thousands of interested citizens. Nearer home, Ed participated actively in the acquisition of 8,000 acres at the former Fort Ord Army base, opening it up to the public for parkland and wildlife habitat.

Ed Hasteley's approach has been that of developing local solutions tailored to particular regional needs. His contributions have merited many awards including the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, the highest honor in the elite Senior Executive Service; two Presi-

dential Meritorious Service Awards; and the Departmental Distinguished Service Award.

Ed, you have my heartiest congratulations on your retirement! Your family—your wife Joyce, your sons Robert and Michael, and your grandchildren—will be pleased to take advantage, along with you, of the public spaces you have worked so hard to protect.

RECOGNIZING LEW FERGUSON

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Lew Ferguson for his dedication and service to the people of Kansas. On July 1, Mr. Ferguson will retire after 29 years of distinguished service as the Associated Press correspondent at the Statehouse in Topeka, Kansas.

Upon graduation from the University of Oklahoma, Mr. Ferguson began his career in journalism working as sports and wire editor for the Ponca City News in Oklahoma. He eventually joined the Associated Press staff and made his way to their Kansas City office. Although he had established a formidable career in sports journalism, Mr. Ferguson developed an interest in politics. In late 1970, he transferred to Topeka to cover Kansas state politics and government for the Associated Press.

During his tenure as the Associated Press correspondent in Topeka, Mr. Ferguson developed into a legend, earning a reputation for objectivity and impeccable integrity. For 29 years he faithfully informed Kansans of the issues and actions in state government that would affect their everyday lives. In recognition of his work, he received the Kansas Supreme Court's Justice Award in 1992. Lew Ferguson will be remembered for his impartiality and knowledge in reporting and his friendliness and enthusiasm in all aspects of his activities in the Statehouse. I wish Lew and his family the very best.

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
CHILDREN'S DAY PROCLAMATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the wisdom and vision of the Tohono O'odham Nation for recognizing the need to set aside a special day to honor children. I believe, and the Tohono O'odham believe, that they are the first tribal nation to declare a day for children. Because the Children's Day Proclamation speaks so eloquently of its purpose, I have included the original text that others may be inspired to "recognize, protect and promote our children".

CHILDREN'S DAY PROCLAMATION

Whereas, our children encounter challenges to their spirit, emotional, mental and physical well being from sources that exist outside our O'odham culture and tradition; and

Whereas, the knowledge and wisdom necessary for our lives was passed forward from

our Ancient Ones to our Elders to each successive generation; and

Whereas, our Ancient Ones and our Elders form our connecting bridge to our past and our present, but our O'odham children form our bridge to the future, and without our children we as Tohono O'odham would cease to exist; and

Whereas, we must recognize, protect, and promote our children for they are the only means for carrying on our traditions, our history, our language, our values, our culture for those generations yet to come.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation, and by virtue of the power vested in us to protect Tohono O'odham children, we do hereby recognize that our children are our greatest resource and on Friday, the 23rd day of April of this year and the third Friday of April in every succeeding year shall be forever known as Children's Day, a day in which we as Tohono O'odham celebrate our children, our future. Done this 12th day of April, 1999.

EDWARD D. MANUEL,

Chairman.

HENRY A. RAMON,

Vice-Chairman.

NOTCH FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to talk about fairness. I am here to talk about an injustice done to over 11 million senior citizens, who were born between the years 1917 and 1926. I am here to talk about the Notch Fairness Act of 1999, legislation which I have filed to correct a grievous wrong done to citizens known as Notch Babies.

These are the individuals who lived through the depression, served our country during World War II and Korea, and are the real architects of the vibrant nation we are today.

Unfortunately, an amendment to the Social Security Act in 1977 dramatically and unjustly rendered less Social Security benefits of this segment of our population. Although it was intended to help bolster the Social Security Trust Fund by re-computing the benefit formula for present and future beneficiaries, the amendment inadvertently paved the way for consequences which severely and negatively impacted Notch Babies. The new formula, along with unforeseen economic conditions in the late seventies, resulted in lower benefits for all members in the "Notch" group. On average, Notch Babies suffered significantly, receiving \$1,000 less a year in Social Security benefits than those who came before and after them.

With Notch Babies now in their mid-to-late seventies and early eighties, it is more important than ever that we move quickly to compensate them for the economic hardships they continue to endure. Fortunately, conditions are right for us to act. With a current budget surplus of \$70 billion, a predicted surplus of \$107 billion for Fiscal Year 2000, and further surpluses expected for the next fifteen years, we have a tremendous economic opportunity to correct the injustices Notch Babies have been forced to bear to this day.

My legislation would provide Notch Babies with a one-time \$5,000 lump sum settlement

or an equivalent increase in benefits in future years. In an age when COLA disbursements are at an all-time low and the costs of prescription drugs are rising exponentially, Notch Babies would greatly benefit from these additional funds, to which they are rightfully entitled.

It is never too late to right wrongs committed in the past. This is the right time to pass the Notch Fairness Act of 1999 to make sure that Notch Babies receive the money they are legitimately due.

YEAR 2000 READINESS AND
RESPONSIBILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 775) to establish certain procedures for civil actions brought for damages relating to the failure of any device or system to process or otherwise deal with the transition from the year 1999 to the year 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 775, the Year 2000 Readiness and Responsibility Act. I believe that this legislation would overturn more than 200 years of legal precedent in our nation and would devastate our tort's system. I believe that the bill would hurt consumers and reduce the incentive for companies to address their Year 2000 computer problems in a timely manner.

The Year 2000 problem is a complex problem which we all need to work together to ad-

dress. However, this legislation is the wrong answer to the problem. This bill would make it more difficult for consumers and small businesses to recover any damages if their computers or equipment fail. The effect of this bill would be to remove any incentive on the part of information technology companies for a problem they have known about for many years. This legislation would also encourage all class action lawsuits to be considered in federal court rather than state courts. Finally, this legislation would mandate that the loser of a lawsuit must reimburse the other plaintiff for all of the cost associated with the lawsuit and the attorneys' fees. For many consumers, this concept of a loser pays would present an obstacle and would discourage them to even filing a lawsuit. It would overturn a pillar of the American civil justice system in favor of the English system.

I believe that we must work to encourage parties to reach agreements through arbitration and dispute resolution. However, I do not believe that we should prevent consumers from seeking their day in court if they cannot reach agreement with the other party. I also support the inclusion of provisions in this bill that would encourage a 90-day cooling off period to allow companies time to correct any Year 2000 problems. However, if the 90-day cooling-off period is not successful, I believe we should err on the side of permitting consumers to have the right to seek legal redress.

I will support the Lofgren substitute amendment that would reasonably address this issue. The Lofgren substitute would provide the proper balance to encourage customers and business partners to fix the millennium bug. This substitute would provide an incentive for Y2K compliance and would discourage frivolous claims while allowing meritorious cases to be litigated. This substitute also in-

cludes a provision that would provide proportional liability for companies so that companies would only be liable for their portion of the fault. As a result, companies would not be required to pay large judgments. This proportional liability will ensure that all parties will pay their fair share associated with the economic losses from computer failures.

I also believe that we have rushed to judgment on this issue. As a member of the House Banking Committee, I have participated in several hearings to review our nation's banking system's efforts to address the Year 2000 computer problem. During these hearings, we have learned that financial institutions are subject to a strict compliance schedule to ensure that they will be ready when the new millennium begins. In fact, the federal bank regulators have assured us that they will require financial institutions to comply or they will lose their federal deposit insurance. I believe that these hearings have shown how Congress can work on a bipartisan basis to address a critical issue. In this case, Congress has not worked on a bipartisan basis. In fact, this legislation was rushed through the House Judiciary Committee and quickly considered in the House of Representatives. If the Republican majority had wanted to consider a bipartisan bill, there were several other options available. In the other body, the Republican majority has worked diligently with the Democratic minority to craft legislation. Regrettably, I believe that the Republican majority is more interested in voting on this issue rather than finding a reasonable compromise on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and to support the Lofgren amendment that would protect consumers and encourage all companies to become Y2K compliant.