

We earnestly hope that the above-mentioned aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo. I wish all the refugees an early return to their safe and peaceful Kosovo homes.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this unjust and unfair rule. The Majority Leadership is still refusing to allow several Democratic amendments to be considered by this House. I am especially opposed to this rule because my amendments to extend Section 2323 of Title X of the U.S. Code were not ruled in order.

Section 2323 established a five percent contract goal for small disadvantaged businesses and certain institutions of higher education, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-serving institutions. Achieving this modest goal is the objective of the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and NASA. This important law is scheduled to expire in the year 2000.

I proposed two amendments to extend Section 2323 beyond the year 2000 and improve the implementation of this important provision of law. My colleague, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, also proposed two amendments to extend and modify Section 2323. So there were four different proposals regarding contracting for small disadvantaged businesses and minority institutions and none of them were ruled in order by the Republican leadership.

Recent trends have provided compelling evidence for the continuing need for affirmative action goals in Federal contracting. Following the *Adarand v. Pena* decision by the Supreme Court, the Federal Government undertook a review of affirmative action programs, and subsequently, 17 of these programs were altered or eliminated.

These changes have led to a significant drop in the number of Federal contracts awarded to minorities and women. For example, in 1995, the Department of Energy, which contracts out 80 percent of its purchases of goods and services, awarded \$215.8 million in contracts to women and minority-owned businesses. In 1997, the amount dropped to \$66.1 million. It would be extremely unfortunate if a similar decrease in Federal contracting with minority-owned businesses were to occur at the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and NASA.

Section 2323 is a modest goal to encourage contracts with minority-owned businesses and other small businesses. As a result of this provision, many businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals have been able to compete for, have been awarded and have executed Defense, NASA

and Coast Guard contracts. Section 2323 has allowed small disadvantaged businesses and minority institutions of higher education to make a positive contribution to the national security of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this unjust rule and support a fair rule that will allow the Members of this House to consider the extension of Section 2323.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MICKEY MENDOZA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mickey Mendoza of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, a young man whose life was ended in a tragic incident in Ecuador on April 11, 1999. Regrettably, to this day, no full explanation has been offered by Ecuadorian officials to describe the circumstances surrounding Mickey's death. All that we know for sure is that a bullet from a gun belonging to a police officer in Guayquil, Ecuador senselessly ended the life of a promising fourteen year old American citizen.

I met with Mickey's parents, Galo and Doris and their three children shortly after this death and I know the pain they are enduring. Today I have come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to say that I fully share the Mendoza family's desire to get to the bottom of how Mickey died. They are owed this answer and I intend to continue my work with U.S. officials in Ecuador to ensure that they get a full accounting of what led to Mickey's death.

Mickey Mendoza was, in almost all respects, living the American dream. He was a bright and energetic student at Saddle Brook Middle School. He was active in sports, taking part in his school's wrestling team and playing soccer in a recreational league. In addition, after school, Mickey was attending confirmation classes at Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church in Garfield, New Jersey. His creativity, his energy, his thoughtfulness, and all this has been taken from us.

Father Paul Bochicchia, pastor of Mickey's church, after learning of his death, recounted that Mickey was especially protective of his little nine year old sister, Isabella. What better tribute than to remember Mickey as a fourteen year old boy who cared for his little sister. This tells us everything we need to know about who Mickey was and why his death has touched the lives of so many people.

Among the many messages of sympathy that the Mendoza family have received, I read one that I would like to share with my colleagues. This letter was written by Anthony Maneri, Mickey's classmate at Saddle Brook Middle School; "Mickey was a great pal. He always could make you laugh, even at sad times. He always knew the right things to say to make people laugh. He was a great friend and I am going to miss him. I will never forget him."

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: A MODEL IN SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Prince George's County School System as one of our Nation's most innovative and successful school violence prevention programs. In the wake of the tragedies at Columbine and Conyers High School, it is important to highlight those schools which serve as a model for other school districts to follow.

As the 18th largest school district in the nation, the faculty and staff of the Prince George's County Public School system educates one of the most diverse student populations of any district in the Nation. This week, as we continue our dialogue and focus on solutions to making our schools a safer place to learn, perhaps we can look to many of the programs already in place in Prince George's County and across the State of Maryland.

Under the direction of retiring Superintendent Dr. Jerome Clark and Dr. Patricia Green, Chief, Divisional Administrator for Pupil Services, Prince George's County has implemented a regimen of programs including peer mediation, early intervention, and placement of probation specialists within schools.

The Peer Mediation program has been one of the most successful. By placing a peer mediation teacher on staff at each of the 20 high schools and 26 middle schools, students are learning now to intervene and peacefully resolve conflicts. The program has recently been instituted on the elementary school level where teachers and guidance counselors at more than 100 of the district's elementary schools are trained on the importance of creating a healthy learning environment.

Another program, called the "Justice in Cluster Program" has been so successful that the State of Maryland used the program as the model to create the statewide "Spotlight on Schools." By teaming up with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, each cluster of schools is able to provide two probation specialists who work with the local high school, middle school, and elementary schools to assist guidance counselors, peer mediation teachers, school psychologists, and administrators in working with troubled students and ensuring that they remain out of the juvenile justice system.

Early intervention programs are also proving to be successful. "Second Step," a program featured in a 1997 study by the University of Washington, teaches children to change attitudes which may lead to violent behavior. Through learning empathy, impulse control and anger management, students in kindergarten through grade six are learning how to react nonviolently to various situations. The program is currently in place in 67 elementary schools and the Prince George's County School System has been asked by the Maryland State Department of Education to become the regional training center so that other school districts can replicate this successful program.

These are just three of the many positive programs being implemented just beyond the

borders of our Nation's Capitol. With a number of successful federal programs in place like D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T., and the COPS program, we are in a position to provide a comprehensive plan for reducing school violence. I salute the Prince George's County Public School System for its dedication to safety and encourage my colleagues to look to this school system as one which may have solutions to the many problems facing our education system.

IN HONOR OF SAINT ALOYSIUS
PARISH ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Saint Aloysius Parish of Cleveland, Ohio on its 100th anniversary.

The church serves its parishioners and the communities of Glenville and South Collinwood through education, social services and the preservation of faith values. Two schools, St. Aloysius and St. Joseph's, offer education to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The schools are known for their excellence in academics and the strong sense of community between teachers, students and parents. St. Aloysius reaches out to community members of all faiths through its social services operations. The church runs a food distribution program that provides 700 to 800 bags of food to needy families in the area once a month. Working with nearby parishes and local food banks, the church also provides a hot meal program every Tuesday which serves up to 700 hot meals.

St. Aloysius was founded in 1898 by Rev. Msgr. Joseph Smith for the area's predominantly Irish-American population. As the population in the area changed, the pastors worked to improve racial relations in the area. Today, the parish serves the present African-American community.

In 1974, the parish merged with neighboring St. Agatha Church. The tight-knit parish community worships in the church known as "the Cathedral of Glenville" and prides itself on knowing all its members.

St. Aloysius has been celebrating its 100th anniversary since last summer. Parishioners have been commemorating their church's history by celebrating Mass, holding cultural events and creating a memories wall with photos of past and present members.

As a honorary committee member of the St. Aloysius parish I take great pride in commending the entire congregation on its century of serving the community through faith, education and outreach programs. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the St. Aloysius community many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES
PEAK WILDERNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the James Peak Wilderness

Act of 1999. This legislation will provide important protection and management for some striking mountain open space along Colorado's Continental Divide west of Denver. These lands, which include the 13,294-foot James Peak, are the heart of the largest unprotected roadless area on the northern Front Range.

The James Peak area that will be protected by my bill offers outstanding recreational opportunities for hiking, skiing, fishing, and backpacking, including the popular South Boulder Creek trail and along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. James Peak is one of the highest rated areas for biological diversity on the entire Arapaho National Forest, including unique habitat for wildlife, miles of riparian corridors, stands of old growth forests, and threatened and endangered species. The area includes a dozen spectacularly situated alpine lakes, including Forest Lakes, Arapaho Lakes, and Heart Lake. Many sensitive species such as wolverine, lynx, and pine marten only thrive in wilderness settings. Adding James Peak to the chain of protected lands (wilderness and National Park lands) from Berthoud Pass to the Wyoming State line will promote movement of these species and improve their chances for survival.

My bill will designate 22,000-acres of the James Peak roadless area as wilderness. This area will be added to the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993—the last major wilderness legislation passed for federal public lands in Colorado. Last year, my predecessor, Congressman David Skaggs, introduced a similar bill that would have protected 15,850-acres of the James Peak roadless area as wilderness. The increase in my bill is due to the inclusion of lands with Grand County that were excluded from the Skaggs bill. These acres were included to preserve the integrity of the James Peak area and protect important lands within this roadless area in Grand County. My bill also does not include 7 small wilderness additions that were in Skaggs' bill. I am evaluating these lands for a possible future bill.

My bill also includes provisions encouraging the Forest Service to acquire two in holdings within the proposed wilderness in Grand County. These lands are a section of State Land Board Land and a private mining claim. My bill will also address the need to provide facilities at the Alice Township and St. Mary's Glacier. This area is experiencing increasing use as a forest access point, and there is a need to supply adequate services for visitors in this area. My bill will also direct the Forest Service to remove an abandoned radio tower facility on Mt. Eva near James Peak.

As my bill will be an addition to the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, the James Peak Wilderness will be subject to the water provisions of that Act thus avoiding potential conflicts related to water. In addition, James Peak is a headwaters area, so there will be no conflicts with existing water rights.

As wilderness, the James Peak area also will be subject to the Wilderness Act of 1964. Under this Act, activities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, rafting, canoeing, cross-country skiing and scientific research are allowed. In addition, use of wheelchairs, treatment of diseases and insects, fire suppression activities and research and rescue activities will be allowed. Activities that would be excluded include motorized vehicle use, mining, timber harvesting, oil and gas

drilling, road building and the use of motorized and mechanized equipment. In addition, my bill has been drafted in such a way as to avoid conflicts and to address concerns that were expressed during the development of Representative Skaggs' bill. Specifically, my bill addresses the following issues:

Private Lands. My bill is drawn to avoid potential conflicts with private interests by excluding private lands and facilities.

Recreation: My bill does not include the Rollins Pass road between the James Peak roadless area and the existing Indian Peaks Wilderness Area to the north. This road is used for recreational access for mountain bikers and snowmobiles. In addition, areas along the proposed western boundary within Grand County have been excluded from my bill to address recreational access to area and trails used by mountain bikers and snowmobiles. These areas include the Jim Creek drainage and the area south of the Rollins Pass road on the Grand County side.

Search and Rescue. As already provided by the Wilderness Act, activities related to the health and safety of persons within the area will be allowed, including the need to use mechanized equipment to perform search and rescue activities.

Timer and minerals. About one-third of the area is timbered—or 8,300-acres—and one-third of this is old growth. Steep slopes and lack of road make the area's timber uneconomical to harvest. The area has low mineral potential.

Grazing. The area contains only one active grazing allotment with a yearly stocking level of 60 cows and calves. Under the Wilderness Act grazing can continue.

101ST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, June 12, 1999, the Republic of the Philippines and Filipinos all over the world will commemorate the 101st anniversary of the proclamation of their independence from Spain.

Outside the group of ecstatic, enlightened and freedom-loving patriots from within the archipelago's more than 7,000 islands, very few people were even remotely aware of the implications of the summer day's events of June 12, 1898. A century later, we have come to recognize the significance of the proclamation read from a balcony in Kawit, Cavite, 101 years ago.

This manifesto, closely resembling the document our forefathers signed in 1776, has come to symbolize a people's aspiration, desire and capacity to stand their ground, take control and chart their own destiny. On June 12, 1898, the Filipino people boldly declared that the desire to be a free republic is not a uniquely Western concept. The day General Emilio Aguinaldo first unfurled the Filipino flag amidst the inspiring strains of the Philippine National Anthem signalled the birth of the first republic in Asia, an event witnessed by jubilant Filipinos and curious foreign observers alike. For the first time, a political system dedicated to the ideals of democracy and popular