Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in wishing all the best for Jenny in her new endeavor, and to let her know that we will miss her every day and will always be grateful for what she’s done for the Congress and our national defense.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce "The Booker T. Washington Leadership Act of 1999". This legislation will establish the Booker T. Washington Leadership Institute at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia.

Booker T. Washington is perhaps the most renowned alumnus of Hampton University. His vision championed the idea that black colleges and universities should embrace the responsibility not only to train men and women in their disciplines and trades, but to create and sustain new institutions and communities driven by the principle of service—service to God, country, and humankind.

The mission of this Institute reflects this vision. It is based on Hampton University’s fundamental premise that leadership development is best understood and achieved in the moral context of social responsibility and service to society. The Institute will be committed to the development of ethical values, interpersonal skills and the competencies that are required for effective leadership in a broad range of business, civic and political environments.

Hampton University is uniquely prepared to launch this Institute. For the past 130 years, Hampton University has promoted higher education and positive character development as the core elements of effective leadership and responsible citizenship. Initially founded in 1868 to train promising young men and women to teach and lead their recently emancipated peers, it has grown into a comprehensive university, offering a broad range of technical, liberal arts, pre-professional, professional and graduate degree programs. Over the past twenty years, Hampton University has doubled the student population from 2,700 to 7,000, and the average student SAT score has increased by 300 points.

In 1991, the Lafayette City Council proclaimed John Powell Day in Lafayette. In the resolution issued, Mr. Powell was commended for his community involvement and his leadership, particularly in the areas of education, industry and race relations. Now, once again, he is being recognized for what he has done to promote respect between races and the value of education for his students. Most important, however, he is recognized for his life-long commitment to public service.

I join the residents of Chambers County in thanking John P. Powell and saluting him on this special day of recognition.

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the violence that recently took place in Armenia. The Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament, as well as other prominent Armenian politicians, were killed in a hail of gunfire on the floor of the Armenian Parliament.

Besides my deep concern and sympathy for the individuals who were brutally murdered and for their families and friends, I fear that this event could cause a delay or postponement of the peace talks currently underway between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Thankfully, both governments have stated that the peace process will not be interrupted by this tragic event.

Armenia should step up its efforts to push the peace process along. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been going on for 11 years now, and more than 30,000 people have been killed and over a million refugees created on both sides, including over 800,000 in Azerbaijan. It is time to reach a peace agreement, and Presidents Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Robert Kocharyan of Armenia have met four times in recent months to discuss such a settlement.

As original sponsor of legislation designed to repeal Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, I would like to draw your attention to a statement in the New York Times, that appeared on November 3, urging to loft "the ban
A PROPOSAL TO GUARANTEE HEALTH INSURANCE TO EVERY AMERICAN CHILD BORN IN THE NEXT CENTURY: SEEKING IDEAS AND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is a national disgrace that 11.1 million children in the United States still do not have health insurance as we enter a new millennium.

What we have done so far has not worked. Since 1996, the numbers and percentages of children without insurance have actually crept upward. They have not yet reached a statistically significant decrease in numbers, but we are moving in the wrong direction.

The web of programs we pieced together in 1997, CHIP/Medicaid/transitional Medicaid, are failing to get health insurance coverage to more children.

We need to come back to this question, and find something that will work. America's children deserve health insurance.

I have begun to develop a bill to address this problem, currently in a rough draft form, which is based on the idea that we need a simple and comprehensive solution:

We want every child in America to have health insurance.

Every child in America is issued a birth certificate and social security number at birth. Let's automatically enroll every child at birth into a Medicare-type program; call it "MediKids."

MediKids will be both an umbrella and a safety net for all of the other programs insuring our children, so that no child will ever fall through the enrollment cracks again, much less 11.1 million children.

Our current approach places the burden on already disadvantaged parents. State and local enrollment and welfare workers are unable to determine which families match various programs—much less process pages of forms and documentation in order to enroll children in health insurance.

Instead, I propose we do what's right, sensible, and directly accomplishes the goal of health insurance for all of our children: (1) Enroll every child in MediKids automatically at birth; and (2) allow parents who do have other choices for a convenient way to attach evidence of coverage to their tax forms, thus exempting themselves from the premiums used to finance MediKids.

Children are relatively inexpensive to insure, but this program will have a budget impact. I am developing a plan for covering the costs of this program. Ultimately, however we pay for it, we must make the stand that some things are worth spending money on, particularly in this time of unprecedented, record-breaking economic growth.

My staff and I will be refining this bill over the holiday recess. For example, we will want to adjust the MediKids program to cover the specific services which children need. As our work progresses, we will be posting our drafts on our website, http://www.house.gov/stark and we invite everyone to visit the site and offer their input.

We plan to introduce this bill at the start of the next Congressional session—the first of the new millennium. I invited all of my colleagues, and everyone in America who cares about the health of our children, to join us in developing this idea, and to co-sponsor this important effort to get every millennium baby off to a good start.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the 1999 International Press Freedom Award honorees, Savas Tsivicos, the Panpaphian Association of America.

The Panpaphian Association was founded in 1987, by a group of Cypriot-Americans of Paphian ancestry in order to encourage and help promote awareness of the customs and traditions of the region of Paphos and Cyprus. It is a vital philanthropic organization concerned with education, the health and well-being of students from the United States and Cyprus, and the liberation of Cyprus from the Turkish invasion of 1974.

This year's honoree, Savas Tsivicos, exemplifies the honorable characteristics of the people from Paphos. He came to the United States in 1982 from a farming community in the village of Inia to live the "American Life." His life embodies the dreams, hopes and aspirations of thousands of immigrants who arrive weekly in the United States to construct a decent life. Mr. Tsivicos holds a Bachelor's Degree and MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Masters Certificate from George Washington University, where he received numerous scholastic awards and honors. Mr. Tsivicos has also become an outspoken community leader. He serves on the Ethnic Advisory Council of New Jersey and he has been elected President of the Cyprus Federation of America. He is a member of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Church of America and is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Mr. Tsivicos is on the Advisory Board of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of Queens College, and on the Board of Directors for the Foundation of Hellenic Studies, the Greek American Chamber of Commerce, and the Council of Overseas Cypriots.

Savas Tsivicos is a proud American who has not forgotten his roots. He is imbued with determination to bring justice and freedom to Cyprus and has served as Vice President of the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus. A very successful businessman, Mr. Tsivicos is president and owner of Paphian Enterprises, Inc. He is married to Maria Tsivicos and they have three children, Haralambo, Elpetha and Evangelos ages 11, 9 and 6.

The Panpaphian Association is now led by Florentia Christodoulou, and supported by: George Sophocleous, Debbie Riga Evangelides, Spyros Stylianou, Michael Hadjiloucas, Kyriaki Christodoulou, Irene Theodorou, Andreas Pericles and George Theodorou, plus the Advisory Board, Stavros Charalambous, Annioua Constantinides, Andreas Chrysostomou, Anna Chrysostomou, Savvas Konnaris, George Kourkoutis, Klexos Notskas, Ismini Michaelides, and Evang Tziaras.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Mr. Savas Tsivicos and the work of the officers and friends of the Panpaphian Association of America.