on giving Azerbaijan the same kind of economic assistance that it provides to all other former Soviet republics. This would serve both to recognize the risks that Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan’s President, has taken for peace and begin to bring about more realistic attitudes in Armenia. If we are to be an effective broker, we must adopt a balanced approach.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, during the following rollcall votes, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.


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 degree of increase, 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 deter

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 honorees, Savas Tsivicos, and special honoree, this year, Savas Tsivicos.

The Panpaphian Association was founded in 1987, by a group of Cypriot-Americans of Paphian ancestry in order to encourage and foster the appreciation of the history 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 special honoree, this year, Savas Tsivicos.

The Panpaphian Association is now led by Savas Tsivicos, who has been an outspoken community leader. He serves on the Ethnic Advisory Council of New Jersey and he has been elected President of the Cyprus Federa

ATION 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, Haralambos, Elpetha and Evangelos ages 11, 9 and 6.

The Panpaphian Association is now led by Savas Tsivicos, and supported by: George Sophocleous, Debbie Riga Evangelides, Styros Stylianou, Michael Hadjiloucas, Kyriaki Christodoulou, Irene Theodorou, Andreas Pericleous and George Theodorou, plus the Advisory Board, Stavros Charalambous, Annoula Constantindis, Andreas Chrystostomou, Anna Chrystostomou, Savvas Konnaris, George Kontonis, Chrus Kleopas Notskas, Ismini Michaelides, and Yvan Tizazas.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Mr. Savas Tsivicos and the work of the officers and friends of the Panpaphian Association of America.
Mr. Speaker, too often we take a free press for granted. CPJ and this year's honoree's remind us that press freedoms are vital to the functioning of democratic government and that journalists often risk their lives to assure that the rest of us know the truth.

**EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR RECENT ELECTIONS IN REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

**SPEECH OF HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN OF NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, November 16, 1999**

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 211. First let me thank Mr. GEJDENSOE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. HASTINGS for co-sponsoring this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the contrasting events in India and Pakistan over a single 24 hour period speak eloquently about the new challenges and opportunities that we face in South Asia. In India, we have seen hundreds of millions of voters enthusiastically exercise their votes in a free and fair election. In Pakistan, we witnessed a military coup. This resolution, Mr. Speaker, recognizes that the people of India have a deep and abiding commitment to democracy and it assures them for the passion with which they choose their own destiny. No country reflects our own values more in that part of the world than does India.

It is high time we seriously begin to recognize this fact and graduate from mere platitudes to some tangible policy changes toward India. I believe that it is time to re-examine our basic premise regarding U.S. policy in South Asia. We should abandon old paradigms and Cold War hangups and see that India, a democracy, is our natural ally in the region. The best way to demonstrate our commitment to the people of India is by ensuring that the President travels to India as soon as possible, as the resolution urges him to do.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

**CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2116, VETERANS MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS ACT**

**SPEECH OF HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE OF PENNSYLVANIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, November 16, 1999**

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the final version of legislation that deals with a comprehensive and complex set of veterans' healthcare and benefits issues. Without question, this conference report on H.R. 2116, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, deals constructively with a significant portion of the substantive matters considered at length by the Veterans Affairs Committees in both the House and the Senate.

I want to recognize the efforts of Senators SPECTER, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator STUMP, and Ranking Member EVANS for their demonstrated leadership in crafting collaborative compromises in the most productive manner as the conference allowed.

This agreement makes significant steps forward in defining the VA's mission in a number of critical health care areas: Extended care, emergency services, mental health services, and chiropractic care. This agreement also moves in the right direction in terms of addressing the lingering need for additional national veterans cemeteries and long-term care facilities, as well as needed renovations at various VA medical centers.

This agreement also continues work on a few other areas. A significant provision of the legislation pertains to the court of appeals for veterans claims. I am disappointed, however, that many of the provisions that were originally included in the House version of the bill pertaining to employee and veterans organizations participation in various VA decision-making and planning practices were not made part of this final package. I also think that the conference could have produced a better work product in terms of providing strong language that speaks to the need for cost-benefit analysis, employee protections, stringent hospital closure guidelines, and heightened oversight measures throughout the entire VA network. Inclusion of such provisions would have greatly improved the agreement's overall intentions and would have made them less susceptible to inconsistent treatment system wide.

So in summary, while the conference agreement is not a perfect piece of legislation, it is nonetheless worthy of members' support. And as Representative EVANS pointed out earlier, the conference agreement in many ways represents the need to demonstrate our concerted interest in reaffirming our commitment to our nation's veterans. But as I have repeatedly stated, the most well intentioned efforts in terms of authorizing language are only as good as the amount of adequate funding that is appropriated. I have very serious concerns that next year we will find ourselves in the same vicious circle of logical debate. And the circle begins and ends with the need to have adequate resources to sufficiently support our responsibilities in meeting the needs of our veterans.

It is my hope that all members who cast their vote in support of the conference agreement will maintain their focus on veterans issues so that in the next fiscal year we can reverse the course we have been on for far too long and begin our work on matters concerning veterans with enhanced resources, not severe budgetary cuts.

**TRIBUTE TO COLONEL HARRY SUMMERS**

**HON. IKE SKELTON OF MISSOURI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, November 17, 1999**

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Harry G. Summers, Jr., United States Army, died Wednesday, November 17, 1999. Mr. Summers was a decorated veteran of combat in Korea and Vietnam, awarded the Silver Star for Valor, and the Legion of Merit; twice awarded the combat infantry badge; and twice awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.

An infantry squad leader in the Korean conflict, he served as a battalion and corps operation officer during the Vietnam war, and later as a negotiator with the North Vietnamese in Saigon and in Hanoi. Instructor of strategy at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, he was a political-military action officer on the Army General Staff, a member of the then Army Chief of Staff Creighton Abrams' strategic assessment group, and served in the Office of the Army Chief of Staff from 1975 to 1980, before joining the faculty of the U.S. Army War College.

At the war college, Colonel Summers was at the heart of the rebirth of strategic studies in the professional military education of our Armed Forces in the early 1980's. His book On Strategy: The Vietnam War in Context provided a critical strategic appraisal of American strategy in that war and a seminal American work in the relationship of military strategy to national policy. On Strategy has been characterized as being "about" the Vietnam war in much the same way that Clausewitz is "about" the Napoleonic wars or that Mahan is "about" 19th century naval strategy in France and England. That is, Harry Summers used the Vietnam war as a vehicle for analysis and illustration of principles of war that apply universally.

After his retirement from active service, Harry Summers continued to contribute to the professional development of the officer corps and to the development of strategic thought and military strategy as a lecturer, visiting professor, columnist, editor, and commentator. When Harry Summers testified before the House Armed Services Committee in December 1990 before Operation Desert Storm, he reemphasized the need for clarity of purpose and the relation of means to objective as this House wrestled with the decision to go to war against Iraq and commit U.S. military forces to protect the vital interests of the United States. He appeared before the committee again as we reviewed what happened to U.S. forces in Somalia in 1994 and provided valuable insights on the relation of military force and commitment to our national objectives and commitment in that country.

Harry Summers was justifiably proud of his sons and their service as Army officers and of his daughter-in-law who served as a warrant officer in the Persian Gulf War. In all this, he was supported by his wife, Eloise. My good friend, Floyd Spence, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in December 1990 before Operation Desert Storm, he reemphasized the need for clarity of purpose and the relation of means to objective as this House wrestled with the decision to go to war against Iraq and committing U.S. military forces to protect the vital interests of the United States. He appeared before the committee again as we reviewed what happened to U.S. forces in Somalia in 1994 and provided valuable insights on the relation of military force and commitment to our national objectives and commitment in that country.

Harry Summers was widely recognized for his leadership as a negotiator with the North Vietnamese in Saigon and in Hanoi. His commitment to the Nation and the Army that he loved was unstinting. The Nation and the Army are poorer for his passing.