

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR ACT, MAY 4, 2000

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, the generous hearts of Americans know no income or class boundaries. Tens of millions of people give annually to support charities such as their local churches, youth and family organizations, and medical research programs. It is a testament to the willingness of families to give back to the community on which they rely on for so much.

Yet, under current law, only a small portion of individuals who contribute to charities receive a tax benefit for their gifts. This is because the deduction that is provided for a gift to charity is only available to taxpayers who itemize on their returns. These filers represent only 30 percent of all taxpayers.

Today, along with Senator PAUL COVERDELL, I rise to introduce the Neighbor to Neighbor Act. This important proposal will extend the charitable deduction to non-itemizers and will grant them tax relief on the first dollar of their gift. Under the bill, joint filers will receive dollar-for-dollar deduction on their donations up to \$1,000 and individuals will receive a deduction on their donations up to \$500. The Neighbor to Neighbor Act will benefit 67 million charitable givers and will for the first time encourage and reward contributions made by all taxpayers. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, this bill will provide \$52 billion in tax relief over the next 10 years. Most importantly, since the overwhelming majority of non-itemizers are low- and middle-income Americans, this is genuinely broad-based tax relief.

One important element of charitable giving is being able to plan a contribution with the tax deduction in mind. For most taxpayers who now receive the deduction, however, this means performing an estimate of future tax liability and making contributions accordingly. This can be an inefficient and imprecise method.

The Neighbor to Neighbor Act will eliminate the complexities of this current system by allowing both itemizers and non-itemizers the ability to contribute to charities through April 15th and deduct that contribution from the previous year's taxes. As a result, taxpayers will have the ability to contribute after they receive their tax information at the beginning of the year and can precisely calculate their liability and give back accordingly.

The Neighbor to Neighbor Act acknowledges the important role that all Americans play in building strong communities through private charities. By every measure, these groups are more effective at instilling strong values in our youth and transforming society from the ground up. I urge my colleagues in both the House and Senate to support this important bill.

RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize California's Equal Pay Day, May 11, 2000. This day allows us to fully recognize the value of women's skills and significant contributions to the labor force.

It has been over 35 years since the passage of the Equal Pay Act and title VII of the Civil Rights Act, but women in America still suffer the consequences of inequitable pay differentials.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research has reported that, the average 25-year-old woman will earn \$523,000 less than the average 25-year-old man will over the next 40 years, if current wage patterns continue. In 1998, women earned 73 cents, to every dollar earned by men. This is an overwhelming difference of 27 percent less.

Today, working women constitute a large segment of this Nation's work force, and a vast majority of households are dependent on the wages of working mothers. These women deserve fair and equal pay. Often, working families are just one paycheck away from economic hardships. Fair and equal pay for women would go a long way toward strengthening the security of families today and enhancing the prospects of retirement tomorrow.

May 11, 2000, will symbolize the day on which the wages paid to American women this year, when added to their incomes in 1999, will finally equal the 1999 earnings of American men.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize women for their lasting contributions to the American work force and urge my colleagues to continue their work to bring fair and equal pay to all U.S. citizens.

REBELS IN SIERRA LEONE

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I am outraged at the news that rebels in Sierra Leone murdered seven United Nations peacekeepers on May 3, and that more than 40 others remain hostages.

By coincidence, on that same date this House approved the thoughtful legislation proposed by our colleague, Mr. GEJDENSON. His bill, which I was honored to co-sponsor, is an investment in Sierra Leone's peace process that is overdue and one which, I hope, will help end the violence there. It funds the effort other nations have joined to disarm and rehabilitate the soldiers—many of them young children—who battled each other for eight long years until the July 1999 peace agreement. It

funds a truth and reconciliation commission that aims to heal the wounds of civilians who have been caught up in the war but have no hope for justice under the peace agreement. And it takes other needed steps.

Mr. Speaker, I visited Sierra Leone last year with Congressman FRANK WOLF. We were both horrified by the butchery of innocent people who had lost their hands, legs, ears and noses to machete-wielding rebels. Neither of us will ever forget what we saw in the capital's amputation camp; I am particularly haunted by one charming toddler who will struggle all her life because one of the rebels chopped off her hand. "Give us a hand," the country's president had said in his election campaign. Rebels, driven by greed for the nation's tremendous diamond wealth and for power, twisted President Kabbah's campaign slogan around, telling their victims as they dismembered them, "go and ask Kabbah for your hand."

We also were dismayed to learn of the United States' role in pressing Sierra Leone's elected government to sign a peace agreement that indemnified the rebels who had committed these atrocities. Not only would no one be prosecuted for war crimes, the leader of the rebels would be put in charge of the nation's considerable wealth—wealth he had diverted into the coffers of his rebel forces.

No one, save a regional coalition led nobly by Nigeria, had come to Sierra Leone's aid in any significant way during this war. We sent bandages and food, of course, but our country failed to expend the effort needed to stop this war. We had lots of excuses—"we were busy in Kosovo," a country no less middle-class than Sierra Leone. Or, "it was Africa, and we still feel the loss of our men and our prestige in Somalia." It may have been clever political calculus for our government to figure this peace agreement was the best Sierra Leone's people could get, but the day we made that decision was a dark one for America's honor.

Most observers have been awed by Sierra Leoneans' willingness to accept peace without justice. I too was persuaded by the people I heard there and in this country. Perhaps Sierra Leoneans knew best that this was their best hope for peace if they could live with this shameful agreement, our country should not stand in their way.

But now Sierra Leoneans have neither justice nor peace. Atrocities against civilians continue, with well-documented instances of girls being kidnaped to serve as sex slaves and domestic servants; of villages being attacked and looted; of random murders. U.N. peacekeeping troops have not been immune from the on-going violence: they have been stripped of their weapons—of armored personnel carriers, helicopters, and rocket-propelled grenades, as well as rifles and ammunition. In fact, the Kenyans who died yesterday were trying to resist rebels' attempt to grab still more weapons.

It is clear to me, Mr. Speaker, that as long as rebels can continue stealing Sierra Leone's natural resources—its diamonds—they will continue their attacks. Diamonds transformed

• 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.

this band of 400 ruffians into a well-equipped fighting force 25,000 strong, a force that one retired Green Beret told me was one of the best in the world. Diamonds still drive rebel troops and commanders and despite the 10-month-old peace agreement that bans continue mining, diamonds are still being mined today. And, despite all they know about how rebels are using their profits, diamond traders still look the other way and buy the rebels' stones—and they still transform them into symbols of love and commitment for unsuspecting Americans to treasure.

When we returned in December, Mr. WOLF and I called for the United Nations to sanction these bloody diamonds—as it did when rebels in Angola broke the peace agreement they had signed. This step is needed not only to punish the rebels; it is also essential to protecting the U.N. peacekeepers who are the victims of this diamond wealth.

While the United States contributes no troops to this U.N. effort, we are paying tens of millions of dollars for it and we have an obligation to insist that it be well equipped, adequately manned, and protected to the full extent of the United Nations' ability. However, although we got kind words from the Secretary General and Ambassador Holbrooke and don't doubt their efforts to bring lasting peace to Sierra Leone, the United Nations has not yet seriously considered this step.

Next week, in honor of the peacekeepers who have died in Sierra Leone, and in hope of protecting more from meeting that fate, I plan to introduce a Sense of the Congress resolution:

It will condemn rebels for murdering the Kenyan troops serving as U.N. peacekeepers, and the countless Sierra Leonean civilians who continue to suffer death and gross human rights violations at rebels' hands.

It will call on our country's diplomats to remind the rebels' leaders that last year's peace agreement does not provide them amnesty for war crimes committed since it was signed.

And it will call the United States to bring before the United Nations Security Council a resolution sanctioning the sale of diamonds by Sierra Leone's rebels.

Sierra Leone is a country blessed by its natural resources, by its fertile land, and by its hard-working people. Until there is real peace, though, its diamonds will be a curse—and Sierra Leone will be a ward of the international community, dependent on the charity of Americans and others. In a country as rich as Sierra Leone, there should be no need for the charity of outsiders.

In the past decade, more than \$10 billion in diamond wealth has fallen into the hands of rebel forces in Sierra Leone and three other African nations. At the same time, these same forces were using their money to inflict suffering that our country spent \$2 billion to ease. Clearly, we cannot stop Sierra Leone's suffering with food and medicine alone. We have to end the deadly trade in conflict diamonds if we don't want to see this "genocide" continue. As the consumer of 65 percent of the world's diamonds, we owe it to Africans to help them break this terrible link. As stewards of our own government's funds, we owe it to American taxpayers to cut off the funding for the weapons that have inflicted Sierra Leoneans' wounds—and the death blows to seven U.N. peacekeepers.

I urge our colleagues to join me today in my outrage, and to join me next week in supporting this Sense of the Congress resolution.

IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to express my opposition to H.R. 4055, which authorizes over \$160 billion in new federal spending for programs imposed on local school districts by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). While I share the goal of devoting more resources to educating children with learning disabilities, I believe that there is a better way to achieve this laudable goal than increasing spending on an unconstitutional, failed program that thrusts children, parents, and schools into an administrative quagmire. Under the system set up by IDEA, parents and schools often become advisories and important decisions regarding a child's future are made via litigation. I have received compliments from a special education administrator in my district that unscrupulous trial lawyers are manipulating the IDEA process to line their pockets at the expenses of local school districts. Of course, every dollar a local school district has to spend on litigation is a dollar the district cannot spend educating children.

IDEA may also force local schools to deny children access to the education that best suits their unique needs in order to fulfill the federal command that disabled children be educated "in the least restrictive setting," which in practice means mainstreaming. Many children may thrive in a mainstream classroom environment, however, some children may be mainstreamed solely because school officials believe it is required by federal law, even though the mainstream environment is not the most appropriate for that child.

On May 10, 1994, Dr. Mary Wagner testified before the Education Committee that disabled children who are not placed in a mainstream classroom graduate from high school at a much higher rate than disabled children who are mainstreamed. Dr. Wagner quite properly accused Congress of sacrificing children to ideology.

Increasing IDEA spending also provides incentives to over-identify children as learning disabled, thus unfairly stigmatizing many children and, in a vicious cycle, leading to more demands for increased federal spending on IDEA. Instead of increasing spending on a federal program that may actually damage the children it claims to help, Congress should return control over education to those who best know the child's needs: parents. In order to restore parental control to education, I have introduced the Family Education Freedom Act (H.R. 935), which provides parents with a \$3,000 per child tax credit to pay for K-12 education expenses. My tax credit would be of greatest benefit to parents of children with learning disabilities because it would allow them to devote more of their resources to ensure their children get an education that meets the child's unique needs.

In conclusion, I would remind my colleagues that parents and local communities know their

children so much better than any federal bureaucrat, and they can do a better job of meeting a child's needs than we in Washington. There is no way that the unique needs of my grandchildren, and some young boy or girl in Los Angeles, CA or New York City can be educated by some sort of 'Cookie Cutter' approach. Thus, the best means of helping disabled children is to empower their parents with the resources to make sure their children receive an education suited to their child's special needs, instead of an education that sacrifices that child's best interest on the altar of the "Washington-knows-best" ideology.

I therefore urge my colleagues to join with me in helping parents of special needs children to provide their children with an education by repealing federal mandates that divert resources away from helping children and, instead, embrace my Family Education Freedom Act.

SUPPORT SPECIAL EDUCATION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House overwhelmingly approved H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act, which will allow the federal government to fully fund their share of special education. The bill provides a \$2 billion yearly increase in special education spending, beginning with \$7 billion for fiscal year 2001 and ending with \$25 billion for fiscal year 2010.

In 1975, Congress promised every child in America a quality education, and it has failed to fulfill that promise.

Special education should be a top priority of America and this Congress as we prepare our children for the next century. No child in Colorado or America should be left behind simply because of their disability.

Currently, the state of Colorado receives \$28.4 million to educate special education students—even though the federal government promised to pay \$145.7 million. If the federal government met its 40 percent commitment to IDEA, the state would receive \$117 million more a year.

This is money that could go to pay for more computers, increased pay for teachers or smaller classrooms.

It is time for promises made to be promises kept. With millions of dollars being wasted on unauthorized or inefficient government programs, there is no excuse for failing to fulfill the promise to fund 40 percent of special education programs.

With better accountability of programs within the budget process, we would already have the funds available for special education.

Instead, we are on the path of underfunding and depriving special education students the quality education they deserve.

Again, I would like to thank my colleagues for their support of H.R. 4055 and thank Chairman GOODLING for his hard and dedicated work on this bill.

HONORING THE SOUTH BAY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the second annual South Bay National Day of Prayer Breakfast. This Judeo-Christian event was created to recognize the value of prayer and reflection in our daily lives.

This important occasion is patterned after the National Day of Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. Congress established the National Day of Prayer Breakfast in 1952 as a time for personal reflection and rededication of individuals, communities, and the nation to God.

I commend the business, religious, and community leaders who are responsible for organizing this event in the South Bay. This is a meaningful event for individuals of all backgrounds and faiths to come together as a community and reflect.

Although this is only the second year that the South Bay National Day of Prayer Breakfast is being held, it has quickly become a tradition. I look forward to its continued success.

HONORING JULIE JOHNSON-WILLIAMS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, Julie Johnson-Williams will be honored as the founding President and Member-Emeritus at Women for WineSense 10th Anniversary Conference in Sonoma County, California.

In 1981, Julie Johnson-Williams co-founded Frog's Leap Winery, one of the finest wineries in Napa Valley and its third California-Certified Organic Vineyard. Julie has been an active member in the Napa Valley Vintners Association, the California Wine Institute and the Winemaking Families and Grapegrowers' Appreciation Day. As an avid gardener, Julie creatively nurtures the vines, orchards and vegetable plots that delight the visitors of Frog's Leap.

As a Public Health nurse with a Nursing Award for Academic Excellence from Columbia University School of Nursing, Julie brings a commitment to healthy lifestyles to the world of wine. She now reaches beyond illness to the territory of the "well" in her Women for WineSense efforts. In particular, Julie has focused her activities to educate and empower women to make responsible lifestyle decisions, and to take a proactive stance in community and occupational arenas.

Julie's civic and philanthropic activities are built on her educational and career endeavors. As a parent, she is an on-going classroom volunteer in the St. Helena Unified School District. She has been a volunteer fund-raiser for the Shasta-Diablo Planned Parenthood group. As a health professional, Julie has a particular concern for the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse and has been an active member of numerous boards that address this issue.

Julie can truly be called a "Renaissance Woman." She has endless energy for her family, community and the vineyard she loves. Julie accomplishes so much and with great aplomb. Her generosity and talent greatly benefit the varied communities she serves.

Ten years ago, Julie founded the premier worldwide grassroots organization for women interested in wine. Women for WineSense continues to serve as a moderate, non-biased, non-profit educational and promotional organization to ensure all women and men have accurate information on the cultural, social and health effects of moderate wine consumption.

Mr. Speaker, I join the other Women for WineSense members in honoring Julie Johnson-Williams as their Founding President and Woman of the Year 2000.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. JACK QUINN, SR.

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute and officially recognize a very special Golden Anniversary occurring in my Congressional District this weekend. In fact, this very well may be the speech I am most proud to give, because today I rise to honor my parents, Jack and Norma Quinn.

On May 6, 1950, Jack Quinn married Norma Ide at the Holy Family Church in South Buffalo. My father then went to work with the South Buffalo Railroad, where he spent over 32 years. Never one to shy away from hard work, he then took a new job with the Erie County Library System, where he spent an additional 16 years.

For the past 44 years, Jack and Norma Quinn have made their home on East Frontier in the Village of Blasdell.

While Jack worked at the Railroad and later with the Library system, Norma maintained part-time work, but focused intently on her role as a full-time Mother. Mr. Speaker, believe me, it must not have been easy raising the five Quinn boys.

As a community, we pause to honor and recognize those couples whose dedication, commitment and love for each other has carried them through fifty years of marriage. These couples serve as a positive example to our entire community that strong marriages based on love, mutual respect, and caring devotion will stand the test of time.

Throughout these past fifty years, their steadfast commitment to one another, strength, and devotion to our family has never faltered.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, our family will have a small, private ceremony where our parents will renew their vows.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with my four brothers, Kevin, Jeff, Tom and Mike, our wives and children, and our entire Quinn Family in special recognition and loving tribute to my parents on this Golden Anniversary. I thank them for their example of commitment to God, family, and to one another.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA G. ROTH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor Cynthia G. Roth, the recipient of the 2000 ATHENA Award.

The ATHENA Foundation Award Programs originated in 1980 by Martha Mayhood Mertz, who realized that in the 75 years of presenting community awards, her Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, of Michigan, had only once honored a woman. Mertz recognized that focus had to be given to the incredible professional women in our communities and they had to be incorporated into leadership positions in the local Chambers of Commerce.

Cynthia G. Roth, of my own district of Western Riverside, California, has worked with Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce for 23 years. She started with the Chamber as a receptionist and is now the President and Chief Executive Officer, where she oversees a budget of \$1.1 million, supervises a staff of 15 and promotes the Riverside region. Cynthia's 23 years with the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce epitomizes the ATHENA philosophy of leadership that celebrates relationships and services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, my district is fortunate to have the dynamic and dedicated community leader in Cynthia. She has given her time and talents to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations of Riverside. Moreover, she has been an exceptional motivator and inspiration to all young women around her.

Cynthia's outstanding work makes me proud to call her a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Riverside, including myself, are grateful for her contribution to the betterment of our community and salute her on May 10th with the 2000 ATHENA Award.

I look forward to continuing to work with her and the many professional women of Riverside County for the good of our community. I would like to close with the ATHENA Foundation motto by Plato: "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there."

SUPPORTING A NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 310, supporting a National Charter Schools Week. I commend my distinguished colleague from Indiana, Mr. ROEMER, for highlighting the charter school movement and urging the Congress and the Administration to demonstrate support for our nation's charter schools.

Mr. Speaker, from 1989 to 1999, the number of students enrolled in public schools increased by 6.7 million, and the U.S. Census projects that our nation's school-age population will continue to grow throughout the century. In fact, many states have seen double-digit increases in school-age population. As

this population continues to grow, our commitment to finding new and innovative ways to meet the changing needs of educating our youth needs to grow as well.

Charter schools offer our communities the ability to enroll their children in schools that enjoy autonomy over its operation and freedom from regulations that other public schools must follow, but also are held accountable for improving student achievement. Nearly two-thirds of newly created charter schools seek to realize an alternative vision of schooling, and one-fourth were founded primarily to serve a special target population. Many charter schools also serve a large number of lower income students, minority populations and students with disabilities.

Not only does this resolution acknowledge the charter school movement's progress and future promise, but it also encourages the President to issue a proclamation to demonstrate support for charter schools and establishes a National Charter Schools Week. Our nation's 1700 charter schools and the 350,000 students who attend them deserve our support and recognition. I want to thank Mr. ROEMER for his continued leadership on this important education issue and your dedication to providing flexibility to our nation's schools.

HONORING EUGENE BRUNS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the wonderful men and women of the Michigan State Police. Day after day, these brave people work to maintain safe streets for our children to live and play. On April 10, the Michigan State Police will recognize one of their own, as they gather to celebrate the retirement of Sergeant Eugene Herbert Bruns from State Police Lapeer Post #38.

Eugene Bruns was born in 1940 in Frankenmuth, Michigan, and graduated from Frankenmuth High in 1958. On March 9, 1964, Eugene enlisted in the Michigan State Police. He completed his requirements within 8 weeks and began his career at Warren Post #24. He was reassigned to East Lansing Post #11 in 1966, where he served as 1st District Recruiter. In March of 1972, Eugene was promoted to Detective Sergeant of Lapeer Post #38, serving the entire Thumb area of the state. He remained at the Post, accepting an assignment as Desk Sergeant in 1981, and has served there ever since.

During his 35-year tenure with the State Police, Eugene was the well-deserving recipient of numerous honors and citations, and his actions have benefited law enforcement officials from all over the country. In 1968, he was awarded for Meritorious Service for his work on a check fraud complaint that resulted in several arrests in Texas. A 1974 narcotics case recovered thousands of dollars of property, firearms, and drugs. And in 1978, a simple discovery of a stolen snowmobile led to the uncovering of a three state criminal ring. For his diligent work over the course of several decades, Lapper Post #38 recognized Eugene in 1994 as Trooper of the Year.

In addition to being a member of the Michigan State Police Troopers Association, Eu-

gene has become a vital part of the Lapeer community, as shown by his work with the Lions Club and Kiwanis Club of Lapeer. He has also expressed his dedication to his fellow Troopers by serving three two-year terms on the State Police Hardship Fund Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it my duty and my privilege to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for our citizens. I am extremely grateful to have a person like Eugene Bruns who shares these beliefs, and has made it his life's work to see this task achieved. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to please join me in congratulating Eugene, and wishing him the very best in his retirement.

TEXAS HOME SCHOOL APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as this is Texas Home School Appreciation week, I am pleased to take this opportunity to salute those Texas parents who have chosen to educate their children at home. While serving in Congress, I have had the opportunity to get to know many of the home schooling parents in my district. I am very impressed by the job these parents are doing in providing their children with a quality education. I have also found that home schooling parents are among the most committed activists in the cause of advancing individual liberty, constitutional government, and traditional values. I am sure my colleagues on the Education Committee would agree that the support of home schoolers was crucial in defeating the scheme to implement a national student test.

Home schooling is becoming a popular option for parents across the country. In Texas alone, there are approximately seventy five thousand home schooling families educating an average of three children per household. Home schooling is producing some outstanding results. For example, according to a 1997 study the average home schooled student scores near the ninetieth percentile on standardized academic achievement tests in reading, mathematics, social studies, and science! Further proof of the success of home schooling is the fact that in recent years, self-identified home schoolers have scored well above the national average on both the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT). These high scores are achieved by home schooling children, regardless of race, income-level, or gender.

Contrary to media-generated stereotypes portraying home schooled children as isolated from their peers, home schooled children participate in a wide variety of social, athletic, and extra-curricular activities. Home schooling parents have formed numerous organizations designed to provide their children ample opportunity to interact with other children. In fact, recent data indicates that almost 50% of home schooled children engage in extra-curricular activities such as group sports and music classes, while a third of home schooled children perform volunteer work in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, to be a home schooling parent takes a unique dedication to family and edu-

cation. In many cases, home school families must forgo the second income of one parent, as well as incurring the costs of paying for textbooks, computers, and other school supplies. Home schooling parents must pay these expenses while, like all American families, struggling to pay state, local, and federal taxes.

In order to help home schoolers, and all parents, devote more of their resources to their children's education, I have introduced the Family Education Freedom Act (H.R. 935). This bill provides all parents a \$3,000 per child tax credit for K-12 education expenses. This bill would help home school parents to provide their children a first-class education in a loving home environment.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also benefit those parents who choose to send their children to public or private schools. Parents who choose to send their children to private school may use their tax credit to help cover the cost of tuition. Parents who choose to send their children to public schools may use their tax credit to help finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or extracurricular activities like music programs. Parents may also use the credit to pay for tutoring and other special services for their children.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to improve education is to return control over education resources to the people who best know their children's unique needs: those children's parents. Congress should empower all parents, whether they choose to home school or send their child to a public or private school, with the means to control their child's education. That is why I believe the most important education bill introduced in this Congress is the Family Education Freedom Act.

In conclusion, I wish to once again commend the accomplishments of those parents who have chosen to educate their children at home. I also urge my colleagues to help home schoolers, and all parents, ensure their children get a quality education by cosponsoring the Family Education Freedom Act.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBBI AND RICKEY GELB

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Robbi and Rickey Gelb, who were recently honored by Haven Hills Inc. for their service on behalf of domestic violence victims.

A National Crime Victimization Survey indicated that in 1996 there were about 1 million rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults and simple assaults committed by someone in an intimate relationship with the victim. Eight of 10 of the victims were women.

Despite that frightening statistic, a 1998 report by the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that the rate of domestic violence in many categories has been declining over the past decade. I believe the downward trend is directly attributable to the outreach efforts by such organizations as Haven Hills and supporters such as Robbi and Rickey Gelb, in conjunction with stronger laws to deal with the problem and greater community awareness.

Haven Hills has helped more than 80,000 women and their children confront domestic violence during the past 22 years. When its phenomenal success required new facilities, the Gelbs stepped forward. The new building the Gelbs helped acquire will house administrative offices and support and services to many more victims of domestic violence.

Robbi and Rickey Gelb are successful business people in the California's San Fernando Valley and have a long record of community involvement. They have donated community facilities; generously support the Mid-Valley Jeopardy Foundation, which provides services and facilities for at-risk youth; and have provided wheelchairs to needy students in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Rickey Gelb serves on numerous committees and organizations dedicated to making the community better, including a committee to build a memorial and monument to honor police officers and firefighters. In addition, Rickey Gelb is a Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles, and a member of the Encino Chamber of Commerce, the L.A. Department of Transportation Mobile Action Committee and the Mayor's Job Recovery Corporation.

The Gelbs have been married for 34 years and have two grown children, Geoffrey and Lisa.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Robbi and Rickey Gelb for a lifetime of dedication to their community and for their deserved recognition from Haven Hills Inc.

IN HONOR OF THE 88TH BIRTHDAY
OF PERRY COMO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the 88th birthday of Perry Como, a great entertainer and Grammy Award winner.

Perry Como was born the seventh son in a family of thirteen children on May 18, 1912 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. He began working at the age of ten in a barbershop, sweeping and sharpening. By age fourteen, he had his own shop with two barbers working for him.

In 1933, Perry Como was encouraged by a friend to audition for a vocalist part with Freddy Carlone's Dance Band. Although he would earn less than a quarter of the income he made as a barber, Como accepted the job when he was offered the position. When he left Canonsburg to tour with the band, his girlfriend, Roselle Belline, went with him. The couple married on July 31, 1933.

Throughout the next years, Perry toured the country, first with Freddy Carlone's Band, and later with the Ted Weems Band. While performing with the Ted Weems Band in Chicago, Perry left the stage in the middle of a performance to be with his wife as she gave birth to their first child, a son named Ronnie. The Como's later adopted another son, David, and a daughter, Terri.

In 1941, Ted Weems joined the Armed Forces and his orchestra disbanded. Perry Como was offered his own nightly 15-minute

radio show for CBS in New York. This break led to a contract with RCA Victor that would begin Perry Como's recording career. Two years after signing with RCA Victor, Perry had his first major hit with Till the End of Time.

Perry Como had a series of popular hits in the forties and fifties. In 1958, he won the first Best Male Vocal Grammy award for the song *Catch a Falling Star*. His radio show, which had transferred to television in the late forties, was also successful, running from 1948–1950 as the Chesterfield Supper Club, then from 1950–59 as the Perry Como Show. From 1960 through 1963, Perry Como hosted the Kraft Music Hall.

My fellow colleagues, join with me in celebrating the notable and inspiring career of Perry Como on the momentous occasion of his 88th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO ELIAS KARMON

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to and wish a happy 90th birthday to Mr. Elias Karmon, an outstanding individual who has devoted his life to his family and to serving the community.

Mr. Karmon served as President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce for four consecutive terms after serving on its Boards since 1953 and holding the positions of Treasurer, Second Vice President and First Vice President. His dinner attendance record of 930 people at the Chamber's annual dinner in 1979, with David Rockefeller as the guest of honor, has never been equaled.

Mr. Speaker, along with Dr. Ramon S. Velez and Michael Munoz, Mr. Karmon created the South Bronx Board of Trade, an organization aiding the businesses of the borough, particularly minority-owned enterprises. Today, as honorary Chairman, he still continues his activities with the organization. As Chairman of the Building Fund Committee of the Bronx Board of Realtors, Karmon was instrumental in negotiating the purchase of its present building in 1992. Karmon is also the Chairman of the Annual Essay Contest, a contest he initiated in 1975 among students of the public and private high schools in the Bronx and in Manhattan, for the Bronx-Manhattan Association of Realtors.

A civic leader in the Bronx for 60 years, Karmon has been active in many business, civic, health, service and humanitarian organizations. To name a few, in 1949 he founded the Prospect Avenue and Neighborhood Businessmen's Association, Inc. and served as its president for 12 years. In 1954 Karmon served as Chairman of the Bronx Urban League Advisory Board, being a founding member of the Bronx Branch. His involvement with Einstein College began around 1955 with the organizational committee that brought about this College of Medicine. Karmon and his late wife, Sylvia, are members of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. One of the founders of the Ponce de Leon Federal Bank in 1959, he stills serves on the board and is presently its Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, Karmon is currently President of EMK Enterprises, Inc., a real estate firm located on Prospect Avenue Since 1904. He takes pride in never having left our beloved South Bronx. He is listed in Who's Who in American Jewry.

The business, professional, religious and civic organizations to which he has belonged and continues to belong, like the honors and awards he has received, are almost beyond counting. Few men of business of the 20th century have been so honored for so many things. Mr. Karmon is a talented leader who will continue to show us dedication, leadership, and wisdom. He is truly a source of inspiration to all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy 90th birthday to Elias Karmon.

HONORING MICHAELA K. RODENO,
WOMEN FOR WINESENSE WOMAN
OF THE YEAR—2000

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, Michaela Rodeno will be honored as a co-founder at the Women for WineSense 10th Anniversary Conference in Sonoma County, CA.

As a leader in the California wine industry, Michaela used her organizing and business acumen to found Women for WineSense, a national organization promoting wine as a part of a healthy, balanced lifestyle. Michaela has a long history of involvement in wine industry issues. She has served on the boards of the California Wine Institute and the Napa Valley Vintners Association. She is currently on the board of the American Vintners Association and in 1999 was elected chair of their Meritage Association.

Michaela is chief executive officer for St. Supery Vineyards and Winery in Rutherford, CA. Michaela dedicates her personal and professional talents to local charities, the arts and women's support organizations. In 1998, she chaired the Napa Valley Wine Auction, the largest grossing wine auction in the United States, raising a record \$3.8 million. She speaks at professional conferences around the world to promote the wine and tourism industries of the Napa Valley as well as conferences that promote and foster women's success in the business sector.

Ten years ago, Michaela founded the premier worldwide grassroots organization for women interested in wine. Women for WineSense continues to serve as a moderate, non-biased, non-profit educational and promotional organization to ensure all women and men have accurate information on the cultural, social, and health effects of moderate wine consumption.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor an industry visionary and community leader. Michaela Rodeno's professional and civic dedication has encouraged and supported many individuals in our community and beyond. I join the other members of Women for WineSense in honoring Michaela K. Rodeno as co-founder and Woman of the Year 2000.

TRIBUTE TO LAYLA WILLIS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, "We have a lot of fun. We don't sweat the small stuff." That is the message of Layla Willis, a resident of Evergreen, CO, who was recently named "Mother of the Year" by Working Mother magazine.

By balancing her full time job, which requires frequent travel, with the daily tasks of raising three children, Layla has set an example for all working mothers to follow.

The message she brings forth rings true in all our lives. Many times we have to stop and dwell on issues or problems that will have a minimal impact in the grand scheme of our lives. But the growth and development of our children and grandchildren is significant and deserves our utmost attention.

Today, it is imperative in most homes that both parents work. My wife and I both worked full time jobs, as did my mother, but we can all stop and take steps to ensure that, regardless of this, our children never feel neglected. Layla has shown us all that it can be done in today's hectic lifestyles.

I would also like to commend Layla for her commitment in providing all children with a well rounded after school curriculum. With working parents, many children have a void in their lives when they leave school. Layla realizes that students need tutoring for school subjects, and other extra curricular activities that develop skills such as arts and crafts, sports and reading.

I urge all parents in Colorado and America who must work, to follow Layla's example, make your family the number one priority and stop sweating the small stuff.

HONORING CALIFORNIA
DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS**HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several exceptional elementary schools within my district. The California Distinguished Schools Program will honor Robinson Elementary of Manhattan Beach Unified, Rancho Vista Elementary of Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified, Tulita Elementary of Redondo Beach Unified, and Edison Elementary of Torrance Unified in an awards ceremony tomorrow. Started in 1985, the California Department of Education program recognizes a school's commitment to providing a superior education.

A total of 233 California grade schools were chosen for the annual awards. These schools were recognized with having the most up to date technology, balanced and rigorous curricula, and qualified, talented faculty. Most importantly, they are schools with the utmost student-teacher interaction as well as school-community interaction.

These schools value the cultural diversity of the local communities and make it a priority in their classes. They pay close attention to the

needs of each student, emphasizing the importance of academics and the community.

I commend these schools for providing local children a quality education. Their commitment to parental participation, professional development, community involvement, and academic achievement is exemplary. Education is important to the future of our nation. I wish these schools continued success.

IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act. Since the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act became law in 1975, the federal government has not lived up to its promise of providing 40 percent of the extra cost for state and local governments to educate these children.

I am proud to have participated in the effort over the past four years to increase IDEA funding by \$2.6 billion, or 115 percent. These important increases have only brought the federal contribution to 12.6 percent of the average per pupil expenditure to educate children with disabilities. We must do better. This legislation will authorize increases in special education spending by \$2 billion a year until we reach the federal commitment of 40 percent by the year 2010.

As a former schoolteacher in Orchard Park, New York, I am acutely aware of the burdens placed upon local school systems to educate special needs students. We owe it to these children to live up to our financial commitment. If the federal government lives up to its commitment to fund IDEA, the state and local school districts are then free to spend their money on classroom modernization, technology initiatives, hiring more teachers and buying new textbooks for students. This legislation ensures that special education students are given the proper resources, while at the same time, releases funding to help all students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND L. ORBACH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the California Inland Empire Council Boy Scouts of America in saluting Dr. Raymond L. Orbach as their Distinguished Citizen of the Year—2000.

Dr. Raymond L. Orbach has been Chancellor at the University of California, Riverside for eight years, where he is also Distinguished Professor of Physics. At UCR, Chancellor Orbach has made community service and partnerships the focal point of his administration. The major part of that focal point is the students themselves. In fact, to remain in touch with the student population, he teaches

the calculus-based freshman Physics course at UCR every winter quarter.

Chancellor Orbach has been and continues to be a shining example of a person with passion and principles, who has strived to change the cultural and political direction of our nation. His approach and policy has been a simple one, that a community's strength comes from just that—the community. We must first start close to home and then radiate out if we hope to have fulfilling lives and impact others.

We have a vast system of public higher education in this country; a network of great state universities and colleges. Today we enjoy academic excellence in America as it is enjoyed nowhere else in the world. Chancellor Orbach is responsible for that part of America's incredible educational experiment known as UCR.

Every student at UC Riverside is the beneficiary of this man, who is deeply committed to educating our nation's young people and ensuring that they have a bright future. In fact, a New York Times Magazine article, in May of 1999, lauded Chancellor Orbach for his passion and principles. He is one person, making a difference. Chancellor Orbach reminds us what we, as Americans, ought to be. What we, as Americans, are capable of achieving.

Since 1910, the Boy Scout has been the epitome of the good American citizen. He has been instilled with the drive to "help other people at all times," and to keep himself "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." To do this he must be: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Chancellor Orbach has gone above and beyond the Boy Scout protocol. I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to please join me in honoring the Chancellor for his courage, innovation, and commitment to the youth of tomorrow as he is recognized on May 8th.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, each year on the 24th of April we commemorate the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. As we begin a new century, it is critical that we redouble our efforts to battle the forces of hatred and intolerance that perpetuate the persecution of people because of their ethnic, racial or religious identity. The massacre of Armenians in Turkey during and after the World War One is recorded as the first state-ordered genocide against a minority group in the 20th Century. Tragically, Mr. Speaker, it was not the last. In the 85 years since this unspeakable tragedy, the world has witnessed decades of genocide and ethnic cleansing, wholesale persecution of people simply because of who they are—European Jews, Bosnian Muslims, the Tutsis of Rwanda, Kosovar Albanians.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on the magnitude of the Armenian genocide and those that followed in the past century, the words of Helen Keller ring true. "No loss by flood and lightning, no destruction of cities and temples by the hostile forces of nature has deprived man

of so many noble lives and impulses as those which his intolerance has destroyed," she said.

Mr. Speaker, we honor the memory of the Armenian people who perished and express our condolences to their descendants. We stand with them and together reflect upon the meaning and lessons of their suffering and sacrifice. We must reflect, we must learn, but we must also be prepared to act. Let us vow in this century and for all future generations to make the words "never again" ring true.

Mr. Speaker, while we remember their tragic history we also marvel at the strength and determination of the Armenian people. Independent Armenian statehood has been restored to guarantee the security and future of the nation and serves as an inspiration to Armenian people everywhere. Since gaining its independence Armenia has made great strides in fortifying democratic institutions and promoting a market economy, but the road has not been easily traveled and the way ahead will not be without challenge. Mr. Speaker, we also honor the memory of Armenia's leaders who were killed by a shameless band of assassins last year. We express our condolences to their families and to the people of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Armenian people will continue to strengthen their democracy and prosper. It is my fervent hope that the parties to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh will renew and redouble their efforts to reach a negotiated settlement and to help bring peace and prosperity to the entire region—now and for generations to come.

HONORING BISHOP WALTER EMILE BOGAN, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I honor one of Flint, Michigan's top citizens. On April 14, The Great Lakes Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Michigan will perform a sacred and heartfelt ceremony, as they consecrate and install Bishop Walter Emile Bogan, Sr. as their Jurisdictional Bishop. Bishop Bogan, who pastors the Harris Memorial Church of God in Christ in Burton, Michigan, succeeds another great man, Bishop C.L. Anderson, Jr., who was called back to the Lord on September 15, 1999.

Walter Emile Bogan has long been considered one of Flint's favorite sons. He was born in the city in 1948, the eldest sibling of William and Norma Bogan. During a youth revival conducted by his grandfather, Walter heard his first calling, and received baptism on August 27, 1967. Two months later, he accepted his call to the ministry and became ordained in August 1969 by his late father-in-law and mentor, Bishop C.J. Johnson, Sr. He continued his studies at such institutions as Moody Bible Institute, Morehouse College, Charles Stewart Mott Community College, and the University of Michigan. He also began a career with the General Motors Corporation, becoming the first African-American Journeyman Pipefitter for Chevrolet Metal Fabrication.

In July of 1970, Bishop Bogan was appointed by Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. as Inter-

national Assistant Chief Adjutant and Vice President of the International Youth Department for the Church of God in Christ. He has also served as District Superintendent of the Progressive District and Special Administrative Assistant to Bishop Anderson. The insight and guidance Bishop Bogan received from his experiences and from the associations with the elder Bishops that prepared him for the tasks that were to come. They also allowed him to become a stronger leader and role model, able to create as tremendous an impact as he had received.

As Jurisdictional Bishop, Bishop Bogan will oversee approximately 50 churches throughout Flint, Pontiac, Detroit, and other Michigan cities. Through this, he will affect thousands of people both inside and outside the churches under his care. He has already taken steps to further his agenda, which includes the development and nurturing of smaller congregations, assistance in creating new churches, an educational fund to help youth pursue higher education, and a support network for windows. In addition, Bishop Bogan plans to spread the Lord's message by feeding the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, counsel the misguided, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, our community would not be the same without the presence of Bishop Walter Emile Bogan, Sr. Just as I consider it an honor and a pleasure to serve here as a Member of Congress, he reaffirms that the church owes him nothing, for he also considers it a pleasure to serve. I know that our community, and now our extended community will become a better place to live in because of Bishop Bogan's spiritual mission. I am pleased to ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating him on his new endeavor.

IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4055, the (IDEA) Full Funding Act, which sets the federal government on a course to reach full funding of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). I am a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation and I want to thank the House Leadership or bringing it to the floor for consideration.

Simply put, IDEA has the honorable intent of providing a quality public education for children with special needs. It requires school districts to provide programs and related services for special needs student and commits the federal government to provide 40 percent of the cost of those programs. However, since IDEA was implemented in 1975, the federal government hasn't been come close to the 40 percent if promised. The federal government currently pays only about 12.6 percent of the program's costs.

Because of the financial burden the underfunded IDEA program places on school districts, the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and other members of my local Education Advisory Council identified IDEA as their number one federal education issue. The federal government's failure to keep its prom-

ises to fund its share of IDEA is putting a back breaking strain on local school districts. This shortfall is hurting the students the act was designed to help, and every other public school student as well.

H.R. 4055 sets a schedule to meet the 40 percent commitment by fiscal year 2010. This bill will authorize increases of \$2 billion each year to ensure the federal government's commitment becomes reality in 10 years.

I am pleased that we are already working toward this goal by committing to an additional \$2 billion for IDEA in the Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Resolution. However, the IDEA Full Funding Act will ensure we meet this goal. I hope we can pass this bill on a bipartisan basis to fully fund IDEA and finally make good on our promises.

I urge my colleagues to support this Bill.

WELCOME HOME MEMBERS OF THE 69TH PRESS CAMP HEADQUARTERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join family, friends and neighbors in welcoming home the returning members of the 69th Press Camp Headquarters from their deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Hungary.

Comprised of 25 members of the California Army National Guard and the Nevada National Guard, the unit, headquartered in Fairfield, was mobilized and deployed overseas in September 1999 in support of Operation Joint Forge.

Operating the Coalition Press Information Center at The Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the Media Center in Taszar, Hungary, the 69th Press Camp Headquarters performed an invaluable role keeping the world informed about NATO's military and peacekeeping operations.

Each day, they held press briefings to the international press who, in turn, kept citizens everywhere alert to the ongoing operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They were also responsible for publishing two publications, The American Endeavor and The Talon for the benefit of both U.S. and NATO forces.

Mr. Speaker, I note the record that the 69th Press Camp Headquarters received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the NATO Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device (denoting mobilization). But these awards cannot fully convey the heartfelt thanks Americans have for the dedication and sacrifice of these Guard members.

For more than 9 months, these individuals were away from family and friends. For more than 9 months, they performed a key role in answering questions from skeptics and critics and supplying information about NATO's operations—balancing accuracy with operational security needs. They did an admirable job.

But nothing compares to the homecoming they will receive this weekend. I am pleased to join family, friends and neighbors in welcoming the members of the 69th Press Camp Headquarters and in saying "thank you" and "job well done."

TRIBUTE TO THE 4TH ANNUAL
FAMILY DAY MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I pay tribute to the "4th Annual Family Day Millennium Celebration" on Saturday, June 3, 2000.

Family Day in the 21st Century at Crotona Park is a celebration that will take place near the lake at Crotona Park from 12 pm to 6 pm. Family Day provides an opportunity for the residents of this community to claim Crotona Park as a playground and entertainment place for the family, free of crime and vandalism.

Mr. Speaker, the Family Day celebration is an event that gives Crotona Park and the neighboring communities an opportunity to embrace and recognize the importance of their families. It also gives them the opportunity to claim ownership of Crotona Park.

The CES 4x and CS110 marching band with their cheerleaders and baton twirlers, will walk through the park demonstrating family pride and unity, accompanied by parents, teachers, and classmates.

This event is sponsored by Phipps Community Development Corporation—Crotona Park West, Friends of Crotona Park, Mount Hope Housing Corp., Mid Bronx Desperados, Aquinas Housing, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Partnership for Parks, Bronx Lebanon Hospital, The Bronx Healthplan, 42nd and 48th Precinct Community Affairs Dept., CES 4x, Goodwill Baptist Church, Councilman Jose Rivera, Assemblywoman Gloria Davis, Morrisania Revitalization Corp., Community Board #3 & Community Board #6, Community Action for Human Services, 105.9 Caliente Radio Station, and the GAP.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are working to make the "4th Annual Family Day Millennium Celebration" not just possible but successful and fun.

IN HONOR OF SEAN BOLAND,
PRESIDENT OF THE CLEVELAND
FEIS SOCIETY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the memory of Sean Boland, President of the Cleveland Feis Society, who helped to develop the Cleveland Feis into one of the largest traditional Irish dance competitions in the country.

Mr. Boland lived an exceptionally full life. In addition to his first job, purchasing supervisor for the Ohio Lottery Commission, he also served on the board of directors of the Michael Coleman Heritage Center, a museum in Ireland that honors internationally known Irish musicians. He was also a member of the Irish Northern Aid Society, the East and West Side Irish American clubs and has volunteered his time at events like the Irish Cultural Festival.

Mr. Boland's most recent accomplishments were working with the Cleveland Memorial to the Great Hunger Committee to erect a monument in the Flats in memory of those who died in the Potato Famine and being named 1994's Irish person of the year.

America is known for being a melting pot society. Mr. Boland selflessly volunteered his time to help others feel the same pride and honor he did when looking back at the glorious Irish heritage. Mr. Boland's inspirational life has left a lasting legacy. He will be missed. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, two sons, a daughter, and many loving relatives and friends.

I ask you, fellow colleagues, to join me today in honoring, Mr. Sean Boland, a deeply dedicated, committed man who was an inspiration to us all.

MS. ARACELY GURROLA, A PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Arizona student from my district who has achieved national recognition for outstanding volunteer service in her community. Ms. Aracely Gurrola of Phoenix has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. An eighth grader at Lowell Elementary School, Aracely is being recognized for having initiated "Line Up to Help," a fund-raising project at her school to benefit victims of Hurricane Mitch. An active community volunteer on projects such as clean-ups, food drives, and car-wash fundraisers, she felt compelled to do something special after watching news reports of the devastation Hurricane Mitch had left behind. She approached her principal and received approval to collect change from fellow students for two days as school let out. Aracely coordinated her efforts with the local St. Vincent DePaul Society, which made arrangements to get the donations into the right hands. Then she recruited several student volunteers to help her with flyers promoting the fund-raiser and to collect the money. In just two days, she collected \$250 in loose change from fellow students, money that most students would usually spend on candy. Aracely should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud her for her initiative in seeking to make a positive impact on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

IN HONOR OF DEBORAH KAPLAN,
ESQ., ON THE OCCASION OF HER
INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT
OF THE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION
OF THE STATE OF NEW
YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to Deborah Kaplan, Esq. Ms. Kaplan is a dedicated lawyer who has worked tirelessly for a more just and humane society and an improved quality of life for countless New Yorkers.

Ms. Kaplan contributes greatly to the New York justice system in her current position as a Principal Court Attorney in the office of the Honorable Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives. Ms. Kaplan has also guided many litigants toward fair and just resolutions of grievances as an arbitrator for the Small Claims Court of the City of New York.

As a Senior Trial Attorney for the Criminal Defense Division of The Legal Aid Society, Ms. Kaplan is committed to helping those with the greatest need for knowledgeable legal representation. As a former president of the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and a committee member for the First Department Committee on Character and Fitness of Applicants for Admission to the Bar, Ms. Kaplan has further dedicated herself to enhancing the quality and character of the legal profession.

Ms. Kaplan consistently displays a deep concern for the New York community. She serves as vice chair of the Community Advisory Council at Beth Israel Medical Center, serves as chair of the Health, Human Services Committee of Community Planning Board Six, and participates with the New York City Board of Education as a Statewide Mock Trial Coach.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the New York community and to the legal profession, Ms. Kaplan has received, among many, the Orion S. Maraden Award and the Honorable Sybil Hart Keeper Award. On May 5-7, 2000, Ms. Kaplan will be installed as the President of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Ms. Deborah Kaplan, Esq., and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing her contribution to the legal profession and the New York community.

HMONG VETERANS'
NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2000

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday the House passed H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I was pleased to support its passage. Many of these brave men have settled in Rhode Island where they make great contributions to their communities. It is time that we recognize the contribution of the Hmong and pass this legislation.

From 1961 to 1975, the Hmong were a significant factor in the U.S. war efforts in Laos and Vietnam. Throughout the conflict in Vietnam the United States recruited the Hmong to fight alongside U.S. soldiers, gather data, conduct reconnaissance, and participate in clandestine missions. During that time, tens of thousands of Hmong were killed or wounded fighting for American interests.

As part of the agreement between the U.S. and the Hmong soldiers, certain promises were made. Among those was the possibility of U.S. citizenship for those who served on behalf of the U.S. However, because they did not have a written language, it is nearly impossible for many of these Hmong to pass the language section of Immigration test. This bill provides the necessary relief for these courageous men.

The time has come to recognize the Hmong and honor our commitment to them.

TRIBUTE TO ZENY C. CUSTODIO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam bids farewell to an esteemed community leader. Zeny C. Custodio, a colleague in the field of public administration, was recently called to her eternal rest.

Born on April 18, 1938, in the Republic of the Philippines, Zeny eventually raised her family in Guam and made the island her home. She attended, the oldest pontifical university in the Philippines, the University of Santa Tomas, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree. In addition, she took special courses on International Banking laws at the University of the Philippines and the Institute of Finance and Management at Ateneo de Manila University.

Although a lawyer by profession, Zeny's legacy lies in the field of community and public service. Aside from being the first woman to be appointed as director of the Guam Department of Labor, Zeny also served the Government of Guam in a variety of capacities and positions. On separate occasions worked as a special assistant to the Chief of Customs and to former Guam Senator Elizabeth Arriola. She also served as executive director for the State Advisory Council on Vocational Education and as Segundo Suruhano at the Guam Suruhano's office. She was a board member for the Guam Visitor's Bureau and, until her retirement in 1998, the executive director of the Bureau of Women's Affairs.

Her civic activities and affiliation include leadership and membership posts with the Guam Lytico and Bodig Association, the Soroptimist International of Guam, the Guam Women's Club, the Filipino Ladies Association of Guam, the Guam Council of Women's Club, the Filipino Community of Guam, the Federation of Asian Women, the Metro Manila Association of Guam, the UST Alumni Association, the International Women's Club, the Women's Lawyer Association of the Philippines, the Kundirana Association of the Philippines, the Cavite Association of Guam, the Batangas Association of Guam, and Beauty World Guam Limited. For her efforts on behalf of the com-

munity, she has garnered a host of honors and awards—the most prestigious of which are the Banaog Award presented other by former Philippine President Fidel Ramos and the Ancient Order of the Chamorri presented to her by the lieutenant governor of Guam, Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I join her husband, Narcisco, and her children, Roland, Yvonne, Raymond, and Maria in celebrating her life and mourning the loss of a wife, mother, community leader, and fellow public servant. Adios, Zeny.

TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF STANLEY SMITH AS SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Stan Smith who is retiring after twenty-five years of distinguished service as Secretary-Treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council.

Stan was elected president of Glaziers Union Local #718 in 1958 after only five years in the glazing trade. He was then elected Field Representative of Local #718 in 1965. In 1975, his peers elected him to his current post as Secretary-Treasurer. In this position, he has overseen all of the construction unions in San Francisco for the past quarter century and has done so with a skill that belies the complexity of the task. In addition, Stan has been an active member of the community and has served on countless boards and committees whose collective theme has been to give less fortunate members of the community new opportunities in life through the construction trades.

Stan Smith is a fighter for America's working families. Throughout his tenure with the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council he has made a significant contribution to organized labor and to the greater San Francisco community. I commend him for his outstanding leadership and wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIAL OF IRANIAN JEWS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to denounce the treatment of the 13 Iranian Jews who have been charged with espionage on behalf of Israel and the United States. To begin, the legitimacy of these charges is highly questionable. The Iranian government, run by the Ayatollah and his Islamic fundamentalist regime, has historically garnered domestic support for their anti-Israel policies by making similar dubious accusations against members of their own Jewish population. The judgments handed down from these "trials" over the past 20 years has meant the execution of 17 Iranian Jews. Such

atrocities are reminiscent of Nazi Germany and it is America's duty as a leader of the free world to condemn such acts and ensure the fair treatment of these individuals.

The evidence provided thus far has proven to me the impossibility for these individuals to receive a fair trial in their home country. Aside from the charges being apparently baseless (it seems as though they were singled out for teaching classes on Judaism and the practice of Jewish rituals), there have been pre-trial events that have effectively denied these suspects the right to counsel, the right to a speedy and fair trial, and the right against self-incrimination. Last month, the accused were brought before a judge in a closed-door session. It was then announced that the trial would be postponed with no explanation. In spite of reports to the contrary, 10 of the 13 are still being denied the right to select their own lawyers. Several of the attorneys have allegedly stated that their clients have confessed while the families consistently state this is not so. The denials of the families of the victims have led most to believe that these confessions were either coerced or never happened. To further illustrate the prejudicial nature of this legal process, it should be mentioned that one court appointed lawyer reportedly has objected to being forced to represent a Jew.

The international human rights community has advocated the release of these individuals in order to protect their most basic liberties, and I give my utmost support of this effort. Iran is struggling in the face of revolution and will continue violating the basic rights of their people in order to gag the voice of democracy that is spreading throughout the nation. The West must utterly condemn such guerrilla tactics. We must send the message that the newfound relationship between Iran and the United States will not compromise our values. Such a message is not only significant out of concern for these 13 men, but is vital to our own national security. What kind of message does it send to the Ayatollah that we are willing to bend some of our core democratic beliefs in order to placate the Iranian government? Such weakness is not what has made us a world leader. Blatant human rights violations must have a zero-tolerance level and must be confronted head on. Therefore, I strongly urge Secretary Madeline Albright and the Department of State to do all they can in order to save these innocent men.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, due to a speaking engagement outside the Capitol I was unable to cast a vote today on H. Res. 488, the rule to waive the two-thirds requirement for same day consideration of H.R. 434.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I share the concern of America's workers that the Caribbean Basin Initiative contained in H.R. 434 will jeopardize American jobs.

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL TO COMPETE IN WE THE PEOPLE . . . NATIONAL COMPETITION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the more than 1,200 students from across the United States in Washington, DC, May 6–8, 2000, to compete in the national finals of *We the People* . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. It gives me great honor to announce that a fine class of young people from my alma mater, Hillsboro High School in Nashville, will represent the state of Tennessee in this national event. These young scholars have distinguished themselves, their school, their teachers and the city of Nashville. Their knowledge, diligence and hard work have taught them the fundamental tenets of our constitutional democracy. For this they deserve both our commendation and encouragement.

The names of the students are: Chris Adams, Chira Bamarni, Aleshia Beene, Kristin Bird, Richard Brannon, Allen Brooks, Ashley Brown, Matt Burch, Vanessa Caruso, Andy Dimond, Hillary Gilmore, Alex Guth, Sarah Hatridge, Libby Herbert, Clark Herndon, Laurie Hibbett, Mary High, Kate Hilbert, Lindsey Hill, Seth Hillis, Zoe Jarman, Rachel Lee, Sam Lingo, Heather Oakley, Ben Palmquist, Stuart Parlier, Hemin Qazi, Sam Schulz, Jessica Self, Mariem Shohadaee, Hannah Skelly, Tommy Sterritt, Jessica Summers, Lauren Taub, Rebecca Tylor, Thomas Upchurch, Deborah Weinberger, and Lauren Woods.

I would also like to recognize their dedicated teacher, Mary Catherine Bradshaw, who is deserving of much of the credit for the class' achievement.

Having studied the legislative process and congressional procedure, these young people now have the opportunity to visit our nation's capitol and see for themselves the work of the people's representatives. These young scholars will now have the opportunity to carry their observations of government at work back to their homes in Nashville.

Mr. Speaker, these students deserve our support and encouragement to continue their pursuit of knowledge. I applaud their commitment to excellence and encourage them to enjoy themselves and celebrate their accomplishments. I look forward to meeting with them and encouraging them in the national competition.

FATHER JOHN TERRY CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Father John Terry, V.F., of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this week.

Father Terry currently serves two parishes, St. Charles Borromeo and Holy Family, located in the Sugar Notch area of my district.

He was born in Scranton and raised in Jessup. After being ordained a deacon in 1974, he served for a time at St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception in Wilkes-Barre, and he returned there upon his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Terry's career is notable for his interest in youth and youth programs. His passion for sports has helped him to connect with young people. In 1979, he took on the difficult assignment of serving as director of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre. At that time, several factors worked against the center, including a dependence on government and outside funding, a facility that needed expansion and development, and the loss of staff for budget reasons.

With goals established—and hard work day by day, week by week, year by year—the center was reborn under the leadership of Father Terry and Tony English, the executive director, to face the challenges of service to the needs of the youth in the community.

Father Terry thrived on that assignment, which introduced him to high school sports at G.A.R. High School and working with teenage youth. At one football championship game, the students hung up a huge banner portraying Father Terry with wings, and it read, "Our Angel in the Backfield."

At the same he directed the youth center, Father Terry served as an assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in Wilkes-Barre, and was later assigned to Holy Savior and St. Christopher's Churches, followed by the parishes of Sugar Notch, where he has been for more than nine years now.

The two churches where he now serves have been completely restored and updated. The emergence of a pastoral council, with representatives from both churches, began to develop more ministries, such as a pastoral outreach to shut-ins, youth ministries, liturgy—especially addressing children, adult education and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, involvement of Eucharistic ministers, readers, altar servers and ministers of hospitality. Father Terry has worked with Deacon Phil Harris to make these things possible.

Mr. Speaker, Father Terry has given his life in devotion to God and the people of the Wyoming Valley, and I am proud to join in honoring him on the 25th anniversary of his ordination. I send him my very best wishes for continued success.

HONORING CHARLES M. MONROE ON OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mr. Charles L. Monroe for his 38 years of dedicated service to the California Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Monroe is retiring this year from his distinguished 14-year career as the regional patrol chief for the Central Coast Region of the California Department of Fish and Game.

Charles Monroe was born on January 12, 1939 in Montrose, CO. He moved to Southern California as a child in 1947, where he resided until 1956. He later attended Lassen and Stockton Colleges in Northern California, and

graduated with an A.S. degree in criminal justice from College of the Redwoods in Humboldt County, CA.

Charles Monroe's career with the Department of Fish and Game began 38 years ago when he became a seasonal aid for the Department. His first job was working on the Honey Lake Refuge in 1958. Over the years he worked his way up within the department. From 1962 through 1964 Charles worked as a Fish and Wildlife assistant in Bishop, CA and at the inland fisheries hatchery at Mt. Whitney. In 1964, he became a fish and game warden, working the Marine Patrol in Eureka, CA and the land patrol in Williams, CA. He soon became the patrol captain of Hunter Education for the Central Coast Region in 1972. Later, in 1975, Charles became patrol captain of the Northern Squad of the Central Coast Region, a post he held for 11 years. In 1986, Charles Monroe was named as regional patrol chief for the Central Coast Region of California, a distinguished title which he held for 14 years, until his recent retirement on March 31, of this year.

In addition to his career with the Department of Fish and Game, Mr. Monroe has dedicated himself to helping his community. He served for 3 years with the U.S. Coast Guard reserve and assisted in the development of the first comprehensive pollution response plan for the 12th Coast Guard District. He also served as a police officer in Susanville and Needles, CA for 4 years. He also dedicated three summers to U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Mr. Monroe's life has been one of great public service and participation. In 1973, he established the Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement curriculum at Napa Valley College and has taught there ever since. He has regularly been an instructor at the California Department of Fish and Game Academy, as well. For the past 8 years he has served as chairman of the Napa County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. From 1980 to 1995, Charles also served on the Napa County Chamber of Commerce Law and Fire Committee. He is known for his various committee work for Ducks Unlimited and the California Waterfowl Association, where he had numerous stints as chairman and co-chairman.

Charles Monroe is a dedicated family man. He has been married to his wife Sonia for 39 years. Together they have three children: Michelle, Chuck and Shari, as well as five grandchildren.

In his spare time, Mr. Monroe enjoys hunting, fly fishing, wildlife art, and the study of U.S. history.

Perhaps the best example of Charles Monroe's dedication to his community came in 1965 when he was awarded the California State Medal of Honor for his rescue activities during the 1964 floods in Humboldt County, CA. Obviously, Mr. Monroe is a man of great courage as well as dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my great honor to represent Mr. Charles L. Monroe, first as his State Senator and now as his Congressman. Clearly, his life has been one of great public service, dedication, and commitment. For these reasons, it is necessary that we honor this man for his great work for the wildlife, people and State of California.

IN TRIBUTE TO SIMI VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Simi Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team—champions this year in Ventura County and the State of California, and silver medalists in the national competition.

After winning the Ventura County and State of California titles, the Simi Valley team last month traveled to San Antonio, Texas, for the U.S. Academic Decathlon competition, competing against 37 other schools from across the United States. The rivalry was fierce. Simi Valley lost to the team from Katy, Texas, by a mere 460 points. Each team scored more than 52,000 points in the match-up.

The nine-student Simi Valley High School team is representative of the best and brightest our country has to offer. They have been accepted to such universities as Harvard and Stanford. Seniors David Bartlett, Steve Mihalovitz, Cary Opal, Jeff Robertson, Jennifer Tran, Michael Truex, Justin Underhill and Randy Xu, and junior Kevin White, are truly America's future leaders. Their coaches, Ken and Sally Hibbits, are dedicated educators who deserve equal praise for a phenomenal job of preparing their students.

Last year, Moorpark High School became the first Ventura County team to win the national title. By winning the silver medal this year, Simi Valley High School has proven that Ventura County is an educational powerhouse. They have also proven that Ventura County students and teachers have the dedication and perseverance to be the best they can possibly be. It takes months of studying from early morning to late at night to prepare for these competitions. Jobs, friends and family are placed on the back burner.

If they had won no medals, their dedication to a common goal alone would have made them champions.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the National Silver Medalists, California State Champion and Ventura County Champion Simi Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team for its impressive wins, and in wishing team members great success in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 22nd Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 6, 2000.

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third President, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown. Its mission is to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institute dedicated to those who have helped make America great.

The tradition continues under the stewardship of Dr. Carolyn G. Williams, the first female President of Bronx Community College. Dr. Williams has endorsed the race and will continue the tradition initiated by Dr. Brown to promote the physical fitness as well as to highlight higher educational opportunities.

As one who has run the Hall of Fame 10K race, I can attest to the excitement it generates. The race brings the entire city together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It is a wonderful way to enable over 400 people to run in the Bronx. It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of racers who will run along the Grand Concourse, University Avenue, and West 181 Street, and to savor the variety of their victories. There's no better way to see the Bronx Community.

For most of the past 22 years, Professor Henry A. Skinner has coordinated the Hall of Fame 10K race, a healthy competition which brings together runners of all ages from the greater Metropolitan area. This year he has passed the mantle to Robert Hill, assistant track and field coach at Bronx Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 22nd Annual Hall of Fame 10K run possible.

10TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO 100 WOMEN FOR MAJOR OWENS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I pay special tribute to a group of dedicated community activists in my 11th Congressional District of Brooklyn, NY.

Founded in March, 1990, by Council Member Annette Robinson, Margaret Wiseman, Mary Eccles, Linda Breakenridge, Celeste Green, Sylvia Whiteside and Lorrelle Henry, 100 Women for Major Owens was organized in order to provide an opportunity for women of diverse backgrounds and cultures to work together in order to improve the quality of life for their community.

On May 5, 2000, 100 Women for Major Owens will formally celebrate its 10th Anniversary with a dinner and a special viewing of "Grace In The Light" at the famous Billie Holiday Theater in Brooklyn, New York. This milestone highlights the many years of service this organization has given Central Brooklyn by serving as mentors and role models for young women and their families. Through programs that range from educational seminars focusing on health care, teen pregnancy prevention, HIV-AIDS awareness, public education reform and a number of other important initiatives, the leadership has guided its members to becoming a powerful force for the residents of our community. In addition to also providing scholarships to deserving students in Brooklyn, Ms. Alice Spratley and Ms. Audrey Boyce have skillfully, since the beginning of the program administered the Congressional Awards Program which will, this year nominate several candidates for the Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of their 10th Anniversary, I am honored to salute this pres-

tigious and spirited group of leaders, their past Presidents, Ms. Celeste Green one of the founding members and first President, Ms. Bernice Carter and their current President, an outstanding educator, Ms. Verdeen Gaddy and wish them continued success.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude, the officers and members of this stellar organization: Verdeen Gaddy, President; Audrey Boyce, 1st Vice President; Bernice Carter, 2nd Vice President, Norva Butler, Recording Secretary; Edena Gill, Corresponding Secretary; Eileen Graham, Financial Secretary; Theopia Green Treasurer; Evy Papillon-Juste, Chaplain; Adelaide Wyllie, Parliamentarian; Celeste Green, Historian.

Ms. Mattie Pusey, another dedicated public servant is serving as this year's Anniversary Committee Chairperson. She is being assisted by Ms. Margaret Wiseman, Ms. Annie Nicholson and Mr. Garry Tilzer of my Brooklyn Staff. Her committee consists of Ms. Ann Munroe, Ms. Adelaide Wyllie, Eddy Elijah, Erma McEachine, Martha Greene, Sylvia Whiteside, Alice Spratley, Audrey Boyce, Edena Gill, Lorraine Smith, Orette Spence and Mart Blake.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE REESTABLISHMENT OF LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the Republic of Latvia on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the former Soviet Union.

On May 4th 1990, the people of Latvia solidified their full sovereignty which served to further the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Latvia has since successfully pursued policies to build democracy, protect human rights, expand the rule of law, develop a free market system and pursue a course of integration into the community of free and democratic nations, including the seeking of membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Latvia, together with the Republics of Estonia and Lithuania, continues to make a significant contribution toward maintaining peace and stability in the surrounding region, especially in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In honor of Latvian Independence Day, I am introducing a concurrent resolution to commemorate this special occasion. I hope you will join me today in supporting this legislation.

Once again, I congratulate the people of Latvia on their anniversary of independence. I look forward to witnessing all of the future successes from this prosperous emerging democracy.

25 GRAND RAPIDS GIRL SCOUTS HONORED WITH ORGANIZATION'S HIGHEST AWARD

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 25 young women, ages 14 through 17,

from my home city of Grand Rapids, Michigan who are being honored by the Girl Scouts with the organization's highest honor during a ceremony today in Grand Rapids. The young women will receive the Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizing outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

These future leaders have dedicated the last two years to achieving this award. To be considered for the Girl Scout Gold Award, candidates must earn four interest project patches: the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project. The latter is accomplished by working closely with an adult Girl Scout volunteer. It should also be noted that these Girl Scouts accomplish all of this in addition to their school work, chores at home, and extracurricular activities.

The 25 young women receiving the Girl Scout's highest honor are: Rachel Voorhees, Carla Kaiser, Rachael Goodstein, Anne Clocklin, Nora Hauk, Holly Morris, Theresa Whittaker, Barbie Gatchel, Jennifer Bryant, Jennifer Kelly, Kelly Slezak, Elizabeth Gillis, Kim Farrell, Eda Koning, Jamie Wakely, Kate Chisholm, Jeannette Durham, Melissa Springvloed, Abby Caldwell, Katherine Muszkiewicz, Cristin McNamara, Andrea Tenkel, Nicole Flanagan, Mindy Peterson, and Libby Bode.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great delight that I honor these young women for their outstanding contributions to the Girl Scouts and our community. Their accomplishments and dedication should serve as a model for their peers and future Girl Scouts. To be the best, one must give it their all, and that is what these leaders have done. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each of these young ladies in reaching this milestone. I wish each of them continued success in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WILLIAM
"BILL" BURGSTINER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Officer William "Bill" Burgstiner, United Nations police officer, of Savannah, Georgia. Officer Burgstiner is serving as a U.N. police officer in Kosovo, he is a hero by any other name. In late March, 2000, in a war torn Kosovo, an abandon baby lay by the side of a road wrapped in a bloodied blanket and bleeding from its umbilical cord. The baby's good fortune began when Officer Bill Burgstiner was returning from a meeting and driving through the village of Prilep, about 50 miles southwest of the provincial capital of Pristina.

A villager flagged him down and took Officer Burgstiner to the baby, who was lying on a step, wrapped in a blood soaked blanket. Bill used a table cloth to stop the bleeding. He then whisked the child to the Italian military hospital, rushed through the front gate and delivered Fortunato (the baby's new name) into the arms of Roberto Bramati, a doctor. Doctor

Bramati credited Officer Burgstiner with saving the precious life of little Fortunato.

A Savannah native, Bill joined the Brunswick Police Department after graduating from the police academy. He served from 1990 to 1993, and helped organize the department's K-9 unit. A role model in the local community he has again shown that his compassion and strength of character crosses international borders. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Officer William "Bill" Burgstiner for his kind humanitarian and heroic act.

IN TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE HOPE, SBA
VETERAN ADVOCATE OF THE
YEAR

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Claire Hope, who has been recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the 2000 Veteran Advocate of the Year.

Claire Hope is the founder and president of Claire Hope Enterprises in Camarillo, California, in my district. She has more than 30 years experience in human resources management, and has offered that experience pro bono to many veterans. Since 1992, she has served on the California Employer Advisory Council Veteran Committee. She specializes in assisting veterans to become small business owners.

Claire Hope is also President and Founder of the Industry Education Council of Eastern Ventura County, implementing strategic plans that included the employment of veterans. Other avenues she has used to promote employment of veterans and small business ownership by veterans include: Regional Vice President of the California Employer Advisory for six years, Committee Member of the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and Task Force Member for Workforce Development for the Conejo Valley Community Foundation.

Claire also served as President of the Simi/Conejo Valley Employer Advisory Council (SCVEAC). In 1997, SCVEAC was chosen as the outstanding EAC in the State of California and outstanding EAC in the United States for encouraging veteran business ownership.

Claire Hope is a very capable and dedicated advocate for veterans and is very deserving of this honor.

I have the pleasure of working with Claire on Ventura County Stand Down 2000, which she founded and chairs and for which I serve as honorary co-chairman. A Stand Down is where homeless veterans gain rest for a weekend from the daily battle for survival, by sleeping in comfortable tents and taking advantage of services that could lead to jobs and housing.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Claire Hope for her recognition as the U.S. Small Business Administration Veteran Advocate of the Year and in thanking her for all her hard work and dedication on behalf of our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I unfortunately missed two recorded votes on suspension bills, H. Con. Res. 295, and H. Con. Res. 304. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both resolutions.

However, I would like to share that my absence from the House floor was because I was hosting a press conference with three women from Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iran on global discrimination against women. These brave women shared their stories of discrimination and suffering living under the restrictive regimes in Iran and the Taliban government, and of being genitally mutilated as a young child in Nigeria. Their horrifying stories were true anecdotes of why the Senate must ratify CEDAW, the United Nations Convention in the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

CEDAW, which was first adopted by the United Nations twenty years ago, formally codifies women's equality and promotes women's inclusion in business, government and other economic and social sectors. While I am very pleased that the House International Relations Committee held a hearing on my bill that urges the Senate to ratify CEDAW (House Resolution 107) I am outraged that it is being held up by one person in the Senate. The Senate Foreign Relations Chair, Jesse Helms, had outright refused to hold a hearing on CEDAW and continues to block its consideration on the Senate floor. This means that the chamber's 99 other Senators cannot express their views on this important treaty. It is unacceptable that the democratic process is being held captive by one person. I am hopeful that today's hearing in the House International Relations Committee is a first step in reversing Congress' inaction on CEDAW and will ignite a true dialogue in the Senate on CEDAW's ability to help empower women around the world. Until then, I will continue to push Chairman HELMS and the Senate to ratify it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

MAY 2, 2000

Rollcall vote 131, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 300, commending the successful preparation of our Nation to withstand the Y2K computer problems, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 132, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 2932, the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Area, I would have voted "yea."

MAY 3, 2000

Rollcall vote 133, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 295, relating to human rights violations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 134, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 304, expressing condemnation of the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Republic of Belarus, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 135, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass S. 1744, continued submission of certain species conservation reports, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 136, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1509, the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 137, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 310, supporting a National Charter Schools Week, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 138, on passage of H.R. 2957, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 139, the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass S. 2323, the Worker Economic Opportunity Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 140, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 141, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1901, the Kika de la Garza United States Border Station, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE PHILIPPINE
NURSES ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Philippine Nurses Association of America, which is holding its 21st annual convention on June 21–23, 2000 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Philippine Nurses Association of Ohio will co-host the event along with the chapters from Michigan and Indiana. This year's convention, titled *Nursing Odyssey: New Realities, New Vision*, will reflect the dynamic role of nurses in a changing health care delivery system.

The Philippine Nurses Association of America was established in 1979 in response to the growing need to address the concerns and issues important to Filipino nurses within this country. The Ohio Chapter was formally established in 1992. The PNA of Ohio is a voluntary, non-profit organization encompassing the areas of Cleveland, Akron, Medina in Ohio. There are over one hundred paid members in the chapter.

The objectives of the Philippine Nurses Association reflect their commitment to community service and the promotion of activities and programs that unify the Filipino nurses of the United States and advance health care of Filipinos throughout the nation. Their contributions to the betterment of their community is noteworthy. Their dedication, caring, and love for others is most evident, and I am grateful for their service to others.

My fellow colleagues, I ask you to join with me in recognizing the important accomplishments and essential contributions of the Philippine Nurses Association of America.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleague from Louisiana, JOHN COOKSEY, who also serves with me on the House International Relations Committee, I would like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate the Bulgarian Government—particularly Prime Minister Ivan Kostov and Deputy Prime Minister Peter Zhotev—for the significant efforts that the Government has made over the last two years to strengthen Bulgaria's economy, and in particular, Bulgaria's energy sector.

After years of economic decline and mismanagement under socialist rule, we are pleased to see that the country's economic picture is now showing solid signs of improvement. In 1999, inflation dropped to 6.2 percent and the country's economy grew by 2.5 percent. In 2000, a 4% level of growth has been targeted and appears to be achievable.

There is no doubt, that Prime Minister Kostov and his team have played a key role in making this improved picture possible through a variety of accomplishments, including turning over 70 percent of the country's economic assets to private hands, restoring 95 percent of the country's nationalized farmland to its original owners and, completing nearly 1100 privatization deals in 1999 alone (representing nearly \$587 million dollars in proceeds for the Bulgarian treasury).

Additionally, the Government recently pledged, over the course of the coming year, to continue progress on a variety of tough anti-corruption, anti-crime, and judicial reform programs and to find new ways to help alleviate poverty and unemployment in the country.

The ongoing reforms and the restructuring process that are taking place in the country's energy sector are also impressive and lead to attractive foreign investment opportunities. In this sector, over the coming year, the Government plans to: continue its efforts to eliminate state subsidies; close inefficient production facilities; begin the separation of generation, transmission and distribution assets; and take actions to encourage further foreign investment in the sector.

Each of these steps/actions represent an important part of the Governments ongoing efforts to comply with IMF targets and meet the deregulation and environmental standards that will be necessary precursors to eventual European Union membership.

We would like to highlight one particularly promising project that the Government is undertaking in the country's energy sector. In conjunction with a well-known U.S. company—Entergy Corporation, this project will modernize one of Bulgaria's important energy facilities: the lignite-fired, Martiza East III plant (located in the town of Stara Zagora, approximately thirty-seven miles from the Turkish border).

Once the planned improvements and upgrades are completed at this facility, the plant will meet stringent environmental standards, which will lead to a reduction in levels of sulfur dioxide emissions by at least 90%. In addition,

the implementation of the Maritza East III project will also help to ensure that Bulgaria has a sufficient reliable capacity of electricity as it moves to close down a Soviet designed nuclear power plant deemed unsafe by E.U. standards. It is our understanding that Entergy also plans to support the community around the power plant through worker training programs, environmental improvement programs and the identification of a variety of projects for social investment. The Maritza East III project will bolster the Bulgarian economy by the purchase of more than \$75 million dollars worth of local goods and services and the creation of 600 construction jobs. In short, we believe this partnership between Bulgaria and Entergy is a win-win situation.

We look forward to seeing additional progress in Bulgaria over the coming year and to the country becoming an important, reliable and efficient energy hub in the Balkan region. We also look forward to a growing level of involvement in the country's energy sector by American companies.

Congratulations again to the Bulgarian Government for a job well done and to continued progress for a prosperous and peaceful future.

SALUTE TO DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate two young District of Columbia students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Milton Boyd and Lakeshia Wallace have just been named honorees in the 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school and one middle school student in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Milton Boyd, a junior at Grant School Without Walls, developed a theatrical presentation to educate teenagers in the District about the importance of making healthy life decisions. As a result of his work, Milton was recruited to join Planned Parenthood's youth outreach campaign, which promotes non-violence, sexual awareness and abstinence, and self control.

Lakeshia Wallace, a junior at Hugh Browne Junior High School, initiated a project to deliver home cooked meals to the homeless in her community during the cold fall and winter months. As president of her local Boys and Girls Club, Lakeshia helped establish "Project GRATE," which delivers food to homeless people who live and sleep on subway grates.

I ask my colleagues to join me today and applaud Milton Boyd and Lakeshia Wallace for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. Congratulations to both for their commitment and dedication to the people of the District of Columbia.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. SCHUELER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Robert F. Schueler, a dear friend and community leader who recently passed away. Bob was a faithful member of St. Saviour Church in Rossmoyne, and is survived by Virginia (Ginny), his wife of over 29 years.

Bob dedicated much of his life to public service. Since December 1, 1973, he served tirelessly as Blue Ash's Ward 4 council representative. He also served as Blue Ash's mayor from 1987 to 1991 and as vice mayor from 1985 to 1987. He was a council representative for the city of Reading for several years prior to 1973, an active member and past president of the Blue Ash Civil League, and president of the Blue Ash Republican Club. Bob was also active with the St. Patrick Council Knights of Columbus, as the president of the Hamilton County Republican Party, and as the ward chairman for Blue Ash.

Bob lived in, served, and represented Blue Ash for nearly 30 years. All of us in the Greater Cincinnati Area will remember his full devotion and service to our community.

SPACE DAY AND ITS IMPORTANCE
TO COLORADO**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to call attention to two important causes for celebration and reflection. First, today is Space Day. Here in Washington, Senator John Glenn, Sally Ride, NASA director Daniel Goldin, and others will gather to celebrate the achievements and opportunities that we have all realized through the exploration of space. The celebration also includes Space Day's third annual Webcast devoted to space, science, math, and technology, in which children all over the world will be able to participate. Space Day activities will also take place in Colorado and other states throughout the country.

This week is also the tenth anniversary of the launch of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Although its early life was marked by controversy, the Hubble has become one of the most important astronomical study missions ever attempted. In 1993, shuttle astronauts installed lenses—made by Ball Aerospace, in my district in Colorado—to correct the telescope's near-sighted vision. Since that time, Hubble's images have been nothing less than remarkable. Hubble itself has circled the Earth 58,000 times, made 271,000 observations, and generated 2,651 scientific papers. It has fulfilled its scientific missions to determine the age of the universe within a certain range, provide proof that massive black holes exist, and detect the farthest objects in the universe.

Not only has the Hubble telescope made these extraordinary discoveries, but its images

have also helped to broaden the appeal of space to all Americans. Pictures of exploding stars and a comet hitting Jupiter are just some that have engaged our imaginations and changed the way we think about the universe.

I'm proud to note that Colorado and its 2d Congressional District in particular has played a significant role in this nation's space endeavor. But it has truly been a national endeavor, one that has benefited all Americans. I hope we will all take a moment today—Space Day—to reflect on how the advancement of science and space concerns us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, due to the failure of my pager to operate properly, I inadvertently was absent from three rollcall votes on May 2, 2000.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the following three roll calls: Rollcall No. 133: H. Con. Res. 295, regarding human rights and oppression in Vietnam; rollcall No. 134: H. Con. Res. 304, condemning Belarus; rollcall No. 135: requiring continued Endangered Species Act reports.

COAST GUARD GETS AN A

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the Government Performance Project (GPP) is aimed at expanding the public's understanding of management challenges facing the government. The GPP rates federal agencies on five areas: managing for results, financial management, human resources, information technology and, where appropriate, capital management. The grades are assigned by a team of scholars and journalists and are based on a survey and interviews with agency officials.

The GPP issued its second annual report earlier this year, and twenty federal agencies received an average grade of B-minus. In the two years that the project has been underway, only two agencies have received A's for their performance: the Coast Guard and the Social Security Administration. I want to commend these agencies, particularly the Coast Guard, for their outstanding performance.

No agency has more wholeheartedly committed itself to results-based government than has the Coast Guard. It has been working to improve its quality management for over ten years and has overhauled its strategic planning and capital asset management. Today, the Coast Guard represents one of the taxpayers' best investments, and as a result of its efforts, it has received numerous Hammer Awards.

I want to take this opportunity to salute the hardworking men and women of the United States Coast Guard.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "QUALIFIED PERSONAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2000"

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the 1986 Tax Act, Congress made a decision that enabled certain Qualified Professional Service Corporations to retain use of the cash accounting method for tax purposes.

I am introducing legislation today that is intended to ensure that companies currently eligible to use cash accounting are able to continue doing so. This is required due to state of the art changes in the type and delivery of those professional services required for developing and implementing the vital water, transportation, infrastructure, communications, and environmental projects upon which our citizens and our economy depend.

RECOGNIZING CAMP SUNSHINE
DURING THEIR ANNUAL VISIT
TO WASHINGTON**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very special group of young people visiting our Nation's Capital today, Camp Sunshine. Camp Sunshine is an organization in Georgia dedicated to children with cancer from all over the State. Julianne and I have been blessed to know this fine group over the years.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and each of my colleagues who take the time each year to visit with these special kids. It is always a treat for me to host their visit to Washington each year and visit with them in Georgia each summer. They are indeed a very special group of bright, well-rounded young people. It is truly an honor for me to be involved with a special organization like Camp Sunshine.

My friends visiting this year include Russell Conover, Sarah Corbitt, Brad Doty, Anthony Grant, Jamaal Grayson, Tony Jones, Adam Kessler, Stephanie Kruse, Barbara Little, Joseph McConnell, Wesley Robbins, Job Steffins, Holli Tanner, Shanna Thomson, Joey Tripp, Michelle Winn, Matthew Winslow, Casimiro Ybarra, Jennifer Johnson, Ashley Palmer, Keenan Duron, and Camp Sunshine's Executive Director, Sally Hale. I would also like to send my best to Wesley Robbins and Barbara Little, who were unable to make the trip.

We had an exciting day at the Capitol, and I look forward to many more visits in the future from Camp Sunshine.

HONORING THE 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF WSJS-AM RADIO

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize WSJS-AM radio on its 70th anniversary. Since the first broadcast on Easter weekend of 1930, WSJS remains a treasured source of information and entertainment to the Winston-Salem community.

Over the years the station has changed format, its broadcast hours, its transmitter power, its frequency and even its owners. But, the trusted service and the call letters have remained the same.

Getting their start without a network affiliation, WSJS filled its air time with local programming, treating listeners to a variety of community talent—from the Winston-Salem Concert Orchestra to Jack Hawkins playing old favorites on his musical saw. Now a member of a national network conglomerate, WSJS communicates national issues with a local flavor.

Preserving 70 years of tradition, local personalities like Mike Fenley and Glenn Scott have upheld their community reputation as a classy operation. The all-talk format is supported by an enthusiastic staff that continues to attract thousands in the Piedmont Triad to the medium of news radio. On behalf of the citizens of the 5th District of North Carolina, I honor the WSJS radio station for 70 years of quality radio programming.

TRIBUTE TO MEREDITH
ARENSMAN

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young Kentucky student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Meredith Arensman of Louisville, has been named one of my state's top honorees for The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Meredith, a senior at Louisville Collegiate School, has organized the annual Louisville Girls Leadership Conference for the past three years, and is now the event chairwoman. Meredith was approached by women in the Louisville area who were concerned about the lack of leadership programs for girls. They wanted Meredith's help in putting together a conference that would help girls choose careers and make life choices with confidence and enthusiasm. Meredith started by creating a planning committee of fellow students who shared her passion for women's rights. They selected workshop topics on mental and physical self-defense, the negative connotation surrounding feminism, and the movement of women into non-traditional careers. Meredith handled public relations, secured an event location, identified speakers and sponsors, and organized

volunteers. More than 500 girls and 400 adults, including Gloria Steinem and Geraldine Ferraro, have participated in the conference. As Meredith said, "We must work to make sure that no one is inhibited by their race, religion, or gender."

It is my honor to pay tribute to someone who has made a difference to so many other young women. In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young citizen has made. Young volunteers like Meredith are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

Meredith should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Meredith for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world and deserves our sincere respect and admiration. Her actions show that young Americans can, and do, play an important role in our communities and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. Again, I offer my congratulations to Meredith for this outstanding achievement.

HONORING ARNOLD D. ANDERSON
OF ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to celebrate the contributions that Mr. Arnold D. Anderson, of Ontario, California, has made to his community.

Over the last 62 years, Mr. Anderson has dedicated much of his time to the needs of Ontario. He has served as president of numerous civic organizations, including the Ontario Host Lion's Club, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and the Ontario Junior Chamber of Commerce. From 1959 to 1963, Mr. Anderson served as a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Chaffey High School Trust. For the past 34 years, Mr. Anderson has served on the Chaffey College Trust Board.

As a result of his extensive community service, Mr. Anderson has received numerous awards and honors. In the 1940's, he received several awards from the U.S. Department of Treasury and the U.S. Department of War for selling war bonds. His contributions have been commended by his Lion's Club, the California Department of Corrections, the West End YMCA, members of the California State Legislature, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, and the City of Ontario.

Although recently confined to a wheelchair, Mr. Anderson has continued to make valuable contributions to those in need, placing his needs second to those of others. It is with great honor that I join the community of Ontario as the Ontario Host Lion's Club celebrates Mr. Anderson's 62 years of perfect attendance with an Honorary Lifetime Membership.

By constantly striving to improve his community, Mr. Anderson has become a true American hero, worthy of our praise and gratitude.

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO
RESHAPE AIR FORCE WORKFORCE

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from Ohio, Mr. HOBSON, in introducing the Air Force Workforce Renewal Act, a bill to stabilize employment within the Air Force and bring more current technical skills into the Air Force workforce. The measure will give Air Force managers expanded use of voluntary early retirement incentives to create job openings to be filled by new employees with cutting edge technological skills.

The rapid pace of technology development and its importance to our economy and national defense is well recognized. At the same time, the Defense Department is faced with a rapidly changing and uncertain threat. The convergence of these trends means that the technical challenges faced by defense personnel will be greater than at any other time in our history. Defense employees must be capable of meeting these challenges if our armed services are to remain the most superior fighting force in the world.

Unfortunately, existing personnel laws do not give Defense Department managers the flexibility they need to keep up with rapidly changing personnel needs, especially in the scientific and technical fields. After more than ten years of much needed draw down and virtually no new hiring, the military services have been stymied in their efforts to acquire such personnel.

Since 1989, the Defense Department has reduced the size of its workforce by more than 400,000 positions, or 36 percent. To make this astounding reduction possible, only a small number of new employees have been hired in the last decade. Thus, there has been an alarmingly disproportionate reduction in younger employees. The number of employees below the age of 31 has dropped 76 percent since 1989 and more than a third of the workforce will be eligible for retirement over the next 4 years.

A crisis is looming in the Defense Department. Unless personnel practices are changed, the Pentagon will lurch from a predominantly senior workforce to one that is largely inexperienced. Without a smooth transition, vital institutional knowledge will not be passed on.

This problem is particularly acute for the Air Force because of its historically heavy reliance on science and technology. The preservation and advancement of our Air Force's high tech advantage is more important than ever as new and uncertain threats to the country develop. The Air Force's dominant role in recent operations in Iraq and Kosovo also makes the case for continued improvement of our technological edge.

To prevent a sudden workforce vacuum and allow for the orderly transfer of corporate knowledge to the next workforce, Mr. HOBSON and I have crafted a temporary, experimental

program. The measure makes a simple modification to the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority [VERA] and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay [VSIP] programs that are already in existing law for Defense Department employees. Because of our special concern for the Air Force and the Air Force's strong support for personnel system reforms, this demonstration program would be conducted by that service.

Under the measure, for a limited time period, Air Force leaders would have the power to offer financial incentives without having to eliminate workforce numbers. The amount of the incentive that an employee could be offered will be determined by the same formula that the current VERA/VSIP law uses, which could be as much as \$25,000. Under this measure, work groups with less critical skills will be given the opportunity to volunteer for early retirement so that new personnel with more essential skills may be hired.

The test program is limited to no more than 1,000 employees annually and terminates after five years.

In addition to permitting the Air Force to reshape and stabilize its workforce, it will also save substantial amounts of money because the salary of a retirement-eligible employee averages almost twice that of a replacement hire. Therefore, despite the initial outlays required for retirement incentives, the Air Force estimates the Hall-Hobson bill will save about \$68,000 over a 5-year period for each senior slot opened for an entry level worker and over a seven year period, the cumulative savings could be as much as \$120 million.

The measure also includes a provision that allows the Air Force to hire entry level personnel more quickly provided that they have strong academic records. It is not enough for us to create positions for new high tech employees. If we are going to get the best, we also have to make the Air Force competitive with high tech industry in hiring them. The hiring process takes too long to attract new college graduates in scientific and technical fields who can get jobs in the private sector in only a fraction of the time it takes in the military services. I am familiar with attempts by the Air Force Research Laboratory to hire new graduates that took more than a year. In many of these cases, the job prospects gave up and took other jobs.

To further strengthen the workforce, the bill also gives the Air Force the authority to hire a small number of eminent scientists from the private sector for periods of 4 years or less. These experts will bring unique cutting-edge skills into the research laboratory that will jump start new efforts in critical technology areas. The temporary nature of these positions gives the Air Force the agility to move at the pace of technology development, rotating experts through as they are needed. This provision is modeled after existing legislation for the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency [DARPA] which has been successful in infusing this defense agency with creative new scientific ideas.

This legislation is a win-win situation for everyone. The Air Force will get the skills it wants and those people considering retirement are given the financial boost that allows them to retire early. The Air Force also saves money in the long term and our country will be better positioned to maintain our national security.

Moreover, this experimental pilot program will provide valuable information that can be used to address similar workforce problems in the other services and non-defense Federal agencies.

H.R. —

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Air Force Work Force Renewal Act".

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY REGARDING VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVES AND EARLY RETIREMENT FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) SEPARATION PAY.—Section 5597(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: "Under such program separation pay may also be offered for the purpose of maintaining continuity of skills among employees of the Department of the Air Force and adapting the skills of the workforce of such Department to emerging technologies critical to the needs and goals of such Department."

(b) RETIREMENT UNDER CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8336 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(o)(1) An employee of the Department of the Air Force who is separated from the service voluntarily as a result of a determination described in paragraph (2) after completing 25 years of service or after becoming 50 years of age and completing 20 years of service is entitled to an annuity.

"(2) A determination under this paragraph is a determination by the Secretary of the Air Force that the separation described in paragraph (1) is necessary for the purpose of maintaining continuity of skills among employees of the Department of the Air Force and adapting the skills of the workforce of the Department to emerging technologies critical to the needs and goals of the Department."

(c) RETIREMENT UNDER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8414 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d)(1) An employee of the Department of the Air Force who is separated from the service voluntarily as a result of a determination described in paragraph (2) after completing 25 years of service or after becoming 50 years of age and completing 20 years of service is entitled to an annuity.

"(2) A determination under this paragraph is a determination by the Secretary of the Air Force that the separation described in paragraph (1) is necessary for the purpose of maintaining continuity of skills among employees of the Department of the Air Force and adapting the skills of the workforce of the Department to emerging technologies critical to the needs and goals of the Department."

(d) LIMITATION OF APPLICABILITY.—The authority to provide separation pay and retirement benefits under the amendments made by this section—

(1) may be exercised with respect to not more than 1000 civilian employees of the Department of the Air Force during each calendar year; and

(2) shall expire on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. AIR FORCE EXPERIMENTAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air

Force may carry out a program of experimental use of the special personnel management authority provided in subsection (b) in order to facilitate recruitment of civilian personnel to perform the following:

(1) Research and exploratory or advanced development.

(2) Acquisition of major weapons systems, excluding sustainment activities.

(b) SPECIAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY.—(1) Under the program, the Secretary may—

(A) appoint eminent scientists and engineers from outside the civil service and uniformed services (as such terms are defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code) to not more than 62 positions in the Department of the Air Force without regard to the provisions of such title governing the appointment of employees in the civil service, except that the Secretary shall—

(i) provide for consideration of veterans' preference eligibility as described in section 2108 of such title; and

(ii) follow merit system principles, as established in chapter 23 of such title;

(B) prescribe the rates of basic pay for positions to which employees are appointed under subparagraph (A) at rates not in excess of the rate payable for positions at level 1 of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of such title; and

(C) make payments to any employee appointed under subparagraph (A) in addition to basic pay within the limitation applicable to the employee under subsection (d)(1).

(2) Of the 62 positions described in paragraph (1)—

(A) 50 of such positions shall be allocated to organizations performing research and exploratory or advanced development; and

(B) 12 of such positions shall be allocated to organizations whose primary mission is the development and acquisition of major weapons systems, excluding sustainment activities.

(c) LIMITATION ON TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the service of an employee under an appointment under subsection (b)(1) may not exceed 4 years.

(2) The Secretary may, in the case of a particular employee, extend the period to which service is limited under paragraph (1) by not more than 2 years if the Secretary determines that such action is necessary to promote the efficiency of the Department of the Air Force.

(d) LIMITATIONS ON ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS.—(1) The total amount of additional payments paid to an employee under subsection (b)(1)(C) for any 12-month period may not exceed the lesser of the following amounts:

(A) \$25,000.

(B) The amount equal to 25 percent of the employee's annual rate of basic pay.

(2) An employee appointed under subsection (b)(1) is not eligible for a bonus, monetary award, or other monetary incentive for service other than payments authorized under subsection (b)(1)(C).

(e) PERIOD OF PROGRAM.—(1) The program authorized under this section shall terminate at the end of the 5-year period referred to in subsection (a).

(2) After the termination of the program—

(A) no appointment may be made under subsection (b)(1);

(B) a rate of basic pay prescribed under subsection (b)(1)(B) may not take effect for a position; and

(C) no period of service may be extended under subsection (c).

(f) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—In the case of an employee who, on the day before the termination of the program, is serving in a position pursuant to an appointment under subsection (b)(1)—

(1) the termination of the program shall not terminate the employee's employment in that position before the expiration of the lesser of—

(A) the period for which the employee was appointed; or

(B) the period to which the employee's service is limited under subsection (c), including any extension made under paragraph (2) of that subsection before the termination of the program; and

(2) the rate of basic pay prescribed for the position under subsection (b)(1)(B) may not be reduced for so long (within the period applicable to the employee under paragraph (1)) as the employee continues to serve in the position without a break in service.

(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—(1) Not later than October 15 of each of years 2001 through 2006, the Secretary shall submit a report on the program to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) The annual report shall contain, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(A) A detailed discussion of the exercise of authority under this section.

(B) The sources from which individuals appointed under subsection (b)(1) were recruited.

(C) The methodology used for identifying and selecting such individuals.

(D) Any additional information that the Secretary considers helpful for assessing the utility of the authority under this section.

SEC. 4. AIR FORCE EXPERIMENTAL HIRING PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force may carry out a program of experimental use of the authority provided in subsections (b), (c), and (d) in order to facilitate recruitment of civilian personnel to carry out the following:

(1) Research and exploratory or advanced development.

(2) Acquisition of major weapons systems, excluding sustainment activities.

(b) CATEGORY RANKING.—(1) Notwithstanding sections 3309, 3313 3317(a), and 3318(a) of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary may provide that applicants for positions in the Department of the Air Force be evaluated according to a quality category rating system based on relative degrees of merit, rather than according to numerical ratings.

(2) Under the system described in paragraph (1), each applicant who meets the minimum qualification requirements shall be assigned to the appropriate category based on an evaluation of the quality of the applicant's knowledge, skills, and abilities relative to successful performance in the position to be filled.

(3) Within each such quality category, applicants who are eligible for veterans' preference under section 2108 of such title shall have priority over applicants who are not eligible for such preference.

(4)(A) Each applicant, other than applicants for scientific and professional positions at the GS-9 level or above, or the equivalent, who meets the minimum qualifications requirements and who is eligible for veterans' preference under section 2108(3)(C) of such title and who has a compensable service-connected disability of 10 percent or more shall have the highest priority in the quality category.

(B) Applicants for scientific or professional positions at the GS-9 level or above, or the equivalent, shall be listed within their category grouping, except that applicants who are eligible for veterans' preference under such section 2108 shall have priority over applicants who are not eligible for preference.

Among preference eligibles, preference shall be given without regard to the type of preference.

Under the system described in paragraph (1), an appointing official may select any qualified applicant within the highest category, except that such an official may not pass over a preference eligible for an individual who is not a preference eligible in the same category unless the requirements of section 3312(b) or 3318(b) of title 5, United States Code, are satisfied. If fewer than 3 applicants have been assigned to the highest category, an appointing official may select any qualified applicant in the next lower category or categories, if necessary to provide a pool of at least 3 qualified applicants. An appointing official may not pass over a preference eligible applicant to select a non-preference eligible applicant in a lower category.

(c) SHORTAGE AND CRITICAL NEED HIRING AUTHORITY.—(1) Notwithstanding section 3304(b) of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of the Air Force may appoint individuals into the competitive service to fill civilian positions in the Department of the Air Force without competition, provided public notice has been given and the positions meet one of the following criteria:

(A) There is a severe shortage of qualified candidates for the position.

(B) There is a need for expedited hiring for the position.

(C) The position is unique and has special qualifications.

(D) The position has a historically high turnover rate.

(2) The Secretary may appoint individuals with exceptional academic qualifications or special experience to positions described in paragraph (1). Individuals who qualify on the basis of education must possess a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent grade point average on a different scale).

(3) Applicants who are eligible for veterans' preference under section 2108 of title 5, United States Code, shall have priority over applicants who are not eligible for such preference. Among preference eligibles, a preference eligible applicant under subparagraphs (C) through (G) of section 2108(3) of such title shall have priority over an applicant who is eligible for preference under subparagraph (A) or (B) of such section. An appointing official may not pass over a preference eligible applicant to select a non-preference eligible applicant unless the requirements of section 3312(b) or 3318(b) of such title are satisfied.

AIR FORCE WORK FORCE RENEWAL ACT

SECTION-BY-SECTION DESCRIPTION

Section 1. Designates the legislation as "Air Force Work Force Renewal Act"

Section 2. Temporary Authority Regarding Voluntary Separation Incentives and Early Retirement for Employees of the Department of the Air Force

2(a). Permits the Air Force to offer incentive bonuses of up to \$25,000 for maintaining continuity of skills among employees of the Air Force and for adapting the skills of the work force to critical emerging technologies. This is an extension of the existing Department of Defense separation pay program.

2(b). Establishes that a retiring employee of the Air Force who is under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) may become eligible for an annuity after completing 25 year of service or after becoming 50 years of age and completing 20 years of service; and if the Air Force Secretary determines that the separation is necessary for the purpose of maintaining continuity of skills in the Air Force and for adapting the skills of the work force to critical emerging technologies.

2(c) Establishes the same early retirement authority as paragraph 1(b) for Air Force employees under the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS).

2(d) Limits the separation pay and retirement benefits established in this section to 1000 positions per calendar year for a period of five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Section 3. Air Force Experimental Personnel Management Program for Technical Personnel

3(a) On an experimental basis for a five-year period, to facilitate recruitment of civilian personnel, authorizes the Air Force to fill positions for 1) research and exploratory or advanced development, and 2) acquisition of major weapons systems.

3(b) Limits the hiring authority under this section to a total of 62 eminent scientists and engineers from outside the civil service and uniformed services. Of his number, 50 shall be allocated to organizations performing research and exploratory or advanced development, and 12 shall be allocated to organizations whose primary mission is the development and acquisition of major weapon systems, excluding sustainment activities. Certain civil service rules are waived. Veterans' preference is preserved.

3(c) In general, limits appointments under this section to no more than four years; however, the Secretary of the Air Force may extend an appointment an additional two years.

3(d) Limits the total annual amount of additional payments (such as bonuses or monetary awards), paid to an employee hired under this section to \$25,000 or an amount equal to 25 percent of the employee's annual salary, which ever is less.

3(e) Provides that no employee may be hired under this section (or appointment extended) after the five-year experimental program expires.

3(f) Allows employees appointed under this section to finish their existing term, (without extension), following the expiration of the authority under this section.

3(g) Requires the Air Force to provide an annual report on the experimental program to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 4. Air Force Experimental Hiring Program

4(a) On an experimental basis for a five-year period, to facilitate recruitment of civilian personnel, authorizes the Air Force to fill positions for 1) research and exploratory or advanced development, and 2) acquisition of major weapons systems.

4(b) Provides for a system to rate candidates for employment positions under this section. Veterans' preference is preserved.

4(c) Under specific conditions, authorizes the hiring with expedited competition of individuals with exceptional academic qualifications or unique experience under this section.

PHILIP ANSCHUTZ IS AN HONOREE AT THE HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize an exceptional man who I am honored to call my friend. Philip

Anschutz is being honored by the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans on Friday, May 5, 2000. For over 50 years, the Horatio Alger Association has honored people who have positively contributed to our society. These awardees are the top ten Americans who have made outstanding contributions in their chosen field. They are honest, hardworking, self-reliant and committed to excellence.

Mr. Anschutz exemplifies everything that the Association represents. Mr. Anschutz is recognized as Colorado's number one businessman and enjoys an admired professional reputation. In 1965 he started The Anschutz Corporation. He now serves as Chairman of the Board of Qwest Communications International, Vice Chairman of the Board of Union Pacific Corporation and he also sits on the boards of Forest Oil Company, the American Petroleum Institute and the National Petroleum Council. He also is the alternate governor of the National Hockey League and the owner of the Chicago Fire and Colorado Rapids Major League Soccer teams. Mr. Anschutz also serves on boards and committees of various organizations such as, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as well as, the Smithsonian Institution's National Board. Mr. Anschutz has earned a strong reputation for his character and integrity. Philip and his wife Nancy are well known for civic contributions and their focus on family values. It is obvious why Mr. Anschutz was chosen as one of this year's Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. I think we all owe him a great debt of gratitude for his service and dedication to our society.

REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I declare solidarity with Jews across this nation and around the world to mourn and to pay tribute to those who perished at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. On Tuesday, in Israel and around the world, ceremonies were conducted, as they are annually. Today in the nation's capitol, we hold our traditional Days of Remembrance ceremony.

This year, I am keenly aware of the need to not only remember and honor the lives that were lost, but to continue to educate others about the Holocaust and the dangers of hate. For the Jewish community, Yom Ha-shoah holds a symbolic value. Through prayer and education the community remembers those who were lost, and who continue to be lost because, unfortunately, hate acts continue to occur.

The last year has been a trying one for the Jewish community and people of color in my district. Over the Fourth of July holiday last summer, Ricky Birdsong, an African American man beloved by his family and community, was shot by a white supremacist criminal on a cowardly shooting rampage. Jewish constituents of mine were shot on their way to synagogue, targeted because of their religious beliefs. Not only did these tragic occurrences scar my community emotionally, they served as a bitter reminder that hate is a dangerous reality that still persists.

Around the world this year, we have been reminded of the need to continue the battle against hate. In Iran, 13 Jews stand trial today on arbitrary and falacious charges of espionage. In China, thousands of Falun Gong are persecuted because of their spiritual beliefs. In Austria, a political leader who praised Hitler was elected to the dismay of the international community. In Africa, violence and ethnic conflict are raging. Nazi war criminals remain at large throughout the world. In Russia and elsewhere, anti-Semitic rhetoric is echoed by elected officials. People of color in this country are often unfairly targeted by law enforcement officials. Immigration policies of our country continue to neglect the human rights and needs of those with the misfortune of being born in oppressive or poor nations. The media in several nations is pervaded by anti-Semitic sentiments. Those unfortunate facts and many others, remind us of the need to adhere to our vow that never again will we tolerate the kind of abuse we witnessed. I am proud that this nation has made a practice of refusing to look the other way when hate rears its ugly face.

The Holocaust was the most horrific human atrocity the world saw during the last century and perhaps in the history of the planet. Millions of Jews and others were brutalized, raped, beaten, dehumanized, enslaved, robbed, and murdered. Men, women, children, babies, and families were ravaged by the hateful acts of the Nazi regime. There is no way for me to put into words the unspeakable horrors experienced. We can only listen to the recollections of those few remaining survivors of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was not only the worst murder case in history, but it was also the biggest exploitation and theft. Jews and others were enslaved—worked literally to death for various companies. Millions of insurance policies were liquidated by the Nazis with the assistance of insurance companies, and millions of bank accounts were seized. I am sad to say that, to this date, there has been no restitution for the bulk of those crimes. Every year we observe Yom Ha-shoah, we are also reminded of those survivors of the Holocaust who have passed away during the previous year. Negotiations to repay stolen assets are ongoing. But, unfortunately, the process is slow and many have been deprived of at least some measure of justice after enduring so much. I hope that before this time next year we will at least be able to say that we have made real progress on this front. That will require the complete cooperation of foreign governments, and multinational corporations, who have yet to own up to their role in the crime of the last century. The fact that some still deny responsibility or refuse full compliance with negotiations only adds to the suffering and prolongs the justice that survivors deserve.

The theme of hope is strong among Jews this year. Negotiations continue in efforts toward peace between Israel and her neighbors. This year, we may see some real results and a chance for life without fear for our allies in the Middle East. I was reminded of the power of hope and the importance of celebrating life along with honoring the dead this week. Thousands participated in the "march of the living" at Auschwitz, where over a million Jews met their fate. I am proud to carry on the traditions of Judaism in my every day life and I am proud of the Jewish community and all of its success, despite all of the suffering. today we

honor and mourn those who perished. We vow to live our lives in a way that pays tribute to their memory and ensures their fate will not be suffered by others.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS FROM WYNDMERE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on May 6th through 8th of this year, high school students from across the country will compete in the national finals of the "We the People * * * The Citizen and the Constitution" program. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students of Wyndmere High School of Wyndmere, North Dakota, who will represent my home state in this event. These students have worked hard to reach this stage of the competition and have demonstrated a thorough understanding of the principals underlying our constitutional democracy.

We the People is the most extensive program in the country designed to teach students the history and philosophy of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings held in the United States Congress. These mock hearings consist of oral presentations by the student participants before a panel of adult judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee" of judges representing various regions of the country and appropriate professional fields. The students' testimony is followed by a question and answer period during which the judges test students on their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. The knowledge these students have acquired to reach the national level of this competition is truly impressive.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize by name our talented representatives from Wyndmere High School, of Wyndmere, North Dakota: Brian Boyer, Mandy David, Julie Dotzenrod, Elisabeth Foertsch, Alissa Haberman, Lindsey Heitcamp, Daniel Hodgson, Jesse Nelson, Kari Schultz, Amy Score, John Totenhagen, and Bobbi Ann Ulvestad.

I would also like to recognize and thank their teacher, David Hodgson, for his critical role in these students' success and their interest in American government.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the student team from Wyndmere High School to Washington, and wish them the very best of luck. They have made all of us in North Dakota very proud.

THE SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS ACT OF 2000

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, Democrats want to ensure that all American children receive a quality 21st century education in public schools with up-to-date facilities and safe classrooms. That is why Democrats support The Safe and Successful Schools Act of

2000. This act would provide our schools with \$1.3 billion annually for emergency school renovations.

As one of the most powerful nations in the world, Mr. Speaker, it is a tragedy that America's schools are in such desperate need of repair. The schools in my district are indicative of what is happening nationwide. For example, the roof in the gymnasium at Belmont High School in Los Angeles has multiple leaks. Garbage cans must be scattered throughout the gym to catch the rain. Two other high schools in my district, Venice and Lincoln, have extensive water damage that has left dangerous wiring and piping exposed to the children.

Americans value their children, Mr. Speaker, and they are the future of our nation. We must not abandon them and sit idly by while our schools fall apart, hampering our children's ability to learn. We must pass The Safe and Successful Schools Act and invest in the future of America.

CHERYL MILLS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, hearings on the White House e-mails being conducted by the Committee on Government Reform have provoked serious questions as officials and former officials with impeccable reputations have had their integrity questioned without evidence of wrongdoing traceable to them. Cheryl Mills, the young White House lawyer who spoke so memorably during the Senate Impeachment hearings, did it again during the Committee's hearings today. Her words concerning what inquisitorial hearings do to young people and others considering public service deserve consideration by Members of the House who, after all, serve here because of the value they themselves attach to serving the public and their country.

I submit her full statement for inclusion in the RECORD.

OPENING STATEMENT BY CHERYL MILLS, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 4, 2000

Mr. Chairman, Representative Waxman, Members of the Committee on Government Reform:

My name is Cheryl Mills. For almost seven years, I served in the White House Counsel's Office under President Clinton. During my tenure, I served first as Associate Counsel and later as Deputy Counsel. When I arrived on January 20, 1993, I was 27 years old; I was 34 when I left last October.

I came into government because I believed that the opportunity to serve this country was a valuable one. I believed that giving of my time, my energy, and even my soul, to try to make a difference was important. I believed that the gift of one's labor and one's love for this country was one of the purer things I, like other young people, had to give.

When I left, it had become hard for me to believe anymore. I left increasingly cynical about Congress' commitment to improving the lives of Americans. I left deeply troubled by the culture of partisanship in Washington that with each passing day was threatening the very essence of what is good, and what is right, and what is joyful about public serv-

ice. When I left, it was no longer obvious to me that serving in government, with a Congress committed to oversight by investigation, was worth the high toll it exacted.

And the greatness of that injustice, is not in its harm to me. I am but one person. Rather, it is the damage that it does to the ideals of all the young people who decide never to serve. The young people who decide that no one should have to love their country enough, to have their integrity, their service and their commitment to doing the best they can, impugned by some who sit in this body. The young people who decide that their desire to serve their country and a President, is not outweighed by the risks to their reputation, their livelihood and their family. The young people who decide that too many who toil in this body have forgotten that their exalted positions are but loaned to them by the young—on the understanding that they will seek what is best for our country, not what is least.

I left because I knew that only distance and time would allow me to see again the many Members who serve honorably in Congress every day. Members who choose to work hard for their constituents on the issues that will enrich their lives. Men and women who get up each morning not thinking about how they can bring someone down, but about how they can lift us all up.

Mr. Chairman, I left because I was tired of playing a role in dramas like today, when so many issues that mattered to me that were not being addressed. You have held four days of hearings, and spent countless more dollars on depositions and document productions, but yet you have not chosen to use your oversight authority to hold one day's worth of hearings about: a man who was shot dead by an undercover New York police officer while he was getting into a cab, after refusing to buy drugs from that officer; any of the 67 cases and counting that have been overturned because officers in Los Angeles Police Department planted guns and drugs to frame people, shot an unarmed man, and quite possibly shot another man, with no criminal record, 10 times—killing him; why African American youths charged with drug offenses are 48 times more likely than white youths to be sentenced to prison.

Not to mention all the other ways in which you could spend your time making the lives of the individuals you serve better, as opposed to tearing down the staff of a President with whose vision and policies you disagree. You could choose from a myriad of issues—health care, prescription drug benefits, family medical leave, education reform, social security, judicial reform. Nothing you discover here today, will feed one person, give shelter to someone who is homeless, educate one child, provide health care for one family, or offer justice to one African American or Hispanic juvenile. You could do so much to transform our country—but instead you are compelled to use your great authority and resources to address . . . e-mails.

The energy your staff will spend poring over hearing transcripts to create a perjury referral for you to send to the Justice Department could be spent poring over the latest statistics in the Justice Department's report on the unequal treatment African American and Hispanic juveniles receive before the law. And the resources that the Justice Department will expend reviewing your allegations—causing those public servants and their families considerable pain—could instead be spent investigating why America's justice system unfortunately is still not blind.

I know I say all this at some personal peril, as my words here today will no doubt make me an even greater target of your ire.

But when I got your letter last week about attending this hearing—despite having advised you of my long scheduled commitments—a letter in which you simply dismissed my prior engagement, stating that you would not "indulge my schedule," I got tired and mad all over again.

And if I had not had the chance to attend a dinner that night in honor of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, I probably would still be mad. Because, I would not have had the chance to have my faith renewed by the example of what other men with your power have chosen to do throughout history to enhance the lives of others. I would not have been reminded of how Robert Kennedy's work on behalf of issues like race, and justice, and poverty, embodied the true spirit of his greatest words: "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope; and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current, which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Had I not gone to that dinner, I would not have been reminded that the smallness of any person, can never overshadow the greatness of those whose acts are bigger than life. I would not have been reminded that today, too, will pass. And, that we who love our government are strong enough, and not too weary. We can outlast a culture of investigation and intimidation and idleness on behalf of issues that can truly improve the lives of Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I believe in your humanity, and in that of those who serve on your staff. That each of you has good and bad days; make good and bad judgments, render good and bad decisions. Won't you believe in the humanity of others with whom you disagree? Won't you believe that as with your mistakes, they too can make mistakes that are not conspiratorial? That they too can make a bad judgment, without that judgment being pernicious? That they too can do their best each day and expect more than a biased shake or a perjury referral from this Committee? That they too can be human, without this body using its awesome power to exploit their humanity for political gain? Can Tony Barry, a man who has served his government since 1992, expect that?

I give my last quotation to Robert Kennedy because to me, it is particularly fitting today. He said: "The Constitution protects wisdom and ignorance, compassion and selfishness alike. But that dissent which consists simply of sporadic and dramatic acts sustained by neither continuing labor or research—that dissent which seeks to demolish while lacking both the desire and direction for rebuilding, that dissent which, contemptuously or out of laziness, casts aside the practical weapons and instruments of change and progress—that kind of dissent is merely self-indulgence. It is satisfying, perhaps, only those who make it."

I decided that smallness government cannot win. And that it will note the weapon to defeat my ideals. That it is not powerful enough to alter my belief in the good that so many Members who serve in this body do.

I decided, that in the final analysis, I am not too tired to stand up for all of those who believe, even through the drama, that public service is worth the price.

CONGRATULATING "WE THE
PEOPLE" FINALISTS

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 6–8, 2000 more than 1200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from The Governor's School for Government & International Studies from Richmond will represent the state of Virginia in this national event. Through dedication and hard work, these young scholars have earned the right to compete in the national finals where they will demonstrate their through understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The name of the students are: Loren Bushkar, Zachary Carwile, Joshua Chiancone, John Cluverius, Madeleine de Blois, Charles Dixon, Meredith Gaglio Matthew Gayle, Mathew George, Allen Hatzis, Emily Hulburt, Maryann James, Jason Karmes, Frankie Keller, Sarah Kiesler, Lindsey Lane, Kerin Lanyi, Theresa McCulla, Andi Monson, Daniel Myers, Benjamin Neale, George Nuckolls, Jonathan Phillips, Susannah Powell, John Sells, Kelly Stover, Alex Walthall, Milo Wical

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Phillip Sorrentino, who motivated his students to strive for excellence.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is designed to ensure that young people understand the history and philosophy of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government by challenging them to apply their constitutional knowledge to everyday situations. Studying these historically significant documents has undoubtedly given the students at the Governor's School in Richmond a greater appreciation for the freedoms enjoyed by the citizens of this great nation. I applaud their diligence in exploring the meaning and significance of the very documents which serve as the foundation of our government.

I also share in their goal of fostering a greater awareness and understanding of our rights and responsibilities as Americans. I am the proud holder of the seat first held by James Madison, commonly referred to as the Father of our Constitution. Inspired by both the honor of holding this seat, as well as the enthusiasm of young students as the Liberty Middle School in Ashland, Virginia, I introduced the Liberty Dollar Bill Act, H.R. 903. This legislation, if enacted, will redesign the one dollar bill to incorporate the preamble to the Constitution of the United States, a list describing the Articles of the Constitution, and a list describing the Articles of Amendment. I feel certain that passage of the Liberty Dollar Bill Act will make more Americans familiar with their constitutionally protected rights while also rekindling the patriotic spirit of our Founding Fathers.

The class from The Governor's School for Government & International Studies is currently conducting research and preparing for the upcoming national competition in Wash-

ington, D.C. I wish these budding constitutional experts the best of luck at the We the People . . . national finals!

THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL
PRIVACY ACT—H.R. 4380

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to enhance the financial privacy rights of all Americans. This legislation, the "Consumer Financial Privacy Act," implements the privacy protections that were announced by President Clinton earlier this week. I am pleased to be joined in sponsoring this legislation by Mr. DINGELL, ranking member of the Committee on Commerce, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FRANK, Mr. KANJORSKI, and many other of my House colleagues.

Individual privacy is one of the most important issues before the Congress and an issue of urgent concern for the American people. Clearly everyone should have the right to be left alone if they choose, or to be confident that their financial, medical and other personal information will not be disclosed, sold, or used without their consent.

We live in a world of electronic communications in which intimate details of every individual's financial and private life can be instantaneously transmitted anywhere around the world. This imposes a far greater responsibility on government to protect individual privacy more than ever before. And it is a responsibility that I believe government must fully exercise.

Last year the House enacted significant financial privacy protections as part of broader financial modernization legislation. While these privacy proposals were given little chance for passage a year earlier when I first introduced them, they were adopted by the House with an overwhelming 427-to-1 vote. These financial privacy protections were significant, going well beyond the limited protections in existing law for financial transactions, and well beyond the protections available for most other consumer transactions.

But we never intended last year's legislation to be the ultimate solution on financial privacy, it was only a first step. While it provided important notice and opt-out protections to prevent the selling or sharing of private information among unaffiliated companies, it failed to extend the same protection for information shared between a financial institution and its affiliates. While it prohibited the selling of credit card and account information for marketing, it did not provide a higher level of protection for other sensitive information such as medical or health records or information about payments and transactions. Democrats were united in attempting to add these additional protections to the legislation on the House floor and again in conference. Unfortunately, we were not successful.

The legislation outlined by President Clinton on April 30, 2000, which we are introducing today, completes the promise of that previous effort, and takes another gigantic step toward achieving an absolute right of financial privacy for all Americans. It extends the principles of notice and opt-out for all information shared

between a financial institution and all affiliated companies. It provides a higher level of protection, an "opt in" requirement, for sensitive medical and health-related information that could affect financial decisions, as well as for individualized information describing spending habits or transactions.

The bill creates new rights for consumers to find out what information is being collected about them by their financial institution and to correct or delete inaccurate or outdated information. It requires timely disclosure of an institution's privacy policies to permit consumers to comparison shop among financial service providers that offer the best protections. And it makes these private protections fully enforceable by augmenting the enforcement authority of the Federal Trade Commission and by permitting State Attorneys General to bring legal actions on behalf of state residents to prevent violations.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is balanced and reasonable legislation that is the product of months of careful consideration. It is legislation that the American people clearly want and deserve. I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who believe that every American has a right to their personal privacy to join with me in supporting this important and much needed legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE FREE THAI

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2000, the Director of Central Intelligence will present Agency Medallions to five members of the Free Thai Movement at the George Bush Center for Intelligence. In addition Agency Medallions will be awarded to thirty-eight Free Thai members or their survivors.

In December, 1941, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Tokyo turned its attention to Southeast Asia. After a token resistance, Thailand's leader, Field Marshal Phibun Songkhram, signed an alliance with Japan which sanctioned a Japanese military presence throughout the country. In January, 1942, under pressure from Japan, Bangkok sent a diplomatic note to the Thai minister in Washington, M.R. Seni Pramoj, directing him formally to declare war on the United States.

Instead, Seni pocketed Bangkok's diplomatic instructions and launched a bold plan to aid the Allies in the liberation of Thailand. Under his guiding hand, and the leadership of General William Donovan's fledgling intelligence and clandestine warfare organization (the Organization of Strategic Services—OSS) the Free Thai movement was born. Seni brought young Thai student volunteers from universities across the United States together into a "Free Thai" command which was to serve under Donovan's OSS.

The Free Thai were among Thailand's best and brightest. They risked their lives in abandoning scholars' robes at Cornell, Caltech and MIT in favor of jungle fatigues and rifles. Trained by the OSS, they were dispatched into Thailand by submarine, seaplane and air-drop. Some walked overland from China to make contact with a nascent resistance and prepare the way for Thailand's liberation. The

first volunteers dispatched were captured or killed, but on October 5, 1944, the OSS Detachment in Szemao, China, received a radio message from Free Thai agents who had successfully made contact with the resistance. For the remainder of the war, intelligence flowed out of Bangkok. The Free Thai volunteers, working hand-in-hand with the OSS, provided accurate information on Japanese military deployments, rescued captured Allied soldiers, and prepared the ground for the eventual Japanese surrender. We would like to recognize and commemorate their bravery.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSUMER
FINANCIAL PRIVACY ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) and others to introduce the Clinton-Gore financial privacy proposal.

The American public wants stronger privacy protections. The public wants, at minimum, the right to block a financial institution from transferring information it has gathered about them to both affiliates and third parties—an across-the-board “opt out.” And they want a stronger level of protection for medical information and information about personal spending habits—an “opt-in.” The legislation we are introducing today would provide these protections.

As Chairman of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Privacy Caucus, I can also say that there are many Republican members in both the House and Senate who are willing to work with Democrats to enact the type of strong financial privacy protections that are contained in the President's bill. I look forward to working with them towards that end.

But the real question is: will the House and Senate Republican leadership continue to stand with the big banks, brokerage houses, and insurance companies in opposing meaningful privacy protections, or will they allow a debate out on the floor of the House and the Senate on the President's proposal to give the people some measure of control over who gets access to the most sensitive details of their personal lives? I hope that we can have early hearings and action on this bill, so that we can close down the gaps left in last year's banking bill—as the President pledged last year.

Here's what our bill would do:

First, with respect to affiliate sharing under last year's banking bill, consumers have no right to block a financial institution from transferring nonpublic personal information about them to an affiliate. The bill we are introducing today would change that by giving consumers an “opt out” right for both affiliates and non-affiliated third parties.

Second, under last year's banking bill, consumers were given the right to “opt out” of having a financial institution transfer their personal information to nonaffiliated third parties. However, there was a giant loophole in this provision that allowed financial institutions to transfer such information with no consumer “opt out” if they were transferring it to another

financial institution with whom they had a joint marketing agreement. This provision was put in at the behest of small banks who argued that since the large banks were allowed to do affiliate sharing with no opt out, that they should be able to contract with insurance companies or securities firms to cross-market to the consumer with no opt out as well. Since our bill now subjects affiliate sharing to the “opt out” requirement, it makes sense to get rid of this loophole as well.

Third, under last year's bill, there were no protections for health care information or for especially sensitive detailed information about a consumer's spending habits. Under the President's proposal, a financial institution would have to obtain the consumers' prior consent (“opt-in”) before it could obtain, receive, evaluate or consider medical information from an affiliate or third party. An opt-in would also have to be obtained before a financial institution could transfer information about a consumer's personal spending habits (i.e., every check you've ever written and to whom, every charge on your credit or debit card and for what) or any individualized description of a consumer's interests, preferences, or other characteristics.

Fourth, last year's banking bill failed to give consumers any right whatsoever to obtain access to or to correct the nonpublic personal information that a financial institution had collected about them and was disclosing to its affiliates or to nonaffiliated parties. The President's proposal would assure that consumers would have the right to obtain such access and that a financial institution would have to correct any material inaccuracies. Institutions would be permitted to charge a reasonable fee for providing a copy of such information to the consumer.

Fifth, last year's banking bill failed to give the State Attorneys General any power to enforce compliance with the Act, in contrast to many other consumer protection statutes (i.e., the Telephone Consumer Protection Act) that provide for such concurrent enforcement. The President's proposal would make financial institutions that are subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission (i.e., anyone who is not a bank, an insurance company, or a securities firm; someone like a check cashing service), also subject to enforcement by the state attorneys general. In addition, last year's banking bill failed to specify whether a violation of a financial institution's privacy policies would be considered to be a violation of the Act. The President's proposal would make an action a violation of the Act, and would clarify that a violation of any requirement of the Act would be considered to be an unfair or deceptive trade practice.

Sixth, last year's bill required financial institutions to give a consumer a copy of their privacy policy at the time of the establishment of a customer relationship with the consumer. The President's proposal would require that financial institutions provide a copy of their privacy policies to any consumer upon request and as part of an application for a financial product or service from the institution. This will help consumers compare the privacy policies offered by various institutions.

While this bill does not go quite as far as the legislation I introduced last year, H.R. 3320 in adopting an across-the-board opt-in requirement, it is otherwise largely patterned after that proposal, including the provisions to

close the affiliate sharing and joint marketing loopholes, provide access and correction rights, and strengthen enforcement. Moreover, I believe that the Administration's proposal to adopt an across-the-board opt-out, but then establish a higher level of protection for medical information and information about personal spending habits is an equitable compromise that gets to the most sensitive information. This is a good proposal. It deserves to become law, and I urge all of my colleagues to give it their support.

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, many Americans have lost faith in our political system. Routinely, half of those eligible to vote don't. People feel our political system is at best irrelevant, and at worst shot full of corruption. Our country is better than that and deserves congressional leadership that takes responsibility for finding solutions to this problem.

Last September the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed Shays-Meehan, which would have drastically reformed the campaign finance system. It would have gotten rid of soft money and severely limited independent expenditures, but similar efforts died in the Senate due to the actions of a very small minority.

Though Shays-Meehan remains a necessary reform, a new type of political organization threatens the integrity of our electoral process. Known as “527s,” and named after the provision of the tax law under which they are created, these organizations contend they can accept unlimited funds and never disclose the names of donors, the amount of contributions, or how the money is spent. This is possible because while these groups qualify as political committees under the tax code, they are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Election Commission (FEC). These organizations have caught the eye of many observers, not the least of which is the Joint Committee on Taxation, which made note in a recent report of this disturbing trend in non-profit disclosure.

When I was running for Congress, people told me how fed up they were with “the system.” Though the term meant different things to different people, for most it was campaign finance laws that allow precisely this type of anonymous political activity. The consequences are a public cynicism and apathy that eat away at voter participation, and cause citizens to tune out discussions of very serious issues. It has turned a whole generation of young people away from politics as a means of government and social change.

Simply put, the current campaign finance law alienates voters. I am hoping new legislation I've written will not only begin to restore the public trust, but will also take congressional seats off the 527 auction block.

The Campaign Integrity Act of 2000 (H.R. 3688), cosponsored by 51 of my House colleagues—including my good friend, LLOYD DOGGETT—would require 527s to meet the disclosure and reporting requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act. This proposal

would rewrite the Internal Revenue Code's section 527 definition of "political organizations" to require public disclosure of the name, address, and other identifying information about the group; a summary of cash on hand and disbursements; an itemized list of contributors, showing name, address, occupation, employer, and amount of contribution; other receipts; and disbursements (including independent expenditures, operating expenditures, refunds, and transfers).

Violations would have stiff consequences—nothing less than loss of the organization's tax-exempt status would be at stake.

This bill will not cure the ills of the campaign finance system, but instead represents two very important and necessary goals. First of all, this act closes the 527 loophole and re-establishes in this country the principle that campaigns will be transparent and subject to scrutiny. Secondly, this bill represents a reasonable political compromise that, in the absence of more comprehensive reform, gives Congress the opportunity to make upcoming elections more open, fair, and honest.

To those who cling to "free speech" as an argument against reform: This legislation would not impose limitations on contributions to 527s, and therefore will not in any way interfere with the First Amendment. It would simply require full disclosure, forcing those who wish to exercise this type of expression to show their face, just like everyone else has to do.

It is high time Congress shine light on 527s and tell special interest groups that the American people are our special interest. For the sake of our democracy, Congress needs to end the era of anonymous attack ads. Congress can—and should—rise to meet that challenge.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LIN STORY AND
THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S
PRAYER CONGRESS

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a wonderful woman, Mrs. Lin Story, and the organization she has created and fostered over the past decade, the National Children's Prayer Congress.

Last night, I had the privilege and the honor to speak to over one hundred delegates, including children of all ages, to close this year's National Prayer Congress. I was touched by all I heard and saw last night as children from all over the country came together to celebrate their fellowship and oneness under God. These children worked very hard to write their own words to live by and I am submitting several of them today for the record.

Mrs. Lin Story and her husband, Reverend Roger Story, who are dear friends of mine, deserve to be commended for the effort they put forth to make this such a special week for these children. I am also submitting a beautiful passages that Lin wrote for this event. My congratulations go out to Lin on another successful National Children's Prayer Congress.

I submit the following passages for the RECORD:

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY RUTH BRANAM, PRAYER SERVICE AT
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Hi! My name is Ruth Branam and I am ten years old and in 5th Grade.

The day I found out I was going to Washington, D.C., I was filled with joy and excitement. The only thing I felt bad about was those who weren't chosen. Two of them were my sister, Sarah and my friend, Leilani. They ended up being two of the most helpful people along with the Lord in preparing me to go. I prayed a lot that our trip would be poured out with God's blessings and so far, God has been incredible to my team. He has provided the money and everything else we needed. My family has been so great to me about this. I can't say how much I'm thankful.

At first the only ones I really knew were Autumn and some of the grown-ups. Then I got to know everyone else. Through our preparation meetings, we have grown together as a team. We not only learned about God but also about history. We even went on a field trip to the Ronald Reagan Library, which I really enjoyed.

I have the privilege of being home schooled by my mother and every day, we take time to pray for our leaders. God has prepared me to be able to come here and share God's love with the leaders of our country. I hope I will accomplish the mission that He sent me for.

My favorite scripture is Psalm 96, verse 6, "Splendor and majesty are before Him. Strength and glory are in His sanctuary." I can't tell you how many times God has been graceful, because I lost count in the hundreds. If I could count all of them, it would go up to millions.

One of my heroes in American history would be Dr. Martin Luther King. He stood up for Christian principles and fought for his people so there would be peace between all people. We as Christians should also try to share God's love with every non-Christian and learn to be peacemakers.

Don't give up on God because He will never give up on you. He will always love you and be with you. God bless you.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY JILLIAN MCCANN, CAPITOL HILL
PRAYER BRIEFING

Hello, my name is Jillian McCann and I am 11 years old. It is a very big honor to be here in Washington, D.C.

I would like to tell you how I came to know the Lord. When I was eight years old, I started going to a Kid's Camp in San Diego, California with my school. One day, I was at a church service and heard the pastor talking about how wonderful our Lord is. So I decided to ask Him into my heart. I felt like a whole new person. The Lord has been with me in good times and helped me through the bad.

There are many leaders having to make all sorts of decisions ranging from war and health care of seniors. They need to know the Lord and ask for guidance throughout every day. Also, we need to pray for our leaders and government, and for their loved ones to give them 100 percent encouragement.

In preparing for Washington, D.C., I learned how many people work for different committees and agencies in the U.S. government. With all these people, it's impossible for us to know all the things we need to pray for. But we have a great hope in the Lord who knows each person by name. When we pray, He meets every need no matter how big.

There are some needs in America that we can pray for such as feeding the hungry chil-

dren and the organizations that help to feed the children. There are also many homeless people throughout our nation and even right here in our nation's capital. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself. We not only need to pray, but we need to love others around us.

While we are here in Washington, D.C., our greatest accomplishment would be to bring a leader's heart to God. I would like to take what I learned here and use it to impact my family, friends, and community. Thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity to share my faith and beliefs with all of you today. God bless you.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY STEVEN KNOTT, CAPITOL HILL
PRAYER BRIEFING

Hello. My name is Steven Knott and I am eleven years old. I am happy to be here in Washington, D.C. to pray for our leaders. I feel the Lord has guided me to be here.

I am blessed to live in a Christian home and attend a Christian school. My mom told me about Jesus when I was a little child. It's an unbelievable feeling that you'll never forget. Once you accept Jesus, everything will change. He will give you guidance in your life.

Right now, our country's leaders need to know the power of prayer. They need to make the right decisions to lead the country. The power of prayer is very effective. All we need to do is use it the right way. If you were a Congressman, a Senator, or a Vice President, you would need comfort or peace to make the right decisions. That's why I feel I am here, right now, to be involved in the power of prayer.

While I am here in Washington, D.C., I hope to be a good example of my Christian faith. I also want to change our nation's leaders by praying for them. I also would like to see the Washington Monument because I have always felt George Washington was a great leader and President in this country. He has always stood out to me in the way that he acted, his leadership, and his responsibility.

I have learned in my preparation meetings for Washington, D.C. that prayer can change other people's lives. I have also learned that in other countries, some people don't live as good as the life we have. Some live on the streets, some are very poor, and some are barely surviving right now.

I feel the Lord has blessed me to be here in Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, to be here in this very important event. Keep on praying. God bless you all.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY AUTUMN BRIM, DIPLOMATIC BANQUET

Good evening. My name is Autumn Brim and I am twelve years old. I am very pleased to be here in Washington, D.C. to pray for the leaders of our nation in person. I am very glad to have this opportunity to, in prayer, make a difference in our nation and a difference in our leaders.

I was born into a Christian family and since I can remember, I have always known Jesus was there and that we prayed to him and read the Bible. I began to take a step forward in my walk with Christ. One night while I was in bed, I felt peace and I know it was from God. It's much better to have peace like one I felt than be caught up in what the world does. As I'm getting older, I want more and more for God to be the center of my life. He wants to be my best friend and to help me through all my struggles. This is my testimony and I hope it may encourage you in your own Christian walk and even if you find

yourself struggling, just remember God will be there to help you. He wants to help everyone, including the leaders of our nation.

It is important to pray for everyone, but it is especially important to pray for our leaders because they make the choices that affect all of us. Our prayer is that the leaders will seek God's help and guidance. Our leaders need our prayers because they have the pressure of running this nation and may not always seek God's will. We need to pray that they will see that if they humble themselves before God, they will find guidance and the answers they need. They can have the peace and happiness of knowing they can share their burden with someone who will never betray them or hurt them. God loves the leaders and we need to pray that they will love God.

Some things we need to pray for the leaders are protection, health, and family. We need to pray that God will shelter them from destruction and shield them from harm. We also need to pray for their health. The leaders need to be strong and healthy so that they might call on God and guide our nation where it needs to go. Another thing to pray for is their families. That God would keep them happy and strong and give the leaders time to be with them and that their families would support them as much as they can.

The reason we came to Washington, DC is to show that we believe that God will make a difference in our nation. I once read a scripture in James that said that if we pray, we must believe God will answer us. I encourage you to believe that God will make a change in the leader's lives and in the lives of others you pray for. Christian leaders in the past such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln who had Christian values led our nation through some hard times successfully. As we are here in Washington, DC, I encourage you to keep praying that our leaders will answer to God, for that is why we came here; to pray and listen for God's call. Listen to God and He will lead you. Have a wonderful evening and God bless you.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY AMANDA STEVENS, "AMERICA'S
CHILDREN PRAY"

Hi! Good evening everybody. My name is Amanda Stevens and I am very happy to be here today. I am eleven years old and I was born on July 20, 1988. I love the Lord with all my heart and that is what I am here today to talk with you about. I found the Lord at nine years old at Gateway Christian School, but the school that I go to now has brought me closer and closer to God. I told the Lord that I knew that He was there and I wanted Him to be with me always. It's amazing the different ways that people come to find Him. I have learned that God knows every action, every thought, and every move I make. He has done so much for me and I am very grateful for that. I know in my heart that no matter where I go, He will always be with me.

I started attending Harbor Church Schools halfway through the school year, just four months ago, and within the first week of attending the school, I heard about this trip to Washington, DC. I was really excited but most everyone I talked to told me not to expect to be able to go because I was new and other kids would be chosen. But I applied anyway and as I was going through the process, a voice in my heart told me "You're going, so get ready!" I really believe that I have been called to this and God has something great in store.

I really hope to accomplish a lot while I'm here and that people will learn from something I've done. I would be happy if I could

just minister to someone and tell them about the Lord. I would like to show people that it doesn't matter if you're just a kid when God calls you to do something. You don't have to be an adult to go out and minister and make a difference. If you simply live a life pleasing to the Lord and shine His light wherever you go, people will listen to you and their lives will be changed. We are all part of the huge world wide family of God and hopefully, if we all work together, we can make a difference. Just as a farmer plants seed, we are all planting the seeds of salvation in everyone we meet, and then someone else will come along and water the seeds until it grows into something beautiful.

Unfortunately, some of our leaders today are not Christians and so we especially need to pray for them. But even Christians need prayer. Sometimes, we fall short and feel like we can't even pray for ourselves. We need to be there for our leaders when they feel like that.

I want to thank you for listening to me tonight. Each one in our group was given the assignment of writing a speech. However, I'm not here because I have to, I'm here because I want to and God has called me. I pray that you will hear the call that He is giving to you today also and that together, He will use us to change our nation. Thank you.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY DRAKE MUNOZ, DIPLOMATIC
BANQUET

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I am Drake Munoz and I am happy to be a part of the National Children's Prayer Network. I am here to pray for the leaders of this country.

When I was five years of age, I received the Lord. His Word became my manual for life. If you have a question, God will answer that question. He has also helped me through bad times. For example, one of my pets died and I got very sad, so I went to the Lord and He helped me with my problem. As you can see, once you accept the Lord Jesus Christ, your whole life will change. You will also want to go deeper into His Word. I believe that if you receive the Lord Jesus Christ, all of your sins that you have done will be washed away by His blood. If you do not know the Lord, I would encourage you today to accept Jesus as your personal Savior.

I think we do not only need to pray for the leaders of our country, but for other countries which have problems just like ours. We need to pray that their country would stay strong, and that they would keep their eyes on God. Tonight, our prayer focus has been on the nation of India. There are many differences between our two nations, yet we are a lot alike. Our lifestyle and our food may be different, but we also have something in common. We both have houses, but not made of the same material. Most important, they want to have a normal life just like us.

Right now, I would like to give a message to our current leaders in office. Remember that God gave you a great gift to lead a country as big as the United States of America. I believe that you should treat this responsibility carefully. Also that you would listen to God's direction to lead such a big country. If you have a question, ask God. He will direct you what decision you need to make. The President has a big job which a lot of people could not handle, so all we should be praying for him. I think we should all pray for his health and that his family would be okay. Also that he listens to God to run this country because without God no one can run this country or any other country.

I would like to thank you for your time and patience. I would like to end in a word of prayer.

Dear Jesus, I would like to thank you for such a wonderful day that you have given us. I would like to ask you Lord that you would put your hand over the current leaders of this country. We all know how hard they are working to run this country. It is a tough job that people think is easy, but they do not know what they have to do everyday. I would like to ask you to put your hands over the families of these leaders, that the job they are doing is not affecting their family time. We ask that you would give them the strength to continue to work hard. I ask that you put your hand over India, that they would be a better country, that they would keep strong in faith, and they would put their eyes on You. In your Precious Son's name, Amen.

WRITE IT ON THE GATE

(By Lin Story)

The gate is a place of entry. It's the door through which provision for the household enters. It is a gathering place and at times a place where businesses transactions occur. In Bible times it was a place where counsel was given and disputes were judged. The gate is also a place of exit. What happens at the gate makes a difference to those who are inside. As you stand at the gate of the White House, remember it is just like the gate of your own heart. What you allow to enter and what you allow to exit will make a great difference in the life you will lead. The Ten Commandments were given to us as an act of God's mercy. He knew we needed to be told and reminded of the way in which we were to relate to God and to our fellow man. In his mercy, he told us the truth. The Ten Commandments are not unreasonable laws given to hold us in bondage. Jesus came as a fulfillment of God's law. That means he gave the law a clear purpose. Because of Jesus our salvation comes through faith and repentance but our quality of life is found in obedience to God's law. If we will obey His law with grateful hearts then we will rejoice in the blessing of obedience. Today at the gate of this most important house we celebrate the gift of God's law. And we thank Him for the freedom that His law brings into our lives and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET MARTIN
COLE OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Margaret Martin Cole of Madison County, AL. Margaret is a dear friend of mine and a friend of my entire community. Today she is being awarded the Madison County Democratic Women's Division's Lifetime Achievement Award. Today's recognition sheds light on the years of good deeds Margaret has accomplished.

She has been a vital leader in the Madison County Democratic Women since she helped form the group in 1961. She has seen it all and has led the women in several capacities. In the past 39 years, she has promoted good citizenship by encouraging Alabamians to exercise their right to vote. She has done everything from serving as a poll worker to organizing Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign for Madison County. Presently, she serves as the Chair of the John F. Kennedy Scholarship Committee.

Margaret's commitment to her community is not limited to the political arena. As founder of the Gothic Guild, she has served as their President and on their Board of Directors. She has also contributed her time and manifold talents to the Historic Huntsville Foundation, the Huntsville Press Club and Trinity United Methodist Church.

I believe this is a fitting honor for one who has given so much to the betterment of our community and our nation. I commend Margaret for her lifetime of achievement and I want to express my sincere gratitude for her bold work for the Democratic party and the patriotic ideals she believes in.

A TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER
SYLVESTER MICHAEL SIKON

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to one of our unsung heroes, Petty Officer Sylvester Michael Sikon. On February 16, 1945, Petty Officer Sikon made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country during World War II—he gave his life.

On Friday, May 5, 2000, a long overdue tribute will be given to this distinguished individual—a Memorial service will be held at the Arlington National Cemetery. Petty Officer Sikon will finally take his rightful place among the other heroes of this great nation.

This day would not be possible without the dedication of one person—Mr. Leo Sikon, Sylvester's cousin. Leo's tireless determination to make sure this country does not forget his cousin's sacrifice will not go unnoticed.

Leo said that a tear would come to his eye every Memorial Day because, on that day, tribute was paid to all our fallen soldiers, except his cousin. This Memorial Day, he will again shed a tear, but his tears will be for the pride he feels for a cousin who lost his life to protect freedom.

2000 NATIONAL FINALS FOR THE
WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN
AND THE CONSTITUTION
PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the outstanding achievements of a group of student scholars from my hometown high school in Findlay, Ohio.

On May 6–8, 2000 more than 1200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Findlay High School will represent the state of Ohio in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges representing various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the simulated congressional committee. The judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder described the national final as "the place to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

Findlay High is currently researching and preparing for the upcoming national competition in Washington, D.C. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People . . . national finals. It is always my pleasure meeting with these students and their instructors. Their quest for knowledge coupled with their interest in our government is to be applauded.

HONORING THE CARRAWAY
METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEMS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Carraway Methodist Health Systems for their leadership and vision in providing rural health care for residents of Alabama. Today I am especially mindful of the tremendous contribution of Carraway to the high quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Winfield, Alabama. The dedication and vision begun by Doctor Ben Carraway is continued by his son Doctor Robert Carraway and the staff of the Carraway Methodist Health Care System. By investing time and money to provide health care services to Winfield beginning in 1981, Carraway has been a pillar of stability and a witness to the importance of community. Winfield Hospital, established in 1949, became Rankin Fite Memorial Hospital in 1964. Rankin Fite became part of the Carraway system in 1981 and under their leadership has enjoyed steady progress in the range of health care services available to the citizens of Winfield. The facility was renamed Winfield Carraway Hospital in 1985, and then Carraway Northwest Medical Center in 1993, and is currently serving Winfield with the help of a multi-million dollar expansion in 1998. What began as a fa-

cility of four doctors and one surgeon is now a campus of state-of-the-art care centers, including the Northwest Regional Cancer Center, and employs over three hundred fifty persons, including nineteen doctors. I thank the Carraway family and their staff for recognizing the importance of providing the highest quality health care not just for those who live in large cities but for smaller communities as well.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS GEORGE SANTOS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, next week committees in Congress will continue crafting the defense authorization and appropriation bills that will fund our national security needs for another year and set policies that will determine longer-term defense priorities.

Much of the attention these bills receive will focus on weapons programs and the budgetary minutiae necessary to provide for our national defense. These issues are critically important to ensure our common defense. Our men and women in uniform need the best equipment to do their jobs.

However, we must not lose sight of the personal risks and sacrifices the men and women behind this equipment face every day. The technical advances present in today's military have done much to reduce these risks, but Americans still put their lives on the line every day around the world. These brave individuals choose to serve our country for many reasons, but all share the risk and sacrifice this service brings.

Recently, the district I represent lost a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. Private First Class George Santos was one of 19 Marines who were killed on April 8th in an accident on a routine training mission in Arizona.

Private Santos dreamed of becoming a Long Beach police officer, but first joined the Marines because it represented both a challenge and an adventure. Santos and 18 other Marines died when their Osprey aircraft crashed near Yuma, Arizona. At age 19, George Santos gave his life in service to our country. We will remember and honor that sacrifice.

Each year is filled with memorials of battles recent and not so recent. We tend to focus on particular numbers, such as the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon or the 50th anniversary of our victory in the Second World War. Apart from these memorials are the private ones shared by families across this land who remember children, siblings, grandparents, or friends lost in service for every one of us. As we reflect on these heroic individuals, we must remind ourselves that freedom comes with a cost. But we can take solace in knowing that people like George Santos defend our freedom every day. All of us owe a great debt of gratitude to the brave members of our armed forces who purchase our peace of mind with their sacrifice.

LEGENDARY DRUG FIGHTING
GENERAL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Los Angeles Times in a front page story of Wednesday May 3, 2000 profiled the legendary drug fighting General, and our good friend General Rosso Jose Serrano of the Colombian National Police (CNP), America's long, courageous ally in our war on drugs.

The LA Times informative article outlines General Serrano's fight against the drug cartels in Colombia and how he brought down both the powerful and violent Cali and Medellin drug cartels in his nation and fought successfully to rid the CNP of corruption, and develop a record of respect for human right at the same time. General Serrano is a worldwide legend in the fight against illicit drugs in Colombia, a leading drug producing nation in the world today.

Most recently through two successful Operation Millenniums with our own DEA, General Serrano has continued the struggle of bringing the drug kingpins to justice and helping stem the flow of illicit drugs into our nation. On the eradication front with 6 new high performance Black Hawk utility helicopters to help eradicate opium poppy in the high Andes of Colombia the CNP under General Serrano's courageous leadership is making great strides in eliminating the source of the heroin flooding our nation. Since the first of the year the CNP with this new capacity have eradicated more than 3000 hectares of opium, source for more than 2½ tons of heroin that could have entered our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Los Angeles Times article be printed here in its entirety so that my colleagues and our fellow Americans could learn more about the accomplishments of a cop's cop and America's good friend and ally.

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 3, 2000]

TO COLOMBIANS, HE IS THE WAR ON DRUGS

(By Juanita Darling)

GUAYMARAL AIR BASE, Colombia—Dressed in a pale blue sport coat instead of his usual olive green uniform, Gen. Rosso Jose Serrano, Colombia's top police officer, stepped out of his helicopter a few yards from the hangar where three U.S.—donated Black Hawks were undergoing the manufacturer's final inspection.

They were the last of six helicopters promised in 1998, when the Colombian National Police became the first law enforcement agency in the world to fly the military helicopters. Serrano was here to thank the U.S. congressional aides who had delivered them.

He was especially grateful because, as the helicopters were flying here, two more Black Hawks were pledged to police as part of a \$1.3-billion aid package before Congress to help fight drugs in Colombia.

For the general's congressional supporters, as for many people in the United States and Colombia, Serrano and the police are this nation's fight against drugs.

Here, polls consistently rank the gray-haired general as the nation's most popular public figure. Serrano kept U.S. anti-drug money flowing in ever greater quantities even after Colombia's previous president had his U.S. visa revoked because of suspected

ties to narcotics traffickers, and even while a horrendous human rights record prevented the army from receiving aid.

At a time when U.S. officials trusted no one else in Colombia, Serrano collaborated with the Drug Enforcement Administration to break up the Cali cartel, then the world's most powerful cocaine syndicate.

But now, thanks in part to the effectiveness of the police, the nature of the drug war in Colombia is changing. The fight has spread from the cities to the countryside. The big cartels have atomized into smaller, more flexible networks that are believed to be run largely from Mexico and Miami.

The success of eradication programs in Bolivia and Peru has forced traffickers to move production of coca—the plant used to make cocaine—into the Colombian jungles. That brings the traffickers into partnerships with the brutal, heavily armed leftist rebels and right-wing counterinsurgents who have been fighting the Colombian government and each other for 36 years.

Police, even with Black Hawks, do not have the equipment or training to fight a drug war that is blurring into a guerrilla war. The proposed U.S. aid package, which emphasizes military hardware for the armed forces, reflects those changes, as well as U.S. confidence in Colombia's current president, Andres Pastrana.

Serrano and the police are no longer the only representatives of their country's fight against drugs. At age 57, the general must guide the police into a new role of cooperation with the armed forces and explain that role to his supporters on Capitol Hill, who fear that he is being discarded.

"Now we have to operate more on an international level, to share more information and teach others from our experience," Serrano said during an interview on his way to the airport and an anti-narcotics seminar in Argentina. In the same week, he had already met with the congressional aides, visited a remote village where guerrillas had killed 21 police officers, attended their funerals and cut the chains of a young kidnapping victim after police rescued her.

Serrano's ability to anticipate change and respond has allowed him to survive four defense ministers and two presidents during his more than five years as police director. That's impressive for a kid from the little town of Velez who admits that he joined the police at age 17 because he liked the uniform.

"Serrano is more than a great policeman," said Myles Frechette, former U.S. ambassador to Colombia. "He also has a natural political instinct and he is patriotic."

Serrano has demonstrated those qualities by walking a tightrope held on one end by his friends in the U.S. government and on the other by sometimes jealous Colombian politicians. The only safety net is his tremendous popularity.

In his 1999 autobiography, "Checkmate," Serrano writes that he has no idea why former President Ernesto Samper chose him for director in 1994, skipping over half a dozen more senior officers. He was not Samper's first choice, or even his second, according to sources close to the decision-making.

However, those sources said, U.S. officials made it clear that anti-narcotics aid hinged on Serrano's heading the police. Convinced that Samper's 1994 presidential campaign had accepted \$6 million from drug traffickers, the Americans dealt directly with Serrano, ignoring the president and even revoking his U.S. visa.

Their anger with Samper overshadowed what Serrano said is the police chief's greatest triumph: a two-year effort, ended in 1996, to capture leaders of the Cali cartel. Even

then, the United States refused to certify Colombia as a fully cooperative partner in the war against drugs.

Nevertheless, anti-narcotics aid to Colombia—mainly for the police—kept growing, from \$85.6 million in 1997 to \$289 million last year. And Serrano's popularity grew with it.

When he visited an army base in Tolima last year with the military high command, soldiers politely stepped past the defense minister and armed forces commander to shake hands with the top cop. After lunch, the kitchen staff shyly emerged to ask Serrano to pose for a picture with them.

"It is difficult to provide him with security because people rush toward him to touch him, to take a picture of him," said Capt. Herman Bustamante, his chief of security and the son of his close friend Herman Bustamante.

Serrano's approval ratings come in close to 94% in most recent surveys—which paradoxically, also show that Colombians' biggest worry is safety in a country that averages eight kidnappings a day.

"Everybody loves Gen. Serrano, but nobody loves the police," said Maria Victoria Llorente, a crime researcher at the prestigious Los Andes University. "It's something I cannot understand."

Her only explanation is that Colombians do not blame Serrano for the lack of public safety because common crime cannot be separated from the violence of this country's long-standing guerrilla war and drug trafficking.

Serrano said he worries about public safety: "I wish that there were no narcotics and that we could concentrate on crime."

Colombians appear to accept that reasoning and to respect Serrano's reputation in a nation crippled by corruption. "The police are riding on the coattails of his prestige," Llorente said. "It is a cult of personality."

And Serrano undeniably has a magnetic personality.

"Everyone sees him as their father," said Jorge Serrano, 23, the youngest of his three children. "He looks like a teddy bear."

He is open about his humble origins as the son of a seamstress and a meat salesman. Frechette recalled that Serrano asked him to arrange for a used firetruck to be delivered to Velez, about 100 miles north of the capital, Bogota, through a U.S. program that allows the U.S. military to transport the trucks when there is space on ships or planes.

Serrano is an avid tennis player, known for his ability to put a spin on a ball so that it drops just past the net. A well-publicized tennis game was used to hush rumors of a rift between Serrano and Pastrana last year. "The president chooses him as his doubles partner," said the younger Bustamante. "It's better to have him on your side."

The general is never more human than at the all-too-frequent funerals for officers who have died in the line of duty. Serrano visits the murder scene, often a remote village that taken with the officers to raise their spirits. He always serves as a pallbearer.

"He takes the loss of his boys seriously," said a European diplomat. Because the government provides pensions only for the widows and orphans of officers who have more than 15 years of service, Serrano's wife, Hilde, runs a private charity to benefit other families.

"He never abandons a subordinate in trouble, neither those who have been attacked in battle or those who have faced accusations," said Gen. Luis Enrique Montengro, his second in command. "People are confident that if they are loyal to him, he will be loyal to them."

The most public example of that loyalty has been Serrano's staunch defense of Maj.

Oscar Pimienta, a hero of the Cali cartel capture who was accused last May of skimming U.S. aid. American officials are still trying to work out how to conduct an audit that will not compromise police security.

When Judge Diego Coley ruled that there was enough evidence to hold Pimienta for trial, he said, he was called to Serrano's office. He surreptitiously recorded the upbraiding that Serrano gave him, accusing the judge of trying to destroy a brilliant police career and besmirch Serrano's reputation.

Coley filed a complaint with the attorney general over Serrano's conduct. When newspapers published the story, radio talk show hosts immediately sprang to Serrano's defense. Callers to the shows disparaged Coley.

"Instead of hurting Serrano, this incident has increased his popularity," Coley said. "People think, 'Yes, the general should put that judge in his place.'"

Coley, who was transferred a few days after the ruling, has become disillusioned. "I met him when he was a colonel and he was friendly. Now he is arrogant—all he cares about is his image."

Serrano does not discuss the incident, but his supporters say he has good reason to suspect attempts to undermine his reputation. In the midst of their operations against the Cali cartel, Montenegro recalled, intelligence agents discovered that drug traffickers had set up bank accounts in the Cayman Islands in the names of Serrano and Montenegro in an attempt to make it appear that the police officials had taken bribes.

Further, corruption is a sensitive issue for Serrano, who has dismissed more than 6,500 officers suspected of ineffectiveness or dishonesty. The campaign began five years ago, when half the Cali force was on the drug traffickers' payroll.

"Dishonesty makes him angry," Herman Bustamante said. "He takes drastic measures when corruption is involved."

Serrano's anti-corruption campaign has made him enemies among the dismissed officers, who Bustamante said are as much a threat to the general and his family as the criminals he has captured. As a result, the Serranos must travel with escorts at all times.

All have apartments in the same building—the general's is the penthouse—with police security in the lobby and a roadblock at the end of the street. They have lived this way for a more than a decade.

"Our life changed," Jorge Serrano said. "I had few friends—only those who dared to be my friends. I had to go everywhere in an armored car. With five bodyguards around all the time, a person feels inhibited."

Even so, they do not feel safe. Jorge Serrano and his family recently joined his brother and sister in exile.

"We understood that we had to make sacrifices," said the younger Serrano during an interview on his last day in Colombia. "All that he had done for the country is reflected in us. He is a dedicated person who believes that the more he sacrifices, the harder he works, the better things will turn out."

THE DANGERS IN THE CAUCASUS

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, rarely has the situation in a strategically crucial area been so tenuous and fraught with dangers as the situation in the Caucasus presently is. These dynamics are of immense importance

for the United States because the Caucasus is the gateway to "the Persian Gulf of the 21st Century"—the energy resources of the Caspian Sea Basin and Central Asia. As well, the Caucasus constitutes the natural barrier between Asia Minor and Russia—an area increasingly contested by a close ally, Turkey, and a global power, Russia. Both Turkey and Russia are reclaiming traditional spheres of influence and, in the process, reviving their historic conflict.

At the core of the brewing crisis in the Caucasus are two increasingly conflicting dynamics that are on a collision course. On the one hand, there is an intensified effort, spearheaded by the Clinton Administration, to find a negotiated political solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue in order to clear the way to an oil pipeline across the Caucasus. While no negotiated solution is in sight, the U.S. involvement has already created expectations for panaceas and economic boom among all local powers. Now that these expectations are not materializing, there is a rebounding spread of radicalism and militancy—from Armenia (where political violence is on the increase) to Azerbaijan and Georgia, where military activities reinforce the hardening of political positions. On the other hand, there looms an escalation in and beyond Chechnya. Spearheaded by Islamist forces, including terrorists from several Middle Eastern countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the new cycle of fighting is expected to spread into the entire region for geo-strategic reasons. The surge of Islamist terrorism is likely to serve as a catalyst for the eruption of the tension and acrimony building throughout the entire Caucasus.

Having just returned from a trip to Russia, including Chechnya, German BND Chief August Hanning reported to the Bundestag that the situation in the Caucasus has "escalated dangerously". Once the weather improves in the early Summer, the fighting in Chechnya will not only escalate, but also spread to the fringes of the Russian Federation and to the rest of the Caucasus. Hanning is most alarmed by these prospects because the Islamist forces in Chechnya are supported and guided by "the Afghan Taliban and globally operating terrorist bin Laden as well as by groups of Islamist mercenaries." Through these channels, Hanning found out, the Chechen forces have been provided with large quantities of modern weapons including "Stinger-type" anti-aircraft missiles. Hanning warned the Bundestag of the dire strategic and economic ramifications for the West if the Chechnya war spread to Georgia, Dagestan, Ingushetia, and the rest of the Caucasus.

Russian experts also warn that the Mujahedin and other Islamist forces in Chechnya are preparing for a major escalation and expansion in the fighting. Oleg Odnokolenko of the Moscow newspaper Segodnya is right in calling the forthcoming escalation "the start of a fundamentally new war—a fullscale third Chechen war." As was the case with the previous Chechen wars, the Islamist leadership and the local senior commanders—particularly Shamil Basayev and Khattab—consider terrorist strikes at the heart of Russia and, should the need arise, also the West their winning weapon. Their most recent preparations suggest an intent to this time go way beyond another round of Moscow bombing.

However, the declared major objective of the Chechen Islamists is the incitement of a

regional flare-up. Ali Ulukhaye, Chechnya's ambassador to Baku, recently stressed the regional context of the unfolding was against Russia. Ulukhaye stated that "Chechens will not be satisfied with the liberation of their own territory." Only a regional solution is a viable solution for the Chechen Islamist leadership. Ulukhaye explained that "the freedom of Chechens is impossible until all the Caucasian people are liberated. We will drive the occupation army up to the Don. We should liberate the territory from the Don to the Volga, from sea to sea [from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea] and up to Iran and Turkey from Russia and set up a confederative Caucasian state. If we are liberated from the empire, the Abkhazian, Ossetian and Nagornyy-Nagornyy-Karabakh conflicts will be resolved by themselves peacefully." Ulukhaye highlighted the urgent imperative to resolve the latter conflict because "Nagornyy-Karabakh always was an inalienable part of Azerbaijan." According to Ulukhaye, the Chechen Islamist leadership and its allies have already earned the right to determine the fate of all other nations and peoples in the Caucasus. "Today, Chechens carry the burden of the Caucasus Russian war on their shoulders," he noted. However, the war must be expanded to other fronts as well in order to be able to defeat Russia. "If the Caucasian peoples divide this burden equally, then it will be easy to deal with Moscow. The matter is that if, God forbid, Chechens are defeated, Georgia and Azerbaijan will be the Kremlin's next target," Ulukhaye explained. "The Caucasian peoples have no possibility of resolving their problems independently," and therefore must unite behind the Chechen Islamist leaders in order to take on Russia.

Among these crisis points, Nagorno-Karabakh is uniquely volatile because of internal pressures in Baku. The growing militancy in Azerbaijan not only closely fit Ulukhaye's message and logic, but is also driven by indigenous strategic and economic interests. To be economically viable, the anticipated oil and gas pipelines will have to cross areas currently held by the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians. Since late March, there have been strong indications that Baku is contemplating the resumption of hostilities against both Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. For example, the military elite of Azerbaijan (both on active service and recently retired) led by General Zaur Rzayev, and former Defense Minister Tacaddin Mehdiyev just met and briefed President Haidar Aliyev about the urgent imperative to resolve Nagorno-Karabakh issue by force. The delegation argued that everyday that passes increases the world's acceptance of the "Nagorno-Karabakh entity", thus reducing the likelihood that Azerbaijan will be able to recover this important region. The delegation stated that "the military are confident that it is possible to resolve the conflict and liberate the land only in a military way." Indeed, since late March, there has been a worrisome escalation in the military clashes along the Azeri-Karabakh cease-fire line. These clashes should be considered probing of the Armenian defense lines and readiness by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

This threat is most dangerous because interested third parties can flare-up the southern Caucasus on their own. Given the growing

tension, militancy and hostility, and localized eruption is bound to escalate into a wider conflagration. For example, an anti-Armenian clash instigated by any one of the numerous Chechen and foreign Mujahedin detachments currently in Azerbaijan can serve as a spark for this regional eruption. The Azerbaijani forces will be drawn into the conflagration once the Karabakhi forces attempt retaliation or active defense. The Armed Forces of Armenia and the Russian forces deployed in Armenia, will intervene to prevent the collapse of Nagorno-Karabakh. Ultimately, and herein the danger lies, such a war will serve the interests of the Chechen leadership because this war will divert Russian resources from Chechnya and Georgia, where the local Russian forces attempt to block the Chechens' supply lines, to saving the Armenians. Consequently, the Chechen forces will be able to resume their offensive operations against smaller and weaker Russian forces.

Many experts share the apprehension about the Chechen war spreading to the Armenia-Azerbaijan region. In her recent "Open Letter to the Armenian People," Baroness Cox, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, elucidated the mounting threat to Armenia. "A decade after regaining its independence, Armenia might be in such great danger that its independence and very existence may be threatened. The hope created by negotiations with Azerbaijan currently being pursued by the Armenian government is deceptive. The Islamist forces in the Caucasus are determined decisively to 'resolve' the 'problems' of Armenia and Karabakh by force. Nobody, least of all Azerbaijan and Turkey, will stand in their way." Baroness Cox rightly stressed that the situation in the Caucasus is far from having been already decided. "My aim is not to sow despair," she wrote. "On the contrary, I firmly believe that an independent Armenia and Artsakh are destined to flourish and to emerge as bulwarks of stability and prosperity in the Caucasus. However, this destiny will not be achieved, and the worst will happen, if the current political dynamics are allowed to continue." I share both the apprehension and hope expressed by Baroness Cox.

Indeed, the main challenge facing us is to prevent this scenario from materializing. Widespread hostilities have not yet begun. However, with intentions and preferences clearly declared, all sides are now posturing—trying to read the situation in order to make their fateful decisions about escalating and expanding the fighting. Therefore, it is high time to take preventive steps in order to contain and stifle the brewing crisis. The American policy toward Nagorno-Karabakh, because of the important Armenian community in the US, is looked upon by all the regional powers as a test case and a measure of the West's resolve to save what is both a cradle of Judeo-Christian civilization and a contemporary strategic asset in a crucial though most volatile region.

Ultimately, the fate of the Caucasus will be determined by the resistance, defiance, resolve and bravery of the local people. The proud ancient peoples who have retained their heritage and religion through centuries of Islamic onslaught and pressure will not surrender now. The Armenians' defense of their homes and heritage against overwhelming odds—as they have done for centuries—is indeed a cornerstone of the retention of Western presence and interests in the Caucasus.

However, the Armenians may succumb to an Islamist onslaught. Such a development will be detrimental to the US national interest in the Caucasus.

Therefore, the United States should live up to the challenge and make a concentrated effort to prevent the war in Chechnya from spreading and escalating to the point of endangering the regional stability, let alone the very existence of the Armenians. Our own vital interests are served by these undertakings. Hence, striving to retain access to the energy resources of the Caspian Sea Basin and Central Asia—the Persian Gulf of the 21st Century—the United States must both buttress the Armenians' ability to withstand the building pressure, prevail in the trials ahead, and ultimately project stability into this strategically and economically crucial region; as well as support the Russian endeavor to contain the Islamist upsurge in the Caucasus before terrorism gets out of control.

TAIWANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK 2000

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this month I join people throughout Colorado and across the nation in celebrating Pacific American Heritage Month. The Pacific American community represents an important foundation of America's future and I commend their proud celebration of heritage and community.

Taiwanese American Heritage Week—held from May 7 to May 14—celebrates the unique and diverse contributions of the more than 500,000 Taiwanese Americans in the United States. This portion of the population has made countless significant achievements in this country and their accomplishments can be found in every facet of American life. For instance, Taiwanese Americans have succeeded as successful and notable artists, Nobel Laureate scientists, researchers, human rights activists, and business leaders.

In addition to recognizing these contributions, this is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy on the island of Taiwan. Since 1987, the Taiwanese people have possessed the rights to select their own leaders, practice the religion of their choice, and express their thoughts openly and freely. Taiwan is a vibrant and democratic participant in the family of nations. The election last March of opposition leader Mr. Chen Shui-bian as the new president, and my friend Ms. Annette Lu as the new vice-president of Taiwan, should be considered the crowning achievement of this drive by the people of Taiwan toward full-fledged democracy and freedom.

While Taiwan has established a model democracy, there remain political challenges. Gaining worldwide recognition of the legitimacy of Taiwan's government is paramount. With all that Taiwanese and Taiwanese-Americans have accomplished, there can be no complete satisfaction until Taiwan's status and global contributions are respected and appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwanese American Heritage Week recognizes the long-standing friendship between the United States and Taiwan. I com-

mend the great accomplishments and contributions of the Taiwanese American community.

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on May 6–8, 2000, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, DC, to compete in this national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from West Anchorage High School from Anchorage will represent the state of Alaska in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The names of the students are Brandi Backus, Jennifer Chen, Kaithyn Clark, Karen Elano, Meghan Holtan, Marissa Johannes, Alyson Merrill, Colin Moran, Stephanie Painter, Brandon Reiley, Neeraj Satyal, Isaac Schapira, Nathan Senner, Stephanie Shanklin, Eric Sjoden, David Street, Ryan Tans, Carisa Verdola, Robby Wayerski

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Richard Goldstein, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the class.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges representing various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the simulated congressional committee. The judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder described the national finals as "the place to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of a democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with the students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

The class from West Anchorage High School is currently conducting research and preparing for the upcoming national competition in Washington, DC. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People . . . national finals and my staff

and I look forward to greeting them when they visit Capitol Hill.

KERMIT EDNEY: BROADCASTER
AND CIVIC LEADER

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I mourn the passing of a good friend and a great citizen of western North Carolina. Kermit Edney of Hendersonville, NC, passed away on Sunday, April 30, at the age of 75.

Kermit was a marvelous broadcaster. His morning program on WHKP, "The Old Good Morning Man," in Hendersonville was a perennial favorite. Four generations of Henderson County residents dressed, ate their breakfast, and drove to work listening to him. He began his career in radio broadcasting with WHKP in 1946 and through hard work he eventually purchased the station. Kermit also built and operated WWIT Radio in Canton and WKIT in Greenville, SC. He served on the board of the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters and the board of the Protestant Radio and Television Commission based in Atlanta. Kermit's diligence and dedication to broadcasting was recognized in 1996 as he was named to North Carolina Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Broadcasting was Kermit's career, but his passion was community service. The list of community and nonprofit organizations that he served is almost endless. He served as chairman of the Western North Carolina Planning Commission and the Upper French Broad Economic Development Commission as well as the board of the Governor's Western Residence in Asheville. Kermit also was a member of the board of the YMCA and the president of the board of the Pardee Hospital for 12 years. As the president of the Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association, he was instrumental in leading the effort to revitalize downtown Hendersonville. North Carolina Governor Jim Martin had the wisdom to appoint Kermit to serve on the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

Kermit's devotion to charity in Hendersonville is an example for all; he founded the local chapter of the United Way and the Community Foundation. His dedication to excellence in education is unparalleled. He served on the boards of Brevard College and UNCA and pushed for UNCA to be included in the North Carolina System.

I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in remembering this great man and the dedication that he had in making Hendersonville and western North Carolina a much better place.

RECOGNIZING LEO J. KIMMEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Leo J. Kimmel on the occasion of his being the honoree at the 22nd Anniversary

Dinner of the Young Israel of Avenue J, in Brooklyn, New York.

Mr. Kimmel has been a distinguished member of our community for many years, and has served us in a variety of capacities. Mr. Kimmel is the founder of the Court Street Synagogue which has provided an opportunity for the Jewish community in downtown Brooklyn a place to both pray and fulfill their religious duties with a convenience never before possible. This synagogue has provided unity for downtown Jewish professionals, from which Mr. Kimmel has proven time and time again his ability as an unparalleled civic leader for this community.

Mr. Kimmel is a practicing attorney in downtown Brooklyn, who has dedicated his pro bono legal expertise for such worthy organizations as the Council of Jewish Organizations and the American Arbitration Committee. Mr. Kimmel has contributed endless hours of community service through his membership on the boards of both the United Lubavich Yeshivah, and the Young Israel of Avenue J. Mr. Kimmel is also an active member of Community Board 14.

I wish to recognize the lifelong efforts of Mr. Leo J. Kimmel, and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDIKIDS
HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2000

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join today with my colleagues Representatives CHARLIE RANGEL, GEORGE MILLER, JIM MCDERMOTT, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, BARNEY FRANK, JOHN CONYERS, and CARRIE MEEK to introduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2000. Senator ROCKEFELLER is introducing a companion bill in the Senate. Our legislation has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics; the National Association of Community Health Centers; and NETWORK: a Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

Children are the least expensive segment of our population to insure, they are the least able to have any control over whether or not they have health insurance, and maintaining their health is integral to their educational success and their futures in our society. Even though we all recognize those facts, we still have over 11 million uninsured children in this country.

Despite our success in reaching out to low-income children through Medicaid expansions and the passage of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a study released last week showed that the percent of children in low-income families without health insurance has not changed in recent years. The most recent available census figures confirm that the number of children without health insurance continues to creep slightly upward.

In addition, increasing health insurance costs are causing many small businesses to drop coverage altogether or are increasing the employee contribution to the point of being unaffordable for many working parents.

Our society continues to become increasingly mobile, with parents frequently changing jobs and moving between states. Families

working their way out of welfare fluctuate between eligibility and ineligibility for means-tested assistance programs. Even with perfect enrollment in S-CHIP and Medicaid, our children are not going to have the consistent and regular access to health care which they need to grow up healthy.

That is why we are introducing the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2000. This bill would automatically enroll every child at birth into a new, comprehensive federal safety net health insurance program beginning in 2002. The benefits would be tailored to the needs of children and would be similar to those currently available to children under Medicaid. A small monthly premium would be collected from parents at tax filing, with discounts to low-income families phasing out at 300 percent of poverty. The children would remain enrolled in MediKids throughout childhood. When they are covered by another health insurance program, their parents would be exempt from the premium. The key to our program is that whenever other sources of health insurance fail, MediKids would stand ready to cover the health needs of our next generation. By the year 2000, every child in America would be able to grow up with consistent, continuous health insurance coverage.

Like Medicare, MediKids would be independently financed, would cover benefits tailored to the needs of its target population, and would have the goal of achieving nearly 100 percent health insurance coverage for the children of this country—just as Medicare has done for our nation's seniors and disabled population. It's time we make this investment in the future of America by guaranteeing to all children the health coverage they need to make a healthy start in life.

The MediKids Health Insurance Act would offer guaranteed, automatic health coverage for every child with the simplest of enrollment procedures and no challenging outreach, paperwork, or re-determination hoops to jump through. It would be able to follow children across state lines, or tide them over in a new location until their parents can enroll them in a new insurance program. Between jobs or during family crises such as divorce or the death of a parent, it would offer extra security and ensure continuous health coverage to the nation's children. During that critical period when a family is just climbing out of poverty and out of the eligibility range for means-tested assistance programs, it would provide an extra boost with health insurance for the children until the parents can move into jobs that provide reliable health insurance coverage. And every child would automatically be enrolled upon birth, along with the issuance of the birth certificate or immigration card.

As we all know, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Providing health care coverage to children impacts much more than their health—it impacts their ability to learn, their ability to thrive, and their ability to become productive members of society. I look forward to working with my colleagues and supporting organizations for the passage of the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2000 to guarantee every child in America the health coverage they need to grow up healthy.

A summary of the legislation follows.

DETAILS OF THE MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE
ACT OF 2000

ENROLLMENT

Automatic enrollment into MediKids at birth for every child born after 12/31/2001.

At the time of enrollment, materials describing the coverage and a MediKids health insurance card be issued to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Once enrolled, children will remain enrolled in MediKids until they reach the age of 23.

During periods of equivalent coverage by other sources, whether private insurance, or government programs such as medicaid of SCHIP, there will be no premium charged for MediKids.

During any lapse in other insurance coverage, MediKids will automatically cover the children's health insurance needs (and premium will be owed for those months).

BENEFITS

Based on Medicare and the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children.

Prescription drug benefit.

The Secretary of HHS shall further develop age-appropriate benefits as needed as the program matures, and as funding support allows.

The Secretary shall include provisions for annual reviews and updates to the benefits, with input from the pediatric community.

PREMIUMS

Parents will be responsible for a small premium, one-fourth of the annual average cost per child, to be collected at income tax filing.

Parents will be exempt from the premium if their children are covered by comparable alternate health insurance. That coverage can be either private insurance or enrollment in other federal programs.

Families up to 150% of poverty will owe no premium. Families between 150% and 300% of poverty will receive a graduated discount in the premium. Each family's obligation will be capped at 5% of total income.

COST—SHARING (CO-PAYS, DEDUCTIBLES)

No cost-sharing for preventive and well child care.

No obligations up to 150% of poverty.

From 150% to 300% of poverty, a graduated refundable credit for cost-sharing expenses.

FINANCING

During the first few years, costs can be fully covered by tobacco settlement monies, budget surplus, or other funds as agreed upon.

During this time, the Secretary of Treasury has time to develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the number of enrollees grows in the out-years.

MISCELLANEOUS

To the extent that the states save money from the enrollment of children into MediKids, they will be required to maintain those funding levels in other programs and services directed at the Medicaid population, which can include expanding eligibility for such services.

At the issuance of legal immigration papers for a child born after 12/31/01, that child

will be automatically enrolled in the MediKids health insurance program.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND THE CENTURY COUNCIL FOR THEIR WORK ON ALCOHOL 101

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Century Council for their dedication to the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking. The Century Council, in conjunction with the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, created Alcohol 101, an interactive CD-ROM program, which debuted on more than 1000 college campuses during the 1998–1999 school year.

This virtual reality program is geared towards college age students and hopes to prevent and reduce the harm caused by abusive drinking habits. Students at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, under the guidance of Professor Janet Reis, assisted in the development of this program by participating in focus groups and extensive surveys.

Thanks to the input of these students, thousands of college students across the country will be able to witness the negative consequences of abusive drinking. As a result, the students will be better prepared when confronting these situations in their daily lives.

Alcohol 101 has received high recognition from many health, education and communications competitions. Most recently, the program received the prestigious FREDDIE award in the area of Health and Medical Film Competition.

Mr. Speaker, this program is a great asset to universities across the country and I offer my sincerest congratulations to the Century Council and the University of Illinois.

HONORING BERNARD HARRIS, JR., M.D., M.B.A.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Dr. Bernard Harris, Jr., who on May 5, 2000 will receive the 2000 Horatio Alger Award.

Throughout his life Dr. Harris has shown that the simple principles of hard work, integrity, and perseverance can transform a young

person's dreams into reality. When he was a child growing up on the Navajo nation reservation near Temple, Texas, Dr. Harris dreamed of becoming an astronaut. As Dr. Harris himself once said, "Dreams are simply the reality of the future."

That can-do spirit propelled Dr. Harris to become the first African-American to walk in space when *Discovery* hooked up with Russia's space station Mir. During the mission in 1995, as a NASA Payload Commander, he used his expertise to evaluate spacesuit improvements and space station assembly techniques.

In the years following his historic spacewalks, Dr. Harris has made it a point to encourage and inspire young people to reach for the stars. The foundation for his success, Dr. Harris always maintains, is education. I have had the opportunity to visit a school in my District with Dr. Harris as he explained flying the Shuttle, walking in space, and his determination to succeed. He is truly an inspiration to us all, but particularly to the children he addresses.

Dr. Harris worked hard in high school, then attended the University of Houston, earning his tuition by working as a research assistant. With a degree in biology, Harris went on to earn a doctorate in medicine from Texas Tech University's School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic and then a fellowship at the NASA Ames Research Center. He joined NASA as a clinical scientist and flight surgeon.

Dr. Harris was accepted to train as an astronaut for the space program. His first space mission was in 1993 aboard space shuttle *Columbia*. On that flight Dr. Harris carried into space the first Navajo item, a flag blessed by a Navajo medicine man. Dr. Harris left the space program in 1996, and continued his passion for higher learning and achievement. He earned two master's degrees in biomedical science and business administration, and now is vice president for Science and Health Services, SPACEHAB Inc. of Houston.

A true role model, Dr. Harris continues to take part in activities in Houston that positively impact children's lives. He has spoken to several school groups through Urban League and Black History Month activities. His message of inspiration is that "you can do and be anything." Dr. Harris is certainly living proof of that.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fitting that Dr. Harris has been chosen as a Horatio Alger Award winner. As an excellent role model for young people, he embodies the criteria of a modern-day hero who has shown that the American Dream is alive and achievable for those willing to work for it.