

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS' GROUPS WHO HAVE VOICED THEIR OPPOSITION TO PNTR FOR CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the veterans' groups which have courageously voiced their opposition to granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China.

These organizations represent over 5.1 million members, who have fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. They have the national security of the United States at heart. I want to enter into the RECORD their letters, which explain why granting PNTR to China could ultimately place American men and women in uniform in harm's way.

CHINA TRADE OPPOSED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION

INDIANAPOLIS (Wednesday, May 10, 2000).—Taking into account nuclear espionage charges, human rights abuses, saber rattling against Taiwan, and influence-peddling indictments, the 2.8-million member American Legion today demanded the U.S. government withhold Permanent Normalized Trade Relations with the People's Republic of China and oppose its entry into the World Trade Organization.

The American Legion's board of directors, during its annual spring meeting here, recommended Congress and the Clinton administration force China to meet four preconditions both for entry into the WTO and for ending the annual congressional review of its trade status:

Recognition of Taiwan's right to self-determination;

Full cooperation on the accounting of American servicemen missing from the Korean War and the Cold War;

Abandonment of policies aimed at military dominance in Asia; and

Encouragement and promotion of human rights and religious freedom among the Chinese people.

"China should embrace democratic values before it benefits from unfettered American investment," American Legion National Commander Al Lance said. "The American Legion sets forth the prerequisites for peace and stability, without which Communist China will become economically and militarily more formidable even as it embarks on policies pursuant to regional instability. A something-for-nothing trade arrangement with China—one that severs trade from national security and human rights—threatens stability, rewards antagonism, and strengthens a potential foe of American sons and daughters in the U.S. armed forces."

Founded in 1919, The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans organization.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2000.

To: All Members of the United States House of Representatives, 106th U.S. Congress;
The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States opposes Permanent Normal

Trade Relations with China. China's policies and actions over the past several years have not demonstrated that it is ready to become a permanent-trading partner of the United States.

Passage of the China Trade Bill would end annual congressional review of China's access to U.S. markets and give it permanent trade relations with the United States. While this bill might provide certain economic benefits and advantages to some American companies, it could hurt other American industries and may cost many Americans their jobs. Permanent Normal Trade relations with the United States should be earned by China, not given away. Essentially this bill rewards China for mistreating its citizens, violating its current trade agreements, threatening its neighbors and the United States with military action, proliferating weapons of mass destruction, stealing nuclear, military and industrial secrets from the United States, increasing espionage against the U.S., and practicing religious oppression. We believe this bill sends the wrong message to China and the rest of the world.

Now is not the proper time to grant China Permanent Normal Trade Relations. The United States should maintain its current annual congressional review of China's trade status until such time as China changes its policy and demonstrates that it is ready to treat its people according to the basic human rights standards of other modern industrial nations.

A vote against Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China will send a clear message that the United States does not tolerate China's persistent human rights violations, and will not agree with its proliferation of missile technology and weapons of mass destruction, its military threats against the United States and other countries in the Pacific region including repeated threats made against Taiwan.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. SMART,
*Commander-in-Chief.*AMVETS,
Lanham, MD, May 16, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
*Member of Congress, House of Representatives,
Cannon House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: AMVETS, the nation's fourth largest veterans organization, represents more than 200,000 veterans who honorably served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and opposes Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) for China.

While the U.S. relationship with China is important, AMVETS believes that national security issues take precedence over the trade relations with foreign countries. We concur in your belief that our nation cannot afford to give leverage to the Republic of China—which exports weapons of mass destruction and missiles, maintains spy presence in the U.S. and continues to threaten Taiwan with military force.

When Congress votes in the House during the week of May 22, let it be known that AMVETS says "no" to the Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China.

Sincerely,

CHARLES L. TAYLOR,
*National Commander, 1999-2000.*FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, April 21, 2000.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, M.C.,
*House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: Please be advised that the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), representing its 151,000 members, all career and retired Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen of the United States Armed Forces, joins you and your colleagues in opposing Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) for China.

FRA shares your concern that weapons of mass destruction exported by that country can be used against U.S. military personnel, and also our Nation's citizens. Further, China already has obtained considerable knowledge of our Nation's weapons technology without normal trade relations. Should the United States open its door to normal trade relations, it is worrisome that China will discover even more of that sensitive information.

One of the most important goals of this Association is to protect its members as well as every active duty and reserve uniformed member of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. To fulfill that commitment, FRA must do all that it can to oppose any move that could possibly send those brave men and women into harms way without "rhyme or reason." With the possibility that the future will hand dark shadows over open trading with a yet unproven China, FRA is sensitive to the harm that country may inflict upon our Nation.

Loyalty, Protection, and Service.

CHARLES L. CALKINS,
*National Executive Secretary.*RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: The Reserve Officers Association ("ROA"), representing 80,000 officers in all seven Uniformed Services, is concerned about the proposal to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations ("PNTR") to China.

ROA acknowledges the importance of our relationship with China, including our growing economic ties to China. Nevertheless, ROA believes that it would be a mistake to grant PNTR to China at this time. The annual process of reviewing trade relations with China provides Congress with leverage over Chinese behavior on national security and human rights matters. Granting PNTR would deprive Congress of the opportunity to influence China to improve its human rights record and behave as a more responsible actor on the national security stage.

Just within the past few weeks, China has made military threats against Taiwan and threatened military action against the United States if we defend Taiwan. Just four years ago, China fired several live missiles in the Taiwan Strait, necessitating a deployment of two American carrier battle groups to the area.

A report issued last month by the CIA and FBI indicates that Beijing has increased its military spying against the United States.

• 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.

Less than a year ago, the Cox Committee reported that China stole classified information regarding advanced American thermo-nuclear weapons.

Additionally, Beijing has exported weapons of mass destruction to Iran and north Korea, in violation of treaty commitments. Finally, China's record of human rights abuses is well documented.

A recent Harris Poll revealed that fully 79% of the American people oppose giving China permanent access to U.S. markets until China meets human rights and labor standards. On this issue, Congress should respect the wisdom of the American people. Now is not the time to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations to China.

Sincerely,

JAYSON L. SPIEGE,
Executive Director.

NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, May 9, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: The Naval Reserve Association and the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association work together as affiliates to represent 37,000 officers and enlisted members from the Naval Reserve services. They are representative of the 89,000 Selected Reservists, the 4,500 non-pay Drilling Reservists (VTU), and the 91,000 Individual Ready Reservists (IRR), as well as the Retired Reserve community.

As a resource to the U.S. Military, our membership is concerned with our relationship with China. Decisions made today will be affecting the political-military balance in the Pacific for the next 50 years. The Peoples Republic of China may well be a rival.

Building its economy on the backs of its People, China is also willing to risk world stability. To generate hard currency, the PRC is selling weapons systems to Third World nations, including many considered rogue states in nature.

China is aggressively building its military. The PRC's ambitions include reunification by force with Taiwan, and territorial claim over the energy resources in the international waters of the South China Sea.

The process of reviewing trade relations with China each year is an opportunity for Congress to influence the behavior of China on matters of national security and human rights.

China is the largest of four surviving Communist governments in the world today. Human Rights of its citizens continue to be violated. Evidence exists of Chinese espionage within the U.S. Government and Industry. The PCR has effected political influence to manipulate U.S. policy. An annual trade review provides an element of counter balance.

Trade between nations helps maintain diplomatic dialogue and exposes a country's citizenry to outside ideas as well as products. Commerce with China is growing in importance for a number of U.S. Corporations. As a nation, we should continue to expand the marketplace, but not *carte blanche*. Now is not the time to offer Permanent Normal Trade Relationships (PNTR) for China.

MARSHALL HANSON,
Director of Legislation.
DENNIS F. PIERMAN,
Executive Director.

MILITARY ORDER OF
THE PURPLE HEART,
May 15, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), representing the patriotic interests of its 30,000 members and the 600,000 living recipients of the Purple Heart, is seriously concerned with the Administration's proposal to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status to the Peoples Republic of China.

The MOPH is familiar with the current series of U.S. Government reports concerning China to include: the Cox Committee Report, the Rumsfeld Commission Report, the 1999 Intelligence Community Report on Arms Proliferation, and Chairman Spence's May 2000 HASC National Security Report on China. These and other similar security assessments clearly indicate that China, as an international actor, continues to behave in a manner that is threatening to international stability and U.S. national security interests.

Given the broad consensus that has formed about this issue, to include the recent Harris Poll indicating 79% of all Americans are against granting PNTR status to China, the MOPH believes it both prudent and reasonable to delay the granting of PNTR status to China at this time. Speaking as patriots and combat wounded veterans, we believe that granting PNTR status to China would relieve them from the current pressure caused by annual Congressional review of their trade status. Clearly, Congressional review has caused China to improve its dismal human rights record and to modify to some extent its proliferation of dangerous arms on the world market. Yet these modifications must be seen as the beginning not the end.

Today, China represents the most dangerous of the emerging threats to U.S. national security. Her designs on Western Pacific dominance, her extreme belligerence towards Taiwan, and her persistent espionage and theft of U.S. advanced technologies are behaviors that must be checked before any reasonable consideration of PNTR status can be undertaken.

Many of America's combat wounded veterans sacrificed life and blood to repel Chinese aggression during the Korean Conflict. Fifty years after that war China remains an unabashedly communistic regime. It is time for China to change if she wishes to be a truly welcomed participant on the world's stage. It is also time for Congress and the Administration to reflect upon the sacrifices of its combat wounded veterans and ensure that China will not once again become our enemy. In the view of the MOPH this objective must be reached before PNTR status should be granted to China.

Yours in Patriotism,
FRANK G. WICKERSHAM III,
National Legislative Director.

WARRANT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
Herndon, VA, May 9, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress, House of Representatives,
Cannon House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: On behalf of the membership of this Association I write to express support and appreciation of your actions, and that of several of your colleagues, in opposing Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China.

The USAWOA represents nearly 20,000 warrant officers of the Active Army, the Army Guard, and the Army Reserve. These highly-skilled men and women serve as helicopter

pilots, special forces team leaders, intelligence analysts, command and control computer and communications managers, armament and equipment repair technicians, and in other technical fields critical to success of the modern battlefield. Daily, many of them are in harm's way.

From our perspective, it appears that China has done little to deserve such consideration. Of more concern is the fact that China shows few of the peaceful, democratic traits evidenced by our Nation's other major trading partners. Indeed, China appears to be striving to achieve not only economic dominance of the Pacific Rim but also a significant military advantage over her neighbors, and quite possibly, the United States.

In this instance, trade and economic considerations cannot take precedence over the safety of our Nation and that of our allies and friends. Until fundamental, lasting changes take place in China, normalization of trade relations should not take place.

Respectfully,

RAYMOND A. BELL,
Executive Director.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP FOR TURKEY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, last December I sponsored a "Dear Colleague" letter to the EU term President, Martti Ahtisaari, President of Finland, in support of Turkey as a EU candidate. Twenty-six of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle joined me in sending that message to President Ahtisaari. Thankfully, Turkey became the European Union's first candidate for full membership with a predominantly Muslim population later in the month.

I strongly supported Turkey's EU membership became membership would anchor a country who's population has long aspired to be part of Europe. It would also further strengthen the Turkish-U.S. relationship, and help foster a stronger Turkish-Greek relationship.

Turkey is a secular Muslim country with a democratic tradition, whose recent presidential election underscores those ideals. Ahmet Sezer, former Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, who has devoted his career to democratic principles, the rule of law, and freedom of expression received broad parliamentary support to become Turkey's tenth President. This development was favorably received in European capitals, the European press, and within Turkey.

Turkey is one of the U.S. strongest and most reliable allies. For over fifty years Turkey and the United States have fought for shared principles through the Korean War, the Cold War, the crisis in Iraq, the Balkans, Kosovo, and elsewhere. In addition, Turkey is a major ally in combating terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism, and injustice around the world. In Kosovo, Turkey not only was instrumental in the NATO operations, but its humanitarian assistance to refugees was key to helping ease the suffering of the victims.

EU candidacy has also fueled the rapprochement between Turkey and Greece. While the respective foreign ministers had started to meet, the tragic earthquake in both

countries provided the much-needed impetus. In recent months the two countries signed a series of cooperation agreements covering areas as diverse as terrorism, the environment, tourism, cultural cooperation, investment protection, customs, and scientific and technological issues.

Recent press reports indicate that Turkish Armed Forces will take part in NATO maneuvers which will be carried out in Greek territory in May, and that last week, Greece allowed Turkish four F-16 planes to use its air space for the first time, while they were flying to Germany to attend "Elite 2000" maneuvers. These improved relations will not only benefit Greece and Turkey, but also the United States, NATO, and Europe at large.

Mr. Speaker, as a long time observer of Turkey, I continue to support that country's further western integration, and congratulate my friends in Turkey on the election of their new President.

HAYDEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
NAMED THE CENTER OF GRAVITY

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the dedication of the Hayden Historical Museum's "Center of Gravity" marker in Hayden, Indiana. On Saturday, May 20, 2000, I will attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Hayden to commemorate nearly 150 years of a phenomenon that has relocated two major transportation systems and caused other unusual events in Hayden's history.

Town historians say the first train rolled into Hardenburg (now Hayden) on July 4, 1854. Allegedly, the train crew reported that the usual amount of steam power needed to "pull out of Hardenburg" would not suffice. Similar reports continued over the years, but no apparent conclusions or solutions were identified as to what "pulled things down" in Hayden. Years later, the railroad relocated to the south side of town where this mysterious force seemed to disappear.

However, the story doesn't end there. In the 1920s, U.S. Hwy. 50 came through town on the road now running in front of the Hayden Historical Museum. Once again, motorists complained of a strange force that slowed them down, caused their engines to misfire, and made it hard to start again if they stopped. After a few years, authorities relocated the highway farther south of town than the railroad and again the problems ended.

Hayden High School teacher and coach Charles "Chuck" Hurley coined the popular phrase "the Hayden Spirit" for a similar phenomenon that seemed to "pull back" people to Hayden just as the trains and cars seemed to be "pulled down" by the infamous force. The "Center of Gravity" is not the only force that attracts people to Hayden, Indiana. Hayden is a great place to live and raise your family. The citizens of Hayden take great pride in their community and work hard to keep their churches, schools and civic organizations strong. The "Hayden Spirit" represents what is best about Hoosier small town life. I am honored the citizens of Hayden have asked me to

join them on Saturday when they mark the point from which this mysterious power emanates—the "Center of Gravity."

The Hayden Historical Museum keeps the Hayden community strong. The museum commemorates Hayden's past accomplishments and helps build its strong future. Elementary school members of Hayden's Little Hoosier Historians and middle school members of Whitcomb's Winners use the Museum every day to study the history of their town and state. The Museum library contains books, authentic letters, and a pictorial history of the town where Hayden's children can learn about the people and history of their small town of 250 people.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of Hayden in Congress. I applaud their enthusiastic commitment to education, arts, family, and community. The dedication celebration this weekend honors not only the Hayden Historical Museum's status as the "Center of Gravity," but also the illustrious past and promising future of a remarkable Indiana community.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Law Enforcement Week and to honor the men and women who serve our Nation as Law Enforcement Officers.

America's law enforcement officers are one of our most valuable resources. Almost one million individuals nationwide perform an incredibly important task as they put their lives in danger on a daily basis to protect and serve the people. As a former police officer, and the father to a former police officer, I know the inherent risk involved in the profession and salute these men and women for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that since 1993, the 12th District of Illinois has received funding for 272 new law enforcement officers under the COPS grant funding program. These additional officers have worked to increase the safety and well being of my constituents.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honor of Law Enforcement Week and our courageous law enforcement officers. These men and women deserve this praise and recognition.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF
DICK DOUGHERTY ON MAY 9TH,
2000

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a moment to recognize the 80th birthday of Dick Dougherty, a man who has spent over 50 years of his life involved in journalism in New York State. Currently, he is widely known by the people of Rochester, New York for his editorials in the Democrat and Chronicle, our hometown paper. I consider him to be a national treasure and without

the dose of sanity and humor his column provides me five days a week I would be lost.

According to his wife Pat, Dick's family was not certain about his future success after he flunked out of his first year of engineering school at Duke University. After this, he went on to serve in the military as a soldier on the European front during WWII. When he came home, his perseverance led him to complete a journalism degree at Syracuse University. On June 15, 1948 he began his 50 year career with his first journalism job at the Binghamton Press. After two years with the Binghamton paper Dick came to Rochester as a reporter for the morning Democrat and Chronicle and has remained in our city ever since. In 1975 he was assigned by the Times-Union, a Rochester afternoon paper until 1997, to report on a transcontinental bicycle trip. It was on this trip that he discovered his unique talent and love for reaching out and touching the lives of others with his words.

At the age of 56 when most people are beginning to look forward to retirement Dick began his career as a columnist by writing an editorial three times a week for the Times-Union paper. This column now runs daily in the Democrat and Chronicle as Dick continues to captivate the people of Rochester with his unique point of view and perspective on life. Personally, I love to share his columns with my friends, family, colleagues and I have been known to send them to the President.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize Dick Dougherty as a resident of my home district in Rochester, New York. I offer him my heartfelt congratulations on the celebration of his 80th birthday on May 9th, 2000 and I invite my colleagues to do the same as we acknowledge this significant and important man.

TERRACE COMMUNITY CHARTER
SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding charter school in Tampa, Florida. The reason a Member of Congress from the great state of Colorado would recognize and congratulate the Terrace Community School in Florida is because I have visited the school and heard its principal, Mr. David Lourie, speak eloquently about its successes.

On March 27, 2000, the Education Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing at TCS entitled, "Putting Performance First: Academic Accountability and School Choice in Florida." Chairman Pete Hoekstra of Michigan conducted this hearing as part of his Crossroads 2000 project, a continuation and expansion of his ground-breaking education investigation, which culminated in the Education at a Crossroads report. As a member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee and a passionate education reform advocate, I have attended several Crossroads hearings to find out what is working and what isn't in education across the country.

The latest installment of this important examination of American education took us to Florida, where we heard about the exciting efforts to raise the academic achievement for all

students, implement school choice, increase school accountability, empower parents and improve the Florida education system. At the forefront of education reform in Florida are the state's charter schools. Specifically, the Terrance Community School (TCS) is an outstanding example of what education can, and should, be.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you a few facts about TCS and its successes. First, TCS bills itself as a "public school of choice." To some, that may be a contradiction in terms, to others, a threat, but to me, it represents the first step toward a free-market education system whereby parents can choose the best school for their child. TCS will only remain a "public school of choice" if it remains free of federal government intrusion and regulation, and if it satisfies its customers—parents and students.

To date, these two criteria are being met. In terms of freedom to educate, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Lt. Governor Frank Brogan have been national leaders in liberating education from the shackles of government regulation. In addition, Members of Congress like Chairman HOEKSTRA and me have worked tirelessly to ensure charter schools remain free from the tangled web of federal government involvement. And, TCS is clearly meeting the needs of its customers. According to its 1998–1999 annual shareholder report, or education prospectus, of the 118 students who completed the 1998–1999 school year, 112 have re-enrolled for 1999–2000, a return rate of 95 percent. This is an unequivocal demonstration of value. Further, when surveyed by TCS, the parents clearly endorsed the education taking place there. Ninety-five percent of parents are very satisfied with their child's experience at TCS, while ninety-three percent felt the teachers and administration are fulfilling the mission of the school.

Second, the mission of TCS is crucial to its success. The very first objective of TCS is to provide a foundation of knowledge which will allow students to have successful academic careers. Elaborating on that point, TCS states, "We believe that all children can learn and that children will rise to the high expectations of their parents and teachers." And what does TCS teach? "We offer the students the opportunity to be challenged by a rigorous, classic core curriculum taught in a planned progression by teachers who stress abundant practice and careful feedback." Finally, recognizing that education involves more than just books, the TCS "founders believe that, in addition to a strong academic program, a school should help guide each child to develop his or her character." This is clearly a blueprint and commitment to effective, excellent education.

Third, I am pleased to report TCS has been successful in meeting its stated goals. For example, the class of 2002 raised their median national percentile on CTB/McGraw-Hill's "Terra Nova Multiple Assessments Test" in every category tested—reading, language, math, science and social studies. In math, TCS students jumped a remarkable 13 percentage points. The class of 2001 also achieved exceptional results on Terra Nova, showing gains in all subject areas, and an 11 point increase in science. Finally, the class of 2000 demonstrated growth in all but one subject area, and improved its overall Terra Nova score by 10 percentage points. On another measure of student performance, the math

FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test), TCS fifth-graders outperformed a majority of their peers in the county and across the state.

Charter schools must prove they are fulfilling their educational goals and that their students are, in fact, learning. They must do so, first and foremost, to meet their responsibility to educate children, to satisfy the terms of their charters, and to keep their customers, the parents, satisfied and willing to reinvest their most precious resource, their children, in the school. There can be no question TCS is achieving its goals and meeting its customers' needs.

As catalysts for positive change in children's learning, parents' options, school system quality and state reform efforts, charter schools are the vanguard. As exemplified by the Terrance Community School in Tampa, Florida, or the Liberty Common School in Fort Collins, Colorado, charter schools provide a desperately needed alternative to the failing government-owned monopoly schools. However, we must guard against overzealousness at the federal level. Charter schools have been successful because they have been free of the U.S. Department of Education and federal bureaucrats. Charter schools succeed and thrive today because of the strength of state charter school laws and because of the leaders in these schools.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of Mr. Laurie, the teachers, parents and students of TCS, and hope their achievement, optimism, and freedom continue unabated for many years to come.

THE NEW MEXICO FIRES

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, as most of you know New Mexico has had a series of terrible fires sweeping throughout forests in the past few weeks. My good friends and Members of Congress from New Mexico, HEATHER WILSON and TOM UDALL, have done an excellent job of informing us of the impact the Los Alamos fire has had on the citizens of northern New Mexico. As the fires continue to burn, we hear stories that make the New Mexico Congressional delegation proud and honored to represent and serve the citizens of the Land of Enchantment. In the days and weeks to come, many stories will surface regarding the efforts of the citizens of New Mexico and we will be relaying them to our good friends in the U.S. Congress.

Today I'd like to talk about the United States Post Office and the work and sacrifice they made to help keep our New Mexico communities together. Following the evacuation of Los Alamos and the surrounding area, thousands of residents were displaced to shelters, hotels, motels and homes across northern New Mexico. They were separated from their neighbors, their friends, their pastors and priests. They were separated from their children's teachers, coaches, scout leaders and den moms. They did not know what they would find when they would be allowed to return home.

However, something wonderful happened. Congress was not involved, an Executive

Order was not issued, and no declaration was made by a public official. Instead, the United States Post Office decided to begin operating an outdoor Post Office where these refugees from the fire could come each day and collect their mail. They could meet their neighbors, their friends, their ministers, and the countless numbers who had been displaced. They could share information, they could console those who have lost their homes and they could provide support to each other. This temporary outdoor Post Office became the heart and soul of a city in exile.

Each day the Postal Service Letter Carriers, their supervisors, the window clerks and the leadership of the US Postal Service stepped up to the plate for New Mexico. I think all the citizens of New Mexico support me when I say thanks to the United States Postal Service for insuring that the mail got through and thank you for your help in holding a community together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, I traveled to Michigan to be with my friend and colleague, BART STUPAK and attend the funeral of his son, BJ. Over the past few years, I had the opportunity to meet BJ and play some baseball with him. He was a fine young man, and his death comes as a great shock to all of us. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with BART and his family as they struggle to cope with this tragedy.

As a result of my travel, I missed four votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways.

Rollcall vote No. 190—"no"; rollcall vote No. 191—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 192—"aye"; and rollcall vote No. 193—"no."

A CELEBRATION OF NORTH BAY VILLAGE 55TH BIRTHDAY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize a special birthday celebration within Florida's 22nd congressional district. On Sunday, May 21st, 2000, residents and friends of North Bay Village will celebrate its 55th birthday.

For my colleagues unfamiliar with North Bay Village, it is a wonderful little community in Miami-Dade County consisting of three islands, North Bay Island, Harbor Island and Treasure Island. Incorporated in 1945, North Bay Village is the home to 5,650 Floridians.

Mr. Speaker, North Bay Village was home to the Shaw family for many years. In 1943, two years prior to incorporation, I along with my parents, Dr. E. Clay Shaw, Sr. and Rita Walker Shaw called this community home. We settled in North Bay Village before two of the islands had yet been created, and we lived in one of the 10 original homes built on the island. At that time, the bridges connecting the island to the mainland were made of wood

and we had many vacant lots on which to play ball.

After incorporation in 1945, North Bay Village began rapid growth; yet one could still stand on high ground and count the houses.

Today, under the leadership of Mayor Ignacio Diaz, City Manager Rafael Casals, and the North Bay Village Council, I am proud to call North Bay Village the home of Clay and Rita Shaw.

Mr. Speaker, my congratulations to the 5,650 residents and Mayor Diaz on this wonderful day.

TRIBUTE TO VERNA LEE CLARK
OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Verna Lee Clark, Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Madison County. Ms. Clark is being honored today at a retirement reception and I wanted to express my gratitude for her 24 years of dedicated service to the senior citizens of Madison County, Alabama.

Through her work with each senior at the Huntsville-Madison County Seniors Center, she has given to her community tenfold. By providing service opportunities for senior citizens, she gives them a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. She allows them to remain connected to their community and other parts of society. By finding the right match for their individual talents and skills, she has reaffirmed countless seniors in North Alabama.

For nearly a quarter of a century, she has recognized the individual assets of each person before her and matched him or her with a service need in our community. I wish to take this opportunity to thank her for her exemplary role with the Senior Center. For her hard work, loyalty and kind heart, I feel that this is an apt honor.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I pay homage to Ms. Clark and thank her for a job well done. I know her seven children and fourteen grandchildren will relish the extra time with Ms. Clark. I congratulate Ms. Clark on her retirement and wish her a well-deserved rest.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST
ACCOUNTS ACT OF 2000 (H.R. 4490)

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I'm proud to introduce legislation to bring more low-income Americans, those who remain "unbanked," into America's financial mainstream. This legislation reflects an initiative proposed by President Clinton in his FY 2001 budget, which is referred to as the "First Accounts" initiative. I am pleased to note that a number of my colleagues, including JIM LEACH, MAXINE WATERS, and BARNEY FRANK, have joined me as original co-sponsors of this legislation. With their support, I look forward to en-

acting this important initiative into law in this session of Congress.

The bill I am introducing today, the First Accounts Act of 2000 (H.R. 4490), will help bridge the financial divide in America through the implementation of innovative strategies by the Department of the Treasury. This initiative complements the Treasury's Electronic Transfer Accounts, or ETAs, which are low-cost electronic accounts offered to recipients of Federal benefits. President Clinton proposed \$30 million from the FY 2001 budget for the First Accounts initiative, which unlike ETA, applies to non-recipients of Federal benefits. The First Accounts Act of 2000 consists of the following three basic elements: (1) Providing financial incentives to depository institutions to create low-cost bank accounts for low- and moderate-income individuals; (2) expanding access to ATMs in safe, secure and convenient locations, including U.S. Post Offices in low-income neighborhoods; and (3) implementing a financial literacy campaign to educate low- and moderate-income Americans about the benefits of a bank account for managing household finances and building assets over time.

Mr. Speaker, we often take for granted the significance to our daily lives of being part of the financial mainstream—that is, having the ability to direct-deposit our paychecks, write checks to pay our bills, and withdraw cash from ATMs. Unfortunately, roughly 8.4 million low-income Americans, according to the Federal Reserve, do not enjoy the simple privilege of a low-cost transaction or savings account that the rest of us enjoy. As a consequence, their financial condition, and ability to fully participate in the nation's current economic prosperity, suffers greatly.

The First Accounts Act of 2000 represents a meaningful effort to redress the imbalance between those of us who can afford and enjoy the convenience of readily available basic financial services, and those less fortunate American families who can't. Providing low-cost access to bank accounts would help save the scarce resources of America's less fortunate working families, many of whom pay more than \$15,000 over a lifetime for check-cashing and bill-paying services from less-regulated financial institutions, such as check-cashers and payday lenders.

The First Accounts initiative also represents sound economic policy. Research indicates that once "unbanked" families enter the doors of depository institutions as regular account holders, they are likely to become savers and begin to accumulate assets. Mainstream depository institutions will also benefit from the First Accounts initiative. A Federal Reserve study indicates that many low-income families with bank accounts also routinely used other bank products, including credit cards, automobile loans, first mortgages and certificates of deposits.

Mr. Speaker, the First Accounts Act of 2000 is good policy and makes good sense. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

FIRE FIGHTER DIES

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, New Mexico suffered an even greater tragedy on Monday, May 15. As much of the attention of the nation has been on the fire that burned portions of Los Alamos, New Mexico, a blaze was sweeping across the Sacramento Mountains in the south central portion of my state. Two men died in a spotter plane that was being used to help fight the Scott Able fire. The following story by Diane Stallings, a staff writer with the Ruidoso News, captures the essence of what the life of Sam Tobias, a career employee with the United States Forest Service was all about:

[From the Ruidoso News, Wed., May 17, 2000]

TOBIAS REMEMBERED

(By Dianne Stallings)

When local forester Sam Tobias died Monday, he was doing a part of his job he especially enjoyed.

"Going on (fire) spotter planes was something that he loved," said longtime friend Ron Hannan with the U.S. Forest Service in Alamogordo.

Tobias, 47, was a passenger on a fire-spotting airplane that went down two miles northeast of the Alamogordo-White Sands airport at about 12:30 p.m. Monday. The pilot, who was from Columbia, Calif., also died in the crash. The two men were scheduled to fly over the Scott Able Fire in the Sacramento District southeast of Cloudcroft, according to authorities.

"He always had a smile on his face," said wildlife biologist Larry Cordova, who worked with Tobias on the Smokey Bear Ranger District with headquarters on Mechem Drive in Ruidoso.

District Ranger Jerry Hawkes said, "We're just in shock that we won't have Sam here with us anymore. He was here 12 years and everyone has grown so close. This is pretty hard for us."

"He was such a strong part of our district and the Forest Service. He was the peacemaker with that big smile, always helping and giving good advice. He had a lot of wisdom, enjoyed helping the community and trying to make things work out."

Tobias grew up in southwestern Pennsylvania, earning a bachelor of science degree from Pennsylvania State University.

He worked in recreation management his entire career, starting in the Tonto Basin Ranger District from 1975 to 1988 and then joining the Smokey Bear District.

"Sam helped out fighting fires and through the years, he was trained as an air attack coordinator," Hannan said. "He assisted many people fighting fires with his skill in coordinating air tankers, helicopters and fire crews."

Tobias knew every corner and cave of the Lincoln National Forest in Lincoln County. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking, fishing and hunting.

His mark can be found on many of the decisions regarding use of forest land.

He's credited with improving the ski area, campgrounds and picnic areas that are considered models of design, district officials said.

He also worked with summer cabin owners, miners, outfitter guides and telecommunication specialists.

"Life-long friends of his have been calling in," Hannan said. "My wife worked for him

in 1988. She can't even talk right now. Sam was the kind of guy who helped out whenever and wherever he could. He'd show up with his tools to lay bricks—whatever you needed."

"We're certainly going to miss him."

Tobias and his wife, Jackie, who is a Ruidoso High School teacher, recently built a home in Ranches of Sonterra.

She traveled to the site of the crash Tuesday and was unavailable to arrange details of a memorial service tentatively planned for Friday, said Danny Sisson of La Grone Funeral Chapel in Ruidoso.

Tobias' younger brother and sister are expected to attend from Pennsylvania, where his mother still lives.

Dale Mance with the Forest Service on the Tonto National Forest in Arizona, said Tobias changed his life when they were young men.

"I grew up with him in Pennsylvania from the sixth grade on," Mance said. "He went to college and I went to the steel mills. I came out to visit him (when he was with the Forest Service in Arizona) in 1975 and I moved out the following year."

The two roomed together for several years and worked on the same forest.

They still occasionally hunted and fished together, said Mance, who was in recreation, but now is in the engineering division of the Forest Service.

"He was just an all-around great person," he said of Tobias. "He would do anything for you whether he knew you or not. He loved his work, he loved his family and was devoted to both."

Mance said representatives from several national forests plan to attend the memorial service. "Just because he was how he was," Mance will come to New Mexico later when things settle down.

Tobias was proud of the home the couple built and brought photographs to a spring training session to show his friends, Mance said.

"He's done it to me twice—changed my priorities," Mance said. "The first time was for the better (joining the Forest Service) and now again, I'm reassessing things."

"You could just meet him once and be a friend with his big smile and that twinkle in his eye and the bear hugs. Those bear hugs. That's what I'll miss."

MISSILE DEFENSE, DIRECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, America's national missile defense dominates policy issues. The question of how best to proceed seems to elude our country's security leaders. I am 100 percent convinced the United States must develop a reliable national missile defense (NMD) system. The question for me is not if, but what kind.

Regarding the technical aspects of NMD technology, I have drafted a few questions concerning various options, missile defense systems, and scenarios. I have addressed the questions to Dr. Hans Mark, Director of Defense Research and Engineering at the Pentagon. Dr. Mark has briefed me before on the intricacies of missile defense technology and his counsel is greatly appreciated.

A recent letter I posted to Dr. Mark follows. I urge our colleagues to review it and contact my office if interested in pursuing this topic in

the House. I intend to submit Dr. Mark's reply in the RECORD at a later date.

APRIL 27, 2000.

Dr. HANS MARK,

*Director of Defense Research and Engineering,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR DR. MARK: You have proved yourself a friend of advanced technology and space. You were extremely helpful last year with your letter of March 2, 1999 and its attachments. You were kind enough to meet with me, members of my staff, friends, and other Members of Congress.

I would value again the benefit of your expertise on the subjects of ballistic-missile defense, space, and advanced technology in the following areas. I trust the questions posed will help develop issues involved, and prove beneficial for public discussion.

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE

Under the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) development was completed on the Brilliant Pebbles Space Based Interceptor. In 1992, Brilliant Pebbles was ready to move into its acquisition phase having undergone its hover tests and having been approved by the Defense Acquisition Board.

To re-start Brilliant Pebbles, would it be advisable for the United States to go back to the leading aerospace contractors that were involved in its development back in the early 1990's, and should we develop an independent, second effort that would be less visible to Communist Chinese military intelligence?

In addition, would it be advisable to re-start Brilliant Pebbles under streamlined acquisition procedures to avoid unnecessary overhead, and costly and ineffective program delays?

SDI studied the possibilities of using Neutral Particle Beams, which were regarded as a potent weapon for ballistic missile defense applications. Under GPALS, Neutral Particle Beams received de-emphasis because of a program focus on near-term technologies (hit-to-kill and high energy lasers) rather than future technologies.

Allowing for a revived interest in ballistic missile defense programs, how would you structure a Neutral Particle Beam ballistic missile defense program, and what key areas of research would you emphasize?

SURVIVABILITY

Space-based ballistic missile defense can provide continuous, global coverage, and boost phase interception, which are characteristics not generally available with ground based defenses. Space based defenses can be built that are hardened against electromagnetic pulse from nuclear explosions or chemical emp warheads. In our meeting a year ago, you showed great enthusiasm for computer chips inherently resistant to emp.

Space-based defenses may also be built with passive countermeasures (detection and maneuver), redundancy, and hardening against high-energy lasers. Nonetheless, a critical area of survivability of space-based defenses will be their defense against high energy lasers on the ground. Beyond passive countermeasures or preemptive raids against high-energy laser facilities or platforms, what active defenses would you recommend?

Ostensibly, these active defenses could include kinetic energy weapons (tungsten rods) directed against ground based laser facilities, or a variant kinetic energy weapon using a maneuverable reentry vehicle. These active defenses may also include Space-Based Lasers of such a wavelength to enable them to reach into the atmosphere and counterattack a ground based laser. A review of the active defensive options we could develop in the near-term (four years under active program management) would be helpful.

ACCESS TO SPACE

Rapid, low-cost access to space remains an active concern for defense applications in spite of over two decades of discussion. Without going into a full blown discussion of reusable launch vehicles, two-stage reusable rockets, and Single Stage To Orbit (SSTO), your ideas would be welcome on how the United States can best develop the Rocket Based Combined Cycle (RBCC) engine and implement it in several innovative designs.

In particular, your input is sought as to whether the United States should run a parallel development program for the RBCC using several private firms without NASA, which has proved disappointing in its handling of the SSTO. Your advice is sought as to the use of the RBCC in a HyperSoar configuration (proposed by Lawrence Livermore's Preston H. Carter II) compared to other possible configurations and flight plans. In addition, your advice is sought on the development of a military "spaceplane" capability, whether it should use a rocket booster or an RBCC design.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOON

Your reference material in 1999 included plans for developing the moon, which were drawn up in the early 1990's before we knew the results of Project Clementine (1994) and Lunar Prospector (1998) firmly establishing the presence of water on the moon. The discovery of water on the moon is monumental, holding promise for the exploration of space we have yet to grasp. Plans can be made for the mining of water on the moon and its processing into rocket fuel. Your advice is sought on the best type of lunar development and rocket program that can take advantage of the discovery of water on the moon.

For example, a lunar development program could encompass the parallel development of: a) the mining and processing of water at the lunar poles, b) a lunar observatory on the backside of the moon, c) the development of an earth-moon transportation system going from the moon's surface to Low Earth Orbit for the transport of water, rocket fuel (hydrogen and oxygen), and other items. Of course, other facilities and operations could be added later, once this basic infrastructure is established. Your thoughts on this subject would be most welcomed.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

The commercial use of nuclear energy on earth has received less than enthusiastic support in some quarters as the use of nuclear energy brings with it legitimate safety and environmental concerns. The use of nuclear energy in space, however, appears to mark an appropriate and beneficial application for nuclear energy.

Most space systems will be closed environments where nuclear reactors will have a natural, physical detachment, softening safety and environmental issues. In many circumstances nuclear waste products can be shipped to the sun without excessive effort. Your advice is sought on the types of nuclear reactors we should develop for use in space and their potential application with a lunar base.

Your advice is also sought on how we can achieve controlled fusion energy. The continuation of existing programs and appropriations will, apparently, not get the job done. The promise of fusion energy remains unfulfilled. What types of programs do we need to bring this hope to fulfillment? Please bear in mind that the potential use of fusion energy may also find its application in space. It has been pointed out how a lunar economy could mine Helium-3 for fusion energy.

NAVAL WARFARE

The efforts of the United States in developing new aspects of naval warfare appear to

be constricted. Your advice is sought on an expansion of the vision and imagination we have for naval warfare to include new concepts (in some cases, old concepts with new technology).

Your advice is sought, for example, on the development of diesel powered and AIP (Air Independent Propulsion) submarines, in addition to nuclear powered submarines, that would be used for anti-submarine warfare, and for training of U.S. nuclear attack submarines in anti-submarine warfare.

Your advice is also sought on the development of submarines equipped with UAVs for reconnaissance, changing the Cold War vision of a submarine as a permanently submerged vessel to a vessel taking advantage of both the acoustic environment found underwater and aerial reconnaissance independent of an aircraft carrier.

Your advice is also sought on the development of a "quick fix" anti-aircraft defense against the supersonic cruise missiles that attack a surface vessel by very low flight above the water or by a last minute maneuver putting the cruise missile above the surface vessel, attacking at an angle of 90° beyond the reach of Phalanx.

In addition, your advice is sought on the development of naval vessels equipped with high energy lasers or particle beams capable of intercepting cruise missiles or bombs much like the Nautilus laser being developed for Israel.

Advanced technology can play a pivotal role in our ballistic missile defense program and space program. It can also provide spin-off applications to private industry. I look forward to your response with genuine anticipation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on business and unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 192. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TEAM OF FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Farmington High School Wrestling Team for winning the Missouri state championship on February 19, 2000. The Farmington Knights earned their first place position early in the tournament and held this lead to the end. This early lead allowed the four finalists to relax and focus on their final bouts.

Although only one of those finalists won his match for first place, the team sealed the victory against tough odds. You see, the Knights did not have the numbers of wrestlers that some of the other teams had going into the tournament, and they did not have the first place finishes many thought they would need to win a state championship. Because the

team was successful as a whole, they were able to take the overall victory.

In addition to the team, I wish special recognition for senior Doug Wiles, who was able to win his first place match for an individual state championship in his weight class. Doug was also the only participant of the tournament with an undefeated season.

Congratulations to Mark Krause, head coach for the Knights, and the members of the Farmington High School Wrestling team as follows:

Cory Husher (finished 2nd in state)

Justin Peppers

Nathan McKinney

James Faulkner (State Qualifier)

Josh Krause

Caleb Smith

Josh Hoehn (finished 3rd in state)

Darin Johnson

Barry Watson

Dustin Wiles (finished 2nd in state)

Michael Hahn (finished 2nd in state)

Doug Wiles (finished 1st in state)

Jared Bornell (finished 5th in state)

Ryan Todd (finished 5th in state)

Congratulations to all the wrestlers at Farmington High School for these outstanding accomplishments. Each individual on this team played a key part of the success they had as a whole.

HONORING THE THUNDERBOLT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THUNDERBOLT, GEORGIA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Thunderbolt Elementary School in Thunderbolt, Georgia. Thunderbolt Elementary has been chosen by the Annual American Set a Good Example Competition to receive one of three national 3rd place awards for the best project completed by students to influence their own peers in a positive way: away from drug abuse, crime and violence while focusing on moral virtues such as honesty, trustworthiness and competence.

Students at Thunderbolt Elementary, under the careful instruction of their teacher, Beverly Small, did a series of projects based on setting good examples over the school year. Some of the accomplishments included weekly reading competitions, planting trees and flowers around campus, holding a canned food drive, essay writings on setting good examples, and establishing Parents are Terrific awards for assisting children with their homework.

The students have worked hard to demonstrate good will and respect for others, and because of these kinds of efforts they are not experiencing drug problems, crime, cheating, or violence in this school. It has become a family school, and parents tell me their children feel loved because the teachers take the time to listen. It is with my utmost admiration and commendation that I recognize Thunderbolt Elementary School students, teachers, and administration for achieving the national honor by setting a good example for all of us.

HONORING DR. LOVELL A. JONES, PhD, WINNER OF THE LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Lovell A. Jones, for winning Howard University Hospital's Legacy of Leadership Award for Distinguished Health Care Advocate. This award is a fitting tribute to Dr. Jones, who has made outstanding contributions in quality health care and advocacy for the medically underserved and the socio-economically disadvantaged for more than two decades.

Dr. Jones has been a true visionary in Houston's medical community and throughout the nation. I am particularly proud that it was in my Congressional District that Dr. Jones first began his ground-breaking work to address the unequal science and unequal treatment affecting health care for minorities and the medically underserved.

It was almost 15 years ago that Dr. Jones began planning the first Biennial Symposium on Minorities and Cancer. As a Biochemist and Professor of Experimental Gynecology and Endocrinology at the UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Jones rolled up his sleeves to research why it was that minorities and the socio-economically disadvantaged were experiencing disproportionately high mortality rates from the diseases. He discovered a variety of reasons why certain communities have to bear the unequal burden of cancer, including the fact that these underserved communities are often diagnosed in later stages of the disease; are provided with only limited access to health care, and are without financial resources. Dr. Jones already understood that poor people, no matter what their ethnic background, place less emphasis on health care when having to deal with the harsh realities of poverty on a daily basis.

Dr. Jones has been on the forefront of activities to address the obstacles that ethnic minorities and medically underserved individuals face in seeking effective treatments for their illnesses. He inspires those of us in Congress to remain committed to helping our medical institutions continue their life-saving cutting-edge research.

Dr. Jones' efforts to help those with cancer in medically underserved and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities have gone beyond study and into heartfelt activism, transforming him into a leading health care advocate. He is establishing a Center of Excellence for Research on Minority Health at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and Dr. Jones co-founded the Intercultural Cancer Center (ICC), which has become the largest multicultural and multidisciplinary coalition addressing the unequal burden of cancer in minority and medically underserved areas in the United States. Leading cancer and community experts from academia, federal and state government representatives, clinicians, researchers, public health researchers, survivors and advocates hold Biennial Symposium to address cancer in minority and medically underserved communities throughout the nation. The symposia eventually grew

so big that they had to move them from Houston to Washington, DC. This year's symposium, which emphasized the problem of cancer in all ethnic minority communities—African-American, Hispanic, Native-American, Alaskan native, Pacific Islander and Asian-American—attracted more than 1200 people, and marked the largest participation ever.

Mr. Speaker, Howard University Hospital could not have chosen a better candidate to honor for the Distinguished Health Care Advocate Award. Lovell Jones inspires us all to strive to truly live up to the ICC's motto of "Speaking with One Voice," because we believe that the burden of cancer rests with all of us. Throughout his career, Dr. Jones has stressed that in this country, as a united community of Americans, the working poor and minority populations should not have to suffer disproportionately.

Dr. Lovell Jones has said that it is his dream that we will finally "become a society where we will not tie people's value to their skin color and/or status in life." His hope is that one day we will address the needs of all Americans, so that our efforts to address the special needs of minorities and the medically underserved will no longer be necessary.

But until that day, we can all be grateful that we have Dr. Lovell A. Jones.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULIN-FREE WORLD MEDICARE PANCREAS TRANSPLANTATION COVERAGE ACT OF 2000

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Insulin-Free World Medicare Pancreas Transplantation Coverage Act of 2000, to provide Medicare coverage for pancreas transplants. I introduce this legislation with my colleagues Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. PORTER and Mr. LAFALCE.

On July 1, 1999, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) announced that the agency would provide coverage for pancreas transplants performed in people who also require kidney transplants. However, the agency continues to deny coverage for transplants in people who have reached kidney failure. Several studies, including one published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in July 1998, indicate that a pancreas transplant performed before kidney disease is significant, can eliminate the need for a kidney transplant. My legislation would reverse this shortsighted policy.

While HCFA provides coverage for segmented/split liver transplants, the agency does not provide coverage for a pancreas that is segmented/split. This position should be reversed particularly in light of the profound and well-publicized organ shortage. In practice, Medicare's existing pancreas transplant coverage policy means that a pancreas may not be divided and used for more than one person. In addition, if part of the donor pancreas is found to be damaged, Medicare would not cover transplanting the useable portion. Medicare also would not cover a transplant for a person who has been offered the ultimate gift of life of part of a pancreas from a living relative.

Pancreas transplantation represents the first significant advance toward curing diabetes since the discovery of insulin. I urge my colleague to join me in supporting this legislation designed to give years of life and health back to people with long-standing diabetes.

FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4205) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, this amendment authorizes the Department of Defense to assign members of our Armed Forces to assist the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Customs Service in monitoring and patrolling U.S. borders. I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

At the request of the Congress, the Department of Defense issued a report earlier this week on this very issue. After meeting with senior leadership of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Customs Service to determine a scenario where U.S. military personnel would be assigned to either agency, the report states, in the end, neither the Immigration and Naturalization Service nor the United States Customs Service could envision a scenario which would require such assignments. Instead, both agencies expected that they would use the existing system of plans and procedures to increase the level of support from DoD personnel who would report through existing military chains of command.

This is not necessary because the DoD already have plans in place detailing how DoD supports Federal law enforcement agencies during declared emergency situations. The President of the United States has the authority to declare emergencies and use military personnel to protect our borders. This is already implied in the powers of the Executive Office of the President.

We are a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. The men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol put their lives on the line every day of their lives. The present force of 8,000 members is responsible for protecting more than 8,000 miles of international land and water boundaries, and work in the dangerous deserts of Arizona and Texas. They are empowered to do this job. We do not need Federal troops at the border just yet. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment.

HONORING THE LATE DR.

CLIFFORD H. KEENE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a man who helped usher in the age of the health maintenance organization. Dr. Clifford H. Keene passed away at the age of 89.

Born in Buffalo, NY on January 28, 1910, Clifford later on went to earn his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1934 and was a surgical instructor there until 1939. During World War II Clifford rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel as the surgeon and medical administrator for the 24th Corps in the Pacific Theater. His career with the Kaiser-Permanente Medical Care Program began in 1954 when industrialist Henry Kaiser asked him to join the then-struggling Kaiser health care system. Under Clifford's leadership, Kaiser Permanente grew into the largest nonprofit health care system in the United States. Over the years, he held a number of various positions including the Regional Manager of Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Health Plan in Northern California, the Medical Program Coordinator for Kaiser Industries Corporation and the director, vice president and general manager of Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Inc., and the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan. Clifford was also elected President of various Kaiser Foundation Medical Care Entities including the Kaiser hospitals and the Kaiser Research Institute and International Foundation. Clifford retired from active administration in 1970 and from the Kaiser Board of Directors in 1980.

Clifford will be forever remembered by his dear family and friends. He will be sorely missed by the many people who were privileged to know him personally and professionally. Clifford is survived by his wife, Mary; three daughters, Patricia Ann Kneeder of Forth Worth, TX, Martha Jane Sproule of Palos Park, IL, and Diane Eve Simonds of St. Helena; a sister Harriet Krueger of Sarasota, FL; seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO THE OLIVIERA MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a school in Brownsville, Texas, that is beating the odds in today's public education system. At a time when our resources are terribly over-burdened, Oliviera Middle School won one of three national first-place awards in the "Set A Good Example" competition that is sponsored by the Concerned Businessmen of America.

These awards, launched in 1982, recognize schools which have a student-oriented program to influence their peers in a positive way by forwarding the simple human moral values such as honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, competence and fairness. The Concerned Businessmen of America is a not-for-

profit charitable education organization which incorporates successful business strategies to combat social ills and problems that face young people.

At a time when parents and community leaders are watching our young people with new eyes, wondering what is going on inside their minds and what motivates them, this recognition is concrete proof that the community surrounding Oliviera Middle School—educators, counselors, parents, business people, and most importantly, students themselves—is working together to ward off the problems that have plagued other schools and other young people. The winning ingredient here is the active involvement of the students. The best messenger for young people is other young people.

We have enormous challenges before us in education, and with regard to the public policy in our public schools. There will never be one single answer to preparing young people to withstand the complex social issues that our children encounter each day. But the best way to prepare our children to deal with the society in which we live is to teach them, from very early on, simple moral guidelines to apply to their lives. The “Set a Good Example” program follows up as encouragement and reinforcement to these lessons.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Oliviera Middle School for their efforts to be part of a solution, which is the first step to solving the problem. I thank the young people there for leading the way to better grades and healthier attitudes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on business and unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 187. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

HONORING OUTSTANDING
NATIONAL HISPANIC YOUTH

HON. RANDY “DUKE” CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize six students from San Diego County, California, who have been selected as finalists competing for National Hispanic Youth Awards. These students are among sixty finalists nationally. One of the six is a student in my 51st Congressional District, Milenka V. Meneses of San Marcos High School.

These outstanding Hispanic young people have been identified for their superior academic achievement, their leadership in their schools and their communities, and for their promise as positive role models for us all. If we believe that in America, every young person, from every ethnic background, deserves a fighting chance to achieve the American Dream, we need young people from every ethnic background to take the initiative to lead the way.

Young people like Milenka Meneses are such leaders. They deserve our recognition, our honor, and our encouragement.

I commend to my colleagues to read the following article from the San Diego Union-Tribune describing the recognition given to these fine young men and women. They are more than promising young leaders to the Hispanic community; they are young leaders for us all. They represent the best of America.

SIX LOCAL STUDENTS CHOSEN AS LATINO
LEADER FINALISTS

Six San Diego County high school students have been selected as finalists in a nationwide search for top Latino youth leaders.

They will be among 60 students from across the nation competing for six National Hispanic Youth awards. The winners will be recognized at the Hispanic Heritage Awards annual gala Sept. 7 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

The six county residents selected to compete for the national awards are: Seidy Gaytan of Sweetwater Union High School; Laura Dawn Berumen of Montgomery High School; Abel Aramburo of El Cajon Valley High School; Milenka V. Meneses of San Marcos High School; Jose Barraza Jr. of Hilltop High School; and Danika Marie Lacarra Markey of Helix High School.

Because they were named regional finalists, each student received a \$1,000 educational grant, a personal computer from CompUSA and a \$500 donation to a community service organization of their choice.

The Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation was established 14 years ago to provide a greater understanding of the contributions of Hispanic Americans in the United States and to recognize and honor role models who inspire Latino youth.