

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE TEXAS SHRIMP ASSOCIATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Texas Shrimp Association on the occasion of its golden anniversary. On August 6, 1950, the Texas Shrimp Association was born out of necessity; its industry was on the verge of extinction.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration was prepared to utterly reform the industry; it was given the ultimatum "clean up or be cleaned up." While fear motivated the Association at its infancy, safety, customer satisfaction and superior businesses became the focus of the Texas Shrimp Association (TSA) as it grew with the 20th Century.

During the 50-year history of the TSA, it concentrated its energies on becoming leaders in U.S. fisheries. The growth has benefitted many more people than those associated with the shrimping industry; the industry overcame enormous challenges to contribute over \$600 million annually to the Texas economy.

Life has never been easy for those who cast their nets for shrimp. Shrimping is hard, dangerous, dirty and many times lonely. The TSA has faced legal and regulatory changes that often prove to be difficult, although the waters of the Gulf of Mexico are more treacherous than the waters of Washington.

The TSA board conducts a host of efforts to ensure the continued vitality of the shrimp harvesting industry. These efforts include: monitoring legislative activity in Austin and Washington where regulations are written that govern the industry, monitoring the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service and other agencies with regulatory authority over the industry, and working with the International Trade Commission to protect the industry.

TSA also works closely with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on activities that enhance our state's fishery resources. It monitors and responds to permit applications that affect wetlands, bays and estuaries, water quality and other environmental concerns. TSA is a group of hard-working, dedicated people.

Through it all, it is primarily about education . . . the education of consumers, of lawmakers at the state and national levels, the press, environmental groups and the public at large. It is part of a market expansion and consumer education program in conjunction with the Texas A&M University system, through which it is developing strategies related to consumer preference for domestic shrimp, and promoting quality assurance programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending the men and women of the Texas Shrimp Association for the hard work it does on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BAYSIDE
TIMES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Bayside Times, a weekly community newspaper in Bayside, New York in the borough of Queens, which is hosting its 65th anniversary celebration on Thursday, July 13, 2000.

The Bayside Times was launched by the Alison family early in the last century. The first issue hit the newsstands on July 2, 1935 with the front page headline "Bayside's Own Newspaper Makes Its Appearance." That first edition included stories on local marriages and birthday celebrations, the Bayside American Legion and the Bayside Pet Show. The newspaper attracted many loyal readers and established a strong identity in the area. The "Bayside Times" was actually the first community newspaper that I had ever seen.

Then on July 10, 1989, Steve Blank, who had a vision of creating a daily newspaper that published once a week, purchased the Bayside Times from David Allison Jr., a second generation owner of the publication. Steve Blank brought years of experience in the newspaper business to the Bayside Times. After graduating with a journalism degree from Boston University, he held positions at weekly newspapers in the Massachusetts area, the Daily Record in his native New Jersey and the Post Standard in Syracuse, New York. He was also a court house correspondent and an award winning investigative reporter for the Kansas City Star. In addition, he obtained experience on the business side of the industry as a media buyer for Savermart, a major chain of consumer electronics stores.

Steve Blank used his impeccable credentials to transform the Bayside Times into a model for community journalism. Under his leadership, the quality of writing and reporting of local news events became second to none. Steve Blank also afforded local businesses and merchants, the opportunities to reach their customers in an efficient and cost-effective manner. He redesigned the periodical to give it a more contemporary look and reorganized it to make it easier for readers to find information. He also boosted the newspaper's circulation, computerized its operation and increased the editorial and business staff.

From 1991 to 1998, Mr. Blank expanded his operation to include newspapers throughout the Borough of Queens. Operating under Queens Publishing Corporation, Steve Blank presently publishes 13 newspapers in the Times/Ledger chain.

Yes, from Humble beginnings—including loading newspapers into the trunk of his car—to winning numerous local and state journalism awards, Steve Blank has built the Bayside Times into a newspaper heavyweight in the new millennium. Yet he continues to

stay on the original mission that the Bayside Times set 65 years ago—to provide local news coverage in a fair, accurate and balanced manner. Whether through the breadth of its stories, the quality of its editorials, the informative advertisements, the Q-Guide or its web site—www.timesledger.com—the Bayside Times remains on the cutting edge of community journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in congratulating Steve Blank and the entire staff of the Bayside Times and the Times/Ledger newspaper chain for a terrific 65 years of service to the Bayside community. I am confident that the Bayside Times will continue to enjoy success for many more years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARCELLA R. BROWN

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Marcella R. Brown, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education. She was honored on July 8, 2000 by parents, family, friends, and professionals for her outstanding contributions to the community at the Washington Avenue Community Center in the Bronx.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Mrs. Brown moved to the South Bronx in 1959 with her late husband, Nathaniel, and their eight children. She is blessed with 19 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. In 1967, Mrs. Brown began as a community organizer at L.A.B.O.R. and was there for twenty years. In 1972, she earned a B.A. Degree in Urban Planning from Manhattan College and continued her pursuit of postgraduate studies and was awarded a certificate in Health & Human Services. She also graduated with honors from the first class at NYCPD Citizens' Policy Academy, an initiative designed to build positive community relations between residents and the police department.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Brown, currently, works with the Ehrlick Residential Mental Health Housing Program assisting residents in need of supportive intensive services. She began as a Residential Counselor and for the past eleven years she has served as the Entitlement Intake Specialist. In addition, she served as the District Leader in the 78th Assembly District for two terms. She was on the first community board of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Health Center, where she served for twenty years and is the proud recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Life Time Achievement's award for dedicated service. Mrs. Brown was responsible for organizing the community to advance the completion of the NYCHA development at 1162-76 Washington Avenue in the Bronx. She also assisted in the screening of tenants for the first "Turnkey"

• 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.

NYCHA development in the South Bronx/Morrisania area.

Mrs. Brown belongs to many business, professional, religious and civic organizations and has received numerous honors and awards. Presently, she is serving her fifth term as Chairwoman of Community Planning Board III, she serves as President of the 1162-76 Washington Avenue Tenant Association and has been a resident since the development opened in 1974, she is former Chairwoman for the Interim Council of Presidents for the NYCHA Bronx South District, First Vice President at Lincoln Hospital Community Advisory Board, Worthy Matron at Tyber Chapter #6C Order of Eastern Stars, Member of the Bronx Urban League and the NAACP. She serves as the Chairwoman of Women's Day Program and President of Pastor's Aide-Auxiliary at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Mrs. Brown's daily motto has been "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Marcella R. Brown for her outstanding achievements in community service.

IN MEMORY OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM J. RANDALL

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former member who was laid to rest today. U.S. Representative William J. Randall died earlier this week in his home town of Independence, Missouri. He served in the United States House of Representatives from 1959 until 1977 representing Missouri's Fourth Congressional District. Through the years redistricting has changed the makeup of the districts in Missouri; his home address is now in the Fifth District which I currently represent. My Independence District Office is located in the U.S. Post Office which now bears his name. Known for his tireless constituent services, my office is inspired by him daily to serve our citizens to the best of our ability.

Congressman Randall had a distinguished career here in the Peoples' House. Elected to fill a vacancy in March of 1959, he served eight additional full terms. His service in the House included work on the House Government Operations Committee. As Chairman of the Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee he exercised oversight over the Federal Aviation Administration. He is credited with playing a major role in the process of selecting and training air traffic controllers, resulting in improved service and performance in air safety. His tenure is also noteworthy in that he represented then retired President Truman.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, he rose to the Chairmanship of the NATO Subcommittee. He was an expert in the understanding of the relationship with America and its European allies in the Cold War era.

In his final term in Congress Representative Randall accepted additional responsibility and was named Chairman of the Select Committee on Aging and was an effective advocate for the senior citizens.

Probably the highest tribute I am aware of for Congressman Randall comes from remarks

on the occasion of his retirement by his colleague U.S. Representative J.J. Pickle of Texas. In his remarks about the work on the Armed Services Committee, Congressman Pickle said of Bill Randall: ". . . many of us can sleep better at night because Bill Randall was so diligent in his duties." Following his service in Congress, Representative Randall returned to his home town of Independence, Missouri, and resumed the practice of law.

Born in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, July 16, 1909, he graduated from William Chrisman High School in 1927, Junior College of Kansas City, Missouri, in 1929, University of Missouri in 1931, and Kansas City School of Law in 1936. He served in the United States Army in World War II in the southwest Pacific and the Philippines. Elected as a judge of the Jackson County Court in 1946 he served in that capacity until elected to Congress in 1959. He was a valued mentor to me. His advise was wise and insightful. A man of the people, he continued attending community events and visiting with patrons at the Courthouse Exchange Restaurant on the Square in Independence, the city he loved and returned to. Everyone in the area knew Bill Randall and appreciated his service and down-to-earth style.

He is preceded in death by his wife Margaret and survived by his daughter, Mary Pat Wilson and his very dear friend and companion Helen Keen, to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

HONORING THE LOCAL 103 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, one of the great rewards of public service is the opportunity to work with some of the finest people in this great land. It is with pleasure and pride that I honor today the men and women of Local 103 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on the occasion of an historic milestone in its long and accomplished legacy.

At the turn of the last century, 12 courageous men gathered in Boston to charter an IBEW local. The national labor union had been formed a decade earlier in St. Louis to help safeguard health and safety for a trade in which half the workers died on the job. Since then, Local 103 has grown to represent over 5,000 men and women working in construction and telecommunications in 106 Massachusetts cities and towns, with over 200 contractors and 30 collective bargaining agreements.

In recent weeks, it was my privilege to participate in a commemoration of Local 103's one-hundredth anniversary. Over the last century, the IBEW has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for our community, and it has been a personal and professional inspiration to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Local 103 on behalf of its extended family.

The able leadership of Local 103 has earned the respect and admiration of all of us who struggle for fundamental safeguards for working families. The breadth and stature of the leadership of Rich Gambino and his entire

team would bring a proud smile to the faces of the 12 pioneers who assembled in 1900 with such vision. We take a moment to salute their memory—Leonard Kimball, Henry Thayer, John McLaughlan, Joseph Hurley, WC Woodward, James Reid, FC Stead, Joseph Matthews, Francis Wachler, Everett Calef, Theodore Gould and WW Harding. We honor their legacy by reaffirming their commitment to paving the way for fair, safe and rewarding work environment for all working men and women.

To commemorate their work and aspirations, following are my remarks to the sisters and brothers of Local 103 to celebrate the dawning of the next century for the IBEW:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

May 6, 2000.

DEAR FRIENDS: To greet the members of Local 103 is to see the face of the American middle class—the people whose mothers and fathers built this nation and the foundation for its future.

From the presidential campaign to the corner grocery, one word you hear a lot these days is "vision". To some, it's little more than a throw-away line. But the rank-and-file of 103 has endured a century of world wars and building booms, of depressions and picket lines, of nonunion competition and responsibilities as big as the Hancock Tower. And the members of 103 have not only endured, but have thrived in ways that literally light up this Commonwealth.

The work of Richie Gambino, the 5000 brothers and sisters of Local 103, and their predecessors over the last century, have laid a sound foundation for our community with genuine vision. Vision for economic opportunity and social justice; for traditional industry and for e-business; for global commerce and human rights.

This vision is an engine of skill, hope and compassion which challenges friends, neighbors and even your adversaries to aspire to the standards of excellence personified by those dozen men who gathered 100 years ago in downtown Boston to lay down a marker for fundamental fairness for working people. Every stride we have made along the way has been earned by the proud work and outstretched hand that defines the vision of this extended family.

We respect these humble beginnings by gathering today to reaffirm our commitment to collective bargaining and the equity it ensures—from wages to health care to retirement security.

Over the last 100 years, this nation has been transformed in dozens of historic ways. But certain truths stand unchanged—and they are embodied in the principles for which we together stand, in Washington and here at home.

Please accept my very best for a joyous celebration.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT.

IMPORTING DRUGS SAFELY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, last evening I voted against the prescription drug import amendments offered by my good friends and colleagues Representatives CROWLEY and COBURN. I want my colleagues to know that I

wish to work with them to craft legislation that achieves the goals they seek, while ensuring that the prescription drugs that Americans consume are as safe as possible. I see no reason why the Commerce Committee cannot roll up its sleeves and mark up good legislation for presentation on the House floor shortly after the August recess.

Mr. Speaker, the Crowley and Coburn Amendments block a key provision of the Prescription Drug Marketing Act (PDMA). This law came into being after an investigation revealed serious irregularities with respect to imported drugs. As stated in the April 1987 report of the Commerce Committee, "[t]he purpose of the legislation is to protect American consumers from mislabeled, subpotent, adulterated, expired, or counterfeit pharmaceuticals. . . ."

Recent investigations of Internet web sites indicate there is still cause for concern. In fact, the U.S. Customs Service recently reported a more than 400 percent increase in the amount of pharmaceuticals being shipped into this country via the U.S. mail, and that in many cases, the origin, purity, or history of the drugs being shipped is indeterminable. These are drugs with major health implications. A May 22 letter from Commissioner Kelly addressed to me and Representative KLINK noted the following: "[a]mong the most common types of pharmaceuticals seized by Customs are Diazepam; Tylenol with Codeine; Mathandienone; Alprozolam; Xanax; Valium; Codigesic; Lorazepam; Fenfluramine; Thyroid tabs; Panzatazocine; Cetabon; Andriol; Premarin; and Rohypnol, a powerful sedative sometimes described as a 'date rape' drug." Commissioner Kelly said that "[i]n most of the mail seizures that Customs encounters, the brand name and manufacturer of the products are not identifiable because the original packaging has been removed and repacked into containers that bear no marks or identification." These are the same sorts of mislabeling and repackaging shenanigans that the Subcommittee first identified when it investigated this issue more than a decade ago, and led to the PDMA.

Equally alarming are the findings of a hearing held just last month by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on the potential dangers of counterfeit bulk drugs, and the global problems they pose. Chairman UPTON, in his opening statement, said: "[t]he international community is also increasingly concerned. Just last month, the World Health Organization and international pharmacists and international drug manufacturers publicized their concerns about counterfeit drugs. Some have estimated that 50 to 70 percent of the drugs in some developing countries are counterfeit." Why is it that we don't believe these drugs can find their way into countries where U.S. consumers may wish to purchase their medications? This is particularly troubling given the FDA's confirmation later in the hearing to Representative BURR that it has information that there were injuries to American citizens associated with counterfeit products.

Chairman BLILEY has also documented potential serious dangers with drugs from foreign sources. In a lengthy May 8, 2000, letter to FDA Commissioner Henney he suggests that not only have Americans possibly been injured or even killed from foreign-made pharmaceuticals, but that "[d]evelopments from this investigation require the Committee to intensify its examination and request that the FDA

consider taking certain actions to protect the American public."

First and foremost, the PDMA is a public health and safety law. We should therefore tread carefully before changing it. I am greatly concerned that the amendments adopted by the House lack the care and craftsmanship needed to ensure both access to less expensive prescription drugs and assurance of safety for the consumer.

The investigation that led to the PDMA discovered a "diversion market" that prevented effective control over the true sources of merchandise in a significant number of cases. The integrity of the distribution system was insufficient to prevent the introduction and eventual retail sale of substandard, ineffective, or even counterfeit pharmaceuticals. As the Committee report stated, "pharmaceuticals which have been mislabeled, misbranded, improperly stored or shipped, have exceeded their expiration dates, or are bald counterfeits are injected into the national distribution system for ultimate sale to consumers."

The PDMA was "designed to restore the integrity and control over the pharmaceutical market necessary to eliminate actual and potential health and safety problems before serious consumer injury results." The Committee report specifically outlined the concerns PDMA was intended to address: "Reimported pharmaceuticals threaten the American public health in two ways. First, foreign counterfeits, falsely described as reimported U.S. produced drugs, have entered the distribution system. Second, proper storage and handling of legitimate pharmaceuticals cannot be guaranteed by U.S. law once the drugs have left the boundaries of the United States." The PDMA is not perfect. But I dare say that the PDMA has saved a lot of lives.

Now let us note why legislation to modify the PDMA in a responsible fashion is an idea whose time has come. Foreign drugs are often less expensive than domestically available products. Notwithstanding the range of safety risks they pose, many Americans seek them out because of outrageously high domestic prices that make drugs unaffordable for many Americans, particularly the elderly. I am open to a careful review and revision of PDMA for the purpose of creating a paradigm for drug importation that is safe for our consumers while facilitating access to the international market prices at which many commonly prescribed prescription drugs are available.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to acknowledge beneficial aspects of the amendments to which these comments are addressed. An overwhelming majority of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle are now on record for the proposition that the price Americans pay for prescription drugs is too high. Lack of access to medically necessary prescription drugs is a real problem faced by millions of Americans. Let us do better and give consumers access to lower priced prescription pharmaceuticals that are safe.

CAPTAIN ADAN GUERRERO

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a special service officer, Captain Adan

Guerrero, commander of the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Corpus Christi.

Captain Guerrero is the model service officer for the Coast Guard. In addition to being a great guy who deals squarely with whatever comes up and a tireless advocate for the United States Coast Guard and the men and women who serve in his command, he is also a hometown boy.

This Coastie from Corpus Christi began his service with the U.S. Coast Guard after graduating from the Coast Guard Academy in 1974. He served first as a deck officer on the USCGC *Morgenthau* from 1974 to 1976 when it was homeported in New York City. He served as engineer officer aboard the USCGC *Durable* homeported in Brownsville, Texas from 1983–1986.

Captain Guerrero started a career in marine safety at the Marine Inspection Office in New Orleans, where he served as a marine inspector, investigating officer and licensing examiner. He also served as the Coast Guard liaison officer at the United States Embassy in Mexico City before returning again to the Marine Safety Office Training Office. From 1990–98, he served as the executive officer responsible for marine safety and environmental protection on over 500 miles of the Ohio River.

Before returning to Corpus Christi, he was chief of the Vessel and Facility Operating Standards Division, Office of Operating and Environmental Standards, Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC. He represented the United States when he headed the delegation on Ship/Port Interface Working Group of the International Maritime Organization in London.

He also served as director of the National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee and the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Advisory Committee. He has been awarded two Coast Guard Commendation Medals and three Coast Guard Achievement Medals with Operational Distinguishing Device.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in wishing Captain Guerrero well upon his retirement with his wife, Silvia DeLaRosa of Corpus Christi, and their children, Nicolas and Benjamin.

HONORING LIEUTENANT DENNIS SLOCUMB ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 32 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Lieutenant Dennis Slocumb on his retirement after 32 years of service with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Slocumb has devoted his career to protecting the lives of all Californians, and in doing so, I would like to pay tribute to Dennis who has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty.

Lieutenant Slocumb entered the Sheriff's Department in 1968, and during his 32 years of service he assisted the community as a patrolman, a press liaison and lieutenant detective. His most recent assignment was to serve as the president of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association, representing over 6,000 law enforcement professionals.

Upon his retirement from the Sheriff's Department, Lieutenant Slocumb will be honored by his community and his colleagues to serve as executive vice president with the International Union of Police Associations in Alexandria, Virginia.

What makes these accomplishments even more remarkable is that Dennis is a devoted husband and father of one. Lieutenant Slocumb's role as a public servant to the people of his community and all Californians will not go unnoticed. Dennis truly lived the life of a model police officer and he has earned the right to say that he's made a difference.

It is with this, that I would like to honor Mr. Slocumb and his efforts to make his community a better place to live. His dedication and know-how have distinguished him greatly. The citizens of California owe Dennis a lot of gratitude and I wish him well.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE TOMMIE J. ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you to commemorate the memory of the late Tommie J. Robinson. Robinson was one of Bolton, Mississippi's oldest residents.

Robinson, a homemaker, died of heart failure on June 23, 2000. She was 106 years old. To many, Robinson was the town historian. People from all around would come to her and say, "What was life like in Mississippi 50 years ago?"

A devoted wife and mother, Robinson worked very hard to make her community a better place for future generations. Formerly a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Robinson later became a member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church until her death.

Robinson was an advocate for education in the black community. She encouraged black youth to seek higher education, and promoted the importance of reading. Robinson was very well known for her acute spelling ability. Many of her neighbors and friends would rely on her keen spelling abilities and challenge her to test her knowledge. She always proved triumphant.

Mr. Speaker, Tommie J. Robinson has touched the lives of many people. She will be missed, and she will always be remembered by the people of Bolton as one who loved the state of Mississippi.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PARTICIPANT ADVOCATE BILL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today Senator HARKIN and I are pleased to introduce legislation to create an Office of Pension Participant Advocacy within the Department of Labor. This is an idea whose time is long overdue. Over the last several decades, and particularly

since Congress enacted the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, our pension system has grown increasingly complicated and less "employee-friendly". Even in the best of circumstances, pension law is complex. But, when employees or retirees have questions or problems, understanding and maneuvering through our pension system can be a nightmare.

I, and many other members of Congress, have long believed that individuals need a single easy place that they can turn to when they have problems with our pension system. Currently, pension issues are handled by a variety of agencies, including the Department of Labor, Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, as well as several other agencies. Finding the right agency itself can be a challenge. In addition, these agencies often are not set up to help with individual problems and concerns. The IRS and Treasury Departments primarily focus on tax abuses, not individual inquiries. For many years, the Department of Labor had little or no staff to help individuals with specific problems. Even though the Department has worked hard in the past five years to develop a team of "benefit advisers", there is no clear statutory mandate for this program, nor clear directive that the Department should provide an easy and accessible entry point for individuals with pension problems. The American people need a simple place to go to address their pension concerns. There is no need or reason to seek out expensive lawyers when an individual has a particular pension problem which may involve a small amount of money dollar-wise, but mean the difference between a decent and an impoverished retirement to that person.

The Office of Pension Participant Advocacy would establish a clear Congressional mandate that the Department of Labor should be the entry point for individuals with their pension problems. We are not talking about creating a new bureaucracy, but streamlining and improving the existing system. Under our legislation, the Department of Labor would establish an Office of the Pension Participant Advocate that would be headed by a senior executive with demonstrated expertise in pension participant assistance. The Office would evaluate the efforts of existing entities to assist pension plan participants and promote the effectiveness of our pension system by increasing awareness of the importance of pensions and ensuring that the pension benefit rights of individuals are protected. The Pension Participant Advocate annually would report to the Administration and Congress on policy issues it has encountered and make recommendations for resolving them.

We hope this bill will receive widespread bipartisan support. Over the past several years, a bipartisan group of members and outside organizations has expressed concern about the shortcomings of our current pension assistance system. We hope this bill will provide a meaningful and cost effective solution to the system's current inadequacies and look forward to working with our colleagues towards its enactment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I hosted Labor Secretary Alexis Herman in my Congressional District who was meeting with local officials and community members. Our late return to Washington resulted in my missing the following votes on H.R. 4461, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001:

Roll No. 373, on agreeing to the Coburn amendment that sought to prohibit the use of any funding for drugs solely intended for the chemical inducement of abortion. Had I been present I would have voted no.

Roll No. 374, on agreeing to the Royce amendment that sought to reduce by one percent each amount that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law. Had I been present I would have voted no.

Roll No. 375, on agreeing to the Crowley amendment that prohibits the FDA from taking actions that restrict the purchase of prescription drugs in Canada and Mexico by United States citizens. Had I been present I would have voted aye.

Roll No. 376, on agreeing to the Royce amendment that sought to prohibit any funding to award any new allocations under the market access program or pay salaries of personnel to award such allocations. Had I been present I would have voted no.

Roll No. 377, on agreeing to the Coburn amendment that prohibits the FDA from taking any action to interfere with the import of drugs that have been approved for use within the United States and were manufactured in an FDA approved facility in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. Had I been present I would have voted aye.

Roll No. 378, on agreeing to the Sanford amendment that sought to prohibit any funding by the Department of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program under child nutrition programs to study the effects of providing free breakfasts to students without regard to family income. Had I been present I would have voted no.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ALL-AMERICAN EAGLES PARTICIPANTS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the participants of my 2000 All-American Eagles program. When I was a Recreation Supervisor with the Chicago Park District in the late 1960's, I started the All-American Eagles competition. In 1983, I was elected to represent the people of the (current) Third Congressional District of Illinois, and brought the program to Southwest Chicago and its near suburbs. After thirty-one successful years, this program is still the cornerstone of my efforts to recognize and honor many of our

district's exemplary seventh and eighth grade students.

This year's theme was World War I, and consisted of three components—an essay and public speaking contest, an artwork competition, and a history quiz. Students who participated in the essay contest submitted an essay from 250–500 words long about the most important person or event in World War I. The top 20 essayists were asked to present their work orally to a panel of judges consisting of local teachers and elected officials. The top three finishers for each event were given a plaque and/or a savings bond, and accumulated points for the overall competition. The overall winner received a \$500 savings bond. The school that sent the most participants received a \$250 savings bond.

It now gives me great pleasure to announce to my colleagues the winners of the 2000 All American Eagles competition. For the essay-speech contest, Imelda Vionontes from Kinzie delivered an excellent essay about the economic and social devastation during World War I, earning her a third place finish. Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School earned a second place prize for his remarks about the Treaty of Versailles. Nicole Svajlenka from St. Alexander School delivered an outstanding essay about the pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille, earning a \$100 savings bond and first place.

I was truly impressed with the artwork submitted for the competition this year. I have no doubt that today's youth will make great contributions to the tomorrow's culture. Winning the third place prize was Ashley Wrobel from St. George School. Joseph Waterlander and Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School took second and first place respectively.

For the history quiz, I am reminded by the aphorism that states, "Anybody can make history—only a great man can write it." The following are the potentially "great" future historians that aced the history quiz. Demonstrating a clear interest in world history was Paul Wiekiewicz from Our Lady of the Mount School, earning a third place finish. In second place was Adam Jures from Lincoln Middle School. Finally, Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School won his second competition and demonstrated a profound interest in the social sciences.

Furthermore, Samuel Lin made important strides towards the funding of his college education, winning the 2000 All American Eagle Award. I congratulate Samuel for his hard work and deep commitment to his continuing education. Today, I charge Samuel to use his ambition and academic talent in service to this great nation, as he is a credit to his family and community.

Again, I would like to thank all the participants in this year's competition, as well as St. George School for providing the most participants. Judging these contests can often be a difficult task. However, I had the pleasure of hearing great essays and seeing the talent of a new generation of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge these young Americans to pursue their interests to the fullest extent of their abilities and to the betterment of this nation.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL FRANCIS G. MAHON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Francis G. Mahon. Colonel Mahon was born in Northport, New York, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Mahon. He was commissioned at the University of Delaware in 1979 when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. In 1988, he completed a Master of Science Degree in Systems Technology. His Military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Basic Course, the Armor Officers Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA.

Colonel Mahon has served in many key assignments, including Chaparral Platoon Leader and Battery Executive Officer of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Carson, CO; Battery Executive Officer of Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery; Assistant S-3, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, and Battery Commander, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea; Chief of Intelligence Branch, C31 Division, USAADASCH Directorate of Combat Developments, Fort Bliss, Texas; Battalion Operations Officer, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, Bitburg Germany; Brigade Operations Officer, 94th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany; Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion (PATRIOT), 43rd Air Defense Artillery; and Missile Defense Planner, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, The Pentagon, Virginia.

Colonel Mahon will begin Command of the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, on July 13, 2000.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Superior Unit Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Colonel Mahon is married to the former Elizabeth Cecelia McGowan, daughter of Todd and Elizabeth McGowan of Wilmington, Delaware. They have four children, Elizabeth Anne (12), Kathleen Margaret (8), Mary Frances (6) and Francis Todd (3).

Colonel Mahon has worked for more than 20 years in service to his community and nation. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and thanking Colonel Mahon and his family for their dedicated service to the United States of America. We wish him much success as he begins his new command.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4425, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my reluctant support for the Conference Report on H.R. 4425, the Fiscal Year 2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill. While I wholeheartedly endorse the bill as originally reported by the House in May, which contained funding for important construction projects at North Carolina's military bases, I do have some concerns about the new spending added to the bill in Conference.

Much of what was added to this bill in Conference could have been addressed through the normal appropriations process. Among the most egregious examples of pork spending in this bill are: \$45 million for a new jet for the Commandant of the Coast Guard; \$25 million for a new community center in Ohio; \$7 million to "study" sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean; and \$25 million to build a new firearms training center for the Customs Service in West Virginia.

However, the bill also contains numerous provisions that address the true emergency needs of many in this country, and in North Carolina particularly. Thousands of people in my home state are still struggling to overcome the impact of last fall's hurricanes, and have been waiting for months for Congress to take action. The assistance provided in this conference report will be critical in helping my fellow North Carolinians return to at least a semblance of the lives they led before last September's devastating floods.

Despite my concerns about the use of this bill to provide money for projects that are obviously not true emergencies, I am grateful to the Appropriations Committee for providing the desperately needed hurricane-related assistance, and appreciate their hard work in bringing this legislation to the floor.

HONORING SERGEANT ARTHUR J. REDDY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on this day, I would like to honor Sergeant Arthur J. Reddy on his retirement after 33 years of service as a police officer with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Reddy has contributed greatly to the well-being of our citizens.

Sergeant Reddy began working in the Sheriff's Department in 1967. His assignments have included custody, patrol, and narcotics. He served as a representative to federal, state, and local narcotic advisory councils and enforcement agencies. He also received the distinguished honor of working with the U.S. Department of Justice Task Force in which he served as an inter-agency liaison.

In 1979, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the L.A. County Professional Police Officer's Association. Mr.

Reddy's leadership roles in numerous organizations culminated in 1995 when he was elected to serve as the Vice-President of the International Union of Police Associations and Legislative Liaison for three terms. Sergeant Reddy has not only fulfilled all the requirements of his job in an exemplary manner, but he has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

It is because of these accomplishments I am deeply honored in recognizing Sergeant Reddy today. He deserves our deepest gratitude and sincere wishes for a happy and peaceful retirement.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO JOHN
FINNEGAN, JR.

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. John Finnegan, Jr. Mr. Finnegan, who only moved to the Lehigh Valley four years ago, has displayed an extraordinary dedication to the people of his community. The Director of Consulting Services at Dun and Bradstreet, Mr. Finnegan serves as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Hanover Township, Northampton County. He has served as the chief fund-raiser for the township's bicentennial committee, and on its parks and recreation board. His hard work and diligence have made a tremendous difference in the life of his community.

In addition to his civic and corporate involvement, Mr. Finnegan's personal actions also serve as a model for others to follow. He has been a coach for Little League baseball and hockey leagues, serving as a role model and mentor to the youth of the Lehigh Valley. Coordinator for his neighborhood crime watch, Mr. Finnegan has become an invaluable resource to the constituents of my district in the short time he has lived there. I applaud Mr. Finnegan for his devotion to the Lehigh Valley community. John Finnegan is a Lehigh Valley Hero.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING
VIETNAMESE AMERICANS AND
OTHERS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDI-
TIONS IN VIETNAM

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the sacrifices of individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the former Republic of Vietnam.

I introduced this resolution several months ago to honor the brave Vietnamese men and women who fought alongside American forces during the Vietnam conflict, and yet were never given the proper recognition. It is my strong belief that the individuals who served in

the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam should be commended for their bravery and courage in the face of severe adversity and hardship.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fall of Saigon to Communist forces. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam suffered enormous casualties during the Vietnam Conflict. From 1961 to 1975, over 750,000 Vietnamese men were wounded and over 250,000 Vietnamese men were killed in action. These brave men made the ultimate sacrifice: they died fighting for freedom and democracy in their homeland. Although their homeland was lost to Communist forces, their sacrifices must never be forgotten.

After the war, the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam forcibly rounded up intellectuals, political leaders, teachers, poets, artists, religious leaders, and former officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam and sent them to re-education camps—a more appropriate term would be "Vietnamese Gulag." These camps evoke images akin to the Nazi death camps during World War II. The prisoners, deemed security risks by the Communist regime, were regularly beaten, starved, tortured, and forced to endure inhumane conditions. Unfortunately, many, if not most, did not survive.

As one former prisoner told the Seattle Times, "The Communist did not need reasons to kill. Prisoners were expendable, worked to death . . ." Or told through the eyes of another former prisoner, "They [the Communists] don't kill everyone all at once, but slowly, slowly."

I would like to mention some remarkable individuals who survived the Vietnamese Gulag and have personally shared their stories with me. These stories speak of courage, spirit, and the human will to live. These individuals now live in Northern Virginia. Mr. Nguyen Cao Quyen, Mr. Nguyen Van Thanh, Mr. Tran Nhat Kim, Mr. Dinh Anh Thai are all former prisoners of the Vietnamese Gulag. Their crime: they were officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam or worked for the South Vietnamese government.

Mr. Vu Hoi—an artist, Mr. Nguyen Chi Thien—a poet, and Professor Doan Viet Hoat, all were intellectuals who were imprisoned by the Communist government for expressing their beliefs about democracy. In total, these three men spent over 50 years in the Vietnamese Gulag.

Finally, I would like to mention Father Nguyen Huu Le and Father Tran Qui Thien who were also imprisoned for many years because they would not use their influence with their parishioners to propagandize Communist ideology. I am proud to represent these courageous individuals and others like them in Virginia's Eleventh District.

Although the current government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a signatory to eight international covenants on human rights, it continues to treat members of the former Armed Forces of Vietnam and their families as second-class citizens. The government of Vietnam has established a two-tiered socioeconomic system, reminiscent of the apartheid regime used in South Africa and implemented by the Nazis to isolate Jews in the 1930's.

A good example is education, which is highly valued in Vietnamese culture and society. Yet relatives of the men who suffered in the Vietnamese Gulag cannot enroll in schools be-

cause of an official government-endorsed policy of exclusion. Likewise, many relatives of these former prisoners find it difficult to obtain employment for the same reason. The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is adding insult to injury to these principled men who endured years of wrongful imprisonment and torture only to have their families continue to suffer today by not having access to jobs, education, and proper medical treatment.

The end of the Vietnam conflict produced an exodus of over 2 million Vietnamese who fled the country, many in rickety boats that were over-crowded and dangerous. They suffered treacherous seas, pirate attacks, dehydration, lack of food and medicine, and risked death rather than live under a Communist regime. Many of these refugees came to the United States where they have resettled, and are now proud Americans.

While the Vietnamese-American Community has been successful in rebuilding their lives here in the United States, they have not forgotten those who fought in the name of freedom. Traditionally, the former Republic of South Vietnam and presently in Vietnamese-American communities all across America, June 19th represents a day to commemorate and honor both fallen and living heroes who have dedicated or are continuing to dedicate their lives to bringing international attention to freedom and the human rights situation in Vietnam. It is a day on which the community memorializes those who gave their lives and recognizes former prisoners of conscience for their commitment and sacrifice in the struggle for democracy and freedom.

This is why on Vietnam Human Rights Day, I introduced, H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution honoring the sacrifices of individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the former Republic of Vietnam. As an original sponsor of the Congressional Dialogue on Vietnam and the Adopt-A-Voice-of-Conscience program, it is not only my honor, but my privilege to have introduced this resolution on behalf of all Vietnamese-Americans and especially, the tens of thousands living in Northern Virginia. It is imperative that we never forget the sacrifices that the members of Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam made so that future generations may live in freedom.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution because it reaffirms Congress' commitment to Vietnamese-Americans and others whose work helps to keep the spirit of freedom alive for those still living in Vietnam.

It is my strongest hope that the citizens of Vietnam will one day be free: free to elect their own leaders and government, free to worship as they please, free to speak and print their own opinions without fear of persecution or harassment, and simply free to live their lives without government intrusion. This is the will of democracy and the Vietnamese people.

IN HONOR OF JOHN BACO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to John Baco, pitcher for the baseball team at St. Ignatius High School in Ohio. John

has been selected by the Cleveland Plain Dealer as a member of their All-Star baseball team for the Spring 2000 season.

John has demonstrated exceptional athletic ability and tremendous commitment to his sporting activities. As pitcher of the St. Ignatius Wildcats, this gritty senior right-hander is the model of composure. In compiling a 9–0 record with posted victories in the sectional finals, district finals, regional semifinals and state semifinals, John was a part of a St. Ignatius team that made history by advancing to the school's first state championship baseball game. In a complete-game, eight-inning effort against perennial power Cincinnati Moeller in the state semifinals, he stuck out 14, four shy of the big-school Final Four record. These impressive records mirror John's commitment to responsibility. His strong faith and belief in her abilities has enabled her to become one of the finest athletes in northern Ohio.

Recognition by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of John's accomplishments is an amazing honor because it acknowledges the hours of sacrifice and patience needed to cultivate stamina and perseverance, as well as excellence in teamwork and cooperation. More importantly, I am inspired by his motivation, poise, and good sportsmanship on and off the playing field. Knowing that he tried his best is more important than actually winning. Clearly, he is the quintessential model of grace under pressure. I am impressed by such optimism and devotion. He is truly remarkable. I know that John has much to offer. I look forward to offering more congratulations to this promising athlete in the future.

My fellow colleagues, John Baco is an outstanding and inspirational individual. Please join me in honoring his notable accomplishments and achievements in baseball.

MEDICARE RX 2000 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Prescription Drug Package, H.R. 4680, The Medicare Rx 2000 Act. 2.7 million Floridians depend on Medicare for their health-care coverage. Currently, we are taking tremendous steps to provide American seniors with comprehensive prescription drug coverage, because no seniors should have to choose between life saving prescription drugs and food for their table. This program will be flexible and voluntary and will give every senior citizen a choice between at least two different plans.

Our plan recognizes that two-thirds of American senior citizens have their own prescription drug coverage from their retirement, or they have little need for prescription drugs throughout the course of the year. These are the lucky ones and we do not want to force them into a plan they do not want nor need. However, some seniors have a tremendous prescription drug burden. Estimates indicate that the average senior citizen will have an annual prescription drug cost of over \$2,300 by the year 2003. Some would argue that this is because of inflated drug prices. That may be good rhetoric, but the truth is not that simple.

As a physician, I understand the importance of prescription drugs to seniors. I also understand the great amount of time and effort and expense that goes into manufacturing a drug. These miracle pills take years to craft, test, and finally pass Federal Drug Administration (FDA) muster. It's been said that it costs upwards of one-half billion dollars to get a drug from original conception to the shelf in your local pharmacy. True, prices are higher, but that is due to the increased research and development in our pharmaceutical labs that offer Americans vast improvements over drugs that are currently on the market. With nearly every drug there are side effects. Advances in new drugs offer Americans more precise drugs with fewer side effects and greater conveniences. These advanced drugs are, because of their complexities, more expensive to develop and produce.

According to studies on the impact of our plan, the costs of prescription drugs would quickly fall by 25%, by giving seniors the same collective bargaining powers as members of other prescription drug plans and by forcing pharmacies to compete for seniors' business. Under our plan, the federal government would assume 50% of a senior's drug cost up to \$2,350. In addition to this coverage, the plan would guarantee catastrophic coverage so that no senior will ever have to pay over \$6,000 a year for life saving prescription drugs.

Another facet of this bipartisan Medicare Rx plan is that it provides a 100% benefit to the poorest seniors. Under our plan, any senior whose annual income is 135% of the poverty level or below will have their full premiums, deductibles and co-payments assumed by the federal government.

Some have offered an alternative plan which would be run solely by the federal government. It is estimated that such an alternative plan would not force competition and would, instead, rely on government mandates and price controls. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has said that this alternative would only reduce prices by about one-half of the amount of the bipartisan plan. Additionally, government price controls would place the government in a greater position of determining which research companies conduct certain types of research, and I believe that would ultimately reduce the availability of new, more precise drugs.

I would add, that as a physician, I know how important it is that doctors work with their patients to find drugs that best serve the patients' needs and that are most affordable for the patients. For example, some of the more expensive drugs may be time-release drugs and only require that a patient take that drug once a day. On the other hand, there may be a considerably less expensive drug that a patient may have to take twice a day. It is important that doctors take the time to work with their patients to find the best drug treatment for their patient and consider that patient's physical and budgetary considerations. I have repeatedly done this in my practice.

In this nation we are very blessed. And the prescription drug plan that we are considering is indeed a demonstration of our bounty. It addresses this need in a manner that focuses the most effort to serving those with greatest need. It ensures that market forces, not government price controls and mandates—which have always lead to poor quality and ineffi-

ciency—are the mechanisms employed to help keep costs down. It ensures that those who currently have coverage are not forced to pay for something they do not need. And, it works in such a way that will lower drugs costs for all seniors.

Finally, to those who would argue that we should have a government run prescription drug plan, I would only point out one of the latest battles in Medicare. Since Medicare was established it has been required that a physician supervise a nurse anesthetist who may be administering the anesthesia to a senior. Over the past decade, the nurse anesthetists have put on a massive lobbying effort to urge Medicare to remove the physician supervision requirement and allow nurse anesthetists to work unsupervised. On June 27, a peer reviewed medical study was released showing that when administering anesthesia in the absence of an anesthesiologist (a physician), the loss of life was 2.7 per thousand greater than it would have been under the supervision of an anesthesiologist. The Administration, which sets the rules for Medicare, is in the process of removing this supervision requirement. Any argument that seniors are better off with a government mandated system is severely undercut by this recent action by Medicare and should give us all pause at such a prospect.

I say let's pass this bipartisan bill. Let us move forward with a plan that does meets seniors needs. It is too important to our seniors to allow politics to stop this legislation.

COMMENDING UPLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Upland Christian School, of Upland, California, on its recent accreditations.

For over two decades, Upland Christian School has based its classes on the premise that the Bible is the literal truth. In addition to teaching the typical courses, such as English, math, and history, Upland Christian School has taught that there are absolutes in the world. This combination of religion within academia has attracted a steady increase in enrollment, from a handful of students to its current enrollment of 650 students.

In addition to celebrating the graduation of its third senior class, Upland Christian School can now boast of its accreditation by the Association of Christian Schools International and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Neither accreditation is an easy feat; both require arduous curricula reviews and proof that the school is meeting stringent standards.

The teachers, students, parents, school board members and administrators of Upland Christian School deserve high accolades for this achievement.

I commend Upland Christian School for its commitment to high standards, quality teaching, and its adherence to God's law.

PUBLIC SERVICE OF MAYOR TOM JELEPIS OF BAY VILLAGE, OH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service of one of the best mayors from northeast Ohio's local communities. This year marks the last and final year of the term of Mayor Tom Jelepis of Bay Village, Ohio, a western suburb of Cleveland. Tom is choosing to pursue other challenges down the road, and this marks his final few months of public service as Bay Village's respected mayor.

The entire Bay Village community and the adjoining West Shore communities owe Tom a debt of gratitude. Thanks to Tom's remarkable ability to forge a consensus in resolving one of the most daunting threats to the Bay Village and West Shore quality of life, represented by the agreement reached in June, 1998 to halt the proposed tripling of train traffic following the acquisition of Conrail by CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads. When the announcement was made in August, 1997 that train traffic would likely be more than tripled through the quiet, densely populated communities along Cleveland's West Shore communities, Tom Jelepis was one of the first public officials to begin to forge a large bipartisan coalition to find a reasonable alternative, an alternative which would stop the train traffic increase and would preserve Bay Village's and the West Shore's attractive quality of life.

It was Tom's relentless perseverance, his ability to reach out to find common ground and consensus, and his enviable charm and wit that managed to bring people together to find a workable agreement that helped hundreds of thousands of local residents. Without Tom Jelepis' involvement, there would likely not have been a positive outcome, a result which halted the proposed tripling of train traffic and brought forward a plan beneficial to all parties and local communities. I had the pleasure to work side by side with Tom Jelepis throughout this challenging time, and I can say with confidence that he represents the very best in public service. His dedication, his sense of decency, and his sincerity is unmatched in public life.

There are very few people in public life—no, in all aspects of life—with Tom Jelepis' unique combination of charm, wit, perseverance, and grace. He is my friend, and I am proud that he is my friend. He is a natural, as a businessman, as a family man, as a community leader, and as a mayor. The entire Bay Village community owes him a genuine "thank you" for his many years of service.

I hold a deep and sincere respect for Tom Jelepis and I wish him the very best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BENNIE HOLMES, JR.

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sadness that I rise to honor the

life of Bennie Holmes Jr., who passed away recently at too young an age. Mr. Holmes' leadership in the civil rights movement and as an anti-poverty activist earned him the respect of our entire San Francisco community; his caring heart and kind ways earned him our affection. Bennie's presence in the community can never be replaced, but the work of his life will live on after him.

Bennie was born and reared in McComb, Mississippi, and it was there that he learned the values of hard work, community, and his deeply rooted sense of justice. In the late 1950's, he moved to California, and in 1961 he graduated from Monrovia High School in Los Angeles County. He later moved to San Francisco and continued his education at San Francisco State University, where he earned a degree in Political Science.

Mr. Holmes worked much of his life for racial equality. He helped to found the N.A.A.C.P. Junior Chapter at Pasadena College in 1961. In 1964 he organized a group from San Francisco which joined the 1964 march for civil rights that went from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He fought continually for the cause of civil rights with the Congress On Racial Equality, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and with such individuals as Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Farmer.

Dedicated to fighting poverty and improving the lives of low-income residents, Bennie worked most of his professional life with the Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco. For the past thirty-three years, Bennie was employed by this nonprofit group in several different capacities. He organized and raised money for numerous anti-poverty programs in San Francisco and worked to clothe, feed, and find employment for the neediest among us. Known and trusted by everyone, Bennie was regarded as the "eyes and ears" of the community because he was always looking out for those in need.

Mr. Holmes also organized workshops at which tenants learned their rights when dealing with landlords, worked with youth groups, and chaired the Direct Action Committee and Study Group through which he traveled extensively in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

Well-regarded for his tireless community service, Bennie was also admired for his delicious barbecue ribs. At social and political events, he could always be found behind the grill, serving the community in yet another way.

Bennie Holmes left us much too soon. He worked his entire life for civil rights, equal opportunity, and economic and social justice. He treated everyone with respect, and he was respected for doing so. His passing is a loss to all of our San Francisco community.

My thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Leola Wells Holmes, his children, and his entire family.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF OLIVE WHITMORE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ms. Olive Whitmore.

Ms. Whitmore, a native of Cleveland, is the oldest of 3 children. Her birthday, October 14, 2000, marks the 100th year of her active life. She lived in Cleveland for 76 years, which made her well known in her community. She holds the longest term as a member of the West Boulevard Christian Church, which she has belonged to since she was 3 years of age. Prior to her move to South Westerly in 1983, she was a charter member of the Order of Eastern Star and Electa. Her talented voice contributed to the choir under the direction of Charles Dawes of the "Cleveland Orchestra." The choir was well recognized for their performance during the first 4th of July celebration at the Cleveland Munciple Stadium. Her former community fondly remembers her also for the time she was employed helping customers in Halle's Department store between 1957 and 1970. After her retirement she continued her active lifestyle, and became a noted traveler, traveling to Nova Scotia and throughout the United States.

Olive Whitmore is a cherished treasure for her family, friends, and community. Her spark, friendly smile, kindness and caring for others has touched countless Clevelanders who have had the honor of knowing her. Olive is a young 100, demonstrating that one's positive attitude and perseverance throughout one's life can carry you a long, long way. Olive Whitmore is loved by many.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Ms. Olive Whitmore on this momentous occasion of her 100th birthday.

"TRIAL" OF IRANIAN JEWS IS A CASE OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express outrage over the sentences handed down on July 1st in Iran against ten of thirteen Iranian Jews who were recently put on trial in that country. These people, who were charged with the crime of practicing their religion, were unfairly imprisoned for over a year while waiting for the Iranian government to conduct its trial. Now they have been found guilty in a sham legal proceeding.

The trial—if it can be called a trial—was political intimidation not a judicial proceeding. This is a court with no jury, and one which holds its trials behind closed doors with the "judge" serving as both prosecutor and judge. The defendants were not able to choose their own representation in court.

Furthermore, the thirteen individuals were not even indicted on the original charges that were brought against them. Originally the thirteen were arrested for teaching Hebrew and holding religious classes, and on these charges they were detained for over a year before being tried by the Iranian Revolutionary Court. It is significant that after detaining these innocent people on these trumped up charges for over a year, the Court was unable to provide any evidence other than the coerced confessions of the detainees.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to the actions of President Clinton, Secretary Albright and other Administration officials, as well as

other governments who successfully pressured the Iranian government to hand down jail terms instead of death sentences. Since the Islamic revolution in 1979, seventeen Jews have been executed, and if not for the forceful action of the White House, the Department of State, and other governments, that number would surely now be twenty-seven. While I want to express appreciation for these actions, I urge our Administration and other governments to maintain continued pressure to urge the Iranian government to overturn this decision of the Revolutionary Court and free these wrongly imprisoned victims.

IN HONOR OF DAVE GRESKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Dave Gresky, co-captain of the baseball team at St. Ignatius High School in Ohio. Dave has been selected by the Cleveland Plain Dealer as a member of their All-Star baseball team for the Spring 2000 season. In addition to this considerable honor, Dave Gresky was chosen as the MVP of the All-Star team as well.

As a co-captain of the St. Ignatius Wildcats, Dave Gresky led the team to a 25-6 record, and to their first appearance in a state championship baseball game. Gresky batted .452 during the regular season as a senior right fielder, and he set single season records in three categories for St. Ignatius with 50 hits, 10 home runs, and 51 runs batted in. His notable contributions to the team earned him a baseball scholarship to Northwestern University. In addition, Gresky was selected by the Florida Marlins in the 22nd round of the amateur draft in June.

Dave Gresky's athletic accomplishments do not end on the baseball diamond, however. He also led the St. Ignatius Wildcats football team to a record eighth Division I state title when he scored the clinching touchdown in the championship game.

Recognition by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Dave's accomplishments is an amazing honor because it acknowledges the hours of sacrifice and patience needed to cultivate stamina and perseverance, as well as excellence in teamwork and cooperation. More importantly, I am inspired by his motivation, poise, and good sportsmanship on and off the playing field. Clearly, he is the quintessential model of grace under pressure. He is truly remarkable. I know that Dave has much to offer. I look forward to offering more congratulations to this promising athlete in the future.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Dave Gresky, an impressive right fielder and dedicated young athlete, for his outstanding achievements in sports.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE OF THE
HONORABLE JOE A. GONSALVES

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of

my very dear friend and colleague, the Honorable Joe A. Gonsalves, former Member of the California State Assembly representing the 66th Assembly District which includes several of the cities and communities in my 34th Congressional District. Mr. Gonsalves died Friday, July 7, 2000 at his Gold River, California home.

Joe A. Gonsalves was a true exemplification of the fulfillment of the American ideal and the California dream. The son of Joaquim and Elvira Gonsalves, Portuguese Immigrants from the island of Terceira in the Azores, Joe was born on October 13, 1919 in Holtville, California. From the humblest beginnings in the farming region of the Imperial Valley, the Gonsalves family moved first to Whittier, then settled in Artesia, where they began the first of several dairy farms. In time, each Gonsalves son would own and operate his own dairy farm and through dint of hard work and steady growth, would become the basis of the families prosperity. Joe attended local schools and graduated from Excelsior High School in Norwalk, California. The Gonsalves family were among the founders of Holy Family Catholic Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School in Artesia.

When the new City of Dairy Valley, later to become the City of Cerritos, was incorporated in 1958, Joe Gonsalves was elected to the first City Council and served two terms as Mayor. When a new legislative district was formed in Southeast Los Angeles County following the 1961 reapportionment, Joe A. Gonsalves won election to the California State Assembly in the 1962 General Election, becoming the first legislator ever elected from Portuguese descent. When all but a small handful of state legislators were part-time Joe Gonsalves sold his dairy interests and became a Full-Time Legislator and moved his family north to the state Capitol in Sacramento. There he began to build a remarkable record of achievement during California's golden era of growth and progress.

Serving with political titans including legendary Speaker Jesse M. Unruh and Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Joe Gonsalves authored landmark legislation including the law that created a more equitable configuration of the state's important dairy industry benefiting the independent farmers. His diligence, skill and personality were rewarded with his appointment as Chairman of the powerful Assembly Rules Committee, Joint Committee on Rules, and later the Revenue and Taxation Committee. His leadership on the State Allocation Board and the Assembly Education Committee produced substantial increases in funding for local school districts.

Following his distinguished service of twelve years in state office, Joe began the third chapter of his professional career by establishing his own company to provide professional legislative representation. He soon became one of the Capitol's most highly respected and influential lobbyists. Later, he was joined by his son Anthony D. Gonsalves in the firm that would be called Joe A. Gonsalves & Son. The Gonsalves lobbying firm represented a blue chip roster of interests including the Port of Long Beach, the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, the Oak Tree Racing Association, the California Dairymen's Association, the Portuguese government, and over forty incorporated California cities. The firm expanded to include a third generation of Gonsalves advocates when

Joe's grandson Jason Gonsalves joined the company.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored by the wonderful friendship I enjoyed with this unique and outstanding gentleman. He was a wise and trusted advisor to me during my service as a City Councilwoman, Mayor and Member of the California Assembly. Joe Gonsalves was a real friend to countless people from all walks of life. He was a true role model for everyone who aspires to the highest levels of honesty, decency, loyalty and integrity in a profession that has seen all too little of these qualities.

Above all Mr. Speaker, Joe A. Gonsalves never forgot from whence he came. He was a great man with a common touch. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and cherished his friendship. Preceded in death by his first wife Virginia, Joe Gonsalves is survived by his wife Jerry Farris Gonsalves and by his nine sons and their spouses, Robert, James & Ruth, Joe & Mary, Jack & Debt, Frank & Theresa, Anthony & Evelyn, David & Josephine, Tim & Stephanie, John Kennedy & Julie Gonsalves. He is also survived by two step children Jerry Farris & his wife Shirley and Terry Farris, his sister Mabel Gonsalves, three brothers Jack, Bennie and Frank Gonsalves, 28 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

On behalf of my husband Frank, my family, my Chief of Staff Chuck Fuentes, (whose own father Bob Fuentes served as Joe's Administrative Assistant during most of his legislative career) and the citizens of the 34th Congressional District and the Southeast Los Angeles communities, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire Gonsalves family. Joe A. Gonsalves was a proud and patriotic American and a great Californian!

IN HONOR OF MICHELLE SIKES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Michelle Sikes, a member of the track and field team at Lakewood High School in Ohio. Michelle has been selected by the Cleveland Plain Dealer to be a part of their All-Star Girls Track Team as the distance runner for the Spring 2000 season.

Michelle has demonstrated exceptional athletic ability and tremendous commitment to her sporting activities. This past Spring season, Michelle has become an integral part of Lakewood High School's track and field team. As a first time runner, she won the 3,200 meter race at the state meet with a time of 10 minutes, 45.11 seconds, making it the best time in the event in her area. In addition, she was the area's highest finisher in the 1,600 meters. Her time was 4 minutes, 53.95 seconds. These impressive times mirror Michelle's commitment to responsibility. Her strong faith and belief in her abilities has enabled her to become one of the finest athletes in northern Ohio.

Recognition by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Michelle's accomplishments is an amazing honor because it acknowledges the hours of sacrifice and patience needed to cultivate stamina and perseverance, as well as excellence in teamwork and cooperation. More importantly, I am inspired by her motivation,

poise, and good sportsmanship on and off the playing field. She is the quintessential model of grace under pressure. Yet, despite the hard work and competition, Michelle views everything as a new and exciting experience. Although Michelle is only a freshman in high school, I am impressed by such optimism and devotion. She is truly remarkable. I know that Michelle has much to offer. I look forward to offering more congratulations to this promising athlete in the future.

My fellow colleagues, Michelle Sikes is an outstanding and inspirational individual. Please join me in honoring her notable accomplishments and achievements in track and field.

IN HONOR OF MARC SYLVESTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Marc Sylvester, a member of the boys track and field team at St. Ignatius High School in Ohio. Marc has been selected by the Cleveland Plain Dealer as a part of their All-Star Boys Track team as the middle distance runner for the Spring 2000 season.

Marc has demonstrated exceptional athletic ability and tremendous commitment to his sporting activities. This past Spring season, Marc Sylvester has become an integral part of St. Ignatius High School's track and field team. He ran the 800 meters, leaving opponents far back, and ran anchor for the 4x800 and 4x400 relays. In the Division I Relays at Amherst Steele, he set the record for the fastest 800 meter race ever run by an Ohio high school athlete. His time was 1 minute, 49.50 seconds. Such accomplishments are outstanding, and I commend him for his devotion and commitment. Unfortunately, two days after regionals, Marc suffered a partially collapsed lung and was held out of the state meet. But Marc's sterling track career has not ended with this setback. While it was disappointing not running at the state meet, Marc is feeling much better and is now working towards winning the National Outdoor Championships in Raleigh, North Carolina. Marc's strong faith and belief in his abilities has enabled him to become one of the finest athletes in northern Ohio, and perhaps the nation.

Recognition by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Marc's accomplishments is an amazing honor because it acknowledges the hours of sacrifice and patience needed to cultivate stamina and perseverance, as well as excellence in teamwork and cooperation. More importantly, I am inspired by his motivation, poise, and good sportsmanship on and off the playing field. Marc is the quintessential model of grace under pressure. I am impressed by such optimism and devotion. He is truly remarkable. I know that Marc has much to offer. I look forward to offering more congratulations to this promising athlete in the future.

My fellow colleagues, Marc Sylvester is an outstanding and inspirational individual. Please join me in honoring his notable accomplishments and achievements in track and field.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2000 I was unavoidably detained and was not present for six rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes No. 373, No. 374, No. 375, No. 376, No. 377, and No. 378.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment which will strike damaging language and replace it with more sensible policy.

The language this amendment strikes would have crippled the nation's ability to discuss and advance reasonable measures that would protect the environment in the most economically efficient way.

The language would have blocked all government work on carbon emissions trading—all work, including discussion and analysis—even though corporations increasingly are embracing such trading and have entered into voluntary programs to engage in it. Carbon trading is the most economically efficient way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; if we don't do the work to develop it now, we will be left with no tools other than command and control to limit carbon, if we choose to impose limits in the future.

Similarly, the Clean Development Mechanism that the bill language would have blocked is an economically beneficial way to attack greenhouse gas emissions in the developing world. The Mechanism will encourage the sale of American-made clean technologies in the developing world. Why on Earth would we want to discourage something that helps other nations implement their own climate change policies while creating business for our own companies and workers?

I am pleased that so many people in industry and the Congress, from all points of the political spectrum, recognized the folly of this language.

The language the amendment would substitute is far from ideal, but it is moderate language that has been signed into law in past years.

But as someone who encouraged this strike and replace amendment, let me make clear my interpretation of what the amendment language says. The amendment prohibits the proposing or issuance of rules related to Kyoto. It does not prohibit the development of

policies; it does not prohibit the discussions of policies in the U.S. or abroad; and it does not prohibit activities designed to carry out the Rio agreement on carbon dioxide, which was signed by President Bush and ratified by the Senate.

In other words, the United States, under this language, can send representatives to international conference to discuss carbon trading or the Clean Development Mechanisms, can help other nations develop such policies, can undertake activities to figure out how such a policy would be implemented here. All that is being prohibited is the actual implementation of such policies; anything up to the point of proposal and issuance may continue.

This amendment would not have the broad support it is receiving if Members believed in the cramped interpretation put forward by some of its proponents. The amendment means what it says on its face; it should not be interpreted in fanciful ways by those who were unsuccessful in getting more restrictive language approved.

I hope future appropriation bills with this language will include the report language from the fiscal 1999 VA-HUD conference report, which provides the clearest, more accurate interpretation—which is that this amendment blocks activities that are solely related to implementing the Kyoto Protocol.

And so, with that in mind, I urge support for the amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I regret that I missed Rollcall votes 373, 374, 375 and 376 to the fiscal year 2001 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 4461). My flight from Charlotte was delayed due to threatening weather.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 373, on the Coburn amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted "yea."
Rollcall vote 374, on the Royce amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 375, on the Crowley amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted "yea."
Rollcall vote 376, on the Royce amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 377, on the Coburn amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted "yea."
Rollcall vote 378, on the Sanford amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD BARR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. BARR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained last

night and missed rollcall vote No. 373. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

THE AMERICAN DREAM
CHALLENGE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, from time to time I have expressed here my great admiration for the American Dream Challenge, a very creative effort to help raise funds for young people to pay for college. This program was originated by Dr. Irving Fradkin of Fall River, Massachusetts, and he continues after many years of hard work to be a dedicated parent to this program. Long before it became fashionable, Dr. Fradkin understood the importance of trying to make sure that every young person had the financial means to pursue a college education, and he is justly and widely respected in the Greater Fall River community for this commitment. Dr. Fradkin understands that it is important to instill the desire for higher education early, and so his program begins with students in the fourth grade, and works at various points throughout their education in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I submit two articles which testify to the power of Dr. Fradkin's ideas and of his work to be printed here, so that other communities may benefit from knowing of this example and, I hope, emulate it.

The first document is a letter from Susan Lanyon who teaches fourth grade at the Wiley School. The second is an excellent article from the Durfee Hilltop, by Renee Tessier. The Durfee Hilltop is the newspaper of Durfee High School, the public high school in Fall River.

AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE IS INSPIRING
(By Susan Lanyon, fourth-grade teacher,
Wiley School, Fall River)

Twenty-seven years ago I had three reasons for entering the teaching profession: I loved learning and longed to share that joy, I had a deep love for children, and I wanted to make a difference in the lives of young people.

I still feel the same way today, but now there's a program that helps me to make that difference. It started in 1994 and it's called the American Dream Challenge.

Thanks to Dr. Irving Fradkin, I now have the pleasure of including this scholarship program in my fourth-grade agenda. I have learned that its benefits are immeasurable; it not only affects the scholarship winners, it also has an effect on every child, as together we take a special moment to share deep thoughts about the future benefits of a sound education.

I have become deeply aware that 9 and 10-year-olds do have high hopes and dreams that are worthy and sincere. This has become one of my many regards of teaching, the joy of listening to their ideas.

The American Dream Challenge begins when I take a minute to share my thoughts with my students about how special my college education is to me. They catch my enthusiasm and the dreams begin!

Then Dr. Fradkin and the Rev. Robert Lawrence, another true friend of education, often make a visit, and speak further with them, telling these precious fourth-graders exactly how special they are.

They also convince them that they can become anything their hearts desire with only two things needed—the right attitude and a proper education.

Their eyes light up, and the seeds are planted!

Next, we return to our writing class and brainstorm as a team. Now we have to decide exactly what is meant by titles such as these: "Education—Key to My Future," or "How My Education can Help Me Become a Better American Citizen." "The ideas flow!"

Let me share with you just a few of the thoughts that have developed:

"I can learn more about other cultures so I can learn to respect others better."

"I can discover cures for diseases that have taken away those that I love."

"I can learn more about how to resolve conflicts in a peaceful way."

"I can become a teacher so I can teach others to learn the importance of being educated."

As you can see, there are no losers in this essay contest. The writing alone of this essay produces thoughts never shared before.

The next step is the judging—a difficult task.

My principal and I choose and submit the three best essays and the three finalists anxiously await the results. In April, the winner is declared. The culmination is an awards ceremony in May, where at least 50 delighted students and their families arrive in their Sunday best, glowing in the aura of success.

These children will never be the same after this day! They have become special young ladies and gentlemen, filled with hope and promise.

I have now had six scholarship winners and I only wish you could see what this award has done for each of them.

I have seen shyness replaced by confidence, academic potential replaced by academic success, and apathy replaced by a desire to learn.

Of course there have also been the students that were already on the right path, who now have an incentive to remain there.

An added gift is the endless support given the recipients from their schools, families, friends and community leaders. There's nothing more beneficial to a child than knowing that people are proud of them. It is so true that it "takes a village" to properly raise a child.

A Wall of Fame now exists in my classroom. It lists the names of all my American Dream Challenge Scholarship winners. These students serve as role models to my present students, thus continuing the cycle of hopes and dreams for all.

Who would have believed that children so young could dream such dreams?

I can assure you that they do, and they need us to help make them come true.

[From the Durfee Hilltop, Apr. 2, 2000]

FOURTH GRADERS WIN THE AMERICAN DREAM
SCHOLARSHIP

(By Renee Tessier)

"Children are the future; teach them well and let them lead the way." A line from a popular song in the 80's, and also a good summary of the message sent by Dr. Irving Fradkin at the ceremony last Sunday held for the 7th annual American Dream Challenge awards.

Students in the fourth grade from the Fall River Public, Catholic, and Charter schools attended an awards ceremony on Sunday, April 2nd to receive a scholarship certificate and congratulations for a job well done. These students, who are only 9 and 10 years old, were challenged with the task of writing a one page essay on "Why I'm going to be a better American because of my education."

Each class of fourth graders sent three or four essays chosen by their teacher to be entered into the contest. Then, one essay from each class was picked by a panel of judges. Each student received a \$100 scholarship which will be issued after high school graduation and can only be redeemed for the purposes of a higher education. They can also expand their scholarship by entering the American Dream Challenge Essay Contest again in the 6th, 8th, and 10th grades. If all contests are won, a student can earn up to \$1,000.

The kids also helped in recognizing their teachers for their help. Proclaimed as "Unsung Heroes," Dr. Fradkin and Senator Joan Menard congratulated teachers and principals for helping in the up bringing of such fine young people, and thanked them for their commitment to the students. Dr. Fradkin is quoted as saying, "Without teachers, we wouldn't have a successful country."

To further emphasize the importance of education, adult sponsors who made a difference in the Fall River area wrote essays of their own.

They wrote on the subject of their own lives and how education made them what they are today. Senator Menard, Mayor Lambert, and Reverend Lawrence were just a few of the participating sponsors.

Every student was set up with a sponsor and they traded essays.

The hope was that not only would the student learn from the adult, but that the adult would also learn from the student.

The students were also able to hear the point of view of Dr. Odete Amarelo, a co-chair person for the contest, and Dr. Peter Gibbons of Harvard University.

Dr. Amarelo compared a child's negative point of view to a pair of "wrong prescription" glasses.

She explained that sometimes kids look at things in a negative way and don't see the whole picture. They need to learn to believe in themselves. "All you need is to find the right lenses."

Dr. Gibbons, who was inspired by Fall River to write a book about local heroes, explained the importance of having heroes and teachers.

Someone to look up to is something every child needs. "Everyone needs a coach, a teacher, a hero."

Leaving with knowledge that "they can do anything in this world" given to them by Senator Menard, the kids look like they are well on their way to bright futures.

Hopefully they will continue their education as far as they are allowed and were inspired by the people that worked so hard for their benefit.

The "Scholarship City" is the birthplace of a phenomenon: mentors and students coming together to improve education around the country.

The influence of these inspired people giving back to the community is just the start of a new wave of greatness that will in turn create a better future for us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays, I was unavoidably detained in North Carolina yesterday and unable to cast a vote on rollcall votes 373 through 378. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 373, "yea" on rollcall

vote 374, "yea" on rollcall vote 375, "no" on rollcall vote 376, "yea" on rollcall vote 377, and "no" on rollcall vote 378.

THE PASSING OF A GREAT PUBLIC
SERVANT: JAMES C. KIRIE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 19th of this year my dear friend James C. Kirie died. He was 89 years old and had lived a full and productive life of service to his community, his State and Nation.

The Chicago Sun-Times printed the following article about Jim's life:

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, June 20, 2000]

JAMES KIRIE; FIRST HELD OFFICE AT 21

(By Curtis Lawrence)

For nearly 70 years, Leyden Township Democratic Committeeman James C. Kirie did what was seemingly the only thing he knew to do—commit his life to public service.

"If I had my life to do over again, and I was to weigh my life against being in politics or not being in politics, I think I would do exactly what I did," Mr. Kirie once told the late University of Illinois at Chicago Professor Milton Rakove.

Mr. Kirie died Monday morning at Evans-ton Hospital, two weeks after he was stricken by a heart attack. He was 89.

The son of Greek immigrants, Mr. Kirie dropped out of high school to work in his family's River Grove restaurant. During the Great Depression, he resumed his education and graduated from Leyden High School, then later enrolled at Elmhurst College.

Seeking a way to earn money for tuition, Mr. Kirie applied to run for village clerk in River Grove. He was nominated and elected in 1932.

"I was only 20 and had to wait until my 21st birthday to take office," he told Sun-Times columnist Steve Neal in 1991. "If I hadn't needed a job to pay for my college expenses, I doubt if I would have entered politics."

In addition to his position as the Democratic committeeman, he was the president of the 25th Avenue Building Corporation, and was investment officer of the Cook County Circuit Court clerk when he died.

During the 1930s, Mr. Kirie fought organized crime by closing down brothels and gambling establishments. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Kirie was among the first elected officials to enlist in the Army. He took part in the Normandy invasion.

In the 1950s, after testifying before a U.S. Senate rackets committee, Mr. Kirie's home and the restaurant he owned were bombed. He later sponsored legislation for a state wiretapping law.

Mr. Kirie was slated for the Metropolitan Sanitary District, now the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, in 1970. He served three six-year terms.

He was a major sponsor of the metro Chicago's Deep Tunnel project. In 1991, the water reclamation plant in Des Plaines was named in his honor.

Mr. Kirie is survived by two daughters, Barbara Kirie Stewart and Circuit Court Judge Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird, and two grandchildren, James Burke Kinnaird and Katherine Anne Kirie Kinnaird.

Mr. Speaker, Jim will be missed by his loving family and by his countless friends and ad-

mirers, among whom I am proud to count myself.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was detained during rollcall vote #373. Had I been present I would have voted "No" on roll call #373.

I was detained during rollcall vote #374. Had I been present I would have voted "No".

I was detained during rollcall vote #375. Had I been present I would have voted "Yes".

I was detained during rollcall vote #376. Had I been present I would have voted "No".

I was detained during rollcall vote #377. Had I been present I would have voted "Yes".

I was detained during rollcall vote #378. Had I been present I would have voted "No".

In each case, my vote would have been on the prevailing side.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following Rollcall Votes.

(1) Rollcall Vote Number 320, H.R. 4690. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

(2) Rollcall Vote Number 321, H.R. 4690. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 10, 2000, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather and therefore unable to be present and to cast votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 373, "no" on rollcall vote 374, "yea" on rollcall 375, "no" on rollcall vote 376, "yea" on rollcall vote 377, and "no" on rollcall vote 378.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to the weather, I was unavoidably detained during the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 373, on the Coburn amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 374, on the Royce amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 375, on the Crowley amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 376, on the Royce amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 377, on the Coburn amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 378, on the Sanford amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SOURCING ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 4391, the Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act. This legislation simplifies and modernizes a confusing web of contradictory tax codes involving wireless communications primarily by giving a common locus for taxation purposes.

It is the result of the outstanding work by state and local government representatives, in conjunction with members of the telecommunications industry. It will reform confusing tax laws involving the state and local taxation of wireless phone services. While I regret that the Commerce Committee did not have a more active role in this floor discussion, I am pleased that this legislation creates a uniform procedure for deciding where wireless services occur for purposes of taxation.

The representatives from state and local governments along with members of the telecommunications industry should be complimented for the work they have done in helping to develop this legislation. They were faced with many of the same issues that confronted the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce—numerous conflicting tax jurisdictions, strong industry interests, state and local revenue needs. Yet, after two years of extensive discussions and negotiations, these groups were able to come together and resolve the problem—whereas the ACEC failed to reach a similar consensus on Internet taxation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the various groups who seek to solve the Internet tax issues will see that good legislation that solves complicated fiscal issues can be accomplished with hard work and good faith efforts. The legislation before us today shows that a solution is possible which is acceptable to both members of the industry and taxing authorities—and which benefits the consumer.

I urge a strong "yes" vote on this legislation and I hope it will serve as a model for addressing similar issues in the future.

DECLARE INDIA A TERRORIST
STATE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, the Washington Times published an excellent letter from our friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, calling for strong action to end religious persecution in India.

The letter cited the recent incident in which a Hindu woman poured boiling oil on militant

Hindu fundamentalists who were attacking her tenant, a Catholic priest. The Hindu nationalists who carried out this attack are allies of the ruling BJP. It also refers to several other incidents, including the recent savage beating of some Christian missionaries, one so severely that he might lose his arms and legs.

The letter also made reference to a letter sent by 21 members of this House in which we asked the President to declare India a terrorist state because of its reign of terror against Christians which has been going in full force since Christmas 1998, as well as its oppression of Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it is not safe to be a minority in India.

India should be declared a terrorist state, its aid should be stopped, and the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and the other minorities of the subcontinent should enjoy self-determination. It is the responsibility of the Congress to speak out in support of these things.

I submit Dr. Aulakh's letter to the Washington Times for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, June 28, 2000]

OPPRESSION OF CHRISTIANS CONTINUES IN INDIA

(By Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

We commend the Hindu woman who poured boiling oil on militant Hindu fundamentalists who were attacking her tenant, a Catholic priest ("Hindu woman protects Christian priest," World, June 25). This is an act of religious tolerance, which is very rare in India these days.

Last week, a bipartisan group of 21 members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President Clinton asking him to declare India a terrorist state because of its oppression of Christians and religious minorities. They took note of the pattern of violence against Christians that has been going on since Christmas 1998.

Last month, four Christian missionaries who were distributing Bibles and religious pamphlets were beaten severely by militant Hindu fundamentalists. The beating was so severe that one of the victims may lose his arms and legs. In April, Hindu fundamentalists affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a pro-fascist organization that is the parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), attacked a Christian group and burned biblical literature. In March, a Sikh family saved a group of nuns whose convent had come under attack from Hindu fundamentalists. On Easter, a group of nuns who were going to Easter services were run down by Hindu fundamentalists on motor scooters.

Churches have been burned, prayer halls and Christian schools have been destroyed, nuns have been raped, and priests have been murdered by the militant Hindu nationalists advocating "Hindutva," a Hindu culture, society and nation. Hindu fundamentalists chanting "Victory to hannuman," a Hindu god, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, to death while they slept in their Jeep. The Indian government, led by the Hindu nationalist BJP, has not taken action to punish the persons responsible for any of these atrocities.

Christians are the primary targets of the militant Hindu nationalists, but they are not the only ones who are suffering. In March, 35 Sikhs were murdered in the village of Chithi Singhpora in Kashmir. India promptly blamed Kashmiri "militants" and killed five Kashmiris, claiming that they were responsible. However, two independent investigations have established clearly that the In-

dian government's counterinsurgency forces carried out this massacre. India has since admitted that the five Kashmiris the government killed were innocent.

The Sikhs who were murdered in Chithi Singhpora join more than 250,000 Sikhs who have been murdered by the Indian government, according to "The Politics of Genocide," by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. In addition, the Indian government has killed more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits (the dark-skinned "untouchables," the aboriginal people of South Asia) and others. Tens of thousands of Sikhs are rotting in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial.

This is nothing less than a campaign of terror designed to wipe out minority peoples and nations from the Indian subcontinent and achieve hegemony in South Asia. The United States should declare India a terrorist state because of these ongoing atrocities. It also should cut off American aid and trade to India and openly declare its support for self-determination for the minority peoples and nations of South Asia through an internationally supervised plebiscite on the question of independence. If India wants to be seen as a democratic nation and a major world power, it will stop its reign of terror against its minorities and allow them to exercise their democratic rights. Until then, America must hold India's feet to the fire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, because of unexpected storms, my airplane was delayed and I was unable to make the first two rollcall votes on Monday, July 10.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote number 373 and "nay" on rollcall vote number 374.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, last night my plane, Northwest Flight #858, was delayed in Memphis and I missed Rollcall votes 373-378. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: Coburn—Roll Call Vote 373—No; Royce—Roll Call Vote 374—No; Crowley—Roll Call Vote 375—Yes; Royce—Roll Call Vote 376—No; Coburn—Roll Call Vote 377—Yes; and Sanford—Roll Call Vote 378—No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 373, Coburn amendment—no; 374, Royce amendment—no; 375, Crowley amendment—yes; 376, Chabot amendment—no; 377, Coburn

amendment—yes; and 378, Sanford amendment—no.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Brown-Waxman-Slaughter amendment. My generation remembers all too clearly the scourge of infectious diseases. When we were children, surviving to adolescence could be a major challenge. Children ran a gauntlet of potentially fatal diseases against which doctors had few, if any, effective weapons—influenza, pneumonia, measles, and tuberculosis, to name just a few. For some of us, we relived those fears again with our children. I know that with my three daughters, I breathed a sigh of relief when each summer ended and they had again escaped contracting polio.

With the discovery of antibiotics, the world of health and medicine was transformed. Antibiotics were nothing short of a miracle. Just a few doses could banish these terrifying diseases from our and our children's lives, allowing the nation to become dramatically healthier in the space of scarcely a decade. Modern medicine had triumphed over disease, relegating these terrors to the medical history books.

Or so we thought. Today we know differently. Infectious disease microorganisms have evolved over millennia, and they can be ingenious in ensuring their own survival. The advent of antibiotics dealt them a setback, but only a temporary one. After only a few decades these microbes are showing us just how quickly they can adapt and render themselves impervious to some or all of the antibiotics in our health care arsenal.

As a former microbiologist, I am keenly aware of the critical challenge posed by antimicrobial resistance. In fact, I wrote my master's thesis on the misuse of penicillin. Many factors are currently contributing to antimicrobial resistance: overprescription of antibiotics, individuals' failure to take all their medication, lack of handwashing and proper hygiene, and the increased ability of people—and therefore microbes—to travel around the globe quickly. Just as this problem is multifaceted, so must any solution be.

This amendment seeks to address one critical component of that problem: the use of antibiotics to boost livestock growth and production. Decades ago, farmers discovered that the use of antibiotics at very low levels caused animals to grow faster and bigger. The amount of antibiotics used were too low to

have any value in killing off infections in the animals. Over time, the practice of feeding antibiotics to livestock at "subtherapeutic" levels has become a common tool in the agriculture industry.

Unfortunately, this practice appears to be having an insidious side effect. Preliminary studies indicate that the bacteria in livestock may be developing an immunity to certain antibiotics as they are consistently exposed to these drugs at low levels. As the old saying goes, that which does not kill them makes them stronger.

This amendment would shift a very modest amount of funds within the Food and Drug Administration budget to the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine. With this funding, the Center could move more quickly on its top priority, assessing and preventing the growth of antimicrobial resistance related to livestock husbandry practices.

We must take action if we expect antibiotics to continue being effective in treating human ailments. None of us want to return to a day when a bout of pneumonia could easily mean a death sentence for one's child or parent. I urge my colleagues to support the Brown-Waxman-Slaughter amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, as a result of inclement weather delaying my arrival to Washington, I was not present for rollcall votes 373, 374, and 375. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on No. 373, "no" on No. 374, and "aye" on No. 375.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall numbers 373, 375, 376, 377, and 378. I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather, and therefore, was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on 373, "yes" on 375, "no" on 376, "yes" on 377, and "no" on 378.

IMF LOANS TO RUSSIA: WHAT HAVE THEY REALLY SUPPORTED?

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an op-ed article published in the "Wall Street Journal Europe" on June 8th by Mr. Boris Fedorov, a former Finance Minister in the government of the Russian Federation.

This article, entitled "No More 'Help' for Russia, Please," paints a dismal picture of what has really been accomplished in Russia

after the extension of more than \$20 billion in low-cost loans to the Russian government by the International Monetary Fund. Average Russians have been disappointed and angered by what they see as the IMF's complicity in the vast corruption that has afflicted their country over the past decade. The Russian economy, propped up temporarily by a devaluation of the currency and the recent rise in oil prices, is marred by extensive poverty. Healthcare, education systems, highways deterioration.

What has happened to the \$20 billion that the IMF has lent the Russian government over the past few years? Why has the Russian government failed, time and again, to meet its fiscal obligations to its own people, despite those IMF loans and the outright assistance provided to that government by the United States and other aid donors?

For one thing, the Russian government still insists on financing a "superpower-sized army and bureaucracy" that it cannot afford, as Mr. Fedorov states, and the rampant corruption in Russian government and industry is another important cause of the fiscal nightmare in that country. But Mr. Fedorov also points out the most important reason in the following words: "Indeed, the pattern since Mikhail Gorbachev's time is unmistakable: reform talk followed by loans to underwrite reforms, followed by a collapse of the reform plans, followed by debt restructuring, more talk of reforms, more loans and so on. When lack of reforms is remunerated with new loans and debt write-offs, when the worst abusers of the current system live nicely off the spoils of what is effectively thievery . . . one starts having doubts about the message we get from the democracies of the West."

Mr. Speaker, I strongly recommend this important article to those of our colleagues who are seeking to better understand just what has gone wrong in our policy toward Russia over the past decade. I submit the full text of Fedorov article be inserted at this point in the RECORD:

[From the Wall Street Journal Europe, June 8, 2000]

NO MORE "HELP" FOR RUSSIA, PLEASE
(By Boris Fedorov, former Finance Minister of Russia)

For the last 10 years, the debate about Western assistance to Russia has revolved, superficially, around the question "to give or not to give." Despite all evidence to the contrary, the answer is always "to give" because this is seen as helping Russia. Thus for a decade, Russia is regularly dispensed a drug which never cures but keeps the patient in a vegetative state. And the drug habit is growing.

Who are the quacks? The list of names is familiar. The Clinton Treasury, the G-7, Michel Camdessus' IMF. Just days ago in Moscow, President Clinton reiterated his support for new loans to Russia. And U.S. Vice President Al Gore claims that Russia is a foreign policy victory. Why? Apparently because the current Russian government has released the country's umpteenth economic plan, which is considered to be "good." Other people are naturally well-intended. Still others think that it is worth a billion per year to keep Russia quiet in military terms.

But the results are dismal. More Russians are anti-Western today than a decade ago. Russia is economically weaker than 10 years ago after all the IMF-sponsored reforms. We have more corruption and poverty than under communism, and too many citizens

want to return to a time they see as having offered them a better life. The questions are, what have loans done for Russia and does the country really need new loans now?

The roughly \$20 billion pumped into the Russian budget over the last decade have, in fact, had no positive effect whatsoever. This is not surprising, given the black-hole nature of the Russian budget. Money, being fungible, was misspent and ended up in the hands of a few well-connected people and in Western banks. Russian citizens definitely did not benefit from this "assistance," judging by the pitiful state of healthcare, education, public security, roads and nearly every other public sector sphere.

TRADE SURPLUS

A country rich in natural resources with a trade surplus of \$4 to \$5 billion a month (not counting capital flight of similar proportions) does not really need IMF money. I've heard some argue that the loans to Russia were too small to have made much of a difference in any case. The IMF, they claim, may have acted cravenly in seeking to cover its own exposed positions by throwing good money after bad, but the loans were at worst wasteful, not harmful. They are wrong.

This view misses the corrosive impact that an IMF imprimatur had on government officials, the formulation of their economic plan and on international credit markets, which figured the IMF would assume a lender-of-last-resort function—in other words, the moral hazard that was created. An economic system in which corporate assets are routinely stolen, investors ripped off and the creditors deceived has been built with the help of Mr. Clinton and the IMF. This is a system that no Western politician would dare to advocate for his own country. Why do you impose it on us by underwriting it with your taxpayers' money?

We hear often these days about the booming Russian economy, cited as evidence of the success of Western policies toward Russia. The Clinton administration and IMF speak glowingly about how a new, democratically elected president has adopted an economic program that is much more liberal than its predecessors, and thus deserves more support. The new Russian government, however, is operating under a false sense of security, which is very much encouraged by the favorable remarks of Mr. Clinton and other Western leaders.

On closer examination, however, the new optimism about the economy is no more firmly grounded than it has been in the past. Economic growth is still behind pre-reform levels, and in large measure is due to higher commodity prices rather than an increase of investment and value added in the economy. Higher tax revenues are also cited as a sign that wealth is expanding. But revenues are actually lower in dollar terms. The government also cites better budget discipline, but this too is illusory, since much of the drastically depreciated expenditure was not indexed. There are more U.S. dollars under the mattresses of our citizens than the overall ruble money supply of Russia.

Is the Russian economy really reformed? Is productivity higher and corruption lower? Are structural reforms in progress? Does anybody believe that a country with an annual federal budget of \$25 billion (less than America spends on its prisons) can really maintain a superpower-size army and bureaucracy?

The false sense of achievement and the new prosperity comes largely from the effects of the 1998 ruble devaluation combined with a high oil price. It has very little to do with economic reform. And still Mr. Clinton is in a hurry to say that America will support IMF loans to Russia because the economic

plan of the current government merits that support.

I am not saying that the Putin government's pronouncements on economic policy are bad. In fact, I am encouraged by much of what I hear. But I remember too well how past economic programs also featured liberal and enlightened reform plans that were later shelved in favor of the status quo.

SWEPT UNDER THE CARPET

Indeed, the pattern since Mikhail Gorbachev's time is unmistakable; reform talk followed by loans to underwrite reforms, followed by a collapse of the reform plans, followed by debt restructuring, more talk of reforms, more loans and so on. When lack of reforms is remunerated with new loans and debt write-offs, when the worst abusers of the current system live nicely off the spoils of what is effectively thievery—if not in legal terms since Russian law is inadequate—one starts having doubts about the message we get from the democracies of the West. Why reform anything in Russia if another IMF loan shipment is on the way and past scandals can be swept under the carpet?

I personally think that Mr. Putin should be given the benefit of the doubt. He cannot be blamed for past failures. Many of the ideas he has voiced have much in them. But only he can really change the course of events, and so far meaningful actions have been few. We do not know the full economic plan of the government. The jury is still out.

Rather than repeat the mistakes of the past, my recommendations for the West are simple. First, do not grant Russia concessions, but rather apply the rules as you would to any country. Western capital should flow to the private sector, not to the government. Only this will help to change the country, create jobs and increase efficiency. Second, money should be spent where it brings genuine return and where it will generate the kind of good-will that makes reform and democracy self-sustaining.

I imagine what might have been if that \$20 billion in IMF money been spent on providing full time education for 200,000 Russian students in the West. My guess is that we would be living in a different country today.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JOSEPH H. RODRIGUEZ

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation for the RECORD.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Whereas, The Rutgers University School of Law-Camden, New Jersey and the First Congressional District of New Jersey commend and honor the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez for 15 years of distinguished service on the federal bench; and Whereas, United States District Court Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez embarked on his distinguished legal career immediately after graduating from Rutgers University School of Law where he was admitted to practice law and became a member of the bar of the State of New Jersey; and Whereas, in 1985, the President of the United States of America, President Ronald Reagan, nominated Judge Rodriguez to the federal bench in Camden, New Jersey where he has continued to establish a standard of excellence in the legal pro-

fession; and Whereas, over his distinguished legal career, Judge Rodriguez has received numerous awards recognizing him for his accomplishments which include his induction into the Rutgers University Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1996; and Whereas, this Member of the 106th Congress recognizes Judge Rodriguez for his outstanding contributions to the legal profession where everyday of his legal career he has continued to render legal decisions fairly and upheld the law always in the interest of justice; and Whereas, Judge Rodriguez's exceptional achievements and constant efforts to create a positive difference throughout our communities serves as an inspiration for the legal profession and for the citizens of the United States of America.

Now therefore, Be it Known that the undersigned Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable Robert E. Andrews of the First Congressional District of New Jersey hereby commends and congratulates United States District Court Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez as he is recognized as the "Gentleman Judge" by Rutgers University School of Law for his outstanding accomplishments, and in honor of his legal achievements, hereby officially proclaims today, Wednesday, June 7, 2000 to be the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez Day throughout the First Congressional District of New Jersey.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would have eliminated funding for a proposed pilot program for non-needs based school breakfast pilot program.

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of child nutrition programs for needy families. There is undeniable proof that kids who start the day with a good breakfast learn the best. My record shows that I have supported school breakfast and school lunch, not to mention WIC. We must make sure that all appropriate and necessary funds are given to these important programs to help the nutritional needs of needy children and families.

Part of being a fiscal conservative is setting priority for important programs. School breakfast programs for needy children must remain a high priority.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL YEAR 2000 ALL-STAR GAME

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the participants in tonight's Major League Baseball All-Star game. Each summer, the fans of our nation's pastime look forward to this game, which brings together the brightest stars of the sport. True to the American spirit, the starting line-ups for the game are selected by the millions of fans who follow the sport and take the time to choose the most deserving players to start at each position.

I want to note with special pride that seven of the players participating in tonight's game are Puerto Ricans. These players are Roberto Alomar of the Cleveland Indians, Carlos Delgado of the Toronto Blue Jays, Edgar Martinez of the Seattle Mariners, Jorge Posada and Bernie Williams of the New York Yankees, Jose Vidro of the Montreal Expos, and Ivan Rodriguez of the Texas Rangers, who was the leading vote recipient in the All Star balloting. I know I speak for all the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico in expressing our great pride in the accomplishments of these players. That our island of 3.8 million people could produce such a large proportion of the players on the All-Star teams shows how strongly Puerto Ricans have embraced our national pastime.

In the spirit of the All Star game, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to mention Roberto Clemente, the greatest of all the Puerto Rican All-Stars. Mr. Clemente is one of 20 legendary baseball players being honored in a new series of commemorative postage stamps, which were officially dedicated last week in conjunction with All Star Week.

Mr. Clemente is known in baseball circles as the first Hispanic-American selected to the Hall of Fame. But he will be remembered as much for his great humanitarian spirit as he is for his considerable baseball skills. Many of us will never forget that tragic day 28 years ago when Mr. Clemente lost his life in a plane accident while he was participating in a mission to aid victims of a devastating earthquake in Nicaragua.

Mr. Clemente's legacy has influenced an entire generation of baseball players in Puerto Rico, just as future generations of players will be inspired by the All-Stars participating in tonight's game.

Congratulations to all the players in the 2000 All-Star Game.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today against this amendment which will prohibit the FDA from testing, developing, or approving any drug that could cause an abortion.

I often come to the House floor to note that this would be the 147th vote on choice since the beginning of the 104th Congress. But this vote is about so much more than abortion. It is truly a chilling attack on biomedical research.

We are legislators, we are not scientists. Political mandates have no place in interfering with the FDA's sound and rigorous scientific drug approval process.

Approval of this amendment would be the beginning of a slippery slope where some Members of Congress hold the health of all Americans hostage. Allowing Congress to dictate which drugs the FDA can and cannot test could halt the process of testing drugs that have nothing to do with abortion.

The target of this amendment, mifepristone or RU-486, has potential uses for the treatment of breast cancer, endometriosis, and even glaucoma. In fact, this kind of drug—an antiprogesterin—was originally being developed for its cancer treatment potential.

I tell you, if RU-486 was only a cancer treatment, this researcher would have won a Nobel prize, and I bet the drug would already have been approved. Instead, because of its pregnancy disruption use, the drug has been held hostage by the right wing.

If this amendment passes, it would prevent further testing of drugs such as mifepristone that have the potential to treat millions of Americans for other medical conditions.

Delaying this drug is not an option. Think of what this will do to women with fibroid tumors. Think of what this will do to seniors with glaucoma. Think of what this will do to people with brain tumors.

And even worse, there is a very dangerous precedent being set today. Even those who disagree about whether RU-486 should or should not be approved, should be highly concerned by the precedent being set by this outrageous amendment.

Congress established the Food and Drug Administration to be an independent agency to test and approve drugs and devices. We should allow them to do their work without interference from the Congress. Science, not abortion politics, should dictate the type of drugs the FDA tests.

I strongly urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I was prepared to offer four amendments to this agriculture appropriations bill to highlight the absurdity of the US sugar program.

On Thursday, this Congress debated an amendment that would have limited the fleecing of taxpayers by the sugar program to \$54 million. However, a point of order technically prevented a vote on that matter.

I did not proceed with the other three amendments in the interest of comity to move the legislative business of the House. However, I also did not offer because it became apparent that the defenders of the sugar program do not want to clear debate on the merits of the US sugar policy, they want to muddy the waters about what this sugar program is doing to consumers.

For example, as you look at the arguments of the defenders of the sugar program, they say that the price of sugar has gone down but the costs of soda has not. That is like saying the cost of sugar has gone down but the costs of cars have not. Sodas made in the United States do not use Sugar! Read, the label, they use high fructose corn sweeteners. They have not used sugar in the US for a while because the sugar prices are so high. They do use sugar in sodas in countries like Mexico. I am both deeply disappointed and slightly amused that the defenders of the sugar program continue to use "soda" in their arguments.

Another area of their attack is that this General Accounting Office study which revealed a consumer cost of \$1.9 billion is flawed. They say the USDA even thinks their analysis is flawed. Well let's look at the real facts. The GAO said they were going to do this study. They solicited input from the USDA for help in developing a model. USDA refused. The GAO got independent economic experts to come up with a sound consensus model to gauge the costs. They asked USDA for comment about it, USDA refused. Instead, what USDA has done, is engage in 20/20 hindsight without helping the process. I am very frustrated by the blatant politics by the USDA and would hope they would be more helpful to future efforts. The GAO is a non-partisan fact finding agency. They carefully researched this program for months, they offered a chance to comment to interested parties including USDA and the sugar growers, they brought in outside academic experts and economists to review GAO's model. The fact remains that the GAO sent the economic model to USDA for review and USDA provided no substantive comments.

What my opponents would have everyone believe is that the carefully researched and inclusive report on sugar by the non-partisan, unbiased GAO is somehow flawed. But they would have you believe that the USDA, whose mismanagement of the program has already cost taxpayers \$54 million this year and may cost up to \$500 million by year's end, and the American Sugar Alliance whose members enjoy federal benefits of over \$1 billion per year are the ones with the correct, unbiased opinion on the costs and impacts of the sugar program.

Furthermore, GAO has already responded to the criticisms they did receive in the appen-

dix of this same report, and I would submit that portion of the report containing GAO's response for the record.

The negative environmental impacts of the federal sugar program are real, even though my colleagues on the other side of the debate choose to conveniently ignore this fact. Nowhere have these impacts been felt with such devastating effect as in my home state of Florida where federally subsidized sugar production has played a huge role in the destruction of the Everglades. I would like to submit for the record this letter from "The Everglades Trust" an environmental group concerned about the status and future of this American treasure. The Everglades Trust and other environmental groups recognize the sugar program's terrible environmental legacy and support efforts to reform the program.

Finally, I am amazed that the defenders of the sugar program fail to state why we can have a free market for corn, for cars, for toothpicks, for televisions, etc. but we can't have a free market for sugar. Their "sky is falling" logic only shows how desperate the big sugar growers are to preserve a program that costs consumers \$1.9 billion a year, costs the taxpayers millions in direct spending, destroys the Everglades, sends US jobs overseas, and seriously undermines our free trade efforts.

I remain confident that this body will wake up and end the stupid sugar program, and submit the following into the RECORD.

THE EVERGLADES TRUST,
Islamorada, FL, June 28, 2000.

Hon. DAN MILLER,
102 Cannon Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: When the FY 2001 Agriculture Appropriations legislation is considered by the House, we understand you will offer one or more amendments which involve the federal sugar program. We would strongly support an amendment to stop sugar purchases to boost market prices. By encouraging massive increases in sugar production in the Everglades Agricultural Area, the sugar program has caused immense damage to the Everglades. Boosting the already excessive market price for sugar will serve to make sugar's assault on the Everglades even worse. It is obvious, as the GAO has documented, that the sugar program forces consumers to pay far too much for sugar. To prop up sugar prices by huge purchases of sugar by the government is an outrageous use of Taxpayers' money and a continuation of the assault on America's Everglades.

Should you choose to offer an amendment to phase out or reform the existing sugar price support program, we would strongly endorse your effort. We believe the sugar program must be changed from the harmful price fixing scheme it is today. Congressman Miller, the sugar program has become a "welfare" program, and it is time to put a stop to it. We commend your courageous efforts to end a program which has cost the consumer and Taxpayers billions of wasted dollars and caused massive damage to the nation's Everglades.

Sincerely,

MARY BARLEY,
President, The Everglades Trust.

GAO COMMENTS

The following are GAO's comments on the American Sugar Alliance's (ASA) written response to our draft report dated May 5, 2000. Based on USDA and industry comments, we revised our model's final estimates to more fully account for certain transportation costs. As a result, cost and benefit estimates

referenced in ASA's comments do not reflect those contained in the final report.

1. We disagree that the methodology used in our 1993 report on the sugar program was flawed. Nonetheless, we developed a more comprehensive economic model for our current analysis, and while we acknowledge that no economic model completely depicts reality, we are convinced that our current model is methodologically sound and that the estimates yielded by our model are reasonable. In developing the model, we took a number of actions to ensure that it was methodologically sound. First, we contracted with a well-known expert in modeling the international trade of agricultural commodities and with a prominent agricultural economist to work with us in developing the model. In December 1999, we sent our proposed model to four outside academicians specializing in agricultural economics and international trade economics and revised the model in response to their comments. We also sent our proposed model to USDA for review at that time. However, USDA did not provide any comments. Furthermore, we asked two of the agricultural economists to review our final model and results before we sent our draft report to USDA, ASA, and the U.S. Cane Sugar Refiners' Association for comment.

2. We disagree with ASA's assertion that our findings are based on comparisons with a meaningless world price. In estimating the costs and benefits of the sugar program, our model compared baseline domestic and world sugar prices with an estimate of the domestic and world prices that would have been observed if the sugar program had been eliminated, other things being equal. Regarding the extent to which cost reductions would be passed through to consumers in the absence of the sugar program, the report presents two estimates showing how the benefits might be distributed based on two different sets of pass-through assumptions. We did not predict the extent to which cost reductions would be passed through to final consumers. See comments 4 and 5.

COMMENDING STUDENTS OF THE WENONAH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise 15 tremendous students in Mrs. Tracy Clemente's class at the Wenonah School. Mrs. Clemente's class has done a magnificent job of excelling in their school work. This is a splendid group of children and I wish the best of luck and continued success to Phillip Anzaldo, Ashley Archambo, Kevin Barnes, Daniel Barton, Nicholle, Cesarano, Ashley Cuthbert, Davied D'Alesandro, Christopher Goldhill, Chloe Grigri, Shane McHenry, Stephen McNally, Drew Peters, Edgar Seibert, Rachel Sole, and Matthew Thompson.

HONORING THE 1999 GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PRO- GRAM AWARD WINNERS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the governor of Guam, Carl T.C. Gutierrez, acknowl-

edges the hard work of government of Guam employees. The governor's employee recognition program, better known as the Excel Program, is the highest and most competitive employee awards bestowed by the governor—showcasing outstanding employees and programs within the government of Guam.

Local governmental agencies and departments participate in this program wherein awardees are chosen within each department's nominees for a number of occupational groups. These groups range from clerical to labor and trades to professional and technical positions. The various awards reflect individual and group performance, valor, sports, community service, cost savings, and integrity.

My sincerest congratulations go to the awardees. I urge them to keep up the good work. I am pleased to submit for the RECORD the names of this year's outstanding employees.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES AND PROGRAMS IN 1999

GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM The Winners for Outstanding Performance in 1999

A. Inspiration and Encouragement

Small Dept/Agency—Cynthia R. Gogo, Administrative Assistant, Department of Military Affairs.

Medium Dept/Agency—Mary P. Weakley, Social Service Supervisor, Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse.

Large Dept/Agency—Beatrice Aquino, Accounting Technician II, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

B. Silent Ones

Small Dept/Agency—David J. Rojas, Compliance Officer, Guam Economic Development Authority.

Medium Dept/Agency—Pedro Lipata, Clerk, Department of Labor.

Large Dept/Agency—Evelyn G. Sepulia, Special Diet Assistant, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

C. Community Service

Alejandro T. B. Lizama, Historic Preservation Specialist II, Department of Parks & Recreation.

D. Female Athlete of the Year

Catherine Taitague, Youth Service Worker I, Department of Youth Affairs.

E. Male Athlete of the Year

Clifford M. Raphael, Utility Worker, Guam Power Authority.

F. Sports Team of the Year

Guam Customs Baseball Team, Customs and Quarantine Agency.

G. Lifesaving

Patrick B. Tydingco, Airport Police Supervisor, Guam International Airport Authority.

H. Integrity

Zennia Pecina, Assistant Administrator of Nursing Services, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

I. Cost Savings/Innovative Idea

Small Dept/Agency—Joe Leon Guerrero, Special Projects Coordinator, Department of Military Affairs.

Medium Dept/Agency—Jumpstart Program, Department of Youth Affairs.

J. Recognition of Former Outstanding Employees

Jose L. Gumataotao, Program Coordinator III, Department of Youth Affairs.

K. Project/Program of the Year

Small Dept/Agency—Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA)/

CERCLA Program, Guam Environmental Protection Agency.

Medium Dept/Agency—Contraband Enforcement Team, Customs and Quarantine Agency.

Large Dept/Agency—Guam Highway Patrol, Guam Police Department.

L. Unit of the Year

Small Dept/Agency—Accounting Division, Guam Economic Development Agency.

Medium Dept/Agency—Community Social Development Unit, Department of Youth Affairs.

Large Dept/Agency—Building Construction and Facility Maintenance Division, Department of Public Works.

M. Department of the Year

Small Dept/Agency—Bureau of Planning, Guam Environmental Protection Agency.

Medium Dept/Agency—Department of Youth Affairs.

Large Dept/Agency—Guam Police Department.

N. Employee of the Year

Typing and Secretarial—Doreen S. Fernandez, Word Processing Secretary II, University of Guam.

Keypunch and Computer Operations—Norbert J. Palomo, Computer Operations Specialist, Guam Power Authority.

Office Management and Miscellaneous Administrative—Louisa F. Marquez, Administrative Assistant, Department of Public Works.

Personnel Administration, Equal Employment and Public Information—Vivian D. Iglesias, Personnel Specialist I, Guam Power Authority.

Computer Programming and Analysis—Joycelyn Aguon, Computer Systems Analyst I, Guam Housing & Urban Renewal Authority.

Employment Service and Related—Greg S. Massey, Employment Development Worker II, Department of Labor.

Youth Service & Related—Jose Quinata, Youth Service Worker I, Department of Youth Affairs.

Public Safety—Joseph S. Carbullido, Police Officer III, Guam Police Department.

Security and Correction—Joseph A. Torres, Guard, Department of Public Works.

Technical and Professional Engineering—Bruce Meno, Engineering Aide II, Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority.

Planning—Charles H. Ada II, Planner I, Department of Military Affairs.

Wildlife, Biology, Agriculture Science and Related—Anna Maria Leon Guerrero, Biologist I, Guam Environmental Protection Agency.

Nursing and Dental Hygiene—Rizalina Fernandez, Staff Nurse I, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

General Domestic and Food Service—Fred Balecha, Cook I, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

Custodial—Luisa Bainco, Building Custodian, University of Guam.

Labor, Grounds and Maintenance—Norbert J. Iriarte, Auto Service Worker I, Department of Public Works.

Equipment Operation and Related—Wayne D. San Nicolas, Cargo Checker, Port Authority of Guam.

Mechanical and Metal Trades—John R. Manibusan, Heavy Equipment Operator Leader I, Guam Power Authority.

Building Trades—Paul T. Cruz, Stage/Maintenance Technician, Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency.

Power System Electrical—Anthony P. Cruz, Electric Power System Dispatcher II, Guam Power Authority.

Electronics and Related Technical—Vicente A. Aguero, Computer Technician Leader, Guam Power Authority.

O. Supervisor of the Year

General Clerical—Karen E. Guerrero, Acting Clerk Supervisor, Guam Police Department.

Business Regulatory—Claire L. Cruz, Programs and Compliance Officer, Guam Economic Development Authority.

Community and Social Services—Grace R. Taitano, Social Worker III, Department of Youth Affairs.

Compliance Inspection/Enforcement—Rafaelle MJ Sgambelluri, Customs & Quarantine Officer Supervisor, Customs & Quarantine Agency.

Custodial—Jesse K. Lujan, Building Custodial Supervisor, University of Guam.

Mechanical and Metal Trades—Vincent M. Palomo, Transportation Supervisor, Department of Public Works.

Building Trades—Patrick J. Sablan, Building Maintenance Supervisor, Port Authority of Guam.

P. Manager of the Year

Small Dept/Agency—Leigh Leilani Lujan, Industry Development Manager, Guam Economic Development Agency.

Medium Dept/Agency—Linda C. San Nicolas, Program Coordinator IV, Department of Labor.

Large Dept/Agency—Catherine C. Guzman, Chief Clinical Dietician, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

Q. Merit Cup Leader Award

The best of the best among the outstanding Supervisors & Managers of the

Year—Rafaelle Sgambelluri, Customs & Quarantine Officer Supervisor, Customs & Quarantine Agency.

R. Merit Cup Employee Award

The best of the best among the outstanding Employees of the Year—Bruce Meno, Engineering Aide II, Guam Housing & Urban Renewal Authority; Jose Quinata, Youth Service Worker I, Department of Youth Affairs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 373, I would have voted "no", on rollcall No. 374, I would have voted "no", on rollcall No. 375, I would have voted "yes", on rollcall No. 376, I would have voted "no", on rollcall No. 377, I would have voted "yes", and on rollcall No. 378, I would have voted "no".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently missed recorded vote No. 375 on the Crowley amendment to H.R. 4461. Had I not done so, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of Monday, July 10th, I was unavoidably detained because of inclement weather in Atlanta which caused the cancellation of my connecting flight from Mississippi to Washington, DC. Due to this circumstance, I missed rollcall votes 373 through 378. If I had been able to vote, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 373, "yea" on rollcall No. 374, "yea" on rollcall No. 375, "yea" on rollcall No. 376, "yea" on rollcall No. 377, and "nay" on rollcall No. 378.