EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ST. JOHN WEST SHORE HOSPITAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the opening of the new Cardiac & Critical Care Pavilion and the Rainbow RapidCare Program at St. John West Shore Hospital in Westlake, Ohio.

The Cardiac & Critical Care Pavilion is a $9 million, two-story addition to the hospital's south side that will house all of the hospital's cardiac and critical care services. The Pavilion comprises not only 40,000 square feet of new space, but also 15,000 square feet of renovated existing space and 37 new beds. Providing a facility that will enhance convenience and accessibility for both patients and family members, the cardiac services will continue to meet the growing needs of Western Cuyahoga and Eastern Lorain Counties' residents. Under the medical direction of Drs. Dale Levy, MD; Muhammed Zarha, MD; Naim Farhat, MD and Timothy Taylor, DO, the Cardiac & Critical Care Pavilion will offer high quality service to patients in need of care.

The Rainbow RapidCare Program is also a facility that is growing to meet the needs of local families, and is committed to providing the best care possible for children and parents. Rainbow RapidCare is an urgent care center for children and adolescents with minor injuries and ailments, staffed by a team of physicians and nurses trained in Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine. Combining the resources of St. John West Shore Hospital and Rainbow Babies' and Children's Hospital, the program has been organized under the medical direction of Drs. John Bennet, MD and Emory Patrick, MD and under the nursing leadership of Katie Dixon, RN.

I commend all those involved in the establishment of these valuable medical facilities, and wish them every success for the future. Fellow Congressmen, please join with me in honoring the opening of these new and welcome additions to the St. John West Shore Hospital.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ARCHBISHOP REMBERT WEAKLAND ON RECEIVING THE VISION FOR MILWAUKEE AWARD

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Reverend Rembert Weakland, Archbishop of Milwaukee's Catholic Archdiocese, who has been awarded the Milwaukee Ethnic Council's Vision for Milwaukee Award. Each year, this award is presented to an individual or organization for outstanding service to the community, and this year's recipient is certainly deserving of this prestigious honor.

The Archbishop began his Religious Life as a Benedictine monk at Solesmes Abbey in France, and was ordained to the Priesthood in 1951 at Subiaco, Italy. His lifelong love of music led him to pursue musical studies in Europe, as well as at the prestigious Julliard School of Music in New York, and Columbia University, where he just recently received a Ph.D. ''with distinction'' in Musicology from Columbia University.

First a music teacher at St. Vincent College, he went on to become Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Directors. In 1967, he was elected Abbot Primate of the International Benedictine Confederation, and was appointed Chancellor of the International Benedictine College of Sant'Anselmo, Rome, Italy. On September 20th, 1977, Rembert Weakland was appointed Archbishop of Milwaukee by Pope Paul VI, and is the spiritual leader of nearly 700,000 Catholics in 10 Wisconsin counties.

Although ''Srengthening bridges to harmony, respect and understanding'' is actually the Milwaukee Ethic Council's mission statement, it also very aptly describes Archbishop Weakland's life's work. For nearly 23 years, the Archbishop has served the people of this area with great integrity and humanity. He is one of our community's most respected leaders, by Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Archbishop Weakland has worked hard to strengthen dialogue between area Catholics and members of other denominations. He has fostered an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation amongst the faith community in our area.

Always a strong advocate for social justice, the Archbishop has expanded the archdiocese's involvement in anti-poverty issues, providing assistance to inner city families in our area. One of his remaining goals in his final years before retirement is to get the Roman Catholic Church more involved in solving social problems in the central city. At a recent Jubilee-year gathering, Archbishop Weakland joined with other area Christian leaders in support of improved international debt relief for poor nations and increased assistance to the poor and disenfranchised in our own community.

It is, therefore, quite fitting that the Milwaukee Ethic Council bestow the Vision for Milwaukee Award upon Archbishop Weakland, for he serves his Lord, his Church, and the people of Milwaukee with great vision and heart. Please join me in congratulating him on receiving this award, so richly deserved. May God's blessings continue to enrich his life and his ministry.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION ACT OF 2000

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Enterprise Integration Act of 2000, a bill that is designed to help U.S. small manufacturers in nine key industries stay competitive in the electronic enterprise age. The legislation instructs the Director of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), through various NIST labs, the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Program, and the Manufacturing Extension Program, to work with the auto, aerospace, furniture, ship-building, textile, apparel, electronics, home building and major construction industries on the establishment of an industry-led effort at enterprise integration. If an industry has not begun an effort, NIST would be asked to help convene companies and trade associations in the industry to develop a strategy for developing and implementing a unified vision for supply chain integration. If efforts are already underway, NIST is to support the ongoing efforts, helping in the development of the expertise necessary for the enterprise integration to take place. NIST is asked to look at the suite of standards now in place and to help fill the holes in areas such as compatibility of older standards with emerging Internet standards. The bill authorizes appropriations of $10 million for FY 2001 and $15 million for FY 2002, and such sums as are necessary in subsequent years.

As impressive as the growth of Internet companies has been, its impact pales in significance to the impact that the Internet is having on how businesses work together. A key example is use of the Internet for enterprise integration in the manufacturing sector that permits a manufacturer and its suppliers to function as one virtual company. Companies will be able to exchange information of all types with their suppliers at the speed of light. Design cycle times and inter-company costs of manufacturing complex products will shrink. Information on design flaws will be instantly transmitted from repair shops to manufacturers and their supply chains.

Enterprise integration is occurring now because of today's computers and communications capabilities and because the Internet provides a practical medium for exchanging large amounts of manufacturing information in real-time. These technological advances coincided with the establishment in 1994 of an international data exchange standard that begins the process of permitting companies to share designs and engineering and manufacturing data even if they are written in different computer languages. However, this will be possible in individual industries only after the development of thousands of pages of instructions on how to translate every nuance of every drawing and every instruction for a specific industry.

Some companies and their governments realized faster than others how the manufacturing world is changing. Daimler-Benz is the leader in the auto industry, and it has been supported by the European Community research organization ESPRIT in its efforts to bring enterprise integration to the European automobile industry. It will not be long before every one of the companies which do business with Daimler, ranging from the component makers, to the machine tool makers, to the tool and die makers, to the steel and aluminum suppliers will be able to exchange design and manufacturing information quickly and effortlessly. Airbus has also managed to jump to a major lead on its U.S. competitors in supply chain integration. The U.S. Department of Defense is trying to accelerate enterprise integration among the companies which manufacture defense-related products, and the National institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has done standards work in this area for 20 years. Still, U.S. companies are struggling to catch up with their European counterparts and small businesses will need major help once the protocols are in place.

Enterprise integration has the potential to be the most important innovation in manufacturing since Henry Ford's assembly line. I hope we will have your support in enacting the Enterprise Integration Act because it will give U.S. industry the opportunity to be a leader in this much needed technology.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM GAMBATESE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of William J. Cambatese, a business representative for Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 for 12 years.

William Gambatese was the president of Sheet Metal Workers Local 65 before it merged with the Local 33. In his tenure as recording secretary for the Cleveland Building Trades Council, William Gambatese played an active role in project labor agreements and was also active in local government in Greater Cleveland.

Mr. Gambatese's commitment to his fellow citizens came out of a 35-year history as a sheet metal worker. Knowing first hand the metal workers' concerns and needs provided the necessary insight to oversee activism in union affairs, AFL–CIO committees, Labor Day parade activities, and political campaigns.

William Gambatese was totally immersed in his job and was a dedicated representative of all of the membership. Championing the rights of workers was only one among numerous other civic activities. Mr. Gambatese also chaired the Dollars Against Diabetes Society. Mr. Gambatese's life-work encompassed providing ''quality'' life to those most in need. Never losing site of what was most important: his family and community. William Gambatese's humanitarianism will endure in his wife of 29 years, Linda; daughters Laurie and Jennifer; son, Michael, stepson Donald, three grandchildren; four brothers, and two sisters. Mr. Gambatese was 55 years old.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in honoring William Gambatese for his lifelong commitment and dedications to workers' rights.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S LIBERTY SHIPS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, between 1941 and 1944 over 2,700 Liberty ships were built under President Roosevelt's $350,000,000 shipbuilding program. These vessels were cargo ships designed to augment the enormous supply needs of the war effort. As the only remaining operational Liberty Ship and the last operational troopship of World War II, the S.S. *John W. Brown* is currently touring the northeastern coast and the Great Lakes to honor the troops and merchant marines who served in WWII.

During the war, the *John W. Brown* served as a standard cargo ship and, after conversion, as a limited capacity troop transport ship in the Mediterranean Theatre and in the invasions of Salerno and Southern France. After the war, the S.S. *John W. Brown* served in unique and critical roles. The ship was first used to move cargo across the North Atlantic to rebuild European cities and nations. Then, in December 1946, she was loaned by the Maritime Commission to the City of New York to serve as a high school. For the next 36 years she was cared for by students and teachers who operated the world's only nautical high school. Because of the ship's light use and regular maintenance by the school, the S.S. *John W. Brown* has remained in remarkable condition for a vessel of its age.

In 1988, the ship was acquired by Project Liberty Ship, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to preserving the memory of the Liberty Ships that were so critical to the success of the war. Project Liberty Ship, was established as a volunteer membership organization with the goal of restoring the S.S. *John W. Brown* to its original operating condition as a WWII Museum and Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, the S.S. *John W. Brown* is on a voyage this summer from Baltimore through the St. Lawrence Seaway and through Lakes Ontario and Erie. This celebration voyage is a fitting tribute to both our troops who gave their lives in the war and those who acted in support of them. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to our soldiers, our merchant marines and to the members of Project Liberty Ship, who have given their time and energy to preserve the memory of those brave American soldiers who died for our liberty.

IN HONOR OF STANLEY EUGENE TOLLIVER, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in trobute to Stanley Eugene Tolliver, Sr., the recipeint of the N.A.A.C.P. Freedom Award, this organization's highest honor.

Mr. Tolliver, a Cleveland attorney, was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. As the only child of Eugene and Edna Tolliver, he excelled both academically and athletically. For example, he graduated from the East Technical High School in 1944, where he was the State champion in the 440 yard dash, and having been blessed with a velvet voice, he was the first place winner in the Ohio State Vocal Contest.

Mr. Tolliver continued his education at Baldwin Wallace College, by majoring in pre-law and minoring in music and speech. It is clear that from the start that Mr. Tolliver has been dedicated to tackling interracial issues. At Baldwin Wallace College, he founded the first interracial Greek-letter fraternity, Epsilon, which is now a national organization known as Pi Lambda Pi. Having this passion and love for law and civil justice, Mr. Tolliver knew that in order to make a contribution to society he would need to prepare and armor himself with a deeper understanding of the law. Thus, he continued his law studies and earned his Juris Doctorate from Cleveland Marshall School of Law in October 1969. In the midst of his studies, Mr. Tolliver was drafted into the armed services, where he served in the United States Army's Counter Intelligence Corps for two years. While still serving in active duty Tolliver passed his bar examination in March 1953 and has been engaged in the general practice of Law ever since.

Mr. Tolliver's accolades and honors are never ending. His most notable honors include Life Member of N.A.A.C.P., member of the East Tech Athletic Hall of Fame, Outstanding Alumnus Award from Baldwin Wallace College, past president of the Cleveland Chapter National Conference of Black Lawyers, Regional Director of the Conference of Black lawyers, and former legal counsel for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Mr. Tolliver has also been elected to Who's Who in Ohio'' in 1961, the Cleveland Board of Education in 1981, 1985, 1987, 1989, and 1990.

Mr. Tolliver's efforts to advocate the causes of those who may be undrerepresented reflects not only his fearless dedication to his life works, but also his unhesitating willingness to take the unpopular stand for justice. His commitment and devotion to upholding freedom, justice and equity is truly commendable.

My fellow distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Stanley Eugene Tolliver, Sr. for his N.A.A.C.P. Freedom Award and in recognizing his many accomplishments and contributions to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE RED ARROW CLUB

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Red Arrow Club of Milwaukee. October 15th, 2000 marks the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Army's 32d Infantry Division's call to active duty prior to World War II, and also the 39th anniversary of the October 15th, 1961 call to active duty for the Berlin Crisis. This is a very important day for the club, for those who have worn the ''Red Arrow'' in war, as well as peacetime.

Comprised of troops from Michigan and Wisconsin, these soldiers were inducted into

federal service at Lansing, Michigan on October 15th, 1940. The ''Red Arrow'' arrived in Australia on May 14, 1942 and participated in a number of heroic WWII campaigns, seeing action in Papua, New Guinea, Leyte, and Luzon, and later in Japan they often withstood bitter hand-to-hand combat, and fought bravely and honorably for their country. During their tour of duty in World War II, the members of the 32d Division laid their lives on the line for their country, asking nothing in return. And once again on October 15th, 1961 the ''Red Arrow'' answered the call of their country to protect our vital interests overseas, this time for the Berlin Crisis.

For their bravery, members of the 32d have received a total of ten Congressional Medals of Honor and fourteen Distinguished Unit Citations. In addition, the unit has received several decorations including the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

This special day serves to honor the many veterans who answered the call to duty to serve their country in this distinguished division, a number of whom made the ultimate scarifice and never returned home to family and friends. To the veterans, as well as those on active duty, my sincere congratulations on this very special milestone in the 32d Division's history. It is an honor that is well deserved.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DAN GLICKMAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INSPECTORS TOM QUADROS, JEANNIE HILLERY AND BILL SHALINE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest condolences to the families of Tom Quadros, Jeannie Hillery, and Bill Shaline—the three United States Department of Agriculture inspectors who were brutally and senselessly murdered during an inspection visit to a sausage factory in Oakland, California, in June.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to condemn publicly their brutal murder. What has our nation come to, when unarmed USDA compliance officers are brutally shot while inspecting the food we eat? Anyone familiar with the novel the ''The Jungle'' by Upton Sinclair is aware of the potential for hazards that come with unsanitary meat packaging or processing plants. The USDA, with the help of loyal and diligent inspectors like Tom Quadros, Jeannie Hillery, and Bill Shaline, has worked hard to ensure that our nation's meat plants provide clean and sanitary food for the American public.

Mr. Speaker, these three individuals represent the finest example of public service. The men and women who serve their fellow Americans in government positions assure safe food, safe travel, public safety and security, and a better life for all of us. All Americans owe a huge debt of gratitude to the federal employees who serve us. Sometimes this service is performed at great personal risk, as was the case in this tragedy in Oakland. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these fallen federal employees and to all federal employees who serve our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD the heartfelt words of condolence that Secretary of Agriculture Glickman delivered at the memorial service for Jean Hillery, Tom Quadros, and Bill Shaline on June 30th of this year in Oakland, California.

STATEMENT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DAN GLICKMAN

On behalf of the entire U.S. Department of Agriculture, I want to offer my condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of Jean Hillery, Tom Quadros and Bill Shaline. USDA and the California Department of Food and Agriculture are better off for the time that they gave to us. Many people have come up to me and expressed their sadness at this loss. Just the other day, I received a letter from the members of the Safe Food Coalition asking that pass along their condolences as well.

Food safety compliance officers perform one of the most important functions in public service, protecting the American people where they are largely powerless to protect themselves. Jean Hillery, Tom Quadros and Bill Shaline did the people's work. And over this holiday weekend, as we grill our steaks, chicken and burgers, I hope we'll all remember that it's the efforts of these three people and the thousands of others like them that ensures the safety of the food we serve to our families. And while their work is absolutely critical, rarely do we think of it as dangerous and life-threatening. Which makes last week's tragedy all the more shocking and unsettling. It's cruelly ironic that, in the process of protecting the lives of the American people, their own lives were taken from them violently and needlessly.

All of them led lives of purpose and dedication, not just at their jobs but within their families and their communities. Whether it was Jean Hillery going to college and beginning a new career after raising three daughters, or Tom Quadros' work with the Special Olympic, it's clear that these were more than distinguished public servants . . . they were extraordinary people as well. Yesterday, back at USDA headquarters, I gave a speech about civil rights at our Department. And although I talked some about programs and procedures, the message I really tried to convey was that civil rights and human rights begin with people simply treating each other with respect and common courtesy. This tragedy is not about race or civil rights in any way, but I think it can still teach a lesson about civility and decency, about open communication and the importance of resolving disputes peacefully and sensibly. Jean Hillery, Tom Quadros and Bill Shaline lived those values, but they died because some people still do not.

I want to close with a message to their children. Last December, I lost both of my parents, within just a few weeks of each other. They were old, and they were sick. But I'm immensely grateful that they lived into their 80's and that I was able to enjoy them for 55 years of my life. I can't imagine the pain you must feel at losing parents in the prime of their lives. But I hope that you measure their time in terms of quality rather than quantity . . . always remembering that their lives, though short, were ones of both accomplishment and integrity. Thank you.

IN HONOR OF KYM SELLERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kym Sellers, a woman whose story is about everything that is good about America. Growing up as an athlete, Kym learned the value of hard work. Kym would participate in her high school's woman's basketball team, shower, and then cheerlead for the men's team. Outside of sporting events, she would run with her father, practicing for the quarter-mile she would run for the track team. It is this incredible effort and persistence that has made Mrs. Sellers an example for all.

Unfortunately, the athlete in Kym can no longer play basketball, cheer, or run. At age 25, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and the impairing nervous system disease sidelined her from the athletic arena. However, with her determination of steel, and spirit of confidence, Kym has most certainly not been sidelined from experiencing her life.

Now 32, Mrs. Sellers is the mother of two young daughters, wife of a professional European basketball player, and works six days a week. She continues to exercise daily, but now she must also take care of her children, and run a radio show from Cleveland's urban contemporary radio station. As if these efforts wouldn't be exhausting enough, Kym continues to make a difference in her community by establishing the Kym Sellers Foundation, a non-profit organization to help African-Americans with multiple sclerosis.

With an overwhelming amount of responsibility and activity in her life, Kym continues to strive for excellence in everything she does. She has not allowed her condition to distract her from living life to the fullest.

I greatly respect the hardworking and devoted spirit of Kym Sellers. Her attitude is one to be admired by all. My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring this dynamic woman.

KLECZKA HONORS HOME PARISH ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor St. Helen's Catholic Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

St. Helen's was founded on April 6, 1925 by the Rev. Constantine Wasniewski and has been a fixture on Milwaukee's south side ever since. The church, which began with just 50 parishioners, now serves as the place of worship for more than 900 families.

The parish school, which opened in 1926 with just four Felician Sisters, teaching in four small rooms, currently boasts an enrollment of 130 students. As a 1957 graduate of St. Helen's, I can personally attest to its dedication to education, high moral standards, and the preparation of its students for the challenges that lie ahead.

Polish heritage has always been a cornerstone of the St. Helen's community. In fact, for

years Polish language classes were a standard part of the school's curriculum. Through the work of current pastor, Rev. Michael Ignaszak, and many others at St. Helen's parish, that emphasis on our Polish culture and traditions continues to flourish.

St. Helen's is known throughout its neighborhood as not just a Catholic parish and parochial school, but as an outstanding member of the community. Since 1972 St. Helen's church festival has been a highly anticipated annual event. Its monthly fish fries, run entirely by volunteers, have become a Friday night tradition.

However, St. Helen's community involvement runs far deeper than fish fries and church festivals. It has been home to Boy Scout Pack 264 since 1949. Many clubs, such as the 55 & Over Club and the Christian Women's Group volunteer their time and efforts to numerous community causes. The Human Concerns Committee works closely with the Interfaith Caregiving Network to distribute holiday gifts to the elderly and home bound in the area.

And so it is with great pleasure that I join students and parishioners, past and present, in congratulating St. Helen's on the celebration of its first 75 years, with best wishes for the next 75, and beyond.

OSHA AWARD FOR NATIONAL ENZYME

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly congratulate the administrative staff and employees of National Enzyme Company in Forsyth, Missouri for their outstanding vision, dedication and effort in attaining Merit Status in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. This honor is conferred on less than 1% of the six million companies overseen nationwide by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The manufacturer of private label enzyme-based dietary supplements located in Missouri's Seventh Congressional District joins over 400 other businesses in our nation in participation in this program. They are only the seventh company in the state of Missouri to achieve this designation.

The award was granted after an intensive 9 month-self study by employees at all levels followed by a rigorous comprehensive review visit by OSHA inspectors who found the facility to be fully in compliance with all regulations.

According to OSHA this designation means that the health and safety practices and procedures developed by National Enzyme are models within their industry, and that the facility is preparing itself for even higher levels of health and safety compliance. In fact those inspectors noted that the program has ''evolved into a comprehensive process that is an integral part of everyone's daily working procedures, which extends to all levels of the organization.''

I would also point out that this outstanding achievement is the result of a cooperative effort between public and private entities rather than a unilateral regulatory effort on the part of a lone federal agency. To quote OSHA ''This concept recognizes that compliance enforcement alone can never fully achieve the objectives of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Good safety management programs that go beyond OSHA standards can protect workers more effectively than simple compliance.''

National Enzyme's commitment to an ongoing program of employee safety is demonstrated by their first place award last year from the four-state Safety Council of the Ozarks for Most Effective Safety Committee.

I express my appreciation, and that of all my colleagues, to President Anthony Collier, and Manufacturing Manager Jerry Holvick for their leadership in bringing this national recognition to Forsyth, Missouri and the Seventh Congressional District.

TRANSFER OF VA FACILITY TO CUSTER COUNTY, MONTANA

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this legislation in the House. An identical version, S. 2637, has been introduced in the Senate by Senators BURNS and BAUCUS of Montana. The intent of the bill is quite simple: to transfer ownership of the Veterans Hospital from the VA to Custer County, Montana. For many years, this hospital operated at full capacity to serve Montana veterans. Then, it was downgraded to a clinic. The result of this change is that the VA only uses a small part of this very large facility. Still, the VA is in charge of upkeep and maintenance of the entire structure. Until recently, there were about 100 employees and only one doctor working for area veterans. The VA estimates that this situation is costing $500,000 per year which would be much better spent taking care of veterans rather than a building the VA no longer needs.

This situation is not unique to the VA in Miles City. It is estimated that the VA spends $1 million dollars every day on excess properties around this country. At a time when budgets are tight and when we are having a difficult time honoring the commitments this country made to our veterans, the current situation is simply unacceptable.

What is a liability to the Veterans Administration can be an asset to the town of Miles City and Custer County. In a town of some 8,000 people, the change in the VA mission has cost the economy 145 full-time quality jobs with a $7 million decline in payroll in just the last 6 years. For a town whose top two industries are agriculture and government jobs, that's a significant loss. The community could have, understandably, objected to the mission change. Instead, community leaders have banded together and devised a plan that works for the town, the VA and our veterans.

The community's main objective for the transfer is long-term economic development which includes: relocation of distance learning technology to a tech center site in the VA complex, development of a multi-purpose day care, work force training site, career development site, food bank distribution site, and potential office space to be rented for start-up business opportunities.

Community colleges traditionally have been recognized as key to sustainable economic development through the training opportunities they offer. MCC is located across the street from the VA hospital. Their curriculum will benefit greatly with steady access to this facility. MCC will train individuals for today's job market, including training for tech jobs that would be included in the tech center.

The $500,000 savings achieved annually through this transfer will be used for new outpatient clinics in rural Montana. That represents a significant benefit to our veterans who currently have to travel extraordinary distances to access the care promised them. In rural states like Montana, accessability to health care is a very real problem and another reason that this legislation makes so much sense.

The alternative to legislative action to transfer the property is a long, laborious bureaucratic process that involves several federal agencies and that can take years to complete. That process can cost several million dollars, not to mention the continuing expense of the VA maintaining the excess property. Our approach will expedite the process, saving the VA money for veterans and, at the same time, jump-starting economic development for a town in serious trouble.

HONORING MRS. ADRIANA G. FIGUEROA OF SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA, CELEBRATING HER RETIREMENT FROM 37 YEARS OF TEACHING

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I convey my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Adriana Figueroa on her retirement. Mrs Figueroa has dedicated the last 37 years of her life to our community as a public educator, and has exemplified the best in public service.

Mrs. Figueroa was bom on March 2, 1940 in Los Angeles, California, and was raised in East Los Angeles. She attended St. Alphonsus Elementary School in Los Angeles and Sacred Heart of Mary High School in Montebello. She graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Social Sciences, and after graduation, completed course work for a General Secondary California State Teaching Credential. She received her Masters in Education from Azusa Pacific University.

Her admirable career began at Alhambra High School in 1963 as a classroom English teacher teaching ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students. In 1974, she accepted a position as an Adult Basic Educator (ABE) with the Los Angeles Unified School District, teaching adults to read and write. That decision changed the direction of her career, and from that moment forward, she would make a difference by bringing literacy, high school diplomas, and vocational training to adults who were in need.

After receiving her administrative credential in 1979, Mrs. Figueroa was named the site Coordinator for the Mid City ABE center, a branch of Belmont Adult School in downtown Los Angeles.

In 1986, it was our good fortune that she was brought to Baldwin Park to impact the

lives of adults and young people in the San Gabriel Valley. Mrs. Figueroa came to Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult and Community Education (BPACE) program as an Administrative Assistant. Today, she is retiring as the Assistant Director of Adult and Community Education and is responsible for administration of the BPACE program.

Mrs. Figueroa lives in San Gabriel with her husband Jim and has three children and three stepchildren. Her greatest joy is her grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Adriana Figueroa has had a remarkable career, one in which her enthusiasm and dedication to public education has made a difference in countless lives. Our community is extremely proud of her accomplishments. Let us send our sincerest appreciation for her fine work and recognize her for contributing to public education.

I commend her for her achievements and hope she enjoys her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ELEANOR KIELISZEK

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a dear friend and a truly noteworthy and admirable community leader from the Township of Teaneck in my District. A few short weeks ago, Eleanor Kieliszek retired from her seat on the Township Council, thus ending an impressive political career which began in 1965.

Beginning with her appointment as the first female member of the Township's Planning Board in 1965, Eleanor Kieliszek has been a tireless crusader for the residents of Teaneck. In 1970, Eleanor Kieliszek entered a 17-way race for Township Council as the only woman candidate. She won, Mr. Speaker, due in large part to her tireless energy evidenced by her constant door-to-door campaigning. Twice, from 1974–1978 and 1990–1992, the voters elected her mayor as an expression of their confidence.

A student of politics, Eleanor Kieliszek is aware that compromise and hard work are integral and historic parts of the American political system. By working with her fellow Council members, Eleanor Kieliszek was able to help preside of a period of unbridled economic development in Teaneck while ensuring that a great deal of the municipality's open spaces would remain in that state for perpetuity. The 350 acre Overpeck Park, enjoyed by so many in their leisure time, is a fine testament to this legacy. Mr. Speaker, Eleanor Kieliszek was also able to bring Teaneck together in the face of great racial tension in 1990. Many credit the neighborhood meetings which she helped initiate in a time of great concern with fostering dialogue and diversity in the community.

Mr. Speaker, a representative democracy such as ours only thrives when those with strong wills and good hearts take time from their personal lives to give time to others around them. As the Township of Teaneck prepares to name a wonderfully large green area after Eleanor Kieliszek to honor her three decade's service to her home, I find it fitting for this House to rise and salute this outstanding local official. On the occasion of her retirement from elected life, we thank Eleanor Kieliszek and send her our heartiest best wishes for the future.

HONORING BERNARD ALAIN PORTELLI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bernard Alain Portelli, who today, July 20, 2000, will become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America.

Mr. Portelli came to the United States from France in 1984. Prior to coming to the United States, Mr. Portelli established himself among European royalty and within the fashion and entertainment industry as an exemplary businessman and artist. His talent, his hard work and his dedication quickly earned him a similar reputation in Washington, D.C. Based in Georgetown, Mr. Portelli has been featured on numerous television programs around the country and his talents are frequently sought out by the fashion and film industries. Today he is the proprietor of the highly regarded and highly successful OKYO Salon.

For over seven years I've been blessed to call him my friend. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bernard Portelli on this great occasion in his life and the life of our nation.

THE PLIGHT OF THE GREAT APES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last month, scientists from 12 nations sounded the warning alarm that the world's great apes—the chimpanzee, the gorilla, the bonobo, and the orangutan—are hurtling toward extinction at an alarming rate.

These animals are humankind's closest living relatives in the animal kingdom, yet they face the very real possibility of disappearing from the wild within the near future due to habitat destruction and illegal hunting. While many species are currently facing imminent declines due to these anthropogenic pressures, the great apes are especially susceptible because of their slow reproduction and demanding habitat requirements. If action is not taken immediately, these animals will most likely cease to exist within our children's lifetime. We cannot stand by and let this tragedy come to pass.

The threats to the great apes stem largely from increased commercial logging that facilitates both habitat loss and a growing and largely unregulated commercial trade in bushmeat. These factors are further exacerbated by civil war in many areas that are home to great ape populations.

In Indonesia, it is estimated that less than 2 percent of the orangutan's original forest habitat remains. The most recent population estimates of these apes in Bomeo and Sumatra, the only two remaining areas that support orangutans in the wild, are less than 25,000 individuals. This figure represents a decline of 30 to 50 percent in the last decade and 10 to 20 percent annually. At this rate, if nothing is done, the orangutan will be extinct within 50 years.

Although rates of forest loss are lower in most parts of Africa than in Indonesia, the irrevocable conversion of forested ape habitat to farmland and plantations poses a similar threat to populations of chimpanzees, gorillas, and bonobos. In fact, Africa is the third largest timber exporter in the world. Experts predict that in Zaire, Equatorial Guinea, and Cameroon, forests could disappear within 70 years if current trends continue. When this is considered along with the large habitat requirements of great apes and the need for protecting large enough populations to maintain long-term viability, the loss of tropical rainforest habitat poses a dire threat to global ape populations.

Another growing problem threatening ape populations, particularly in Africa, is the dramatic rise in bushmeat trade. Bushmeat, the term used to describe wildlife used for meat consumption, includes gorillas, chimpanzees, and a variety of other species. Once only used as a sustainable subsistence food source, the largely illegal commercial trade has skyrocketed in recent years with devastating impacts on ape populations. This dramatic rise has occurred for a number of reasons, but primarily because of increased hunting to feed local people who have been forced to rely on cash economies rather than traditional ways of life and the influx of commercial logging companies who use bushmeat to feed their employees.

In addition, as timber concessions continue to open up once remote forests with the construction of roads, logging trucks are hauling out hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds of bushmeat each week. Moreover, the increased prevalence of bushmeat has caused markets to move beyond local centers to urban areas and even international trade. According to the most recent reports, in the Congo Basin 4,500 gorillas per year and 3,000 chimps per year are killed solely for the bushmeat market. Even in the absence of habitat loss, the bushmeat trade in the Congo Basin is likely to lead to extinction of chimpanzees and gorillas there within the next century.

Perhaps most staggering are the results of a just-completed Harvard survey of great ape research sites. This survey found that great ape populations are known, or suspected, to be declining in 96% of protected areas. It is these sites where the prospect for ape survival is best. In these protected areas, great apes are increasingly threatened by hunting, logging, war, and increased human population pressure in surrounding communities.

We are only now beginning to understand and appreciate the complex role of great apes in maintaining the ecological health and blodiversity of tropical and subtropical forest habitats. Biologists fear that the loss of all great apes could irrevocably alter forest structure and the composition of species which could intensify other environmental threats caused by deforestation and agricultural development.

A broad range of actions is needed if there is to be any hope of saving great ape populations. Laws on logging and poaching must

be enforced and developed to stem the unregulated and uncontrolled destruction of forest habitat and flow of bushmeat into the commercial marketplace. Long term support for protected areas, national parks, and buffer zones must be secured to protect habitat and wildlife. And, finally, conservation education and intervention programs must be expanded and funded, to involve more local people and scientists in the protection of great ape populations.

The challenges facing the conservation of great apes is immense. As a first step in the effort to address this problem I have introduced H.R. 4320, the Great Ape Conservation Act. The Act is modeled after the highly successful African and Asian Elephant and Rhino Conservation Acts, and would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the conservation and protection of great apes by providing grants to local wildlife management authorities and other organizations and individuals involved in the conservation, management, protection, and restoration of great ape populations and their habitats. The Great Ape Conservation Act will put money on the ground quickly, to start to halt the destruction of these animals.

At the CITES meeting I attended in April, delegates and NGOs from many of the African nations expressed great concern over the growing demand for bushmeat and how this demand is contributing to the rapid decline of wild animal populations. Support for an effort to halt the flow of bushmeat is coming from not only the U.S., but also from the range states and many other countries who want to see this problem addressed. Clearly, the time for action is now. Just as clear is the fact that mere urging on the part of the U.S. to save these species will not be enough, even with the support of other nations.

Whether its elephants or apes, rhinos or tigers, it's not enough to dictate to third world nations about the need to conserve their endangered biological diversity. We also must be willing to make the financial investment and provide them with the resources they will need to do the job. Only by incorporating the participation of the local residents will we be able to address the many social and economic factors preventing the long-term conservation and protection of great apes or any other species we think needs protection.

This was the goal of the African and Asian Elephant Conservation Acts as well as the Rhino, Tiger Conservation Act, and this is the goal of the Great Ape Protection Act. This bill will only be the first step, however, and we must quickly determine what more we can do.

It is critical that action be taken now, if we are to preserve the world's populations of great apes the chimpanzee, the gorilla, the bonobo, and the orangutan—for us and future generations.

The cost of delaying is too large to accept.

TRIBUTE TO GUS VELASCO

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, today I praise Mr. Gustavo ''Gus'' Velasco, a distinguished public servant in my 34th Congressional District in California. He is retiring as Assistant City Manager for Community Services of Santa Fe Springs, California after an illustrious career of 39 years of service.

Gus Velasco's steadfast commitment to public service has made him a recognized leader and admirable member of the community. He is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations including the Whittier Area Schools Administrators Association Award.

Since receiving a degree from the California State University of Los Angeles, Gus Velasco has served and supported the community of Santa Fe Springs in many different capacities, including teaching at area schools, serving as President of the Santa Fe Springs Lions Club, and holding memberships on both the Salvation Army Transitional Living Center Advisory Council and the Santa Fe High School Educational Foundation. Also, Gus has been Director of Social Services at the Santa Fe Neighborhood Center where he worked for eleven years.

Gus Velasco's career with the City of Santa Fe Springs began in 1961 as the Director of Recreation. His outstanding service was recognized as he rose through the administrative ranks to take the helm as Assistant City Manager in which he has excelled for the past ten years. Gus' vision, tenacity, skill, and managerial excellence has fostered pride in the rich history and cultural heritage of the Santa Fe Springs community.

I have known Gus Velasco many years, since my own service as a City Council member and Mayor of the neighboring city of Norwalk, California which borders Santa Fe Springs to the south. I have greatly admired Gus Velasco's professionalism and unsurpassed level of personal commitment to the City of Santa Fe Springs, neighboring cities in the Los Angeles County, the State of California, and to the profession of public service. Through selfless commitment and a relentless pursuit toward the betterment of his community, Gus has nurtured a strong sense of civic pride among the residents of Santa Fe Springs.

The citizens of Santa Fe Springs have greatly benefited from the outstanding work of Assistant City Manager Gus Velasco, and will undoubtedly benefit from his future endeavors on their behalf. To Gus, his wife of 40 years, Annie, his daughter, Renee, his three sons, Paul, Gus, and Jaime, and to his eight grandchildren, I extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for his exemplary service, and further extend best wishes for every continued happiness, great health, and success in the years ahead. It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to a superb public servant and fine American citizen, Gus Velasco, on the floor of the House of Representatives in Washington. Thanks for everything, Gus.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, six years ago, a building and a community's heart were both ripped apart by the blast of the same terrorist bomb. The building was the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 86 deaths, the scores of wounded, and the destruction of the center of Jewish culture in the Argentinean capital, were a terrible tragedy.

Yet, this act of terrorist violence did more. The bomb went on to strip the Jews of that country of their equilibrium, their confidence, and their sense of self. For years, the investigation of this crime dragged on with no apparent outcome. For years the Argentine authorities have dragged their feet and have exhibited incompetence in following up obvious leads that linked the Lebanese Hezbollah organization with homegrown Argentinean terrorists.

Yet, there is some good news to report. Years of constant pressure by Jewish organizations, Members of Congress, and other prominent leaders have finally forced the Argentine government to move. President Fernando de la Rua has committed its government to pursue vigorously the investigation of this terrorist outrage, regardless of where the inquiry might lead.

From this time and place, we should make our intentions crystal clear. We shall not waver in our determination to see the responsible parties for this terrorist outrage brought to real and meaningful justice.

We shall not shrink from the task of working to ensure that everyone implicated in this crime—Hezbollah terrorists, members of the Argentine security forces, or any others—will pay the price for their dastardly deed.

We shall not wither away. We shall not tire of the cause. We will persevere because it is the right thing to do. We will see justice done!

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID GILMORE, DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's capital is a much better place in which to live because of the many contributions made by David Gilmore. Since he has become the Director of the District of Columbia Housing Authority, we have a better understanding of those qualities that make up a dedicated public servant.

Only a few years ago, our capital city was referred to as a ''broken city.'' Its poor housing was seen as a primary reflection of that reality. The local authority was burdened with dilapidated public housing projects, residents wary of any intervention and federal investigations that threatened severe funding cuts or total elimination of the department. Enter Judge Steffen Graae who appointed David Gilmore as a receiver of the local authority. Almost overnight, things began to change. With an intense commitment to the residents being served, he rebuilt much of the District's public housing.

During the years I was privileged to chair the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies, I found I could always rely upon David Gilmore for his practical analysis of the challenges we face trying to improve those services that need to

be provided in a public housing system. Because of his integrity, he rebuilt the trust and confidence of residents that the housing authority could provide quality service to those most in need.

David insists that the interests of residents come first. Residents are treated with respect and encouraged to participate in training programs such as developing computer skills. Families are encouraged to focus upon children in school and residents to participate in helping to manage the properties in which they live.

Mr. Speaker, if every major urban community had a housing director with the personal commitment and skills of David Gilmore, we would be much closer to solving the difficulties facing public housing. By showing that public housing can work, David Gilmore has done much to restore confidence in federal housing programs. David has made a major contribution to that effort to make our capital the ''shining city on the hill.''

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support doing everything possible to strengthen retirement savings and help Americans achieve a secure retirement. The first task before us here in Congress is to ensure that Social Security will be solvent well into the future. My Democratic colleagues and I are working hard to achieve this goal. Our second task is to make it easier for the American people to save for their retirement.

Today there are over 35 million people over the age 65. By 2050, the number of people aged 65 and older is estimated to rise above 81 million. We must do everything possible to strengthen individual retirement savings that help Americans achieve a financially secure retirement. Additionally, we must help employers establish and maintain employee retirement plans. The Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act, of which I am a cosponsor, contains provisions to increase IRA's and help small employers offer pension plans, as well as other changes to make it easier for Americans to save.

Introduced by Representatives PORTMAN and CARDIN, H.R. 1102 increases the amount that individuals may contribute to traditional and Roth Individual Accounts (IRA's) from $2000 to $5000. Additionally, H.R. 1102 will encourage small employers to provide pension coverage by streamlining regulations and making it less expensive for small employers to set up pension plans and increasing their allowable contributions. H.R. 1102 will also enhance retirement security by reducing pension vesting requirements to three years; make retirement savings portable when workers change jobs; and allowing older workers to make catch up contributions to retirement savings plans. Additionally, it helps individuals with several employers by changing the regulation to eliminate the 100% of average compensation for the highest three-year provision under multi-employer pension plans.

I firmly believe that H.R. 1102 helps hard working middle class families plan for their retirement. This legislation received widespread, bipartisan support from Members of Congress and employer and employee organizations and unions.

I also supported the Neal substitute, as I believe it is important to ensure that lower income families receive the benefits of this legislation. However, I support final passage of the Portman-Cardin bill because I believe it will help many Americans earning below $50,000 a year by allowing them to put away up to $5000 a year in IRA and to increase the limits on their employer pensions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act.

TRIBUTE TO PERI BAILEY—CANCER SURVIVOR

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join with many friends in Charleston, West Virginia in offering congratulations and best wishes to Peri Bailey. As I deliver these remarks, a very special celebration is taking place on the second floor of Women & Children's Hospital in Charleston.

For the past year, Peri, who just celebrated her 3rd birthday, and her family have been battling cancer. Today the medical treatments will be supplemented with pop corn and snow cones to mark the occasion of her LAST chemotherapy treatment.

Peri, since I could not be with you today, I've asked my friend, Phil Luckeydoo, to be there on my behalf and he will bring along some balloons and a few magic tricks for you and your friends at Women's and Children's.

Peri, along with her family and friends, has demonstrated for us the true meaning of the words, courage, friendship, and faith. They have been a source of real inspiration to all West Virginians. And for that reason Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow members of the House to join me in extending our congratulations and best wishes to Peri on this memorable day, July 20, 2000—the day she officially becomes a cancer survivor!

ASIAN PACIFIC CHARTER COMMISSION, H.R. 4899

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 4899, legislation to establish a commission to promote a coordinated foreign policy of the United States to ensure economic and military security in the Pacific region of Asia through the promotion of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, free trade, and open markets, and for other purposes.

Asia is a region vital to the future of our nation. Over the past 50 years, Asia has become a significant center of international economic and military power. Our nation has sacrificed our blood of our sons and daughters on Asian soil in defense of our national shores. America has fought three wars in Asia since 1941 and American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are engaged in ensuring peace across the Pacific. Our basic interests in Asia have remained virtually the same for the past 200 years: fostering democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Shortly after World War II, the reknowned American soldier and statesman George C. Marshall said that a safe and free America depends on a safe and free Europe. Marshall, of course, was emphasizing the importance of Europe to our nation at the time. Permit me to suggest that Marshall's paradigm has now changed. Today, he could have stated that a safe and free America depends on a safe, democratic, and free Asia.

Just as we could not take Europe for granted during the Cold War, we must not take Asia for granted as we enter the 21st century. It is incumbent upon us as a global leader to provide the leadership that will both protect our interests in this vital region of the world and, at the same time, keep the peace. However, our leadership role in Asia is being questioned. Some Asians perceive the American approach to foreign policy is marked by uncertainty, questioning our sincerity and commitment to the region. Militarily, they have watched as American troop strength declined from 135,000 in 1990 to 85,000 in 1996. They were concerned with the closing of our strategic bases in the Philippines in 1992. There has been a mixed message of sacrifice of security and human rights issues to commercial engagement.

The democratic election which brought an opposition leader peacefully to power in Taipei this spring was welcomed by democratic nations around the world. It is such an orderly, democratic change which the Asian Pacific Charter Commission is designed to nurture.

Asia is a region not only of great diversity—ethnic, religious, cultural, linguistic—but also of historic rivalries—ancient in their origins but no less severe today. Such rivalries can become serious threats to Asian stability. Potential flashpoints range from the 38th parallel on the Korean peninsula to the Taiwan Strait to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea to Kashmir on the Indian subcontinent. Weapons proliferation and regional arms races that are fueled by territorial, maritime, and ethnic disputes only add to the possibility of a major conflagration.

U.S. Leadership is continually being challenged to maintain and advance our national interests amid these relationships. Further challenges to U.S. interests include access to markets that are obstructed by trade barriers, violations of intellectual property rights, and other trade-related issues. Nor can we ignore the growth of transnational criminal activities that range from the threat to America's youth from narcotics produced in the Golden Triangle to the smuggling of illegal aliens onto our shores.

The most significant challenge to peace and prosperity in Asia is the rise of a regional hegemon. The People's Republic of China is the most likely candidate in that role. China is already an economic power and is seeking to become an Asian military power as well. In the absence of any countervailing presence, Asia could find itself within a Chinese sphere of influence in the not-too-distant future. Writing in

the January 20th issue of The Weekly Standard, Robert Kagan, the Alexander Hamilton Fellow in History at the American University, states that ''There is a Marxian foolishness to the argument that the transformation of China into a liberal democracy is historically inevitable.'' Kagan goes on to state that ''The iron laws of modernization can be broken by a ruling elite that is ultimately more interested in power than modernization.'' The Chinese nation rightfully seeks a level of respect commensurate with its newly acquired economic might. The question is, what does the unelected government in Beijing seek? And are those goals commensurate with a region that is increasingly characterized by democratic societies with free-market economies, such as those we now see in much of Europe and Latin America?

Much of Asia is looking to the United States for answers to these and other important questions regarding the future of the region. If the answers do not come from Washington, be assured they will come from elsewhere, and they may not be to our liking. Resolving these challenges requires a continued and significant American presence in the region. The wind favors a ship whose course is marked. In the years following World War II, America was the indispensable leader and peacekeeper of the Pacific. But America's position is now being challenged. The political, economic, and security challenges which our nation faces require principled and consistent leadership from Washington. The wind favors our ship of state, but only if our course, or strategy, has been clearly set.

We need a new national policy toward Asia—one which addresses in a forthright manner both the opportunities and challenges presented by a continent in flux. The opportunities for a further commercial partnership with a continent which has made significant headway in recovering from economic crisis is obvious to all. Less clear, though, is how we can finesse such critical national security concerns as easing cross-strait tensions between China and Taiwan, monitoring developments on the still volatile Korean peninsula, and reducing the threat posed by nuclear proliferation on the Indian subcontinent. It is there that this Asian Pacific Charter Commission can play a constructive role.

In 1941, the United States and Great Britain laid down a set of principles of conduct. It was called the Atlantic Charter. Similarly, I propose that we establish an Asian Pacific Charter Commission that would assist our government in laying out the principles for our policies in Asia in the 21st century. Such an Asian Pacific Charter articulates America's long-term goals and objectives in the Pacific and link them with the means for implementation. It is a comprehensive model for our involvement in the region, supporting our national interests and assuring others of our intention to remain a Pacific power. Furthermore, it demonstrates that the United States is placing its relations with Asia in the 21st century on a par comparable to that which has formed our relations with Europe over the latter half of the 20th century.

The principles of an Asian Pacific Charter provides for effective security; prevention of regional hegemony by one nation; promotion of democracy and the rule of law; respect for human and religious rights; and expansion of trade on a reciprocal basis.

Such a charter would strengthen security arrangements by providing a basis for a long-term U.S. presence through basing and access agreements, for regional security agreements, and for an American presence following the reunification of the Korean peninsula. It could provide the basis for the continuation of a credible forward presence of U.S. forces to deter aggression, help resolve crises, and protect and defend our interests as well as those of our allies and trading partners.

Too often, we have viewed Russia as being part of Europe. Yet, with nearly 2,800 miles of coastline, Russia is very much a Pacific nation. After Canada and Mexico, it is our next-closest neighbor, just 68 miles across the Bering Strait from Alaska.

An Asian Pacific Charter would also provide a basis for Japan to participate more fully in regional security arrangements, as well as for exploring new cooperative approaches that foster security in the entire region. As Mike Mansfield, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, has stated, the U.S.-Japan relationship is—in his words—the ''single most important bilateral relationship, bar none.'' The security environment in Asia in the 21st century will be shaped largely by our relationship with Japan. Our relationship is strong today. We must make certain that it remains so.

Another great democracy of Asia that we have too long neglected is India, which, like many nations in the region, is undergoing a dramatic economic change as it embraces a market economy. Although located in the heart of an area largely characterized by national political institutions that are authoritarian or totalitarian, India adheres courageously to the same core values that we also hold so dear. The United States needs to reach out to India beyond our friendship and mutual respect and become close partners in a struggle that assures that Asia's security, economic growth, and market economies are protected by the rule of law and democratic institutions. An Asian Pacific Charter could provide a framework for advancing such ties.

Francine Frankel, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania, writing in the Autumn 1996 issue of The Washington Quarterly, states that the new global context gives reason for both countries to want better ties. U.S. and Indian policymakers have converging geopolitical interests in establishing a rough equilibrium in Asia, particularly as China's military modernization increasingly threatens neighboring countries, including those in Southeast Asia, in the coming century. India's democratic institutions, advanced educational system, and millions of highly educated citizens could form an important hub in a new Asia—an Asia that supports economic growth but allows for the rights of workers to be protected; an Asia that supports development but permits nongovernmental advocacy groups to speak out against exploitation of the environment; and an Asia that integrates traditional values with a deep regard for the rule of law and human and religious rights.

An Asian Pacific Charter could invigorate U.S. efforts to advance the Post-Summit dialogue between North and South Korea that would eventuate in unification and a final peace. Such a charter could also lay out U.S. policy with regard to weapons proliferation, narcotics trafficking, terrorism, environmental degradation, and other transnational issues. In short, by clearly enunciating U.S. policy toward Asia, a Asian Pacific Charter would establish a bright line clearly understood by all nations in the region. At the same time, it would provide a basis for sound long-term relations with China.

Most agree that China presents the greatest challenge to the United States in the Pacific, with the potential to be a major destabilizing force in the region. One reason that the United States has difficulties in its relations with China is because the latter is governed by a totalitarian regime. It is not a democracy. We do not have comparable problems with such other Asian democracies as Japan, India, Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea, or the Philippines. To some, it is obvious that the Beijing government is bent upon a policy of regional expansion and domination, and to eventually expelling the United States from the Western Pacific.

Those who espouse this view believe that any improvement of relations with Washington on the part of Beijing is purely tactical. They note that senior U.S. officials arriving in the Chinese capital for talks are almost invariably greeted by editorials in the government-controlled press denouncing American ''hegemonism.'' Others believe that the Chinese government views America in such a light because of our occasional criticisms regarding what it views as ''internal matters,'' such as its violations of internationally recognized human rights; its illegal occupation of Tibet; its repression of any dissent; or its transfer of nuclear weapons technology to rogue regimes such as Iran despite a commitment not to do so.

America's foreign policy toward the region is perceived by Asians as amounting to one issue: trade. There seems to be a belief that enhanced trade, even at a cost to the United States of a trade deficit approaching $70 billion a year, will bring economic prosperity to China; and that, in turn, will improve the prospects for democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Missing from that calculation, is an understanding that trade alone does not bring democracy and the rule of law, and that trade flourishes best under the umbrella of democracy's rule of law. An Asian Pacific Charter would emphasize the importance that the United States attaches to such principles as these. To paraphrase something His Holiness, the Dalai Lama of Tibet recently said, our concerns are not about the Chinese people or Chinese culture, but about the Chinese communist government. An Asian Pacific Charter could help to encourage China's participation as a fully responsible and constructive member of the international system.

America's interests in Asia and the Pacific are relatively simple and straightforward, including promotion of democracy and the rule of law; human and religious rights; market economies; and regional security for all. Many nations in the region look to the United States for continued leadership, but, despite any high-sounding rhetoric, we have too often been seen so myopic in placing short-term opportunities ahead of longer-term pursuit of both regional stability and security.

The time has come to lay out an architecture of policy that will establish our intention to remain engaged in Asia and the terms of our continued long term engagement. A Commission to establish an Asian Pacific Charter for

the 21st century would provide the framework for such a sound U.S. policy. It would assure the entire region-allies and otherwise-of the continuation of a leadership that is consistent, coherent, and coordinated.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to support H.R. 4899, and I submit the full text of H.R. 4899 to be printed at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 4899

A BILL To establish a commission to promote a consistent and coordinated foreign policy of the United States to ensure economic and military security in the Pacific region of Asia through the promotion of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, free trade, and open markets, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Asian Pacific Charter Commission Act of 2000''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to promote a consistent and coordinated foreign policy of the United States to ensure economic and military security in the Pacific region of Asia;

(2) to support democratization, the rule of law, and human rights in the Pacific region of Asia;

(3) to advance free trade and open markets on a reciprocal basis in the Pacific region of Asia;

(4) to combat terrorism and the spread of illicit narcotics in the Pacific region of Asia; and

(5) to advocate an active role for the United States Government in diplomacy, security, and the furtherance of good governance and the rule of law in the Pacific region of Asia.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

There is established a commission to be known as the Asian Pacific Charter Commission (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Commission'').

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) DUTIES.—The Commission shall establish and carry out, either directly or through nongovernmental and international organizations, programs, projects, and activities to achieve the purposes described in section 2 of this Act, including research and educational or legislative exchanges between the United States and countries in the Pacific region of Asia.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The Commission may establish such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to advise the Commission on policy matters relating to the Pacific region of Asia and to otherwise carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.

(a) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 7 members all of whom—

(1) shall be citizens of the United States who are not officers or employees of any government, except to the extent they are considered such officers or employees by virtue of their membership on the Commission; and

(2) shall have interest and expertise in issues relating to the Pacific region of Asia.

(b) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The individuals referred to in subsection (a) shall be appointed—

(A) by the President, after consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4 of the individuals appointed under paragraph (1) may be affiliated with the same political party.

(c) TERM.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.

(d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(e) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall designate a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission from among the members of the Commission.

(f) COMPENSATION.—

(1) RATES OF PAY.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Commission may receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(h) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(i) AFFIRMATIVE DETERMINATIONS.—An affirmative vote by a majority of the members of the Commission shall be required for any affirmative determination by the Commission under section 4.

SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of services or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of assisting or facilitating the work of the Commission. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and proceeds from sales of other property received as gifts, bequests, or devises shall be deposited in the Treasury and shall be available for disbursement upon order of the Commission.

(b) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

SEC. 7. STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES OF COMMISSION.

(a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have an executive director appointed by Commission after consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate. The executive director shall serve the Commission under such terms and conditions as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

(b) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and fix the pay of such additional personnel, not to exceed 10 individuals, as it considers appropriate.

(C) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this Act.

(d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 8. REPORTS OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall prepare and submit to Congress an annual report on the programs, projects, and activities on the Commission for the prior year.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE AND WOMEN WARTIME VOLUNTEERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of the Women's Overseas Service League (WOSL) and in honoring the many women who have selflessly volunteered to assist our armed forces during time of war. In World War I, more than 90,000 civilian women served as volunteers and nearly 350 women gave their lives in this effort. Women served in both World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf, and in many other conflicts. As these women returned to the United States, however, they came home without the benefits that male soldiers received. Because these women were not considered ''veterans,'' their contribution to the Armed Forces was, until recently, practically unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, women played many important roles in the WOSL. Women ran recreation centers, created libraries for the military, taught in hospitals and schools, and worked as journalists. By participating in these humanitarian activities, these women risked their lives and their health. In recognition of the great services these women provided our Armed Services, a memorial freeway in California was named in their honor on May 29, 2000.

The Women's Overseas Service League honors and recognizes the women who have graciously volunteered for their country. Currently, the WOSL supports the Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. and Freedoms Foundation Youth Leadership Seminars at Valley Forge. WOSL offers scholarships for young women pursuing military careers and has vigorously supported events such as the creation of the Civilian Women Volunteers All Wars Memorial Highway. The WOSL's dedication to women veterans and volunteers has made a large impact in keeping the memory of these individuals alive and ensuring strong support of women in the military for the future.

Mr. Speaker, groups such as the Women's Overseas Service League have started to spread awareness of women in the military. The Civilian Women Volunteers All Wars Memorial Freeway is the beginning in honoring women who have served our country. Nevertheless, it is only a beginning. The women who gave their time, their health and their lives deserve our recognition and our gratitude for their outstanding contribution to our Armed Forces and to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the women volunteers who have served so valiantly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 416, on Wednesday, July 19.

I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes''.

CELEBRATING THE 98TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. MARGARET OWENS ON JULY 26, 2000

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today I not only congratulate Margaret Owens as she turns ninety-eight years old on Wednesday, July 26, 2000, but also I celebrate the dedication and achievement that marks her place in the history of this great nation.

Born on July 26, 1902, Margaret Owens finished her high school education at Saint John's Academy in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. She attended Mount Saint Bernard Ladies College for a year before pursuing training at Mount Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Niagara Falls, New York. Margaret received $100.00 per month as a private duty nurse from 1925 until September 1944, when she began serving the United States Army as a General Duty Nurse. After Basic Training, she was stationed in the United Kingdom where she petitioned English Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, to allow American hospitals behind enemy lines in France and Germany. Though initially unsuccessful, she eventually gained permission to cross the English Channel and set up medical facilities. Margaret was transferred to the front line in December 1944 where she initiated, organized and supervised a one-hundred twenty-four bed surgical block in the 201st General Hospital in Verdum, France. In June 1945, she was transferred to Weisbaden, Germany, where she served valiantly with the 317th Station Hospital.

Mrs. Owens is a true American hero. Her persistence and selfless service provided emergency medical care and attention to thousands of men and women who served abroad during World War II. In recognition of this dedication, Mrs. Owens was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal with one Bronze Star and the World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I congratulate Mrs. Owens on her life of service and achievement. Mrs. Owens truly has a cause for celebration and I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating her. Mrs. Owens, as you celebrate ninety-eight wonderful years, we wish you a happy birthday and all the best in the years to come.

JOB CORPS EXPERIENCE PAYS OFF FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the good work that is being done by the Job Corps program that is run by the Department of Labor. The Job Corps serves low-income young women and men, ages 16 through 24, who are in need of additional educational, vocational and social skills training, and other support services in order to gain meaningful employment, return to school or enter the Armed Forces.

I am proud that my district is home to the Keystone Job Corps Center of Drums, Pennsylvania. At a Job Corps advisory meeting in Pennsylvania earlier this year, a member of the Transportation Communications International Union, or TCU, which represents many Job Corps employees, presented me with an e-mail written by Dawn Day, a young woman from rural Maine. Ms. Day recently graduated from the Potomac Job Corps Center, and I think she provides an excellent example of the good results that this program produces. I would like to enter a portion of that e-mail into the RECORD.

Between my salary and my moving I should make over $50,000 this year. This is a way more money than I have ever dreamed of making.

My first knowledge of TCU was at a conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, where I met with students from other schools. From there I contacted the TCU to set up an interview. The interviewer, Tom Huster, told me about a student in Florida who was making $14.22 an hour and my jaw hit the ground. I told a friend ''I'm going to have a job like that when I leave here,'' Little did I realize that one year later, I would have a job exactly like that in Jacksonville, Florida. Now, one more year later, I have a job paying about $45,000 to $50,000 per year in New York. I never could have imagined that TCU would open such great doors for me.

Before PJCC and TCU, I was working in a fish factory in a tiny town in Maine making $5.33/hour. When the opportunity was upon me to go to TCU in St. Louis, I though of a zillion reasons why I shouldn't go. The small-town girl in a big city, you know, the usual excuses associated with change. But there was one thing that made me realize I had to go, I never wanted to look back and say ''What if'' and know I didn't even try. I knew I could always come home but I may not always have an opportunity to do anything like this ever again. So, I was soon on a plane and on my way to TCU.

The best advice to a student interested in TCU would have to be stay focused. There will be many mountains in which you will have to climb in order to reach your goals. But I guarantee that after each mountain there will be a sunny day waiting for you on the other sides.

Mr. Speaker, I think Ms. Day's experience is a tremendous example of why we need to encourage other young people to participate in this program and other training programs through Job Corps.

I send my best wishes to the students, graduates and employees of the Job Corps and my wishes for continued success.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Democratic bill. While I will support the underlying legislation, and I intend to support it, I think we could build on this good bill and make it better. We should be doing more to provide a secure retirement for low and middle income workers.

The Democratic substitute helps low and middle income workers by establishing Retirement Savings Accounts. RSAs would provide a refundable tax credit to low and middle income workers of up to 50 percent of the annual contributions made to a traditional IRA, or an employer-sponsored pension plan, such as a 401(k) plan.

RSAs would make a real difference in the lives of workers who are struggling to build some retirement savings, but who too often find themselves falling behind. By providing a maximum credit of $1,000 for the lowest income working Americans, we can help ensure that each and every American can begin building a nest egg that will supplement their Social Security benefits in their retirement years.

These are families that are struggling day to day. They deserve a little extra help in building retirement security. One recent study by the Consumer Federation of America concluded that only 44 percent of households will accumulate adequate retirement savings. The current savings rate in America is only 3.8 percent. That is not a prescription for retirement security for all Americans.

The Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act takes an important step toward encouraging saving by increasing the limit on contributions to deductible IRAs from $2,000 to $5,000 by 2003. This applies for both traditional and Roth IRAs. When you consider that the original limit when we created IRAs in 1974 was $1,500, you can see why the limits need to be increased. This will make a real difference and help families build retirement savings.

But in and of itself, increasing the limit does not address the need of millions of Americans to save more. According to the Treasury Department, only seven percent of eligible taxpayers made any contribution to an IRA in 1995. Furthermore, only four percent of taxpayers who were eligible to make any contribution made the maximum one.

People are not failing contributing to IRA because the limits are too low. They are not contributing because they do not have the wherewithal to contribute. We should increase the limits, but we should also add an RSA provision to give low income workers the benefits of an IRA and allow them to build some retirement savings.

I urge my colleagues to support the Democratic substitute. I recognize the bipartisan work that has gone into developing the legislation before us today. This bill could be improved and we can do it in a bipartisan way. Support the Democratic substitute.

HONORING THE SELECTION OF A.J. BENSEN FOR THE JUNIOR OLYMPIC ARCHERY TEAM

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a young man on an exemplary achievement. Allastair John Bensen, known to his friends and family as A.J., was selected as a member of the 2000 Junior Olympic Team for Archery. This honor comes after many years of practice and dedication.

A.J. began shooting for fun with his father, John, when he was five years old. As his skills improved, they began competing in the Capital Land Bowhunters 3–D Shoots as well as other archery competitions throughout the Capital Region, the Hudson Valley, the Adirondacks and the Catskills. Over the years, A.J. has won a number of trophies, medals and several plaques, including more than fifteen first place finishes. In 1999, A.J. and his father placed second in the father-son category of the DARE shoot, held in Middleburgh, NY. This spring A.J. participated in the Triple Crown, an event where participants compete in three separate shoots. Overall, A.J. placed higher than any other competitor and secured the Triple Crown Trophy. For A.J., placing first at the regions paramount archery event transformed a weekend hobby into an opportunity to compete on the national level.

A.J. was selected to compete in the United States Junior Olympics and National Association of Police Athletic League Youth Festival held in Detroit, Michigan from July 18–24, 2000. The regional team of archers is sponsored by the Albany Police Departments Police Athletic League program. Under the coaching and direction of Officer Jim Teller, the team has prepared rigorously for this nationally acclaimed event. There young people should be commended for their dedication and achievement.

A.J. and his parents, John and Jeanne Bensen, reside in Greenville, New York, within the 22nd Congressional District. In addition to his archery accomplishment, A.J. is a first class Boy Scout, a Black Belt in Budokai (traditional Japanese) Karate and an honor student at Greenville Central Middle School. A.J. is twelve years old and is an energetic and motivated young man whose efforts deserve recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate A.J. Bensen on his selection to the Junior Olympic Archery Team. I hope my colleagues will join me as I commend this achievement and wish A.J. the very best of luck in all his future endeavors.

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES HURT BY U.S.-CANADA SOFTWOOD LUMBER AGREEMENT

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2000, I introduced, along with my colleague Representative STENY HOYER, H. Con. Res. 252, calling for an end to the U.S./Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement when it expires in 2001. The resolution was introduced with 30 bipartisan original cosponsors. There are now 115 cosponsors from all regions of the country and the number is growing every day. The purpose of the resolution is to: (1) Ensure a competitive North American market for softwood lumber; (2) ensure free trade regarding softwood lumber between the U.S. and Canada; (3) ensure all stakeholders are included in discussions regarding trade of softwood lumber; and, (4) ensure that the Softwood Lumber Agreement is allowed to terminate when it expires in 2001. By taking these steps, the negative impact on U.S. consumers and housing affordability can be eliminated.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement imposes quotas on lumber shipped from Canada to the United States. These quotas have a dramatic impact on the price and volatility of lumber, which jeopardizes affordable housing in America and hurts American consumers. A recent study by Brink Lindsay and Mark Groombridge of the Cato Institute entitled ''Nailing the Homeowner: the Economic Impact of Trade Protection of the Softwood Lumber Industry,'' confirms the detrimental impact this agreement has on the American consumer. The authors calculated that trade restrictions imposed upon the American consumer by the Softwood Lumber Agreement added an estimated $50 to $80 per thousand board feet to the price of lumber. The result is an addition of $800 to $1,300 to the cost of new home prices, thereby driving some 300,000 American families out of the housing market. Unfortunately, the bulk of these consumers are lower-income families.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement is the worst form of government market intervention, driving up consumer costs and distorting the free market. Fortunately, the agreement is set to expire on April 1, 2001. I hope that the Administration will seriously consider the impact of the Softwood Lumber Agreement on consumers within the United States and allow the agreement to expire with no extension or further quota agreement. If the administration wants to discuss softwood lumber and forestry matters with Canada, the President should include consumers in any discussion. I hope the Administration will notify interested members of the U.S. House of Representatives if such discussions are underway.

GEMS AND AFRICAN NATIONS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I pass along information about how the diamonds at the heart of several African wars could be transformed from a curse into a blessing for its people.

Representative TONY HALL of Ohio has worked for months on the problems of conflict diamonds, in large part because of what he saw in Sierra Leone last December. Hundreds of thousands of people have been driven from their homes by fighting, tens of thousands have died, and countless numbers have watched as rebels hacked off their loved ones' arms, legs, ears, or noses.

Mr. HALL of Ohio has spoken many times about this, and I urge our colleagues to look at the diamonds that are symbols of love and commitment to Americans a little differently—and look into the role they play in the war machines in several African countries. Not all diamonds are bloody, but the industry collects 30 percent of its profits from the ones that are.

Today, there is reason to hope that the legitimate diamond industry is going to help choke off this terrible trade. I hope they will do more and endorse the proposals Congressman HALL made this week. Those suggestions are described in a thoughtful and interesting article from the Dayton Daily News. Its author, Kay Semion, points out ways that ''gems could transform African lives.'' I urge our colleagues to take a moment to read it and I am submitting it for the RECORD.

[Dayton Daily News, July 19, 2000]

GEMS COULD TRANSFORM AFRICAN LIVES

(By Kay Semion)

Diamonds are not always a girl's best friend, U.S. Rep. Tony Hall says—not when they finance warlords who terrorize the people of Sierra Leone, Angola and other diamond-producing nations. The Dayton Democrat returned Monday to Washington from Antwerp, Belgium, where he had pleaded with the leaders of the World Diamond Congress to cut off these warlords and to help the countries they are devastating.

On one plan, he will likely be successful. The diamond industry is responding to pressures from him and others to trace diamonds so profits do not go into the bloody hands of rebel hoodlums. These outlaws are so greedy that they drug children and train them to be brutal warriors, who can cut off arms and legs without a moment of rue.

On another plea, however, diamond executives were silent. Hall urged them to help repair those nations that diamond warlords have torn apart.

He gave them two options: Contribute 1 percent of their profits to nation-building programs such as UNICEF or Doctors Without Borders. And begin a foundation—The Sparkle Fund—to support a micro-enterprise system for certain African nations.

''You could have heard a pin drop,'' Hall said of the reaction to his quests for investing in Africa. ''There were 500 to 600 in the hall, and it was real quiet.''

No wonder. It's easier to say you're sorry and won't do it again than it is to help those who have been harmed—even inadvertently.

But Hall is right. And his proposed Sparkle Fund is most promising, based on the successful micro-enterprise system developed by Muhammad Yunus.

Yunus is a Bangladeshi economist who was educated in the United States and returned to his country to teach about 25 years ago. In walks he took during leisure hours, he noticed that the women in villages were in a poverty cycle—making products but not profits because they were always in debt to the village loan sharks.

His efforts to get banks or governments to help failed, so in 1976 he set up a system that became known as the Grameen Bank, The ''bank'' began with small loans from his pocket—$20 or $30—so the women could buy supplies for making chairs or pottery. Borrowers became bank officers who then approved other loans. The process not only ensured that loans would be repaid but also provided help for those starting small enterprise businesses. Today that bank has 35,000 branches, hundreds of millions in loans and a 96 percent repayment rate.

Hall is asking the World Diamond Congress to borrow this successful economic model.

This ''is not a contribution to corrupt officials' pockets,'' Hall told the diamond executives. ''It is an investment directly in the poor who make up the overwhelming number of these countries' citizens.''

An investment in the mirco-enterprise system, he continued, would demonstrate ''the stake you have in peace in Africa.''

Here's Hall's idea: Market something like a ''Hope'' diamond—one of the gems that could easily have come from a diamond-rich country such as Sierra Leone. Use the profits from that sale to start the fund, then contribute, say, $50 million a year to that seed money for a decade.

Use the marketing skills gained in selling women on ''eternity rings,'' Hall suggested.

Consider what has happened with the Grameen Bank and other micro-enterprise systems. The person who borrows money (usually a woman) not only gets the loan, but she gets supporting partners from the bank's committee. They teach her business rules she may have no other way of learning, and they offer technical assistance. In Bangladesh, the bank even has officers who wander about the country using cell phones to provide help.

Almost always, these systems build up a network of devoted people—the very ones who are approached and supportive when relief agencies seek help to stop the spread of diseases such as AIDS.

Hall simply wants the diamond industry to transform blood diamonds into sparkling gems. That's not too much to ask.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS J. KNOWLES, RECIPIENT OF THE BOB LING MEMORIAL SERVICE AWARD

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 2000 the Village of Athens will celebrate its heritage and the new millennium during Homecoming 2000 activities. As part of the celebration, the community will honor Curtis J. Knowles with the Bob Ling Memorial Service Award.

Born and raised in Hillsdale County, Michigan, Curt and I attended Addison High School and Pilgrim Fellowship at Somerset Congregational Church together. Curt attended Michigan State University and Hillsdale College, graduating in 1961. While in school, he and his father started the Knowles Excavating Company and did much work throughout southern Michigan. Curt moved with his family to Athens in 1966 where he began teaching and coaching. He served as the head boys' basketball coach until being named athletic director in 1975. In addition to boys' athletics, Curt coached Athens area girls softball from 1979 to 1994. He was elected president of the Athletic Boosters Club in 1978 and held that post until he retired from teaching in 1996.

Curt joined the Athens Improvement Association in 1974 and has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the community through numerous projects, including serving as the annual homecoming parade announcer for the past 23 years. Curt is well known for his upbeat attitude and wonderful sense of humor.

Regardless of the occasion, he always has a funny or interesting story to share. In his retirement, Curt has returned to his roots, rejoining the family excavating business in partnership with his son John.

The strength of communities like Athens lies in the many dedicated citizens who give selflessly of their time and talents to enhance the quality of life for those around them. Curt Knowles has always been one of these exemplary citizens.

I am proud to call Curt a lifelong friend and join with the citizens of Athens in thanking him for his many years of service to the community and congratulating his on this well deserved honor.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOMERVILLE CARPENTERS' LOCAL UNION #455

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Somerville Carpenters' Local Union #455's 100th Anniversary. Over the last century, Carpenters' Local #455 has made significant contributions to our community by supplying skilled Craftsmen that have helped fuel the tremendous growth of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties.

Carpenters Local Union #455 was founded in Somerville on January 24, 1900 by Peter J. McGuire. Serving at the time as the Secretary Treasurer of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, he understood what was necessary to train first-rate, professional carpenters and ensure that they produced a top-notch, reliable product. With this knowledge, the Carpenters' Local #455 was established to provide training to its workers that would allow them to produce the excellent craftsmanship vital to the development of our communities.

In the 100 years since its founding, the Carpenters' Local #455's trade and communities have experienced significant changes. Throughout these transitions, it has grown even stronger. It has remained firm in its commitment to providing the very best Craftsmen to build our communities and in its desire to ensure a fair wage for its hard working members.

I am pleased to say that it has been successful in its goals. Without the expertise and reliability of its Craftsmen, the tremendous growth that Somerset and Hunterdon Counties have achieved in the last century would not have been possible. Be it the homes we live in or the buildings we work in, the importance of excellent craftsmanship cannot be overlooked. Thanks to the efforts of Carpenters' Local #455, the foundation of Central New Jersey's development has been a firm and secure one.

The Somerville Carpenters Local Union #455 is a great asset to both Central New Jersey and our Nation. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing its dedication to Central New Jersey's development and workers.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2000

Albuquerque High School, Calesia Cole; Bernalillo High School, Sobeida M. Quintana; Del Norte High School, Adam Bill; Eldorado High School, Katrina Petney; Estancia High School, Lorenzo Maes; Evangel Christian Academy, Joy Henderson; Evening High School, Hope Castillo; Freedom High School, Crystal Torres; Hope Christian School, Nicholas Targhetta; La Cueva High School, Danielle Jung; Los Lunas High School, Kristian Shaffer; Menaul High School, Daniel Chapman; Moriarty High School, Stephen Joosten; Mountainair High School, Anna Luna; New Futures High School, Yadira Escalante; Rio Grande High School, Rebecca Pauline Baca; School on Wheels, Ralph J. Alires; Sandia High School, Bonnie Saul; Sandia High School, Francheska Bardacke; Sandia Preparatory School, Michelle Lee Milne; Sierra Alternative High School, Geoff Joslin; St. Pius X High School, Antonio Sandoval; Valley High School, Brenda Bustillos; West Mesa High School, Julia Hartmann; and West Mesa High School, Que Huong Dong.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND HOWARD STARK

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Reverend Howard Stark on the occasion of his retirement as the Minister of Faith Temple in Alexander City, Alabama. The time of one's retirement is always a significant event as is the change in the ministry of a church. However, this is truly a significant event. Reverend Stark, at the age of 89, is retiring after over 60 years as the Minister of Faith Temple. To put this in perspective, he became the minister of this church before World War II began. It is said that the measure of one's worth is the effect one has had on the lives of others. It is impossible to imagine the number of lives Reverend Stark has touched during his ministry and what his ministry has meant to this church and this community. I want to join Reverend Stark's family and friends and his beloved church as they pay tribute to this most remarkable man and his wife, Wynema.

TRIBUTE TO M.T. PHELPS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. M.T. Phelps, who will be turning 100 years old next month. Born on August 9, 1900 in the hills of Columbus, Georgia, Mr. Phelps has lived exactly the sort of simple, yet exceptional life that most of us desire.

Mr. Phelps met his future wife, Allene Rickman, at church as a young man and soon married her on March 12, 1927. After working several years in the sunshine of Florida, Mr. Phelps moved to my district in 1933 when he came to Lillington to take a position as Superintendent of Rickman Brick. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps were soon blessed with the births of three lovely children, Mary Ann, Marion ''Rick'' and Emily Francis, whom they supported in all their academic and athletic endeavors. Throughout it all, Mr. Phelps not only successfully fulfilled his role as an outstanding husband and father, but also as a diligent and dedicated worker at the Rickman Brick company, Womble's General Store, and finally O'Quinn and O'Quinn's Funeral Home. In fact, Mr. Phelps remained at O'Quinn's until his much-deserved retirement at the ripe old age of 85.

In addition to his numerous responsibilities at home and in the workplace, Mr. Phelps has also discovered time for himself and his community. In an ideal example of civic-minded selflessness, Mr. Phelps for years has allowed the local Kiwanis organization to use his home as the site for their annual Halloween haunted house. Mr. Phelps has been a Mason since the 1930s and was a supporter of the old Lillington High School Booster Club. Finally, Mr. Phelps, as a conservationist, has always loved nature and enjoyed the simple pleasures associated with the land. His reputation as a hunter and a trainer of good hunting dogs has preceded him throughout our community.

Although we are marking the occasion of his 100th birthday tonight, this is a tribute we could provide Mr. Phelps on any day. I am truly privileged to represent people like M.T. Phelps in this United States Congress. M.T. Phelps is a good worker, a good husband, a good father, a good citizen, and, above all, a good man.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the RECORD under general leave on H.R. 1102, the ''Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act,'' the attached exchange of letters between myself and Chairman GOODLING.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 18, 2000.

Hon. WILLIAM F. GOODLING,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLING: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1102, the ''Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act'' and H.R. 4843, the ''Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000.''

As you have noted, the Committee on Ways and Means has ordered favorably reported H.R. 4843, the ''Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000.'' In order to expedite consideration of H.R. 1102, I appreciate your agreement that the text of H.R. 4843 be made in order as an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1102. This is based on the understanding that I would continue to work with you to include the agreed upon pension provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the final conference report on H.R. 1102 and that I would not object to your request for conferees with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of your Committee when a conference with the Senate is convened on this legislation.

Finally, I will include in the Record a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter during floor consideration. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in expediting this matter.

Sincerely,

BILL ARCHER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2000.

Hon. BILL ARCHER,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARCHER: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respects to further consideration of H.R. 1102, the ''Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act,'' which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Government Reform. I understand that the House will consider this bill in the near future. As you know, on July 14, 1999, the Committee on Education and the Workforce ordered favorably reported H.R. 1102, H. Rept. 106–331, Part I.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce has jurisdiction over pension provisions amending the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which are contained in Title VI, of H.R. 1102. With your agreement, several of these ERISA provisions were included in the Conference Report to H.R. 2488, the ''Financial Freedom Act of 1999.''

I understand that the Committee on Ways and Means has approved H.R. 4843, the ''Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000.'' H.R. 4843 amends the Internal Revenue Code, but does not include any corresponding ERISA pension amendments. In order to expedite consideration of H.R. 1102, I do not object to the House of Representatives considering the text of H.R. 4843 as an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to the Education and the Workforce reported version of H.R. 1102. However, I appreciate your willingness to work with me to assure that the ERISA provisions contained in H.R. 1102, as reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, are added in any conference agreement. I also appreciate your support in my request to the Speaker for the appointment of conferees from my Committee with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of my Committee when a conference with the Senate is convened on this legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during the House debate on H.R. 1102. Again, I thank you for working with me in developing this legislation and I look forward to working with you on these issues in the future.

Sincerely,

BILL GOODLING,
Chairman.

IN HONOR OF MR. MICHAEL VIRGIL, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, CARIBBEAN FIELD DIVISION OF THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Michael Virgil, Special Agent in Charge of the Caribbean Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), for all of his achievements on behalf of the United States and to congratulate him on such a noteworthy and honorable career.

Since joining the DEA in 1973, Mr. Vigil has continuously put himself in harms way to protect this country. Through his numerous foreign and domestic assignments, Mr. Virgil has made a career of fighting drug traffickers and drug cartels both here and abroad.

As the Assistant Country Attache in Mexico City, Mr. Virgil oversaw the intelligence and enforcement operations. He also led the efforts of the Northern Border Response Force, a multi-agency program responsible for the seizure of more than 140 metric tons of cocaine and more than 2,000 arrests in a five-year period.

In addition, Mr. Virgil spearheaded the development and implementation of Operation Triangle, Operation Unidos, Operation Unidos II, and Cobra. In each of these programs, Mr. Virgil sought to create relationships between Mexico and other Central American countries to seal of drug-trafficking activities in Mexico.

Throughout his twenty-seven year career with the DEA, Mr. Virgil's dedication and service have not gone unnoticed. Mr. Virgil has been the recipient of numerous performance and achievement awards, including the Administrator's Award for Exceptional Service.

Mr. Virgil graduated with honors from the New Mexico State University, with a Bachelor's degree in Police Science and Criminology.

For his almost thirty years of dedicated duty in fighting the threat that drugs pose to our society, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Michael Virgil.

INTRODUCTION OF ''JAKE'S LAW''—THE JUSTICE THROUGH ASSURED KNOWLEDGE AND ENFORCEMENT (JAKE) ACT OF 2000

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a little boy who, five months ago this Saturday, was tragically lost to his family. On February 22nd of this year, in Independence, Missouri, six year old Jake Robel was sitting in his mother's car when it was stolen. Jake got caught in the seat belt attempting to flee the car and was dragged to his death at speeds up to 80 miles per hour. The man accused of this horrific act had been released from jail that day, even though he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. This senseless tragedy could have been avoided had a background check been made prior to the suspect's release from jail. In Jake's memory, I will introduce the Justice through Assured Knowledge and Enforcement Act of 2000, or ''Jake's Law'', which will require a comprehensive warrant check prior to release of prisoners.

The Greater Kansas City community has rallied around this effort. Concerned parents and citizens have joined together to urge that Jake's Law become a reality. In addition to the over one million signatures they have collected on petitions, they have also held town meetings, which my staff and I have attended, to make their concerns known. I am introducing this legislation today in order to make sure their voices are heard, and Jake is remembered.

Jake's Law will establish a nationwide prerelease records check system so that local law enforcement agencies will have immediate access to prisoners' records in jurisdictions throughout the United States. All law enforcement agencies will be required to integrate this mandatory warrant check into their standard prerelease procedure. Jake's Law does not federalize any crime or infringe upon state's rights. It simply ensures the cooperation and communication needed to safeguard people from individuals who should remain imprisoned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to support this common sense legislation, and prevent another tragedy like Jake Robel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 421 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 422 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

During rollcall vote number 423 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

During rollcall vote number 424 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 425 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 426 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 427 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

During rollcall vote number 428 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

SAN DIEGO'S NO. 1 PICK IN BASEBALL DRAFT: ADRIAN GONZALES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man who last month graduated from Eastlake High School in my congressional district and who has attained the highest success in his field—the baseball field. Adrian Gonzales led his league with 37 RBIs and finished the season just shy of a .600 batting average. But for Adrian, it gets even better. Earlier this month, he was selected as the Number One pick in the nation for the Major League Amateur Draft.

It is important to acknowledge that the Florida Marlins rewarded Adrian's drive, consistency, and talent, as well as his willingness to dedicate himself through practice and hard work, which led to his second-to-none selection.

Congratulations, Adrian!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, because of illness in the family, I was necessarily absent on the following votes yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 410—''yea'' on the Neal (MA) amendment;

Rollcall No. 411—''yea'' on the motion to recommit;

Rollcall No. 412—''yea'' on final passage of H.R. 1102;

Rollcall No. 413—''yea'' on adoption of the conference report accompanying H.R. 4576;

Rollcall No. 414—''yea'' on final passage of H.R. 4118;

Rollcall No. 415—''yea'' on motion to instruct conferees to the bill H.R. 4577;

Rollcall No. 416—''yea'' on final passage of H.R. 2634.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, today, I cosponsored an amendment to withdraw the global ''gag'' language from the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. The language denies U.S. family planning funding to any overseas organization that uses its own non-U.S. funds to provide abortion services. The family planning dollars appropriated in this bill are critically important to the prevention maternal and child deaths and the continued spread of STDs. Congress should not make the allocation of this life saving funding contingent on how a foreign organization chooses to spend its own dollars.

CONTRACT OR REGULATIONS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year when millions of homeowners take the plunge and hire a contractor to fix the roof or add a deck or make any one of dozens of important—but costly—home improvements.

Now, if you're like most people, before hiring a contractor you want to make sure that you're dealing with a reputable firm.

For instance, you wouldn't want to hire a company with a record for leaving trash in people's yards. You wouldn't want to hire a company known for breaking the law. That's just common sense.

Well, that's what the President's proposed contractor regulations are, too: common sense.

The regulations say that, before the federal government awards a contract, we ought to consider a company's record. It says we ought to look at how responsible a firm has been before they get one nickel in taxpayer money. It says America's government ought to be as careful spending money as America's families are.

Now, I call that being a smart consumer.

That's different from the way things are now.

As it stands today, if the government has to sue a contractor, taxpayers can be forced to pay the company's lawyer bill—even if the company loses.

And it doesn't stop there.

Under current law, it's okay for a contractor to charge Uncle Sam for the costs of fighting to keep their workers from organizing a union.

As incredible as it seems, that's something that actually happens today.

Should any contractor be worried about this measure?

Not the reputable ones who follow the law.

Today we can send a powerful message. The message is that, from here on in, when it comes to spending tax dollars, the United States government is going to be one tough customer.

LET'S REQUEST THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION TO STUDY HOW HIGH DRUG PRICES HURT THE U.S. ECONOMY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee recently wrote to the U.S. International Trade Commission requesting a section 332 study relating to the pricing of prescription drugs by certain U.S. trading partners. The questions asked—if one reads between the lines—seem to be designed by the pharmaceutical lobby to study whether countries that control drug prices are being unfair to the drug companies; whether such price controls have caused U.S. prescription medication prices to be higher than they would otherwise have been. Implicit in the phrasing of the questions, is the assumption that other countries should be paying more.

Other sources of information suggest another approach. Perhaps Americans should be paying less.

The pharmaceutical industry is in an enviable financial position. Drug firms enjoy, on average, three times the profitability (28 percent) of the other 36 industry groups in the Fortune 500. While maintaining the present level of research and development, they were able to invest, last year, about $14 billion in direct-to-consumer advertising, public relations, lobbying and promotion to doctors. Taxpayers paid more than 30 percent of the costs of R&D through government grants, in addition to the millions in benefits from the government from R&D tax credits. The industry reaps huge benefits, while poor Americans choose between needed medications and paying the rent or for food; or they cut prescriptions in half to try and prolong their pharmaceutical supplies.

The U.S. spends far more than any other country on health care (14 percent of GDP) yet it ranks 37th in the world in the quality of health systems; we rank in the lowest 25 percent of industrialized nation's in life-expectancy and infant mortality. Our system is inefficient and wasteful. American health care has an over-emphasis on state-of-the-art cure instead of preventive care; relatively, we are overwhelmed by MRIs, CAT scanners and high priced drugs. Why have drug costs increased at more than twice the general inflation rate, leading to prescription drug spending growing at twice the rate of all other health expenditures, accounting for 10 percent of total health expenditures?

Perhaps, the chairman's requested study could be extended to include the increased productivity our economy might enjoy if drug prices were lower and the resources used instead on repairing the country's infrastructure, on education or even to lower taxes. How does the high cost of health care impact our trade balance? How much of the ''extra'' cost of an American car is attributable to the inflated cost of providing health care to workers, driven by such factors as rapidly rising pharmaceutical prices?

We may be able to coerce our trading partners into allowing prices to be raised for their citizens. However, I doubt that Americans will be overjoyed to discover that the efforts of the International Trade Commission resulted in poor Mexicans being deprived of their life-saving medications, to further enrich the pharmaceutical industry (which will not be passed on to American consumers, in any case). The answer is obvious, we should be concentrating not on forcing others to pay more, but on convincing the prescription drug manufacturers to be a little less aggressive in maximizing profits here at home.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FLEMINGTON AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY #159

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of the Flemington American Legion auxiliary #159. This organization has continually made lasting contributions to its local communities through hard work and dedication to those in need.

For nearly fifteen years, its members have canvassed the Flemington Area for needy families during the holiday season. Last December, they raised enough money to shop for sixty families with over one hundred children. Four ''Santas'' personally presented each family with two large boxes of food, toys, games and clothing for the children.

This past January, the organization made another demonstration of its commitment to the community during times of crisis. On January 22, a gas explosion badly injured and burned a fire chief and police patrolman after they responded to a 911 call, resulting in their lengthy hospitalization. in response, the organization hosted a benefit spaghetti dinner. With a massive volunteer effort, members worked as cooks, dishwashers, and parking attendants. Contributing both time and money, the group served over 800 dinners, raising enough funds to present the two men checks of $5,000 each when they were finally discharged from the hospital.

As extraordinary as this effort was, it was just one of many times that the American Legion Auxiliary #159 has worked on behalf of those in need. Throughout the years, the American Legion Auxiliary #159 has donated money to Special Olympics, Childrens Miracle Network, Cancer Research, March of Dimes, Red Cross, Salvation Army and numerous other local charities. Working with its ''Legion Family'' that includes the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion Post #159, it has continually demonstrated its dedication to the community.

The American Legion Auxiliary #159 is a great asset to both Central New Jersey and our nation. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing its dedication to community service and Central New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE DONALD O'QUINN

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life and career of Mr. George Donald O'Quinn. Two weeks ago, Mr. O'Quinn retired as Principal of Boone Trail Elementary School after 38 years of committed and dedicated service. Mr. O'Quinn has never asked for a medal or a monument; he has only hoped for the success of his students, his school, and his community. It is fitting then that today we honor the accomplishments of this humble public servant.

Mr. O'Quinn was born in 1937 and raised in the community he so proudly served. In fact, he attended the same school that he would later capably lead for so many years. After earning his Bachelors of Science degree in Agriculture from North Carolina State University in 1961, Mr. O'Quinn began teaching at Coats High School, in Dunn, NC. Over the next five years, he taught at Lillington High School and worked at Southern National Bank as that institution's vice president. Fortunately for the people of Lillington, Mr. O'Quinn returned to the classroom in 1972. After four years of teaching Vocational Education at Boone Trail, he was named Principal, a position he would hold for the next 27 years.

It is also important to note that Mr. O'Quinn was engaged in the affairs of his community. He served and held leadership positions in numerous organizations, including the Harnett County Community Development Association, the North Carolina Farm Bureau, the Boone Trail and National Ruritan Club, and the Lillington Jaycees. Mr. O'Quinn also served as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher at Anitoch Baptist Church. On top of his community activities, he was also able to raise a beautiful family with the able assistance of his wife Elaine.

Mr. Speaker, Donald O'Quinn's love for his community, his school, the children he mentored, and his family is truly remarkable. Tonight I praise him for nurturing so many children, embodying the spirit of his community, and sharing his gifts with us all.

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS ''JOCKO'' HENDERSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Douglas ''Jocko'' Henderson, who passed away July 15, 2000. Douglas ''Jocko'' Henderson was an innovative radio pioneer whose contribution to the industry is legendary. One of the first African American disc jockeys in Philadelphia, ''Jocko'' was known for his smooth rhyming rap before rap had a name.

From 1952 to 1974, Jocko hosted his ''Rocketship'' music program on radio stations WHAT and WDAS. He played the popular records of the day but introduced them with his silver-voiced rhyming style that other disc

jockeys began to imitate. For many years he hosted popular radio programs in Philadelphia and New York. He also produced sell-out rhythm and blues shows at theaters on the east coast, from Miami to Boston.

In 1993 he was honored with a plaque on the Philadelphia Music Alliance's Walk of Fame.

In later years he developed and marketed a series of educational audiotapes designed to help teach children to read by utilizing his rhyming style.

Douglas ''Jocko'' Henderson was an innovator and a man of great talent and dignity.

HONORING RETIRING CONNECTICUT STATE SENATOR ADELA ''DELL'' EADS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former colleague in the Connecticut State Senate, who after many dedicated years of service to the people of Connecticut, the Senate and our political atmosphere as a whole, is stepping down.

Adela ''Dell'' Eads was born 80 years ago in Brooklyn, New York. She attended Sweet Briar College in Virginia as well as the Gibbs School in New York City. She began her political career in 1976 in the State House of Representatives where she served two terms. Dell was first elected to the Connecticut State Senate in 1980, and in her 20 years of service held numerous leadership positions in her party and the senate including Senate President Pro Tem and Minority Leader.

In a time where our political dialogue seems to be clouded by partisan bickering an grandstanding, Dell has always been the epitome of dignity and class. She is known today, as well as when I served with her in the state senate, as a bridge builder who always chose to do what she knew was best for her District and the State of Connecticut as a whole, rather than what was simply popular.

Even though we represent different political parties, I have nothing but sincere admiration for her as a former colleague and consummate public servant. The State of Connecticut and the Senate will surely miss her.

I ask the House of Representatives to recognize her career in public service as well as applaud the manner in which she has conducted herself during the last 24 years; with grace, understanding and most of all the willingness to work with others to accomplish what is right.

HONORING ED WATSON ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ed Watson of Houston for his abiding commitment to public service as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Texas is fortunate to have a native son who has spent his life working on behalf of his community, contributing unselfishly to numerous causes while raising a fine family.

Ed was born in ''Pole Cat Ridge,'' Wallisville, Texas, on July 20, 1920. He graduated from Anahuac High School in 1939 and joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. After his service in World War II, he attended the University of Houston until he went to work in 1946 at Shell Oil Refinery in Deer Park. Ed and his wife Jerry were married at the Lawndale Baptist Church more than 50 years ago, on May 7, 1948.

Shortly after, Ed was called back into service during the Korean Conflict in 1950 for 15 months. In 1954, having outgrown their home in Pasadena, the Watsons and their four children moved to Deer Park. In March 1955, his family became members of the First Baptist Church of Deer Park.

Ed has been involved in politics and community affairs since 1947. He has been a member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union for more than 50 years, and he was serving as President of Local 4–367 when elected in 1972 as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, a position in which he served for 8 terms. In the Texas Legislature, Ed was a leader on issues of law enforcement, education, environmental protection, and creating economic opportunity,and he served several terms as Chairman of the Harris County Delegation. Currently he is a Community Liaison on my congressional staff in Pasadena and Deer Park, Texas.

Ed is a charter member of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce and a charter member of the Lions Club. He served fourteen years as a volunteer fireman and is now one of six honorary members. He has been actively involved in the Wheel House, a 30-day alcohol rehabilitation facility, since 1954 and serves on their board of directors. Ed visits daily, reaching out to the residents, solving problems when they arise, and fundraising.

Ed also serves on the board of directors of the Interfaith Helping Hands Ministry. He also volunteers his time at First Baptist Church, serving on the Benevolence Committee and reaching out to people not only in the church, but in the community as well. Because of his caring ways, Ed was named Dear Park Citizen of the Year in 1987. With Jerry, Ed also works with the Interfaith Helping Hands Ministry and she has served on the Bereavement Committee at First Baptist Church many times.

In all that he has done, Ed Watson has been a leader, organizer, and innovator. Known for his activism and leadership in both politics and public service, his legacy will be remembered by the community and to the many who have benefited from his good deeds.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ed Watson on the occasion of his 80th birthday and to commend him on a lifetime of achievement. I join Ed's family and friends and all those he has inspired in honoring him on this occasion. May the coming years bring good health, happiness, and time to enjoy his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RULEMAKING PROCESS NEEDS A JUMP START

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation's Office of the Inspector General today released the results of a study, done at my request, of the Department's rulemaking process. The IG's report conforms what many of us involved in transportation policy have suspected, that the DOT is doing a poor job meeting rulemaking deadlines.

According to the report, DOT is taking, on average, twice as long to issue rules as it did just six years ago. The report compares the number of significant rules completed in 1999, and the average time it complete each process, with corresponding figures from 1993. The results are not encouraging. In 1993, the department issued 45 rules and took an average of 1.8 years to complete work on each; in 1999, the department issued 20 new rules after working an average of 3.8 years on each. In other words, DOT is taking twice as long to do half as much.

The study further shows that the Office of the Secretary is the slowest among the operating administrations in the department, taking an average of 6.6 years in 1999 to complete action on proposed rules. In 1993 the Secretary's office took an average of 4.4 years. The office issued the same number of rules—three—in 1993 and 1999.

The Federal Aviation Administration showed the most significant drop in rulemaking productivity in the study. In 1993, the FAA issued 17 significant rules and took an average of eight to nine months (0.7 years) to complete the process. In 1999, the FAA issued only three rules, and took an average of three years to finish work on each, four times as long to complete less than one-sixth the workload.

Only the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Transit Administration showed improvement in the average time to complete rulemaking between 1993 and 1999. However, the FRA issued only two rules in each of the two years studied, and FTA issued two rules in 1993 and one rule in 1999.

The report goes on to say that the department routinely misses statutory deadlines for issuing rules. The report shows that the DOT's record was poor in 1993 and has improved only marginally since then. In 1993, the department completed only 12 of 29 rules mandated by Congress (41.4 percent) and completed only four of the 29 by the mandated deadline (13.8 percent). In 1999, the department completed 21 of 43 such rules (48.8 percent) and met the deadline on 10 of them (23.2 percent). This is a dismal record.

The IG's report cites several reasons for these delays. In the case of Congressionally mandated rules, work is often delayed by a disagreement between Congress and the department over the content of the rule. The complexity of the rulemaking process also contributes to the problem. However, the report cites poor management by the modal administrators as a significant contributor to the lack of progress on new rules.

In its analysis of 54 completed rulemakings, the study that found rules languished an average of two years on the modal administrator's desk with no action taken. The report said in many cases the rulemaking process stalled because the administrator would not make a decision on whether a rule should advance or be terminated, did not consider the rule a priority, or waited for future events, such as the development of new technology, that would affect the rule.

When the modal administrator considers a rulemaking to be a priority, the process can move quickly. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration took less than one year to produce a rule providing grants to states with a legal blood alcohol limit of 0.08. Yet, NHTSA still has not completed action on a rule on the flammability of materials on school buses after working on it for 11 years. The report states that NHTSA has wanted to terminate the rule, but the Federal Transit Administration and the Deputy Secretary opposed terminating it. Even though the Deputy Secretary charged NHTSA to work with FTA to work out their differences, NHTSA has not worked on the rule for the past three years.

These rules affect public safety—children on school buses, passengers in airplanes, ships at sea, motorists at rail crossings, neighborhoods near gas pipelines. We cannot allow bureaucratic gridlock to put people's lives at risk.

To its credit, the DOT, according to this report, has accepted the IG's findings and is taking steps to improve its management of the rulemaking process.

I have discussed this matter with Sec. Rodney Slater and urged him to use these remaining months to take significant action to reduce or eliminate this backlog of pending rules and provide a clean slate for the next administration.

I am very pleased with Sec. Slater's firm commitment to follow through and press the modal administrators to put the rule making process into high gear.

In doing so, the Secretary can show the American people that government can work efficiently, can be responsive to their concerns, and can adopt the same attitude of compliance that it demands of the private sector it regulates.

TRIBUTE TO DAUNE WEISS, BUERGERMEISTER FOR THE GAYLORD, MICHIGAN, ALPENFEST 2000

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to a unique celebration in Gaylord, a small city in my northern Michigan district. The event is called Alpenfest, and over its 35 year history it has come to serve many purposes in Gaylord. Alpenfest is the community's major celebration, providing a broad range of family entertainment. Alpenfest spotlights the unique architectural heritage of Gaylord, where strict zoning codes require downtown businesses to conform to an Alpine motif. Perhaps most important for my remarks today, Mr. Speaker, Alpenfest provides a annual setting to name a community Buergermeister, an honorary mayor.

Daune Weiss, a Gaylord businesswoman and a close, personal friend, has received this honor for the year 2000. The local paper, the Gaylord Herald Times, describes this honor as the equivalent of being named the Citizen of the Year for Gaylord and Otsego County, and I can think of no person in the community more worthy of this special recognition to begin the new millennium.

Daune, a native of Upper Michigan, left the area but later returned. It's perhaps typical of Daune's view of her own contributions that she feels her 14 years of commitment to the local community don't measure up against those who have spent their lives here. A brief review of her accomplishments, a detailed in the Gaylord Herald Times, makes clear, however, that Gaylord has found one of its greatest friends.

The owner of the local Holiday Inn, Daune established a Wish Tree, helping to fulfill about 300 wishes each year for local children. She created the Gaylord Wish Tree Foundation in 1987 and serves as its president.

She has served on the Board of Directors of the Otesgo County United Way since 1993 and has served on the Alpenfest Honors Luncheon Committee—the panel that honors local industry each year—since 1991.

With interests in several other hotels, Daune is active in local business and community promotion organizations, serving on the Gaylord Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors and the Gaylord Area Convention and Tourism Bureau. The dedicated community activist also serves or has served on the boards of directors of Northern Michigan University, the West Michigan Tourist Association, and the North County Bank and Trust.

When an opportunity arose this spring to bring business representatives from our district to take part in a workshop with Cabinet officers and other federal representatives, Daune Weiss was the first name that came to mind. I know she would be personally interested in the meetings, would offer excellent input on the interface of government and business, and would bring valuable information and insights back to her community.

Daune has received numerous other honors, Mr. Speaker, but I wanted to call attention to her being named as the 21st Buergermeister chosen by the Gaylord Herald Times, because the honor and the Alpenfest event so perfectly represent the enterprising spirit of the community. I hope my House colleagues will have an opportunity in the future to attend this colorful, unique family celebration. For today, however, I invite House members to join me in offering our congratulations to the paper for its excellent choice of Daune Weiss as Buergermeister for Alpenfest 2000.

SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, America is the land of opportunity. More Americans have owned homes than any people in the history of man. However, the American dream is not a reality for far too many of our countrymen. For all too many Americans the dream of homeownership is just that, a dream, not a reality. Federal government actions have raised the cost of building materials leaving homes beyond the financial reach of many of our countrymen.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) between our nation and Canada continues to deny Americans the benefits of homeownership. It violates the spirit of NAFTA by creating barriers to commerce instead of ripping them down. It denies American consumers the competition that leads to increased choice and lower prices. The American people have waited far too long for a free trade agreement in softwood lumber. An IMF economist has estimated that the SLA increases new home costs as much as $1300 per home, denying over 300,000 Americans the ability to purchase a home according to Census Bureau projections.

However, there is hope. We can have free trade in softwood lumber soon. The SLA is scheduled to expire on April 1, 2001 and we have the opportunity to share the benefits of free trade with home buyers. 113 Members of Congress have joined me as cosponsors of H. Con. Res. 252, calling for free softwood lumber trade between the U.S. and Canada.

The support for free trade is evident, but in order to make it a reality we need to negotiate a long term free trade agreement with Canada. Let's begin negotiations now to replace the SLA with a free trade agreement in softwood lumber and make housing affordable for more Americans. The American Dream should be a reality for all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EXPRESS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to clarify the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States. For years, Congress has legislated on behalf of Native Hawaiians as the aboriginal, indigenous, native peoples of Hawaii. This measure clarifies that political relationship and provides a process for Native Hawaiians to form a Native Hawaiian governing body to engage in a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

The United States has declared a special responsibility for the welfare of the Native peoples of the United States, including Native Hawaiians. This relationship has been acknowledged by the United States since the inception of Hawaii's status as a territory. This relationship was most explicitly affirmed by the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, which set aside 200,000 acres of land in Hawaii for homesteading by Native Hawaiians. Legislative history clearly shows that in addressing this situation, Congress based this action and subsequent legislation on the constitutional precedent in programs enacted for the benefit of American Indians.

Since Hawaii's admission into the Union, Congress has continued to legislate on behalf of Native Hawaiians as indigenous peoples. Native Hawaiians have been included as Native Americans in a number of federal statutes which have addressed the conditions of Native Hawaiians. P.L. 103–150, the Apology Resolution, extended an apology on behalf of the United States to the Native people of Hawaii for the United States' role in the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. The Apology Resolution also expressed the commitment of Congress and the President to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and Native Hawaiians.

The legislation I am introducing today is important not only to Native Hawaiians, but to all people in Hawaii. This measure provides the process to begin resolving many longstanding issues facing Hawaii's indigenous peoples and the State of Hawaii. In addressing these issues, we have begun a process of healing, a process of reconciliation not only with the United States but within the State of Hawaii. The essence of Hawaii is characterized not by the beauty of its islands, but by the beauty of its people. The State of Hawaii has recognized, acknowledged and acted upon the need to preserve the culture, tradition, language and heritage of Hawaii's indigenous peoples. This measure furthers these actions.

The clarification of the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States is one that has been long in coming and is well-deserved. Unfortunately, the history and the timing of Hawaii's relationship to the United States has not provided the appropriate structure for a government-to-government relationship between Hawaii's indigenous native peoples and the United States. The time has come to correct this injustice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, during House consideration of H.R. 1102, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act, I regret that I missed rollcall votes 410 and 411. I was unavoidably detained returning from the funeral of Senator John O. Pastore in Rhode Island.

Had I been here I would have voted ''yea'' on both votes. Rollcall vote No. 410, the Democratic substitute, offered by Representative NEAL, would have added provisions to H.R. 1102 that would have offered tax credits to small businesses to set up pension plans for their employees. The substitute would also have provided refundable tax credits for low and middle income workers to encourage them to save for their retirement. As a former small business owner, I understand both the importance of providing pensions to the employees of small businesses and the difficulties small businesses often face as they attempt to establish these plans. I believe that the provisions of the substitute would have made a good bill even better and I regret that the substitute was not agreed to.

I would also have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 411. This motion to recommit H.R. 1102 would have sent the bill back to Committee with instructions to include additional language requiring that there must be an on-budget surplus and prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries through the Medicare program before the tax and pension relief provisions of the bill could be enacted. Maintaining our hard-won surplus and providing prescription drug coverage to our senior citizens are critically important and must be given the highest of priorities. I regret that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not share our belief in keeping the federal budget in surplus and providing vital prescription drug coverage to our elderly.