

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INITIAL VICTORY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN RUSSIA—BUT THE FIGHT MUST GO ON

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in the long and difficult fight for freedom of the press in Russia we have won an important victory today. The Russian prosecutor informed Vladimir Gusinsky—head of Russia's Media-Most media conglomerate—that the case against him has been dropped for “the lack of a fact of a crime.”

Mr. Speaker, the prosecutor's action against Mr. Gusinsky was never simply a case of prosecuting a crime. From the beginning it has been a case of seeking to persecute and harass and intimidate and muzzle the free press in Russia. Vladimir Gusinsky is the head of Media-Most, which owns NTV television network, Russia's leading independent television network, as well as Echo of Moscow radio, and a number of other important independent media ventures.

It is significant, Mr. Speaker, that NTV and other Media-Most journalists have been critical of Russian President Putin and of the actions of the Russian government. Critical journalism is certainly nothing that would even raise eyebrows in the United States or Western Europe or other free countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the harassment of Mr. Gusinsky involved actions against him that go well beyond what would be done in a normal criminal proceeding involving such charges. Mr. Gusinsky was jailed for four days in June; in a high-handed fashion authorities seized documents from his company's offices several times; after he was released from jail, he was repeatedly called in for questioning; he was prohibited from traveling abroad; and steps were taken to freeze his personal assets.

On a number of occasions in the past, I have called to the attention of my colleagues in this House the systematic efforts to harass and intimidate the independent media in Russia. I hope that President Putin now understands that there is no room for Russia in the community of free and democratic nations if his government engages in efforts to oppress and threaten the free press in Russia.

Mr. Speaker, the dropping of charges against Mr. Gusinsky represents a victory for democracy and press freedom in Russia, but the battle is far from over. We must continue and strengthen our efforts to preserve free media in Russia.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL INFORMATION POLICY ACT OF 2000

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will endow the Federal Government with the ability to better coordinate and manage information technology policies governmentwide and transform the Federal Government into a national model for information resources management and information security practices. The Federal Information Policy Act [FIPA] of 2000 establishes an Office of Information Policy with a Chief Information Officer [CIO] for the United States and creates within that body, an Office of Information Security and Technical Protection [IN STEP]. This legislation harmonizes existing information resources management responsibilities now held by OMB and provides IN STEP with the responsibility for facilitating the development of a comprehensive, federal framework for devising and implementing effective, mandatory controls over government information security. In this latter respect, the Act is the logical complement to legislation I introduced in April, the Cyber Security Information Act of 2000, which seeks to encourage private sector information sharing with government in order to protect our national critical infrastructure. The Federal Information Policy Act will force the Federal Government to put its house in order and become a reliable public partner for protecting America's information highways.

For nearly four decades, information technology has been an integral component of information resources management [IRM] by the Federal Government. The Government's role as the single largest procurer of IT products and services in the 1960s and 1970s spurred the development of the U.S. computer industries that now form the backbone of our nation's New Economy. A decade ago, technology stood as one of many factors important to the mission and performance objectives of the Federal Government. Now both our economy and our society have become information-driven, such that IT plays the critical role in facilitating the Federal Government's ability to be effective and efficient in managing federal programs and spending, communicating with and providing services to citizens, and protecting America's critical infrastructure.

Five years ago, Congress recognized the crucial role played by technology when we called on the Administration to appoint a top-level officer to focus exclusively on the Year 2000 computer problem that threatened to undermine national commerce and government. This determination—that a single individual was needed to coordinate national and local cooperation to remediate computer systems and develop contingency plans—was based in part on an understanding of the interconnectivity of information systems within

government, between government and the private sector, and within the private sector. The President heeded our recommendation and appointed John Koskinen to a Cabinet-level position as the chairman of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion.

Moreover, the Year 2000 computer problem highlighted two important deficiencies in the current Federal IRM structure. First, the Y2K scenario presented an important reminder that technology does not fill some amorphous role within the Federal Government. It is the ubiquitous thread that binds the operations of the Federal Government, and its efficient or inefficient use will make or break the ability of government to perform everything from the most mundane of governmental functions to the most critical national security measures. Second, the high degree of interdependence between information systems, both internally and externally, exposes the vulnerability of the Federal Government's computer networks to both benign and destructive disruptions. This factor is tremendously important to understanding how we devise a comprehensive and flexible strategy for coordinating, implementing and maintaining federal information security practices throughout the Federal Government as the rising threat of electronic terrorism emerges.

In following the lessons learned from the Y2K problem as well as the recent Love Bug viruses that affected many federal computer systems, the Federal Information Policy Act accomplishes four main purposes: (1) to revise chapter 35 of title 44 of the U.S. Code to establish a Federal Chief Information Officer to head the Office of Information Policy (OIP) within the Executive Office of the President; (2) to consolidate and centralize IRM powers currently allotted to the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] within the OIP; (3) to establish within the OIP the Office of Information Security and Technical Protection [IN STEP]; and (4) to establish a comprehensive framework implementing mandatory information security standards, and annual independent evaluations of agency practices in order to provide effective controls over Federal information resources. The Act creates a new chapter 36 to retain OMB's paperwork clearance functions that are currently contained in chapter 35 and are performed by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

This past May, at the Center for Innovative Technology in my congressional district, the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology held a hearing in which we explored the strategies and challenges facing government in implementing electronic government initiatives. We learned that while electronic government initiatives promise to provide faster, more efficient, and convenient services, the Internet sets forth a wide array of challenges that must be addressed in order for the lower costs and improved customer service associated with electronic government to be realized. These include theft, fraud, consumer privacy protection, and the destruction

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of assets. To meet those challenges, the General Accounting Office [GAO] testified that “effective top management leadership, involvement, and ownership are a cornerstone of any information technology investment strategy.”

The Paperwork Reduction Act [PRA] established the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs [OIRA] within OMB and gave the Office the authority to reduce unnecessary paperwork burdens and to “develop and maintain a Governmentwide strategic plan for information resources management.” However, in a July 1998 report, the GAO found that OIRA had failed to satisfy some of its IRM responsibilities assigned by the PRA. And last year, the GAO found that improvements in broad IT management reforms “will be difficult to achieve without effective agency leadership support, highly qualified and experienced CIOs, and effective OMB leadership and oversight.”

I am deeply concerned that current federal IRM policies are suffering from the lack of a focused, coordinating body. The Clinger-Cohen Act, passed in the 104th Congress, made an important contribution to Federal IT policy by mandating that federal agencies appoint Chief Information Officers and by recognizing the need to coordinate and facilitate interagency IT communication and policies, a role given to OMB. But having each agency develop IT policies independently of one another poses the potential risk of having a government unable to communicate and function and function amongst its own parts. A central IT management process is essential if government is going to be able to successfully achieve cost benefits similar to those experienced in the private sector and improve its responsiveness to the public through e-government initiatives and better-performing Federal operations. And that coordinating entity must be capable of deploying comprehensive policies that reflect the interdependence of federal information systems.

With its many management responsibilities, OMB is simply unable to devote the attention need for effective IRM. FIPA creates a CIO of the United States to fulfill that coordinating role, acting as the principal adviser to the President on the development, application and management of information technology government-wide. He or she will be able to encourage innovation in technology uses, coordinate inter-agency IRM initiatives and communication, and promote cost-effective investments in information technologies. The Act also formalizes the establishment of the Chief Information Officers Council, which currently exists by virtue of a 1996 Executive Order. Made up of the CIOs from the major Federal agencies, the CIO Council provides an important forum for interagency communication and for improving IT management policies, procedures, and standards. The Federal CIO will chair the Council, a position now held by the Deputy Director for Management at OMB, and must submit an annual report to the President and Congress on its achievements and recommendations for future initiatives.

A Federal CIO will allow OIRA to concentrate and improve on the critical function of paperwork reduction that is so important to our continued efforts to minimize bureaucratic burdens on individuals, small businesses, and others resulting from the collection of information by or for the Federal Government. It is for this reason that the paperwork clearance functions are maintained in FIPA.

Equally critical is the ability of the Federal Government to anticipate, monitor, and recover from intrusions into Federal computer networks. This important objective was detailed in the President’s National Plan for Information Systems Protection, Version 1.0, issued in January 2000. Many sectors of the government have experienced, at one time or another, cyber security breaches. Under current law, rules and regulations governing the security of federal computer systems are guided by the Computer Security Act of 1987 and Annex III of OMB Circular A–130. The result is that several agencies including OMB, the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST], the General Services Administration, and the National Security Agency, all play a role in overseeing and implementing computer security procedures and reviews. Cyber security readiness is an intrinsic element of every information resources management. But like Federal IRM policy in general, the integrity of Federal information systems is being endangered by a lack of governmentwide coordination and implementation of proven information security practices.

Certainly, each Federal agency must bear the responsibility for assessing risk, detecting and responding to security incidents, and protecting its own operations and assets. It is for this reason that this legislation also adapts many of the provisions contained in the Government Information Security Act championed by Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman FRED THOMPSON. It requires every Federal agency to develop and implement security policies that include risk assessment, risk-based policies, security awareness training, and periodic reviews.

However, in a March 2000 Senate hearing on the Government Information Security Act, the GAO pointed to compelling reasons for establishing strong central leadership for coordinating information security-related activities across government. Foremost is the inadequacy of information-sharing among agencies regarding vulnerabilities and solutions to those weaknesses, as well as the lack of a clear mandate for handling and reporting security incidents affecting federal information systems.

For instance, in a March 29, 2000 hearing, the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology examined the state of information security practices throughout the Federal Government. GAO shared its most recent review at that time of the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]. Its tests found “numerous security weaknesses associated with the computer operating systems and the agencywide computer network that support most of EPA’s mission-related and financial operations.” Indeed, the EPA had recorded several serious computer incidents within the last two years but the GAO indicated that EPA’s subsequent methods for strengthening its security procedures were inadequate. In an earlier report, the GAO stated that “resolving EPA’s information security problems will require substantial ongoing management attention since security program planning and management to date have largely been a paper exercise doing little to substantively identify, evaluate, and mitigate risks to the agency’s data and systems.”

As part of its testimony, the GAO referred to earlier findings that 22 of the largest federal agencies were providing inadequate protection for critical federal operations and assets from

computer-based attacks. GAO reported that within the past year, it was able to identify systemic weaknesses in the information security practices of the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of State, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. In each instance, sensitive data and/or mission-critical systems were penetrable by unauthorized users.

These results reflect government-wide systemic weaknesses and follow numerous GAO audits which have repeatedly identified serious failures in the most basic access controls for Federal information systems. In its May 1999 tests of NASA’s computer-based controls, GAO was able to successfully gain access to several mission-critical systems, and could have easily disrupted command and control operations conducted through orbiting spacecraft. An independent auditor found last August that the State Department’s mainframe computer was extremely vulnerable to unauthorized access that could expose, in turn, other computer operations connected to those mainframe computers. These are just a few examples of the many troubling indicators that currently plague Federal agency information security practices.

Another key challenge to making the Federal Government more secure lies in the mind set of many federal agencies vis-a-vis the importance of information security to their operations and assets. For many, implementing best practices for controlling and protecting information resources is a low priority. A centralized leader would be able to make information security one of the top priority missions of the Federal Government. It is this overarching responsibility that is given to the United States CIO in the Act, and is subsequently delegated to the Director of IN STEP. In establishing government-wide policies, the IN STEP Director will direct the implementation of a continuing risk management cycle within each Federal agency, implement effective controls on information to address identified risks, promote awareness of information security risks among users, and act as a continual monitor and evaluator of policy and control effectiveness of information security practices.

In addition, the Federal Information Policy Act tightens the responsibilities of each Federal agency for implementing security procedures and policies that ensure the protection of its information systems. The CIO, in consultation with the Director of IN STEP, will have enforcement authority over individual agencies through his or her ability to make recommendations to the Director of OMB with respect to funding for information resources. This provision is necessary to ensuring that IN STEP can ensure accountability within each agency for information security management.

And finally, two other important features are included that are vital for the long-term development of flexible and responsive information security controls. The first is investing authority in the Director of IN STEP, through the CIO, to require Federal agencies to identify and classify the security risks associated with each of their information operations, and to calculate the risk and magnitude of harm that would result from an intrusion. IN STEP will have simultaneous authority to oversee the development and implementation of mandatory minimum control standards developed by NIST, that would be required for each classification. For this purpose, final authority is

given to the CIO, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, to decide and officially issue the standards. And the Act requires the Inspector General or an independent evaluator to conduct an independent evaluation of the information security program and practices of each agency on an annual basis, which will subsequently be reported to the U.S. CIO.

At the time when the growth and success of our competitive national economy is clearly demonstrating a correlation to the Information Revolution, the Federal Information Policy Act will secure the ability of our Federal Government to fully utilize information technology in order to better serve American citizens. And in a time when any entity-including government—that is connected to a computer needs to make information security a priority, we are finding that the Federal Government is dangerously behind the curve. We are losing time. FIPA will spur the actions needed to achieve readiness against future cyber security threats in a uniform and coordinated process. It is my hope that Congress will act on this measure as soon as possible so that the Federal Government will move forward and become a leader in the management and protection of governmental information systems.

#### VOLUNTEERS RESTORE ROSIE THE RIVETER'S VICTORY SHIP

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the House of Representatives unanimously passed my legislation to create a Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park in Richmond, CA. H.R. 4063, which has been the subject of a hearing also in the Senate Energy Committee, would honor all those who served, in uniform and in coveralls, wearing helmets or bandanas, hoisting a machine gun or a welder's torch.

Rosie the Riveter is, in the words of the National Park Service, "the most remembered icon of the civilian work force that helped win World War II and has a powerful resonance in the women's movement." Rosie has been commemorated on posters, in the famous Normal Rockwell painting, and on a U.S. postage stamp. She remains one of the most enduring images of the Second World War.

Another icon does remain that is worth remembering and preserving is one of the 747 ships that the Rosies—and the Wendys and Welder—constructed at the Richmond Kaiser shipyards: the Red Oak Victory, one of the last surviving Victory ships that served in World War II. Eventually, the Red Oak Victory will play a crucial and permanent role in the National Historic Park. Today, she is being carefully restored by a small navy of volunteers that is stripping paint, cleaning rust, and reconstructing this legacy of the greatest war in history.

I want to pay tribute to the men and women who are volunteering their time to spruce up the Red Oak Victory so that future generations of residents, visitors and students can learn first hand about the home front efforts to win the war and the tremendous economic, demo-

graphic and social changes generated by the war effort.

The San Francisco Chronicle has published an account of the restoration effort, and I would like to share that report with my colleagues.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, July 27, 2000]

ROSIE REVISITED—VOLUNTEER CREW IS RESTORING A WORLD WAR II VICTORY SHIP, REMNANT OF RICHMOND'S SHIPYARDS

(By Chip Johnson)

Every Tuesday for the past year, Owen Olson has left his Daly City home and stepped back in time aboard the Red Oak Victory, a World War II relic being brought back to life on the Richmond waterfront.

At 79 years old, the retired U.S. Navy lieutenant dons a pair of coveralls and safety glasses, and climbs down into the bowels of the ship's engine room to strip off layer upon layer of lead-based paint. His face streaked with oil, he is a Norman Rockwell image of an engine-room grease monkey.

Olson is one of the 30 volunteers, many of them retirees, who show up to paint, weld and repair the aging vessel. It is the only ship still afloat from Richmond's giant Kaiser Shipyards—a remnant of the glory days when 747 ships were built there during the war.

One day, they hope, the vessel will be docked at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Park in Richmond. The Rosie memorial, a 400-foot-long wall shaped like a section of a Victory ship, will tell the story of the working women—and men—of World War II. It is scheduled to be unveiled at a dedication ceremony in mid-October.

Meanwhile, about 7,000 feet of space at the old Ford plant, which built 60,000 tanks during the war, will be converted into a visitor center near where the Red Oak Victory would be docked in the future.

The visitor center will provide information about the shipyards, the tank factory and other World War II-era sites in Richmond as well as war-factory sites in Massachusetts, Washington, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Louisiana and Connecticut.

When the park is approved by Congress, it will become eligible for funding from the National Park Service. The visitor center is scheduled to be completed in two years.

Meanwhile, there is a lot of work to be done on the Red Oak Victory, whose restoration must be funded by grants and donations in addition to the sweat of volunteers who hope to have the job finished in two years.

On his weekly trip to Richmond, Olson is joined by a collection of aging wise guys and characters who look like they were typecast for a remake of "McHale's Navy," a 1960s TV sitcom.

The crew is clearly more comfortable aboard the ship—a rusting giant cargo vessel pulled from the mothball fleet at Suisun Bay two years ago—than they are on land. Some of the officers' quarters have been restored by a volunteer group from Clearlake in Lake County, but the rusting exterior decks and walls of the ship need the most attention.

Mike Huntsinger, a career merchant sailor, serves as the chief mate. His job is to coordinate the tasks on the ship and perform a mechanical assessment of the ship's condition. A detailed 60-page restoration report has just been submitted to a firm that will estimate the cost of repairing the 441-foot vessel.

"The objective is to restore it to an operating vessel and make it look like it did the day it was launched," he said.

Right now, the boat is docked in Brickyard Cove Marina at an old city-owned dock, Terminal 9. She is a rusting gray lady, but there are signs of life aboard her. A gigantic winch used to load one of the ship's four huge cargo holds has been restored and is now operational.

The 5mm and 20mm guns aboard the vessel, which was used to ferry supplies to soldiers fighting the Japanese, lie on the deck until the day they are mounted on the gun tubs on the bow and stern of the ship.

But making the Red Oak Victory whole again will take far more than the elbow grease and old sea stories that Olson and J.P. Irvin, his mate in the engine room, or chief engineer Bill Jackson can muster.

The cost is staggering—about \$3 million to \$4 million worth of mechanical repairs would require the giant vessel to be dry-docked. An equally long list of cosmetic work, including a stem-to-stern paint job, would also require a substantial investment, he said.

Sea valves in the ship's hull that once allowed ocean water inside to cool the engines have been welded shut. The propeller needs to be balanced, auxiliary generators could use an overhaul, and ultrasound tests must be performed on the hull, just to name a few things, Huntsinger said.

"We'll pare down from there and see what the real world gives us," he said.

Lois Boyle, president of the Richmond Museum of History, which owns the boat, will try to raise money through federal transportation grants, corporate sponsors—including Kaiser Permanent, whose parent company built the vessel—and hundreds of others.

The museum has also applied to have the ship placed on the National Register of Historic Places, which would qualify it for funding.

Despite its state of disrepair, the Red Oak Victory—named after the tiny town in Iowa that suffered the heaviest losses per capita in World War II—was a working merchant ship in the Vietnam War before being decommissioned in 1969.

Jackson, a veteran seaman who sailed for 53 years, knows the feeling. The 82-year-old Oakland native was living in Costa Rica with a new wife and new son when he got a call in 1990 from an old sea buddy to help run a steam-powered supply ship in Operation Desert Storm.

A few years later, Jackson returned to Oakland, where he lives with family members and spends his days aboard the Red Oak Victory.

"I love this ship and the sea and the friendships with the men that have sailed them over the years," he said.

He must love ships because during World War II, he had two of them torpedoed from underneath him. He survived, but suffered injuries aboard the *Courageous*, which was sunk off the coast of Trinidad.

The Red Oak Victory has become a rallying point for old sailors and history buffs alike, a place where they can work and reminisce and shave 30 years away.

Huntsinger remembers the feeling he had the first time he saw the ship.

"I saw the mast from the highway, came aboard and the memories came flooding back," he said.

As much as he and the rest enjoy the work, they will never turn away volunteers.

"I have a love for these old ships," said Rolly Hauck, 77 a retired salesman from Novato who served in the merchant fleet.

He and his compatriots have but one collective wish when it comes to the Red Oak Victory.

"I want to see this ship live again," Hauck said.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF  
RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES H. MALONEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 10th anniversary of the Americans for Disability Act, which has helped all our fellow Americans to realize their full potential. In this regard, I was pleased to attend a ceremony last month here in the U.S. Capitol Building at which Pitney Bowes, a worldwide leader in messaging technology based in Connecticut, received the Blinded American Veterans Foundation's Corporate Award for their development of the Universal Access Copier.

This revolutionary copier incorporates many leading technologies, including the first-ever use of advanced speech recognition in a copier. This speech recognition software can "learn" any user's voice pattern, including those with speech disabilities, and respond to any language. This enables users to operate every feature of the copier merely by stating simple commands. In addition to voice activation, a touch screen and Braille keyboard allows operators to choose how they prefer to operate the system. The copier also adjusts to different heights allowing people with mobility limitations, including those in wheelchairs, to operate it. The Universal Access Copier assists those with disabilities in enjoying employment opportunities that may not have been previously available to them.

At the ceremony, John Fales, Jr., President of the Blinded American Veterans Foundation (BAVF), presented the award to Michael Critelli, CEO and Chairman of Pitney Bowes. This was the 15th annual George "Buck" Gillispie Congressional awards ceremony held as part of the 2000 Flag Week events. For those who may not know, BAVF was launched in 1985 by three American Veterans who lost their sight during service in Korea and Vietnam—John Fales (USMC), Don Garner (USN) and Dennis Wyant (USN). All these individuals had achieved successful careers despite their blindness but they realized that many sensory disabled veterans had not had the same opportunities afforded them. Accordingly, they determined to form the foundation and pursue its goals of research, rehabilitation and re-employment.

I am proud to say the Universal Access Copier was developed at the Pitney Bowes Technology Center, which serves as the company's "innovation incubator", and symbolizes Pitney Bowes' ongoing commitment to excellence in research and technological development. The Technology Center sits on a nine-acre site in my congressional district in Shelton, Connecticut and provides a consolidated engineering campus for several hundred engineers, scientists, and programmers. The company was previously honored for development of the copier when it was presented the Computerworld Smithsonian Award which recognizes vision, leadership and innovation through outstanding use of information technology. Pitney Bowes' Universal Access Copier was singled out for the help it offers 34 million Americans with disabilities of working age

in living and working more independently. The copier has also been inducted into the permanent Smithsonian Institution's Research Collection alongside such famous technological innovations as Samuel Morse's original telegraph.

The copier is only one of many Pitney Bowes' technological innovations. For the last 14 years, the company has ranked in the top 200 companies receiving U.S. patents. Pitney Bowes has received over 3,000 patents worldwide, with an average of more than 100 issued every year.

Mr. Speaker, Pitney Bowes unwavering commitment to bring innovative technologies to all, including those with disabilities, truly stands out. I commend them on their work and look forward to their continued success.

TRIBUTE IN APPRECIATION OF  
DANIEL ZARAZUA

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Chief Master Sergeant Daniel Zarazua on his retirement from the Air Force and in appreciation for the many years of dedicated service that he has given to his family, his community, and his country.

Born August 5, 1952, Daniel Zarazua has led a heroic and inspirational life. He joined the United States Air Force in 1970, and after completing basic training and technical school, he graduated as a Medical Service Specialist at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. He has served all over the world, including assignments in Taiwan, the Philippines, Italy, and Korea, and rose from the rank of Airman to Chief Master Sergeant in less than 20 years. He has received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal, among other decorations during his distinguished career.

But Daniel Zarazua has always been more than just a soldier. He has always been a dedicated family man. Ask his mother Lila, a truly remarkable woman in her own right, and she will tell you that her son, Dan, called her nearly every single Monday throughout his military career. And with a wife and two children of his own, seven natural siblings, nine step-siblings, he has had opportunities to be a husband, a father, a big brother, a little brother, and an uncle.

Throughout American history, there are stories of great heroism, tremendous sacrifice, and epic courage. America is safe and free because generations of men and women willingly endured the hardships and sacrifices required to preserve our liberty. They answered the call and were there to fight for the nation, so that all of us could enjoy the freedoms we hold so dearly. America is truly the land of the free and home of the brave because of men like Daniel Zarazua who were willing to risk their life at the altar of freedom.

It was General George Patton who said "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by soldiers. It is the spirit of the soldier who follows and of the soldier who leads that gains the victory." Mr. Speaker, Daniel Zarazua has always been a "soldier who

leads", and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his unending dedication to his family, his community, and his country. I could go on and on about Daniel's patriotism, but I wanted to recognize him for all that he has done, and wish him well in the days ahead, days that will be filled with all the good fruits of a well-deserved retirement. I know that he will spend even more time with his mother, his wife Sue, and his two children, Dan and Monica. Daniel Zarazua has lived a truly incredible life, and he serves as a role model and an inspiration to everyone who has had the pleasure to know him.

CONGRATULATING JAMES AND  
COKE HALLOWELL

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James and Coke Hallowell for winning the Excellence in Business Hall of Fame Award for 2000.

James started working at his father's dealership in 1955, and assumed control of the company in 1968. It was a small company in a rural community. By 1999 Hallowell Chevrolet sold 2,000 vehicles and generated \$65 million in sales. James retired from the business in 1999, when he sold the dealership to his partner Bill Hendrick.

Over the years James and Coke have received numerous honors. James has received the Leon S. Peters Award, Fresno Junior Chamber of Commerce Award as Fresno's Outstanding Young Man in 1969, Time Magazine's Quality Dealer Award in 1971, and Fresno State's Alumnus of the Year award in 1974. Coke has been the State Center Community College District trustee for two terms.

James and Coke have contributed their time, efforts, and money to charitable and civic causes as well. Coke has been deeply committed to the San Joaquin River Parkway since 1985. James has been active with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra, is currently president-elect of the Fresno Business Council, and has a seat on the Community Medical Center's Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate James and Coke Hallowell for winning the Excellence in Business Hall of Fame Award for 2000. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them many more years of continued success.

MABANK CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today in recognition of the Centennial Celebration of MaBank, Texas in the fourth Congressional District. MaBank was established in 1889 when two ranchers, Mason and Eubank, convinced railroad officials to build their line through their ranches. Thus, the community MaBank was formed and

named for these two ranchers—and one-hundred years later continues to be a thriving community beloved by its dedicated citizens and filled with community spirit.

To celebrate this important milestone, Centennial Committee Chairman Robert Eubank, and members Louann Confer, Larry Teague, Jim Clark, John Hyde, Tom Whatley, Hughla Beets and Andrea Pickens, along with Centennial Coordinators Vicky Watters and Scott Confer, are planning a festive week of activities from October 3 to 7, 2000.

The celebration will begin with a tribute to Veterans that will include a special salute fly-over by F-16's from the 457th Fighter Squadron. The Mabank Band will present a patriotic concert and other Mabank Independent School District students will perform dances representative of various periods during the last century. There also will be a skit depicting the history of Mabank. Area churches will come together one evening for singing, and several groups, including the contemporary Christian band "Forty Days" will close the evening's events.

A carnival will run through the remainder of the week, and there will be an authentic representation of the Wild, Wild West, among other special events. Friday night the Mabank Panthers football team will take on their traditional rival, the Kemp Yellow Jackets. On Saturday, a parade commemorating the history of Mabank will begin at Mabank High School. The three acres adjacent to the new Pavilion and Rodeo Arena will be bustling with the carnival, a chili cook-off, classic and antique car show and an arts and crafts festival. Other activities include a quilting show and a domino tournament. Centennial week events will culminate with a concert starring Mark Chesnut and Woody Lee as featured entertainers.

Mr. Speaker, centennial celebrations are important footnotes to our nation's history. We have much to be thankful for in our great nation, and I join the citizens of Mabank in celebrating the rich history of their hometown during their Centennial Celebration this year. I would have a difficult time in discussing Mabank and not remembering a great part of the bedrock of this city, county, state and nation—the late Andrew Gibbs. Space and time prevent me from listing his many contributions, and acts of kindness and friendship, but suffice it to say that he is missed by all who knew him. So as we adjourn today, let us do so by paying tribute to the Centennial Anniversary of Mabank, Texas, and to one of its most distinguished citizens, the late Andrew Gibbs.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL McCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3485, the Justice of Victims of Terrorism Act, which I introduced and which has strong bipartisan support in Congress. This bill amends law first passed in 1996 to allow justice for the victims of state sponsored terrorism and to hold terrorist states accountable for their conduct. Under current law, these victims are entitled to compensation out

of frozen assets in the United States of the guilty terrorist state once the victim obtains a federal court judgment. Sadly, however, the Administration is denying these victims, such as Stephen Flatow, the Brothers to the Rescue families, Terry Anderson and the other victims of terrorism in Lebanon, the justice they deserve.

In response to the President's urging, Congress passed in April 1996 a provision in the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act [28 U.S.C. 1605(a)(7) and 1610(a)(7)] which gave victims of terrorist acts the ability to sue the state sponsors of those acts in federal court. This is one of seven exceptions to the jurisdictional immunity of a foreign state. The 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act also made an exception to U.S. sovereign immunity in order for such victims who are awarded judgments to proceed against the frozen, or blocked, commercial assets of that terrorist state that are held in trust by the United States government. The Act gave victims the ability to proceed against terrorist-owned assets regardless of whether those assets were involved in the terrorist act itself.

In October 1998, Congress passed Section 117 of the Fiscal Year 1999 Treasury Department Appropriations Act to clarify the assets of terrorist states available to victims of terrorism for attachment and execution of judgments. At the insistence of the Administration, however, that legislation gave the President a waiver to block the attachment of certain assets, if he deemed it to be in the interest of national security. Instead, the President exercised that waiver to essentially nullify the law and deny compensation out of frozen assets in every case to date.

H.R. 3485 remedies the Administration's failure to enforce the law in two ways. First, the bill amends the definition of "agency or instrumentality of a foreign state" to allow victims to proceed against assets that are majority owned by terrorist states. This gives victims a practical remedy in collection upon terrorist assets. Second, the bill narrows and clarifies the President's national security waiver to explicitly allow the President to protect diplomatic property, but not commercial assets.

I am concerned that the President has exercised what was intended to be a narrow national security waiver too broadly and contrary to the clear intention of Congress both in the 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act and particularly, in the FY99 Treasury Department Appropriations bill. In Section 117 of the FY 99 Appropriations bill, Congress intended a narrow waiver as interpreted in the case of *Alejandro v. Republic of Cuba*. Let me make it absolutely clear on top of any reading of past statements or reading of the Committee Report in relation to H.R. 3485 that the waiver is a narrow one, and this bill replaces that waiver with language that limits the President's power to protect only diplomatic property as defined under the Vienna Convention.

I am also concerned about the difficulty that victims of terrorism have had in executing against the blocked assets of terrorism sponsoring states because of the lack of information available from the foreign state. H.R. 3485 is intended to make it easier for victims to execute against these assets by clarifying that the victims are not required to meet additional hurdles of proof, including the alter-ego test or a showing of a daily control as has been applied based on the Supreme Court's 1983 de-

cision in *Bancec*. Again, let me make it clear that H.R. 3485 eliminates any of these additional hurdles not intended to be imposed under Section 117, and instead allows for a showing of majority ownership by terrorist states.

The President and Administration officials encouraged victims to take terror states to court under the 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act. Yet now, in contradiction to the President's words, the Administration refuses to allow compensation out of the frozen assets of terrorist states against whom judgment have been rendered. As a consequence, those who have committed acts of terror resulting in the death of American citizens are effectively going unpunished.

In addition to the Brothers to the Rescue families who suffer from Cuba's 1996 shootdown of civilian aircraft, this legislation assists two well-known victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorism. In a tragic case, the family of Alisa Flatow won a judgment against the government of Iran for its involvement in a bus bombing in Israel in April 1995 that took her life. Months after Stephen Flatow received his judgment in federal court, the President exercised the national security waiver to prevent the Flatow family from attaching Iranian assets in the United States. Another example is the horrific story of Terry Anderson, who as we all recall, was barbarically held in Beirut by terrorists sponsored by Iran for over seven years. Several months ago, Terry Anderson won a judgment against Iran and he now joins other former Iranian hostage sin seeking compensation and justice. Recently, the Eisenfeld and Duke families own a judgment for the murder in a bus bombing in Israel of their son and daughter, who were engaged to be married at the time. Also, Robin Higgins whose husband, U.S. Marine colonel, was brutally murdered by terrorists sponsored by Iran in Lebanon is currently in the process of seeking her judgment.

The Administration has used a variety of evolving arguments to deny these victims the justice they deserve. These arguments were presented before a Committee hearing in the other body, discussed in a hearing I chaired in the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, and enumerated in responses to questions I submitted to Treasury Deputy Secretary Stuart Eizenstat. I have considered the Administration's arguments and have determined, along with other colleagues of mine, they do not hold up.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this important and necessary legislation to finally bring justice to the victims of terrorism and to deter terrorist acts against U.S. citizens by making those state sponsors of terrorism pay.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE "VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2000"

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored today to be joined by Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. MALONEY and 40 other co-sponsors to introduce the "Violence Against Women Civil Rights Restoration Act of 2000."

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994, or "VAWA," was historic legislation that contained a broad array of laws and programs to

address domestic violence and sexual assault in our country.

In addition to funding numerous programs such as law enforcement and prosecution grants to combat violence against women, a National Domestic Violence Hotline, and battered women's shelters and services, VAWA created both civil and criminal causes of action to target domestic violence and sexual assault.

A few months ago, the Supreme Court struck down a provision of VAWA, which allowed victims of gender-motivated violence to sue their attackers in federal court. Importantly, that case, *United States v. Morrison*, did not affect the validity of the rest of VAWA, which is clearly constitutional.

But, *Morrison* is just the latest in a series of cases in which the Supreme Court has, in my view, improperly narrowed Congress' authority to legislate under the Commerce Clause.

The Court's 5-4 majority disregarded the mountain of evidence that Congress had amassed through four years of hearings, documenting the effects of violence against women on interstate commerce. The Court's majority substituted its own judgment for that of Congress—and this from supposedly "conservative" Justices who purport to defer to Congressional findings.

The *Morrison* decision vividly demonstrates the important role the next President will have in shaping the composition of the Supreme Court, and ensuring that the Court respect Congress' authority to protect the civil rights of our citizens.

In response to the *Morrison* decision, I am introducing the "Violence Against Women Civil Rights Restoration Act of 2000." This legislation will restore the ability of victims of gender-motivated violence to seek justice in federal court, where there is a connection to interstate commerce.

For example, a rape victim could bring a civil suit against her attacker in federal court where the attacker crosses a state line; if he uses a facility or instrumentality of interstate commerce—such as the roads, the telephone, or the Internet; or if he uses a gun, weapon, or drug that has traveled in interstate commerce. In addition, she could bring a case where the intent of the offense is to interfere with her participation in commercial or economic activity.

The bill also authorizes the Attorney General to prevent discrimination in the investigation and prosecution of gender-based crimes. This bill will ensure that all victims have fair and equal access to the courts.

I want to thank the domestic violence and sexual assault communities for their support of this legislation, especially NOW Legal Defense and Education fund, who defended Christy Brzonkala before the Supreme Court, and who has been instrumental in drafting this bill.

I look forward to working with the Majority, the Senate, and the White House to help pass this bill into law and restore the civil remedy for victims of gender-based violence.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. RICHARD F. BLANSETT, 174TH FIGHTER WING

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 2000 Lt. Col. Richard F. Blansett is retiring as the comptroller for the 174th Fighter Wing of the New York Air National Guard located at Hancock Field in Syracuse, NY. He assumed the position of comptroller on October 1, 1989. In this capacity, he is responsible for the development and administration of the Wing's \$29 million annual budget as well as a variety of military personnel resources.

Lieutenant Colonel Blansett was born on December 25, 1944 in Watertown, NY and graduated from Watertown High School in June of 1962. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Union College and a master of science degree in Human Resource Management from Chapman University.

Lieutenant Colonel Blansett began his military career as a traditional guardsman with the 174th Fighter Wing, enlisting as an administrative clerk assigned to the Fuels Branch in 1967. Since then, he has served the Wing in its Support Group Orderly Room, Supply Squadron Executive Support Office and Combat Support Squadron. He has served as Squadron Executive Support Officer, Squadron On-the-Job Administrator, Base Chief Career Counselor and Base Utilization Officer, rising in rank to staff sergeant, to second lieutenant and to captain.

In 1981, then Captain Blansett became a full-time member of the Guard as the Wing Logistics Plans Officer. In 1985, he was transferred to the Resources Squadron to serve as budget officer and cost analysis officer. He continued to be a leader in logistical deployments as the air cargo officer—a heavy additional duty that he maintains to date.

In 1989, then Major Blansett was assigned to his current position as comptroller. During Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91, when the 174th Fighter Wing was deployed to the Persian Gulf, Major Blansett served as the acting Deputy Commander for Resources.

On September 19, 1993 Major Blansett was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Throughout his tenure in this position, Lieutenant Colonel Blansett implemented and managed a variety of programs at base level and has been instrumental in managing the evolution of financial management processes from paper to electronic systems. In his 11 years in this position, Lieutenant Colonel Blansett has maximized unit resources and played a crucial role in the improvement of Hancock Field's infrastructure.

He has served as chairman of the Comptroller Advisory Board for the entire Air National Guard and, most recently, has advised and assisted the 174th in its Aerospace Expeditionary Force Deployment Operation. He also has played a key role in shaping the first home-station Operational Readiness Inspection conducted by Air Combat Command.

During his time in service Lieutenant Colonel Blansett has received numerous medals and commendations. More importantly, he has earned the respect and admiration of the men and women who serve with him.

In addition to his work duties, Lieutenant Colonel Blansett has been actively involved in the Boy Scout organization, serving as both a scoutmaster and Explorer advisor. Lieutenant Colonel Blansett and his wife, Julie, have a son, Christopher, daughter-in-law, Jen, and daughter Kimberly, all of whom reside in the Syracuse area.

I take this opportunity to applaud and commend Lieutenant Colonel Blansett for his 30-plus years of service to the 174th Fighter Wing and wish him well as he conquers new challenges in retirement. We are all better off for his years of dedication and sacrifice.

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, which organized what has become known as the Helsinki or OSCE process, a critical venue in which the United States has sought to advance human rights, democracy and the rule of law. With its language on human rights, the Helsinki Final Act granted human rights of a fundamental principle in regulating international relations. The Final Act's emphasis on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is rooted in the recognition that the declaration of such rights affirms the inherent dignity of men and women and are not privileges bestowed at the whim of the state. The commitments are worth reading again. Among the many pages, allow me to quote from several of the documents:

In the Helsinki Final Act, the participating States commit to "respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

In the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the participating states declared, "Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government."

In the 1991 Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the participating States "categorically and irrevocably declare[d] that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the States concerned."

In the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the participating States committed themselves "to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations."

The 1999 Istanbul Charter for European Security and Istanbul Summit Declaration notes the particular challenges of ending violence against women and children as well as sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking in human beings, strengthening efforts to combat corruption, eradicating torture, reinforcing efforts to end discrimination against Roma and

Sinti, and promoting democracy and respect for human rights in Serbia.

Equally important, the standards of Helsinki, which served as a valuable lever in pressing human rights issues also provided encouragement and sustenance to courageous individuals who dared to challenge repressive communist regimes. Many of these brave men and women—members of the Helsinki Monitoring and affiliated Groups in Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia, Armenia, and similar groups in Poland and Czechoslovakia and elsewhere, Soviet Jewish emigration activists, members of repressed Christian denominations and others—paid a high price in the loss of personal freedom and, in some instances, their lives, for their active support of principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

Pressure by governments through the Helsinki process at various Helsinki fora, thoroughly reviewing compliance with Helsinki commitments and raising issues with Helsinki signatory governments which violated their freely undertaken human rights commitments, helped make it possible for the people of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to regain their freedom and independence.

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the OSCE region has changed dramatically. In many of the States, we have witnesses widespread and significant transformations and a consolidation of the core OSCE values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Unfortunately, in others, there has been little if any progress, and in some, armed conflicts have resulted in hundreds of thousands having been killed and in the grotesque violation of human rights.

Mr. Speaker, this milestone anniversary presents the President an appropriate opportunity to issue a proclamation in recognition of the obligations we and the other OSCE States have committed to uphold. It is important to keep in mind that all of the agreements of the Helsinki process have been adopted by consensus and consequently, each participating State is equally bound by each document. In addition to committing ourselves of the faithful implementation of the OSCE principles, the President should encourage other OSCE signatories as all of us have recognized that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, economic liberty, and the implementation of related commitments continue to be vital elements in promoting a new era of democracy and genuine security and cooperation in the OSCE region. Each participating State of the OSCE bears primary responsibility for raising violations of the Helsinki Final Act and the other OSCE documents.

In the twenty-five years since this historic process was initiated in Helsinki, there have been many successes, but the task is far from complete. Mr. Speaker, we can look at OSCE's past with pride and its future with hope, keeping in mind President Ford's concluding comments at the signing of the Helsinki Final Act: "History will judge this conference not by what we say here today, but by what we do tomorrow—not by the promises we make, but by the promises we keep."

TRIBUTE TO ANNE WILLIS,  
LONGTIME CHICAGO EDUCATOR

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a longtime educator who is retiring from the Chicago Public School system (CPS) this year. After 36 years of tremendous service for the Chicago Board of Education (CBE), Anne Willis will be leaving Byrne Elementary School in Southwest Chicago. This teacher is a perfect example of the continuously hardworking, but often-unrecognized efforts of educators in the Third Congressional District of Illinois. It gives me great pride to share with you her story and accomplishments.

Anne Willis brought to the Chicago public schools an extensive advanced education. In 1957, Anne earned a bachelors of arts from St. Xavier University in Chicago. Ten years later, she earned a masters of education from Chicago State. In 1978, Mrs. Willis completed another masters degree from Rush University's College of Nursing.

Besides years of tremendous medical care for Chicago students, Anne was active in important community organizations. For example, she served as a school nurses delegate to the Chicago Teacher's Union (CTU), and participated in the Courtesy Classroom of the Region 4 Nurses Club.

With her duly earned free time, Anne plans to join the "Walkers of the USA" and walk across the Earth's most beautiful locations. When commenting on her retirement, Anne stated admirably: "The most important people for me are the children I serve, my family and friends."

Again, I was pleased to learn of the retirement and wonderfully productive life of Anne Willis. In a time when she is receiving numerous recognition and praise, I gladly echo my own thanks from the Halls of the U.S. Congress. This educator represents the day-to-day hard work and compassion that steer Chicago's youth toward successful and healthy futures. Mr. Speaker, I wish Anne Willis a well-deserved long and happy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO PITNEY BOWES'  
COMMITMENT TO DISABLED  
AMERICANS

**HON. JAMES H. MALONEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which has helped all our fellow Americans to realize their full potential. In this regard, I was pleased to attend a ceremony last month here in the U.S. Capitol Building at which Pitney Bowes, a worldwide leader in messaging technology based in Connecticut, received the Blinded American Veterans Foundation's Corporate Award for their development of the Universal Access Copier.

This revolutionary copier incorporates many leading technologies, including the first-ever use of advanced speech recognition in a copier. This speech recognition software can "learn" any user's voice pattern, including those with speech disabilities, and respond to any language. This enables users to operate every feature of the copier merely by stating simple commands. In addition to voice activation, a touch screen and Braille keyboard allows operators to choose how they prefer to operate the system. The copier also adjusts to different heights allowing people with mobility limitations, including those in wheelchairs, to operate it. The Universal Access Copier assists those with disabilities in enjoying employment opportunities that may not have been previously available to them.

At the ceremony, John Fales, Jr., President of the Blinded American Veterans Foundation (BAVF), presented the award to Michael Critelli, CEO and Chairman of Pitney Bowes. This was the 15th annual George "Buck" Gillispie Congressional awards ceremony held as part of the 2000 Flag Week events. For those who may not know, BAVF was launched in 1985 by three American Veterans who lost their sight during service in Korea and Vietnam—John Fales (USMC), Don Garner (USN) and Dennis Wyant (USN). All of these individuals had achieved successful careers despite their blindness but they realized that many sensory disabled veterans had not had the same opportunities afforded them. Accordingly, they determined to form the foundation and pursue its goals of research, rehabilitation, and re-employment.

I am proud to say the Universal Access Copier was developed at the Pitney Bowes Technology Center, which serves as the company's "innovation incubator," and symbolizes Pitney Bowes' ongoing commitment to excellence in research and technological development. The Technology Center sits on a nine-acre site in my congressional district in Shelton, Connecticut and provides a consolidated engineering campus for several hundred engineers, scientists and programmers. The company was previously honored for development of the copier when it was presented the Computerworld Smithsonian Award which recognizes vision, leadership and innovation through outstanding use of information technology. Pitney Bowes' Universal Access Copier was singled out for the help it offers 34 million Americans with disabilities of working age in living and working more independently. The copier has also been inducted into the permanent Smithsonian Institution's Research Collection alongside such famous technological innovations as Samuel Morse's original telegraph.

The copier is only one of many Pitney Bowes' technological innovations. For the last 14 years, the company has ranked in the top 200 companies receiving U.S. patents. Pitney Bowes has received over 3,000 patents worldwide, with an average of more than 100 issued every year.

Mr. Speaker, Pitney Bowes' unwavering commitment to bring innovative technologies to all, including those with disabilities, truly stands out. I commend them on their work and look forward to their continued success.

## TRIBUTE TO MARC REISNER

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the untimely passing of Marc Reisner, a leading environmental author who helped awaken the nation and this body to the urgent need to reform the way we thought about water policy.

Mr. Reisner's 1986 book, "Cadillac Desert," is not only one of the great pieces of environmental literature ever written, but a marvelous study of the political process. It is often said that in the American West, whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting. Mr. Reisner's account of the historic water battles that have rocked California over the past 100 years puts new meaning into that old truism.

Having spent much of the last quarter century working to bring federal water policy into the modern era, I salute Mr. Reisner for bringing these issues, and the urgency of adopting a new water ethic, before the public in a comprehensive and effective history. We continue the arduous and seemingly never-ending battle to modernize water policy, and much of what we have achieved, including the landmark Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, has profited by the understanding of water policy and water politics promoted by Mr. Reisner and "Cadillac Desert."

I want to express my condolences to his family, including his wife Lawrie Mott who is a scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, and their two daughters. While his passing is a devastating loss and unacceptably premature, I hope they can find comfort in knowing that his work helped change this nation for the better, and will continue to influence policymakers and private citizens for many years to come.

I submit for the RECORD at this point a story from the San Francisco Chronicle on Marc Reisner.

The article follows:

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, July 24, 2000]

MARC REISNER, LECTURER, AUTHOR OF  
"CADILLAC DESERT"

(By Glen Martin)

Marc Reisner, a writer and conservationist who wrote the seminal text on the West's perennial water wars, died Friday of cancer at his Marin County home. He was 51.

Mr. Reisner wrote and lectured extensively on environmental issues, but he was best known for his 1986 book, "Cadillac Desert," an angry indictment of water depletion in the American West.

The book was a wake-up call about destructive dam-building, pork barrel water subsidies, and the general frittering away of the West's scarce water resources.

It stimulated a campaign for water policy reform that continues to the present.

Mr. Reisner was born in St. Paul, Minn., and was a 1970 graduate of Earlham College in Indiana. From 1972 to 1979, he was a staff writer and communications director for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

He was awarded an Alicia Patterson Journalism Fellowship in 1979, and began the research on water policy that ultimately resulted in "Cadillac Desert."

Mr. Reisner's book was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1986.

The book was the basis for a \$2.8 million documentary film series, which was first shown on national Public Broadcasting stations in 1997. The film won a Columbia University/Peabody Award.

"Cadillac Desert" was ranked by the Modern Library as 61st among the 100 most notable nonfiction English language works published in the 20th century.

Mr. Reisner was also the author of "Game Wars," a 1991 book that elucidated the career of Dave Hall, a now retired special agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who specialized in busting international poaching rings.

With author Sarah Bates, he co-wrote "Overtapped Oasis" in 1989, an examination of Western water policy. During the course of his career, his elegantly written essays and articles appeared in dozens of magazines and newspapers.

At the time of his death, Mr. Reisner was working on a book about the role natural disasters have played in shaping California history and politics.

In recent years, Mr. Reisner devoted much of his time to promoting solutions to California's environmental problems.

He was a consultant to the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations on removing antiquated dams that were interfering with anadromous fish runs.

He also co-founded the Ricelands Habitat partnership, a coalition of farmers and conservationists that worked to promote environmentally friendly agriculture, improve waterfowl habitat on cropland and minimize the negative impact on fisheries caused by water diversions.

Mr. Reisner was also involved in two private "green" ventures.

He managed the Vidler Water Co., which promoted environmentally benign ground-water storage and water transfer programs as an alternative to dams. And he worked with a group of California rice farmers and engineers to make fiberboard and other products from compressed rice straw.

Recently, Mr. Reisner served as a distinguished visiting professor at the University of California at Davis, lecturing on the interaction of human civilization and the environment.

He was a member of the board of the Natural Heritage Institute, an honorary trustee of the Tuolumne River Preservation Trust, a Rene Dubos Fellow and a recipient of the Bay Institute's Bay Education Award. He also received a special commendation from the American Whitewater Affiliation for his efforts to promote river conservation.

Earlier this year, Mr. Reisner was awarded a Pew Fellowship in marine conservation. He intended to use the funds to restore native salmon habitats in California.

Environmentalists remember Mr. Reisner as someone who was determined to mitigate the environmental problems he covered in his writing.

"Before 'Cadillac Desert,' the general public perception was that dams and water manipulation were an unmitigated good thing," said Michael Sherwood, a staff attorney for the Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund who is involved in litigation on endangered salmon and steelhead runs.

"Marc was instrumental in raising awareness of the damage being done to fish and wildlife," said Sherwood, "and in recent years, he showed ways environmentalists and irrigators could work together to find solutions that both protected natural resources and allowed commercial uses for water. We can be thankful he was here to open our minds on both issues."

Mr. Reisner is survived by his wife, Lawrie Mott, a senior scientist for the Natural Resources Defense Council; and two daughters,

Ruthie and Margot, all of Marin County. Memorial services are pending.

SUPPORTING THE OLDER  
AMERICANS ACT**HON. DAN MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring your attention to an issue important to the American people, and especially to the people of my district in Florida. The Older Americans Act authorization expired in 1995, and we are on the cusp of reauthorizing this program and improving the services offered to our seniors.

This act provides important programs such as Meals-on-Wheels, in-home services for elderly Americans, and services for residents of long-term care facilities. I have personally helped deliver meals to homebound seniors with the Manatee County Meals on Wheels. I recognize the importance of programs like these to assist our older population, and I will not turn my back on America's seniors.

I continue to support the programs within this act, and believe that this Nation has a responsibility to care for our elderly population. However, last year, I was not supportive of H.R. 782, which would reauthorize the Older Americans Act because the funding did not accurately account for the concentration of seniors in States such as Arizona, California, Texas, and my home State of Florida. For example, under the present formula, Florida is slated to lose \$40 million over 5 years. The formula for allocation of funds relies on outdated census figures from 1987. We all know people are moving south. It makes no sense that we are providing services and dollars in the year 2000, based on where seniors lived 13 years ago. We need to focus on how we can best provide support to the elderly population, and that includes accurately assessing the needs of each State. As chairman of the Census Subcommittee, I know we are spending almost \$6 billion this year to provide accurate numbers. Why get these numbers if we are not using them?

Although the House version of the Older Americans Act has some flaws, a recent bipartisan agreement in the Senate reformulates the funds allotted to State based upon their senior population in 2000. I believe this is our chance to move forward with legislation and be more responsive to seniors in our country. I urge the House to move toward helping our seniors and to consider and pass the Older Americans Act as agreed upon in the Senate.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF  
CHILDREN IN THE UNITED  
STATES AND SUPPORTING  
GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL  
YOUTH DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL McCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support H. Con. Res. 375 to recognize an

"American Youth Day." This legislation, which I introduced with strong bipartisan support, recognizes the importance of America's youth and supports the ideas and goals of an American Youth Day. The bill encourages such organizations as General Colin Powell's group, America's Promise.

American Youth Day is about recognizing our youth and providing them with the role models and skills they need to be successful. By investing in our nation's most valuable resource—our children—we help create a better future for all of us. H. Con. Res. 375 recognizes and supports a nationwide Youth Day to be observed annually on a Saturday near the beginning of the school year, with the date to be specifically determined by the local community.

The concept of this legislation was inspired by one of my constituents, retired Navy Captain George Marshall Bates, who has advocated the establishment of an American Youth Day since the 1960's. While Captain Bates' proposal is broader and more encompassing in specificity than this Resolution, the ideals and principle objectives are the same and I am very fortunate to have had his assistance in producing this legislation. Captain Bates is a distinguished retired Navy JAG officer, and the youth of this nation are the beneficiaries of his persistence and effective advocacy of this cause.

The resolution acknowledges that today's oppressive influences on youth include violence, drugs, abuse and even stress. Regardless of economic status, ethnic or cultural background, or location, our youth feel the pressures of contemporary society.

The resolution also acknowledges the wonderful efforts of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, led by General Colin L. Powell, United States Army (retired). America's Promise is one of the Nation's most comprehensive nonprofit organizations dedicated to building and strengthening the character and competence of youth by mobilizing communities around the nation to fulfill the organization's "Five Promises" for America's young people. American Youth Day seeks to promote local and national activities that fulfill the five promises of America's Promise, which are as follows:

1. Ongoing relationships with caring adults;
2. Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours;
3. A healthy start and future;
4. Marketable skills through effective education; and
5. Opportunities to give back through community service.

In order to secure a future for our youth, Americans must spend time, share traditions, and communicate values to children. Often it is even more important to make a special effort to do this during teen years. Many youth live in single parent homes and seldom get the nurturing and guidance of a complete family; for them the time mentors take to spend with them is immensely important. This bill encourages local schools and communities across the nation to highlight our children and share their successes and give them the attention and encouragement so many miss by participating in an American Youth Day. I hope my colleagues will join in me in supporting this important and worthwhile endeavor.

IN HONOR OF DOUGLAS FLATT

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional citizen of Tyler, Texas. The Texas Section of the American Society of Engineers recently honored Douglas E. Flatt, P.E. with its Service to People Award, a distinguished award that recognizes those who have made significant contributions to their community.

Mr. Flatt has served as both president and director of the East Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and Northeast Branch of the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is a life member of the National Society of Professional Engineers as well as the American Society of Civil Engineers. Additionally, he has served on the Board of Directors for the Texas Section of the ASCE. In 1985, he received TSPE's East Texas Engineer of the Year Award and in 1988 he received ASCE's Professional Services Award.

He has also served as Chairman of the Southern Division of the Association of Independent Scientific, Engineering and Testing Firm as well as President of the Texas Council of Engineering Laboratories in 1982 and 1983. Currently he serves on both the Legislative Committee and the Membership Committee of the Consulting Engineers Council of Texas and is a member of the American Society for Testing and Materials Committee E-50 for Environmental Site Assessments.

Mr. Flatt formed ETTL Engineers and Consultants in 1965 and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Prior to forming his successful corporation, he was employed by the Texas Department of Transportation, first as senior laboratory engineer and later as senior resident engineer.

Mr. Flatt's recent award, however, is a testament to the time and effort that he has devoted to his community. He has served on the City of Tyler's Airport Advisory Board and the Board of Adjustment of Planning and Zoning. He has been Chair of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce Highway Transportation Committee, President of the Smith County Youth Foundation, Chairman of the Board of the Tyler YMCA, and the advisory board of the East Texas Crisis Center, and on the board of the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness. He is also a member of the Tyler Rotary Club where he is a Paul Harris fellow, and actively serves the First Presbyterian Church of Tyler as deacon, elder and trustee.

Mr. Flatt graduated from Terrell High School in 1949 and earned B.S. Degrees in Agricultural and Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1953 and 1955. He received a Master of Science Degree in 1957 from Texas A&M University following his discharge from active duty as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Field Artillery. He maintains close ties with his alma mater, serving as vice-president and board member of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students. He is an endowed Century Club member, member of the 12th Man Foundation as well as the Pillars of A&M. He is also a contributor and participant in A&M's Spencer J. Buchanan Chair in Civil Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Douglas Flatt has upheld high standards in all that he has done. He has achieved success in his profession—and he has also dedicated much of his life in services to others. I join his wife, Maxine; his son, Darrell, and daughter-in-law, Donna; and his grandchildren, John and Madeline, all of whom are residents of Tyler, in congratulating him on his Service to People Award.

2000 EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS  
AWARD

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the fifth annual Excellence in Business Award for their high ethical standards, corporate success and growth, employee and customer service, and concern for the environment.

Award winners include businesses across the spectrum of the valley economy: agriculture; charities; finance; banking and insurance; health care; manufacturing; professional services; real estate and construction; nonprofit organizations; small businesses; retail and wholesale.

The 2000 Excellence in Business Award winners are:

Agriculture—Zacky Farms  
Charitable—Hope Now for Youth, Inc.  
Financial/Banking/Insurance—U.S. Small Business Administration  
Healthcare—Kaiser Permanente Medical Center  
Manufacturing—Netafim Irrigation, Inc.  
Nonprofit—The Bulldog Foundation  
Professional Service—Deloitte & Touche  
Real Estate/Construction—Webb & Son  
Retail/Wholesale—Richard Caglia Electric Motor Shop  
Small Business—BennettFrost Personnel Services, Inc.  
Hall of Fame—James and Coke Hollowell

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate each of the 2000 Excellence in Business Award winners for their leadership and contributions to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing all of the recipients many more years of continued success.

COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND NEW  
MARKETS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say that one very important American community will receive little or no help from this legislation; the American citizens of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico cannot benefit from this legislation because of its unique tax relationship with the mainland. Along with Mr. CRANE, I am a sponsor of H.R. 2138 to extend job creation incentives for new activities in Puerto Rico. Despite significant efforts at the local level, unemployment in Puerto Rico remains stubbornly high

and incomes are not catching up. H.R. 2138 would encourage U.S. companies to preserve or expand current operations in Puerto Rico, rather than taking these U.S. jobs to foreign countries with much lower wage bases and no U.S. labor and environmental protections.

We owe our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico some continuing help toward economic growth and opportunity. I hope we can work together this year to ensure that these opportunities are inclusive, not exclusive, by considering section 30A incentives for the U.S. companies operating in Puerto Rico. We should not leave these 4 million Americans behind.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORMAN PAPPAS, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE ENTERPRISE GROUP

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, one of our most revered institutions, the family-owned business, is under assault from the federal estate tax (death tax).

According to the Center for the Study of Taxation, 70 percent of family-owned businesses fail to make it to the second generation and 87 percent don't make it to the third. The death tax is one of the major contributors to this disturbing statistic. To pay this unfair tax, which can reach as high as 55 percent of the value of an estate, many family-owned businesses must be liquidated or sold off entirely after the owner dies.

For several years, a bipartisan coalition in Congress has worked to provide relief from the death tax. In fact, on June 9, 2000, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 8, The Death Tax Elimination Act. This much-needed bill would strengthen family-owned businesses and encourage savings and investment by repealing the death tax over a ten-year period.

Unfortunately, it appears as though business owners will have to continue waiting for significant relief from the death tax, as President Clinton has indicated that he will veto H.R. 8 if it reaches his desk.

That being said, there are still many steps that business owners can take to minimize the negative impact of the death tax. Norman Pappas, founder and president of The Enterprise Group, a company located in Southfield, MI, has recently written an important book that I enthusiastically recommend to every business owner who wants to ensure that his company remains strong and is kept in the family after he dies.

Mr. Pappas' book, "Passing the Bucks—Protecting Your Wealth from One Generation to the Next," reveals the secrets of effective business succession and estate tax planning that can help reduce or even eliminate the risk of losing most of the assets a business owner worked so hard to accumulate.

For the last 30 years, The Enterprise Group and other financial and estate planners have helped business owners protect what is rightfully theirs. For example, Mr. Pappas has assisted over 1,500 businessmen and women to traverse the complicated practice of business succession and estate planning as they wres-

tle with the federal tax burden. Mr. Pappas' expertise experience in solving the complicated financial problems of family-owned businesses is evident throughout "Passing the Bucks." One of the primary lessons we have learned is that we must eliminate the death tax and I am proud that we have done just that in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mr. Pappas and his colleagues in the practice of estate planning and to commend his efforts to protect family-owned businesses from the onerous provisions of the death tax.

A TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA L. DORIS

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring attention to the work of Virginia L. Doris of Warwick RI. As a Rhode Island historian for over 40 years, Ms. Doris has put great effort into her quest to bring proper honor and recognition to America's "poet and patriot," Francis Scott Key, author of our National Anthem. As we near the 221 year anniversary of the birth of this American legend, I would like to submit this poem by Ms. Doris into the RECORD, so that we might renew the call for an official day honoring Francis Scott Key's contribution to our national heritage.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY—AMERICA'S ULTIMATE  
POET AND PATRIOT

Anthem, Mighty Anthem! our voices re-sound,

Poem by God's blessing, unscattered, uncrowned

Anthem, Sacred Anthem! our pulses repeat,  
Warm with life-blood, as long as they beat!

Listen! The reverence of his soul imbued  
doth thrill us still,

In the old familiar places beneath their emerald hill.

Here at this altar our vows we renew,  
Still in thy cause be loyal and true—

True to thy flag on the field, and the wave,  
Living to honor it, dying to save!

Wake in our breast the living fires,  
The Holy faith warmed our sires,

Thy spirit shed through every heart,  
To every arm thy strength impart!

Our lips should fill the air with praises, and  
pay the debt we owe,

So high above this hymn we raise, the floods  
of garlands flow.

Harken! The reverence of his soul imbued  
doth thrill us still,

In the old familiar places beneath their emerald hill.

Anthem, Mighty Anthem! our voices re-sound.

Poem by God's blessing unscattered uncrowned!

Anthem, Sacred Anthem! our pulses repeat,  
Warm with the life-blood, as long as they  
beat!

Composed by: Virginia Louise Doris

HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege today to remember and pay tribute to a great American and a good friend, Allen Gordon Smith Sr., of Diana, TX, who died on April 21 of this year. Mr. Smith was an American war hero, a prisoner of war, and an outstanding citizen of East Texas. His influence on his community and his friends and family will be felt for many years to come, and his dignity shall not be diminished by time.

In October 1939, Mr. Smith voluntarily joined the U.S. Army Air Corps at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana—a decision that would change his life. He became a member of the 27th Bomb Group of the 16th Squadron. The group was sent to the Philippines, landing in November 1941. Mr. Smith was captured by the Japanese on April 9, 1942, at the fall of Bataan. He survived the infamous Bataan Death March and spent 42 months in Japanese prisoner of war camps. No words could adequately tell his story about this experience—so suffice it to say that he emerged from the war as a true American hero and a strong advocate for veterans.

Mr. Smith was a leader and a life-time member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War as well as the Disabled American Veterans. He served two terms as national director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and one term as commander of the Department of Texas Ex-Prisoners of War. He also was a Veterans Administration Service officer, in which capacity he worked on behalf of fellow veterans. His distinguished service in defense of our Nation and in support of veterans will be long remembered.

Following his service in the war, Mr. Smith returned to Longview and married Helen Florence Jones on November 22, 1946. He attended the University of Houston. In 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Smith moved to Diana, where they devoted much of their time working with the youth in their community. They served on a governor-appointed committee to work with youth in Upshur, Camp, and Wood Counties, and Mr. Smith served on the board of directors for Baseball for Boys in East Texas. Mr. Smith also worked with youth through the Cub Scouts and the 4-H Club.

After 24 years of service, Mr. Smith retired from Lone Star Steel. He was a member of the Judson Road Church of Christ in Longview.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Helen; his son and daughter-in-law, Allen Jr. and Elayne Smith; his daughter and son-in-law; Daneila Smith Woods and John Woods; four granddaughters and grandsons-in-law; one grandson and granddaughter-in-law; two great-granddaughters; four step-great-grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Julia and Robert Crowder; a brother and sister-in-law, Alvin and Patsy Smith; and a number of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Allen Gordon Smith was a man of dignity and honor who lived a distinguished life in service to his country, his community, and to his family and fellow citizens. He was a wonderful role model to many children in East Texas, and his influence will be

felt for generations to come. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering, honoring, and paying our last respects to this outstanding American—Allen Gordon Smith, Sr.

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF COLUMBUS' 160TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, 170 years ago, while the manacles of slavery were still fastened on African Americans, twelve Christians—11 whites and a slave named Joseph—founded Columbus' first church, the Ephesus Baptist Church, which was renamed the First Baptist Church. This was in 1830, one year after Columbus, Georgia was granted its charter. Blacks and whites, slaves and free, worshiped God under one roof.

In 1840, after construction of a new building, the First Baptist Church gave the old sanctuary to the mixed black and white congregation, who reorganized as the African Baptist Church. Today, one hundred and sixty years later, after war, reconstruction, oppression, economic depression, and hardships, the First African Baptist Church is still spreading the gospel in Columbus.

This church has a long history of service to its community. Up to the advent of the Civil War, it had an ethnically diverse congregation. After the war, the church gave birth to three different churches: the Metropolitan Baptist Church in 1890, the Friendship Baptist Church in 1906, and the Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in 1908. The church sanctuary has changed four times. Today's main sanctuary was erected in 1915, when the church adopted its present name, the First African Baptist Church.

The congregation of the First African Baptist Church has weathered many storms, but the worst may have been the Great Depression. In 1936, creditors foreclosed on the church. But all was not lost, because four trustees stood in the gap and pledged their personal property to pay the debts. These men were W.A. Talley, J.J. Senior, J.H. Williams, and G.F. Rivers. The congregation stood by these four men of faith and worked to raise the funds to retire the debt.

Mr. Speaker, the First African Baptist Church congregation has been a force for good in Columbus.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Robert M. Dickerson Jr., it continues to play a key role in the city. Rev. Dickerson began the "Gathering of the Children," and restructured the Youth Program. He reorganized the Christian Education ministry. He started the Tuesday noon Bible Study time, the Early Sunday morning worship services, and the Riverfront Easter Sunrise Service. He ordained 11 new deacons and established the Capital Improvement Fund for mid-range and long-range improvements. He also added three ministers to the Ministerial Staff. Additionally, Dr. Dickerson instituted the "Pastor's Unsung Hero" Award presented each November.

He is continuing his work to add new programs to bring the word and comfort of God to the people of Columbus.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the First African Baptist Church of Columbus, its congregation and its leaders. They have been doing a great work in the city for 160 years, and I trust that, Lord willing, they will be spreading the Gospel a hundred years hence.

PARSONS FAMILY FIFTIETH REUNION

**HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the fiftieth reunion of the Thomas Edward Parsons family. The Parsons family is gathering in Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland, on July 29th, to celebrate their reunion at the home of Elaine Valliant Cox. The Parsons family reunion was first held in Royal Oak, Talbot County, Maryland, at the home of William Harris Valliant and instituted to preserve family relationships as their family began to spread beyond Talbot County. The Parsons' family history has been documented in Talbot County, Maryland back to the early nineteenth century. The first reunion was advertised in a local newspaper asking descendants of Thomas and Susan Benson Parsons to gather on August 20, 1951. One hundred eleven members of the Parsons family gathered on the Valliant lawn coming from Idaho, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC. The oldest family member in attendance was Mrs. Margaret Parsons of Oxford, Maryland, wife of Edward Thomas Parsons. She was ninety years of age.

This year the eldest family member in attendance is Mrs. Louise Valliant Willis of Oxford, Maryland. She is ninety-nine years of age and is the daughter of Susan Parsons Valliant, the youngest member of the original twelve Parsons siblings. The youngest member will be Natalie Chance Schmidt of Easton, Maryland. About sixty Parsons family members are expected to attend from all over the country. In recent years, family members have attended the Eastern Shore reunion from as far away as Seattle, Washington.

The current generation of Parsons family members represents all walks of life from many parts of the country and from around the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Parsons family reunion officers are Jan Valliant O'Neal of Kensington, Maryland, Marguerite Schimpff Webster of Washington, District of Columbia, Cathy Newton Schmidt of Easton, Maryland, and Robert Thomas Valliant, Jr., of Oxford, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I want to congratulate the Parsons family for celebrating their fiftieth family reunion and honoring the significance of family in the building of our great nation.

HONORING KEVIN BRACKEN

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Kevin Bracken, a native of Chicago, IL. Kevin,

through many amazing feats of athletic prowess, has earned himself a place on the U.S. Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling team. He is the only member of the Greco-Roman team from Illinois, which consists entirely of first-year Olympians. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment, and I know he will represent his country with great pride, strength, and skill.

Kevin grew up on the south side of Chicago, placing third in the 1990 State Championships for St. Laurence High School. He then attended Illinois State University, where he was a three-time qualifier for the NCAA and received the 1994 Male Athlete of the Year award. Since those early achievements in his life, he has only gone forward, constantly surpassing expectations of all those around him, no matter how high set.

His friends, family, and former teammates must be, and should be proud to witness what he has accomplished, and what he will certainly continue to accomplish in the future. Kevin is a credit to all those who have held faith in him, and through perseverance and extraordinary effort, he has earned his place among the elite of his profession.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Kevin Bracken, and wish him the best of luck in his continuing career. I am sure he will continue to make them proud.

RECOGNIZING BRADENTON, FL, AS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

**HON. DAN MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate a city in my congressional district, Bradenton, FL. Bradenton has been recognized in the July 2000 issue of Money magazine as one of the best places to retire. Money quotes Bradenton as, "a perfect Florida beach town for sun and sailing." I agree and believe it is much more than that.

With 238 sunny days a year it is no surprise to me that this area made headlines. The coastal community with a population under 50,000 is located just south of Tampa Bay. Bradenton's 27 miles of beautiful, white and beaches provide the perfect environment for sailing, skiing, fishing and various outdoor activities.

The criteria used by Money to evaluate nearly 500 communities included population, opportunities for educational advancement, outdoor activities, cultural amenities, quality of medical care, and accessible transportation. Factors that also influenced the ratings were cost of living, taxes, and home prices. Today's seniors live an active lifestyle, so each community was also evaluated on the various activities in the area.

Bradenton offers an array of cultural attractions including the Golden Apple Dinner Theater and the Florida West Coast Symphony. The South Florida Museum and Bishop Planetarium is a unique complex that features cultural and historical exhibits and laser light shows. The ballet, the opera, art galleries, historical parks, and museums are all within the city limits. Retirees can stay busy at the various outdoor festivals throughout the year.

Bradenton is home to the Pittsburgh Pirates spring training complex and is within an hour's

drive to three professional sports teams. Retirees can enjoy the areas 24 nationally recognized golf courses, including Legacy Golf Course designed by Arnold Palmer.

The warm weather and casual atmosphere truly make Bradenton a wonderful retirement community. I am honored that Bradenton received such outstanding recognition.

It is not just the weather, infrastructure, healthcare system, and recreation opportunities that make Bradenton a nationally recognized place to retire; it is the great people who live there. The people of Bradenton are truly second to none and make everyone feel welcome. I know, I moved there over 40 years ago and am proud it to call it my home. Money magazine has further shown the country just how great my hometown is.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD  
VICKERS

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a fine American and great Texan, Mr. Donald Vickers of Blossom, TX.

In 1942, at the age of 16, Donald Vickers felt the need to fight for his country during World War II. He left his home in Blossom and joined the Army, and his service to his country lasted 31 years and 7 months, during which time he fought in World War II, Korea, the Cuban conflict, and Vietnam.

This fine gentleman, who is revered by friends and family and lovingly called "Papa Donald", received his early training at Camp Shelby, MS, and soon after was sent to fight in North Africa. Later he trained in England and was a part of the fateful landing on D-Day, during the Normandy Invasion. He served in the European theater operation from 1943 to 1945, being assigned to a Tank Destroyer Battalion. In 1946 he re-enlisted and later served in Korea as an advisor to the 59th Republic of Korea Army Tank Company. During the Cuban conflict he was deployed off Cuba in the LST's, which were ready to land both men and equipment. His first tour in Vietnam from December 1965 to December 1966 was with the 25th Infantry Division, 69th Armor Battalion. After serving stateside in 1967, he was assigned to serve with the Military Advisors Corp in Vietnam from December 1968 to December 1969. His other tours of duty included Germany and Hawaii. Stateside, he served in Mississippi, Kansas, Georgia, California, New Jersey, New Mexico, and later, back home in Texas, before he retired from the service in August 1974.

Donald Vickers, now Sergeant Vickers, has been awarded numerous decorations during his many years of service. These include the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart with 2 Clusters, Bronze Stars with V device and 2 Clusters, ARCOM with 3 Clusters, Good Conduct Medal with Silver Bar and 1 Leaf, Vietnam Service Medal with 1 Silver and 3 Bronze Service Stars, WWII Victory Medal, European and Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and Korean Service Medal. In addition, he has received written commendations from his com-

manding officers which reflect their recognition of his courage, his patriotism, leadership and dedication to his country, his men, and the Army.

Mr. Vickers has been married for many years to Mary Jo Vickers. They have 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. It was one of their granddaughters, Mrs. Cassidy Fuess, of Denton, TX, who in her devotion to her grandfather and desire to share his history with others, contacted me to tell his story. My thanks to Cassidy, her grandfather, and their family for their devotion to those values that Americans hold dear—love of their country and love for their family. I am proud that they are from my district, and I appreciate the opportunity to recognize Sgt. Donald Vickers and his family today.

THE CHILD PROTECTION/ALCOHOL  
AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP ACT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University released a report last year which found that alcohol and drug abuse cause or exacerbate 7 out of every 10 cases of child abuse or neglect. Regrettably, child welfare workers and judges are not always sufficiently trained in how to detect and cope with substance abuse problems. And of even greater concern, when accurate assessments are made, there is often a lack of available treatment. In fact, the Department of Health and Human Services reports that 63 percent of all mothers with drug problems do not receive any substance abuse treatment within a year.

To combat this threat to child safety and family stability, I am introducing the Child Protection/Alcohol and Drug Partnership Act, which would improve the prevention, screening, and treatment of substance abuse for parents with children in the child welfare system. The bill would provide \$1.9 billion over the next five years to States that develop cooperative arrangements between their substance abuse and child abuse agencies to provide services to the parents of at-risk children. Bipartisan companion legislation has been introduced by Senators SNOWE, ROCKEFELLER, DEWINE, and DODD.

Under the bill, the funding would be disbursed to States based on the number of children in the State. To receive their allotment under the program, States would be required to spend a match starting at 15% in 2001, rising to 25% in 2005. In addition, they would be required to provide a detailed analysis of their current efforts to address substance abuse issues for families in the child welfare system and specify the additional steps they intend to pursue with the new funding (supplanting of existing funds would be prohibited). Funding could be used for a variety of specific activities, including: providing preventive and early intervention services for children of parents with alcohol and drug problems; expanding the availability of substance abuse treatment, including residential treatment, for parents involved with the child welfare system; and improving the screening and assessment of sub-

stance abuse problems for families in the child welfare system.

I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this proposal, which is strongly supported by the Children's Defense Fund, the Child Welfare League of America, the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, and the American Public Human Services Association.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
CAN REDUCE ACCIDENTS

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to one of the leading causes of injury and death to small children—backing vehicles. Most Americans probably do not give much thought to backing out of their driveway, or a parking space at the local supermarket. Yet reversing the car presents a danger to our children, as well as to the disabled and elderly, that can no longer be ignored.

Children under the age of two are more likely to suffer non-traffic-related injuries or fatalities in driveways, parking lots, or sidewalks than any other age group. Moreover, over half of all pedestrian injuries to children in this age group occurs when a vehicle is backing up. Toddlers are especially vulnerable because they are exposed to traffic threats that exceed their cognitive, developmental and sensory abilities. Children have difficulty judging speed, spatial relationships and distance. The risk to disabled individuals and the elderly must also be considered, as they can be unable to move out of the way of a backing vehicle. The risk is augmented as cars get bigger and taller, increasing a driver's "blind spot" behind the car, making the driver unaware of what my lie behind.

Unfortunately, families in my home state of Colorado are already painfully aware of the danger posed by backing vehicles. In Greeley, Colorado, a grandfather accidentally backed over his 18-month-old grandson with a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV), killing the child last December. A few months later, tragedy struck a couple in Denver when an elderly man on an electric scooter was fatally injured when his wife accidentally backed their minivan into him in the driveway of their home.

At this time, there are no concrete studies to show the dangers of backing vehicles. I ask the Department of Transportation to conduct a study to determine the number of fatalities, injuries and property damage caused by slow-speed backing vehicle accidents. I urge my colleagues to support such a study.

HONORING DONALD WEBER

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, today I invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Donald Weber on the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of Community School District 21.

Donald Weber has long been known for his commitment to the children of Community

School District 21 and to providing them with the finest educational opportunities that public education can provide. Donald Weber is truly representative of the best that our community has to offer.

As Superintendent of Community School District 21 for the last seventeen years, Donald Weber developed numerous special programs including: Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented, Project ADAPT (a model program that is an alternative to suspension), a strong parent involvement program as evidence by the activities of the District Parents' Workshop, the Brooklyn Studio Secondary School, a model inclusionary middle/high school and The Bay Academy For the Arts and Sciences, a magnet school for children interested in the sciences.

Under the dedicated leadership of Donald Weber, standardized reading and math scores of District 21's students continue to rank among the highest in New York City and the number of students achieving at or above grade level continues to increase.

In recognition of his stature as a dynamic educator and for his efforts on behalf of the students of Community School District 21, Donald Weber has received numerous awards including being named as the New York State Superintendent of the Year 1999–2000.

Donald Weber is a lifetime resident of Community School District 21 and is a product of its schools. A graduate of Public School 177, Donald Weber has routinely demonstrated his commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents. He is former member of Community Planning Board 13 and is a founding member of the Shorefront Friends For Hospice, Inc.

Donald Weber has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those with whom he has come into contact. Through his dedicated efforts, he has helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of his many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents and their children, I offer my congratulations to Donald Weber on the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of Community School District 21.

**SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION  
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
ACT PROGRAMS**

**HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Violence Against Women Act and to encourage its reauthorization by Congress and the President.

As you know, legislation proposing a federal response to the problem of violence against women was first introduced in 1990, although violence against my gender has been recognized as a serious social problem since the late 1970's. Previous enactment of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) measures have resulted in grant programs and new penalties aimed at increasing awareness and reducing the occurrence of crimes against women. Reauthorization of VAWA ensures that our protection of women and perseverance in this area does not lapse, and provides support for

the next five years to the law enforcement, hotlines, shelters and services, and community initiatives that assist our cities and localities in dealing with these types of crimes.

Through this program, we have been able to better educate the American public how to respond to crimes against women. This funding has allowed us to bring bring domestic violence out of the shadows and into the forefront. For example, in my district of Louisville, since VAWA money has become available our area has become a model for other jurisdictions because of its multi-disciplinary approach to domestic violence. Agencies and organizations, previously struggling to cooperate with each other, now are working together.

As a community we have received approximately \$5.5 million in VAWA money. Our police are better trained and educated concerning the cycle of domestic violence. Victim advocates now work side by side with the police to provide a better response to victims of domestic violence. More evidence is being collected than ever before, and more victims are taking the brave step of coming forward and more convictions are stopping the cycle of abuse.

Violence against women is not solely a problem for women. Every case that is left unaddressed has the potential to create more violence, to fuel a downward spiral of mental and physical abuse and to destroy more families. I believe the initiatives begun in 1990 go a long way in addressing the need for a tougher stance in this area. We must continue our commitment to increasing personal safety for everyone, and focus our efforts on programs that work to educate the public and prevent future crimes. We must work to limit the devastating consequences that occur to our women, our families and society as a whole.

I encourage Congress to again support the VAWA programs which are so vital to combatting the occurrence of domestic abuse, before authorization expires on September 30, 2000.

**DR. FRANK LEGGETT—FAMED  
BASSFIELD DOCTOR RETIRES**

**HON. RONNIE SHOWS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you, my colleagues and the American people to tell you about an American treasure—Dr. Frank Leggett of Bassfield. Dr. Leggett has been a judge, mayor, coroner, alderman, football team physician, church deacon, and hospital chief of staff. In his spare time, Dr. Leggett delivered 300 precious lives to the community of Bassfield and our part of Mississippi. He brought lives into this world, then he nurtured them, served them and took care of them. Dr. Leggett gave more than he received. Our home, my home, Bassfield, is forever a better place because of the contributions of Dr. Frank Leggett.

Dr. Leggett was born in Brookhaven, MS, back in 1926. His early life was marked by our Nation's Great Depression and our greatest war—World War II. Dr. Leggett is part of the greatest generation who not only endured, but survived and built and gave. He and his generation gave us the greatest nation on the

planet. He is a graduate of Ole Miss and Baylor. He worked in Meridian and then came to Bassfield in 1956.

He says he retired on June 30 of this year. But, I have to say, after 40 years on the Bassfield Board of Alderman, and Medical Staff President for 25 years at Jefferson Davis County Hospital (now Prentiss Regional Hospital) I don't think we will really allow this retirement to happen. He will still be with us. Dr. Leggett will be with us caring and giving and sharing like he always has. Dr. Leggett will be at church and across our community serving us as always.

Dr. Leggett loves to travel. He has seen most of our world. But he always made it back home to Bassfield where he belonged and where we needed him. I am indeed honored to stand before the American people and say thank you to Dr. Frank Leggett.

**STRICT CRIMINAL LIABILITY RE-  
FORM FOR OIL SPILL INCIDENTS**

**HON. DAVID VITTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today with Congressmen COBLE and CLEMENT to introduce legislation to eliminate the application of strict criminal liability for maritime transportation-related oil spills. Contrary to the objectives of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, commonly referred to as OPA90, strict criminal liability serves to undermine the safe and reliable maritime transportation of oil products, and prevents timely, effective and cooperative cleanup operations in the diminishing number of situations when an oil spill occurs.

Through comprehensive congressional action just a decade ago that led to the enactment and implementation of OPA90, the United States has successfully reduced the number of oil spills in the maritime environment and has established a cooperative public/private partnership to respond effectively to the diminishing number of situations when an oil spill occurs. The Congress, through the enactment of OPA90, carefully balanced the imposition of stronger criminal and civil penalties with the need to promote enhanced cooperation in spill prevention and response efforts. In so doing, the Congress clearly enumerated the circumstances where stringent criminal penalties could be imposed in maritime oil spill incidents.

But this carefully crafted approach is being undermined in practice. Antiquated, unrelated "strict liability" statutes that do not require any showing of "knowledge" or "intent"—specifically—the Migratory Bird Treaty and the Refuse Act—are increasingly utilized as a basis for criminal investigation and prosecution for oil spill incidents. As stated in a U.S. Coast Guard directive, a company and employees, in the event of an oil spill, "could be convicted and sentenced to a criminal fine even where [they] took all reasonable precautions to avoid the discharge". Such turn-of-the-century statutes as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Refuse Act, in effect, have turned every oil spill into a potential crime scene without regard to fault or intent, and thus have undermined the cooperation and responsiveness that Congress sought to foster when it enacted OPA90.

Furthermore, strict criminal liability forces responsible members of the marine transportation industry to face an extreme dilemma in the event of an oil spill—provide less than full cooperation and response as criminal defense attorneys will certainly direct, or cooperative full despite the risk of criminal prosecution that would result from any additional actions or statements made during the course of the spill response. The only method available to companies and their employees to avoid the risk of criminal liability completely is to get out of the Marine oil transport business altogether.

Mr. Speaker, in May 1998, the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee conducted oversight hearing on criminal liability for oil pollution. The Coast Guard, the primary federal maritime agency tasked with the implementation and enforcement of OPA90, testified at that hearing that it does not rely on strict criminal liability statutes in assessing culpability for oil spill incidents. With the support of other organizations, including the Chamber of Shipping of America, INTERTANKO, the Transportation Institute, and the Water Quality Insurance Syndicate (WQIS), American Waterways Operators (AWO) and two tank vessel captains testified as to the adverse impact that strict criminal liability has on the oil spill prevention and response objectives of OPA90. Notably, one tank vessel captain observed that “strict criminal liability does not make [him] do [his] job better; it only produces counterproductive stress”. He continued by stating the following: “Because of the current [criminal liability] situation I cannot and will not encourage my children to follow in my footsteps. Nor can I encourage anyone else to enter the marine petroleum transportation business. Yet the industry needs good people. Strict criminal liability is a tremendous deterrent to anyone considering entering the industry at this time.”

Similarly, the other tank vessel captain testified that responsible vessel owners and operators do everything humanly possible to avoid accidents, but that “the sea being a place of infinite peril, if accidents occur, despite human precautions, we must use all of the marines’ skills to contain damage and to get the oil out of the water”. He continued by stating that the “increased emphasis on applying criminal sanctions to incidents where oil gets into the water, regardless of whether the spill is caused by reckless or grossly negligent human actions, will undermine our ability to respond successfully in the case of the spill.” The captain further stated that the “masters, officers and crew of tank vessels should be the best in the business”, but that “if they are driven from this area by criminal enforcement policies, we will end up with mediocrity where we should have excellence.” I concur with these observations. Strict criminal liability does not improve the marine transportation industry’s ability to attract or retain experienced vessel masters and crews, and does not further the oil spill prevention and response goals of OPA90.

Mr. Speaker, again in March 1999, the House Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Subcommittee and the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee conducted an oversight hearing to review the implementation of OPA90 on the 10th anniversary of the EXXON VALDEZ oil spill in Alaska. Notably, the issue of criminal liability in oil spill incidents are raised several times during the

hearing where AWO, the American Petroleum Institute (API), INTERTANKO, and the Chamber of Shipping of America all stated that the threat of strict criminal liability of oil pollution incidents requires immediate reform and that the issue is their top legislative priority.

The Coast Guard recently confirmed that its “criminal prosecution of environmental crimes is reserved for only the most egregious cases, where evidence of willful misconduct, culpable negligence, failure to report a spill, or attempts to falsify records, is considered with significant harm to the environment or the thread of such harm.” However, despite the fact that the “Coast Guard has never a case based on strict liability violations”, other agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, have prosecuted at least four vessel pollution cases since the enactment of OPA90 using strict criminal liability statutes. The availability and use of such statutes continues to undermine cooperative and effective oil spill prevention and response efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation we are introducing today will not change the tough criminal sanctions, that were imposed in OPA90. Rather, the legislation will reform the pre-eminent role of OPA90 as the statute which provides the exclusive criminal penalties for oil spills. In so doing, it will eliminate the unjustified use of strict liability statutes that undermine the very objectives which OPA90 sought to achieve, namely to enhance the prevention of and response to oil spills.

#### RECOGNIZING AN EAST TEXAS STUDENT

#### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Taylor Garrett of Van, TX, for his research efforts in Madrid, Spain, last summer that formed the basis for his Honors thesis during his senior year at Southwestern University in Texas. He and his professor, Dr. Daniel Castro, spent 6 weeks at the Archivo Historico Nacional de Madrid researching 16th to 19th century documents dealing with the Spanish Inquisition. To be chosen for this research opportunity was a great honor, and Taylor was chosen due to his proficiency in the Spanish language and his strong interest in the history of this period.

Once in Madrid, these two researchers catalogued materials from archives in an effort to discover the role of women and other “voiceless” constituencies during the colonial Inquisition. For 6 weeks Taylor’s main role was to translate paleography—a symbol-based language—into English. Southwestern University supports collaborative research between students and faculty, and I am proud that this young Texan from my district was selected to participate in this important project.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of Taylor Garrett and to commend him for his enthusiasm for learning, his willingness to work hard, and his commitment to high academic standards—qualities that are crucial to our Nation’s continued leadership in research and discovery efforts in all fields.

#### THE FERES DOCTRINE

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek recognition to introduce a bill that will overturn what has come to be known as the “Feres doctrine.” In introducing this legislation I hope to rectify a grave injustice that has been perpetuated upon our servicemen and women and pay tribute to a truly inspirational young woman, Kerry O’Neill. Kerry O’Neill grew up in Kingston, Pennsylvania in my Congressional District, and I had the pleasure of nominating her for admission to the United States Naval Academy.

On December 1, 1993, Kerry O’Neill, a “graduate with the distinction” of the United States Naval Academy in the top ten percent of her class, was brutally murdered by her former fiance, Ensign George Smith, while sitting in her on-base apartment watching a movie with a friend, who was also killed. Ensign Smith, who was to have commenced his first tour of duty on a nuclear submarine the next day, then shot himself.

O’Neill had a superb record at the Academy setting athletic records for the fastest time run by an Academy cross-country runner and for the indoor and outdoor track 5,000 meter runs. In 1992 she was the first female athlete in any Naval Academy sport to qualify for the NCAS Division I Championships. She was also the recipient of the Vice Admiral William P. Lawrence Sword as the outstanding female athlete in her class.

Her accomplishments, however, paled in comparison to her intelligence, dedication, and enthusiasm, which made her an “inspiration” to those who knew her. As James E. Brockington, Jr., Commander, USN wrote of Kerry, “Gone too soon is that smile that brightened the darkest of days. Lost are those sparkling eyes that mirrored our quest for perfection. A leader, a dreamer, a source of unparalleled excellence—she is gone too soon.”

In attempting to understand this tragedy, and what could have caused Ensign Smith to commit such murderous act, Kerry’s parents learned that Ensign Smith had scored in the 99.99th percentile for aggressive/destructive behavior in Navy psychological tests. To evaluate his psychological fitness for the unique demands of submarine duty, Ensign Smith had, two months before the shooting, been required to submit to the Navy’s “Sub-screen” test. Ensign Smith scored more than four standard deviations above the normal levels for aggressive/destructive behavior and more than two standard deviations above normal levels in six other categories. Because Ensign Smith’s results were well above the two-standard deviations above norms in multiple categories, under non-discretionary Navy regulations his abnormal test results were referred to a Navy psychologist, who in turn was required to conduct a full evaluation. The Navy civilian psychology responsible for reviewing the unusual scores and evaluating Smith, simply fail to conduct any such review or evaluation. This failure to review was a clear violation of Navy regulations (Compl. Paragraphs 10–15; Pet. App. 15a–17a). A psychological evaluation could have identified the potential for this destructive act and possibly prevented this tragedy from occurring.

Based on this negligent behavior by the Navy psychologist, the O'Neills filed suit seeking damages for the injury and death of their daughter under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Their case was dismissed pursuant to the Feres doctrine, based on the reasoning that because at the time of her death Kerry O'Neill was in her military quarters and was on active duty status, her injuries and death were "incident to military service."

In the 1950 case of *Feres v. United States*, the Supreme Court created a broad exception to the federal government's general liability under the Federal Tort Claims Act, where the service member's injury arises out of or is "in the course of activity incident to service." Since this initial ruling, the Court has departed from the original justifications for its holding and has expanded the ruling based on vague and broad policy justifications, not intended by Congress when it enacted the Federal Tort Claims Act. In passing the Federal Tort Claims Act, Congress intended to prohibit tort claims against the federal government by a military member or his or her family only when the injuries arise "out of the combatant activities of the military or naval forces, or the Coast Guard, during time of war." Kerry O'Neill's death was the result of a social relationship and the negligent failure of a Navy civilian psychiatrist to further evaluate Ensign Smith, not due to her involvement in combat, and in actuality, not incident to her service.

Congress wrote the statute to prohibit claims for injuries "arising out of the combatant activities of the military or naval forces, or the Coast Guard, during time of war," because we do not want to allow soldiers or their families to be able to sue the government in a combat situation, when countless decisions are made that ultimately result in the death or injury of the service member. In order to protect the integrity of military command decisions, we cannot have any and all instances of death or injury brought and questioned by juries.

Such considerations, however, do not necessitate that military personnel lose their ability to recover for clearly negligent behavior by the federal government, just as every other individual in this country is allowed to do. Unfortunately, the individuals hurt most by the Feres doctrine are those men and women who commit their lives to the service of their country. These individuals should be protected by our laws, not punished. As case after case has demonstrated, the consequences of this doctrine are unjust. Private Charles A. Richards, Jr., who was off-duty, was killed by an Army truck, whose driver had run a red light. He was driving home from work at Fort Knox to care for his then-pregnant wife. His wife was unable to recover damages. Another service woman, who had given birth to twins, discovered one of her twins suffered bodily injury and the other died due to the negligent prenatal care at a military hospital. She was unable to recover damages. Such unjust outcomes were clearly not the intention of Congress.

The Feres doctrine has been the subject of harsh criticism. In dissenting from the denial of rehearing en banc in *Richards v. United States*, four judges of the Third Circuit, including Chief Judge Becker, called the Feres doctrine a "travesty" and urged the Supreme Court to consider the case. Numerous law review articles have also been written on the

case, decrying the doctrine. Additionally, Feres's critics have included at least three current Justices of the Supreme Court, who have argued that Feres was wrong when decided.

My legislation, like the companion bill introduced by the senior Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, simply seeks to overturn the judicially created Feres doctrine, while leaving in place the original intention of Congress to prohibit tort claims arising out of combatant activities during times of war. The legislation amends the Federal Tort Claims Act to specifically provide that the Act applies to military personnel on active duty to the same as it applies to anyone else. There is no reason to deny our military men and women the just compensation they deserve when they are injured or killed as a result of the negligent actions of the Federal government or its agents outside the heat of combat.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation will not bring back Kerry O'Neill, or the other two service members, who were harmed by their government in this one instance. Nor will this legislation bring compensation to their families. But hopefully, this legislation will right this unjust doctrine, and help to prevent similar tragedies in the future. We need to address this situation as quickly as possible and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING CARYN BART OF RIVER  
EDGE, NEW JERSEY

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Caryn Bart of River Edge, New Jersey, a nurse who works at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, who went far beyond the call of duty to help a family with their struggle through a horrible tragedy.

Armando and Erika Herrera, from Garfield, New Jersey, who both work at Holy Name Hospital, recently suffered the tragic loss of their seven-year-old son, Daniel. On June 9, 2000, mother and son traveled to visit relatives in Hungary. Two days later, while Mrs. Herrera lay down flowers at her mother's grave, an elevated headstone tipped over, fell, and fractured Daniel's skull.

As Mr. and Mrs. Herrera were naturally stunned and dazed by these events, not knowing what to do, Caryn Bart took it upon herself to help the Herrera's in their time of need. Ms. Bart, who has four children and is married to Steve Bart, became a registered nurse in 1997 after graduating from Bergen Community College.

Through Ms. Bart's facilitation, the Herreras received calls from doctors in London, Helsinki and New York. A special flight was arranged to take them to a children's hospital in London. All that could have been done was done. Unfortunately, Daniel died of his injuries a few days later.

Although nothing can help Armando and Erika Herrera through this terrible loss, the efforts of Ms. Bart must be acknowledged. She is truly a great American and worthy of much praise and thanks. What Ms. Bart did is a wonderful example of the gift of loving kindness. She is an inspiration and an example of what compassion generosity are for all of us.

Angels walk among us and many of the nurses of America, like Caryn Bart, are these angels.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD  
PROVIDE LENDING CAPITAL FOR  
ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE  
DRY AND WET CLEANING  
SMALL BUSINESSES

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a Sense of the Congress Resolution that would urge financial institutions to promote environmentally responsible dry and wet cleaning processes and to work with business enterprises to provide streams of capital to protect the environment.

I am offering this important resolution to help bring to light the situation that our nation's small dry and wet cleaning businesses face with regard to the cleaning process that most of the small cleaning establishments utilize—namely, perchloroethylene (perc) and petroleum based solvents. Perc and petroleum based solvents are known pollutants; they contaminate the air, land and groundwater. However, there are other options available to small dry and wet cleaning businesses.

On Thursday, July 20, 2000, the Small Business Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports, which I chair, held an extraordinarily important hearing on H.R. 1303, the Environmental Dry Cleaning Tax Credit Act. This bipartisan bill, introduced jointly by Representatives DAVE CAMP and DAVID PRICE, is an incentive-based approach to resolving the complex environmental problems the dry cleaning industry faces as a result of its use of perc, a hazardous waste when it is emitted into the air and groundwater. There are nearly 35,000 dry cleaners across the country. Most employ only a handful of workers. They are truly small businesses.

H.R. 1303 provides a 20 percent tax credit toward the purchase of new equipment that uses non-hazardous waste producing wet and dry cleaning technology. Recent technological developments utilize carbon dioxide—the same chemical compound found in sodas (or pop, depending on what part of the nation you represent). Carbon dioxide is obviously not harmful to the environment, since we consume it and our vegetation thrives on it.

Like all new ideas on the market, this technology is expensive. That is exactly why the tax credit is necessary. While there are costs associated with H.R. 1303, they are far outweighed, in our view, by the expenses associated with cleaning up the dry cleaning solvents that have been used for decades. For example, in North Carolina, it is estimated that once the assessment and remediation for sites contaminated from the use of perc, costs using the state's own "cost-per-site" estimates could approach \$72 million to \$90 million annually. The State of Florida has estimated that it has 2,700 contaminated dry cleaning sites that are requiring almost \$1.5 billion needed for clean-up. The numbers are staggering for nationwide clean up costs, which could approach nearly \$20 billion—far outweighing the costs estimated for H.R. 1303.

After we heard testimony from the witnesses at our hearing, I was approached by a gentleman from the Bank of America, who shared with me the situation facing the dry and wet cleaning industry from the perspective of banks. He stated that the "severe and costly nature of environmental issues has virtually eliminated dry cleaners' access to conventional bank capital over the past seven to eight years." He pointed to one overwhelming reason: fear over liability as a result of contamination from perc and petroleum solvents.

I submit his letter for printing in the RECORD. However, I want to share with you the assessment by the Bank of America that financial institutions face because of these environmental risks. These include: (1) direct legal liability; (2) complete asset value loss; (3) partial asset value loss; and (4) indirect operation risk.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious that the concerns of our nation's financial industry are serious enough to shy away from lending to a specific industry. But what is striking is the extent upon which the Bank of America is willing to share with Congress about why they will not lend to dry cleaners that use perc or petroleum based solvents.

What is encouraging is that the Bank of America, along with other lending institutions, such as the Central Carolina Bank, have determined that dry and wet cleaning processes that utilize carbon dioxide technology and other non-hazardous waste causing substances deserve financial backing. I am sure that other banks across the country have similar lending policies. Although I do not know specifically which one, I invite those banks to contact and confirm this with me. I, in turn, will share this information with my colleagues.

I want to reiterate the important of this resolution. There is a need that must be met. We have an enormous number of dry and wet cleaning businesses in the United States that find it difficult to obtain financial backing from lending institutions because of environmental concerns. The reason I am offering this resolution, along with my colleagues, is that I believe the American public needs to be aware of this safer, environmentally sound dry and wet cleaning technology. There are options out there, and I encourage our financial institutions to work with our dry and wet cleaners to expand this new environmentally safe technology.

BANK OF AMERICA,  
SMALL BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT,  
Raleigh, NC, July 25, 2000.

Re H.R. 1303, the Environmental Dry Cleaning Tax Credit Act.

Hon. DONALD A. MANZULLO,  
Member of Congress, Chairman, House Small Business Subcommittee on Tax, Finance, and Exports, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MANZULLO: Thank you for speaking with me at last Thursday's post-hearing luncheon briefing. As I stated then, the severe and costly nature of environmental issues have virtually eliminated dry cleaners' access to conventional bank capital over the past 7-8 years. There is one overwhelming reason for this—chemical contamination from perchloroethylene and petroleum solvents.

The historical environment risk to banks of lending to dry cleaners can be broken down into four groups:

(a) *Direct Legal Liability*—Simply being in the chain of title after a foreclosure can create varying degrees of bank responsibility for funding property cleanups.

(b) *Complete Asset Value Loss*—The extent of contamination is often such that banks will

"walk away" from foreclosure and write off the entire asset value.

(c) *Partial Asset Value Loss*—Even if the bank is not liable for cleanup operations, or the cleanup is not so extensive to justify a complete loss, banks can only sell contaminated, foreclosed properties for a small fraction of what the appraised value was at loan origination—before the contamination! Banks must write off the difference.

(d) *Indirect Operational Risk*—Even if the bank is not taking a lien on real property, there is still a high risk due to the potential for significant unexpected expenses associated with dry cleaning operations. These expenses include spill clean-up costs, regulatory fines, operational interruption due to permit loss, and increased costs due to various employee health issues.

Regardless of how much better today's perchloroethylene or petroleum based dry cleaning machines are when compared to older machines, the risks noted above persist. While updated perchloroethylene and petroleum equipment may decrease the discharge of hazardous chemical solvents, they cannot eliminate them. Thus, banks will continue to avoid financing the equipment, the property on which they're located and the operator who uses them.

The complete elimination of the risks noted above by the CO<sub>2</sub> process would clearly be the single most important positive development in the relationship between banks and dry cleaners in over a decade. However, this does not mean that banks will immediately be welcoming back dry cleaners. The removal of the environmental bank risk due to hazardous solvents is replaced with the financial risk of high leverage due to the cost of the new CO<sub>2</sub> technology. Tax incentives such as those included in H.R. 1303 would significantly help to make this important new technology financially viable for dry cleaners and thus create a credit risk atmosphere acceptable to federally insured banks and banking regulatory agencies.

Bank of America is the leading lender to small businesses in the United States with \$6.8 billion in commercial loans to businesses with less than \$10 million in annual revenue. The average dry cleaner personifies what we would love to include in our portfolio—small, hard working, mostly family owned businesses with close ties to their communities. Legislation such as H.R. 1303 should allow these business owners to replace existing high interest loans, expensive leases, and less than desirable commercial locations with access to the conventional bank capital needed for commercial viability and sustainable long-term growth.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH C. BONNER,  
Vice President, Small Business Risk Management, Commercial Credit Policy Development.

HONORING CANDACE GUYTON AND  
BYRON C. SMITH

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Candace Guyton and Byron C. Smith, two Arlington, TX, teenagers whose artistic achievements earned them medals in a scholastic competition held at the NAACP national convention earlier this month.

Byron won a second-place silver medal and \$750 in scholarship money for his entry in the

film making-video category at the NAACP-sponsored Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT SO) competition. Byron beat out more than 20 other students from across the country with his three-minute documentary cartoon about Bill Pickett, a Texas cowboy who pioneered the process of "bulldozing."

Candace won a \$500 scholarship and a third-place bronze medal in the vocal contemporary music category. Not only did Candace demonstrate her tremendous vocal skills, but she performed an original song, "A Thing Called Love."

Congratulations again to Byron Smith and Candace Guyton and the proud parents of these wonderfully talented teenagers. Your tremendous achievements in Baltimore have made our North Texas community proud. Your success in the ACT SO competition is proof that you can succeed in anything you choose.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 255, I was unable to vote because of a family commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall no. 256, I was unable to vote because of a family commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; and on rollcall no. 298, I was unable to vote because of a scheduling conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### RECOGNIZING RICHARD SCHWARTZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Schwartz for the significant contributions he has made throughout the United States through his commitment to Goodwill Industries.

Richard Schwartz serves as a member of the Board of Governors of Goodwill Industries in Santa Clara County, CA, and has served on religious, organizational, and government boards in Boston, MA, and professional and health care organizations in New Jersey.

In addition to serving in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1953-1954, Richard has worked in interior design, insurance sales, and pharmaceuticals, and served as director of Government and Trade Operations and vice president of Customer and Industry Affairs for Syntex Laboratories Inc.

Richard Schwartz chaired the National Wholesale Druggist's Association health care awareness event and produced and co-directed a major health care conference at the University of Southern California Center of Excellence in Health Care Management.

Not only has Richard Schwartz served as a member of the board and chairman of the Government Affairs Committee of Goodwill and served Santa Clara County, but he also represented 13 communities throughout the State by serving on the Council of California

Goodwill Industries. After dedicated service to both the State and Goodwill Industries, Richard received the Chairman's Award by Goodwill Industries International for outstanding leadership in a volunteer capability.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Schwartz has been an active volunteer who has greatly increased the visibility of the Goodwill mission. It is appropriate that we recognize Richard at this time for his commitment and devotion to community service, the Goodwill organization and to our Nation.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF  
RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today we are commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This law has proven to make a tremendous impact on the lives of 54 million individuals in our country.

In the past decade, Americans with disabilities have been provided protection in employment, public services, public accommodations, as well as services operated by private entities, and transportation, telecommunications providers.

Since the passage of the ADA, millions of Americans have had the opportunity to contribute to society by being able to work in all fields of employment.

This monumental law has also allowed disabled Americans to enjoy life by increasing their access to recreational activities as well as removing obstacles to business and leisure travel.

Because of the ADA more and more individuals are able to travel with their families or guide dogs with better accommodations and less barriers. People with disabilities now have more access to shopping areas, dining facilities, theaters, travel services, and much more.

The ADA has helped to ensure equal employment opportunity as well as allowed individuals to materialize their educational and professional goals.

This law has opened up many doors to millions of Americans by allowing them to lead independent and self-sufficient lives. The ADA has been an important tool in the fight to eliminate all forms of discrimination. The ADA has provided reasonable accommodations in the workplace. The ADA has made major differences in the lives of many individuals.

Let's all celebrate the anniversary of the passage of this important law and celebrate the lives of millions of Americans.

LETTER FROM CARMEN SABRIA

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, this letter was brought to my attention by a constituent of mine in the 25th district of California, and I find it fitting to include it in the CONGRESSIONAL

RECORD. I believe Ms. Sabria sheds a whole new light on the Elian Gonzalez case, in retrospect, and highlights many of the freedoms Americans take for granted.

LETTER TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT UNDERSTAND: Elianated yet? I am. And duly so. It seems like an unending saga and we're all sick of it by now. But after Holy Saturday's events, even I, a pretty impartial Cuban-American, feel obligated to at least help you, my Anglo-American and African-American friends understand why the Cuban community is so outraged!

To reunite a little boy with his father is a beautiful thing. To do it with a gun at his head is not! If I can remember the small trauma when I was only two years old and my father put me and my mother in the bathroom while he nailed the ironing board to the front door to protect us from a big hurricane, I am certain this six year old will never forget this day! To take a little boy back to his real home is wonderful. But Elian is not going home to Cardenas, his home town, oh no . . . He's going to an 11-room mansion in Havana where he is going to live with his parents, yes, but also with other children and some "teachers" . . . Is that "home" or an indoctrination camp?

To some of you, most of the impassioned Cubans you have seen on T.V. today may seem irrational in their desire to keep that little boy in this free land. To us who see a child miraculously saved from the treacherous, shark-filled waters of the Florida strait, after his mother risked his life and lost hers to bring him to a place where he could be raised as a free man, where is wonderful spirit could develop and his ideas find expression, it seems criminal to send him back to a country where individual thought is an abomination, and free speech a crime.

A beautiful, fertile land that could still be as it was four decades ago, the most prosperous and advanced of all Latin America, where now children can only drink milk for a few years before their "quota" is removed, where medical doctors give up their practice to work as taxi drivers so they can earn U.S. dollars to feed their families because the peso has no value anymore; where young women prostitute themselves to tourists as the only way to earn that precious "dollar" that will buy their children some shoes; where children must join the communist "pioneros" movement with their red berets and are taught to sing communist songs and hate Americans, and youngsters grow to be "Communist Youth" members and are kept from dreaming dreams by being fed stories of upcoming invasions from "the enemy"; a country where artists and writers can only produce art that follows the government line; and fathers like Juan Miguel must obey what Fidel Castro orders him to say and do rather than do what is best for his child.

Do you know that Elian's father asked for a U.S. visa twice before little Elian came, and that he called his relatives here to let them know his child was coming here with his mom?

But little Elian will soon be reunited with his father and with his grandparents in that paradise island and we should be happy about that. No, maybe we're not acting out of concern over Elian and what his life is going to be like when he goes back "home". Maybe we're acting out of the pain that's in every one of these acclimated, prosperous, hard-working Cuban-Americans who cannot forget.

How can I forget the eight months I had to work in the fields shoveling dirt and pulling weeds as punishment because I had requested a visa to leave the country? How can I forget that my friends and I were kicked out of the University of Havana, even though we had

the highest scores in our class, just because we had not joined the Communist Party's Cuban Youth group? How can I forget the long year my godmother spent in jail for suspicion of counter-revolutionary activities and was never the same woman again? How can I forget Eddy who died of suffocation when they packed them like sardines in a truck after being captured in Bay of Pigs... He was a handsome young man in his early twenties. How can I forget the months my cousin Ramon spent in the dungeons of La Cabana Castle right after the BoP invasions (just for being a young man and not belonging to the communist militia), where they almost starved him to death and where he heard the shots every night of those who were being executed. How can my friend Marta forget the ten years she waited in Castro's Cuba while her husband, a young poet, wasted away most of the time in solitary confinement, surrounded by rats and roaches, and the ten more years she spent in the States struggling to get him out? This poet is the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Armando Valladares. Do you know that due to the terrible tortures and malnutrition he suffered when they finally got together after 20 years, he could not give her the children she had longed for and they had to adopt? Or Emilita, who sent her children to live with her parents in the States to keep them safe while she stayed behind with her husband who was serving 20 years in political prison? When she saw her children again, they were no longer children.

The stories are endless, my friends, every Cuban in this country has a story, and it is those stories that are crying out today. The story of a people who felt betrayed after the Missile Crisis when President Kennedy signed a pact with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev never to allow Cubans to plot another invasion to free their land . . . The story of a people who are feeling betrayed again because one of our own who was saved from the sharks is now being sent back to the biggest shark of all . . . Fidel Castro, who will indoctrinate him and turn him into an icon of his propaganda or, if he doesn't succeed, will destroy his spirit by turning him into a frustrated youngster with no way out.

My friends, I apologize for this "speech" but I thought it was time for this formerly not very outspoken Cuban to speak out. I know you will understand.

CARMEN SABRIA,  
Miami, Florida.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. JOE N.  
BALLARD

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lt. Gen. Joe N. Ballard, 49th Chief of Engineers and Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who is retiring from his post after 35 commendable years of service to our Nation.

Lt. Gen. Ballard assumed command of the Corps of Engineers on October 1, 1996, and has been responsible for an annual budget of over \$12 billion and a leadership of a workforce of more than 35,000 civilian and military personnel worldwide.

During his tenure as Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Ballard led the Corps of Engineers in a

number of significant accomplishments. Among them were restructuring all levels of the organization, streamlining major changes in business practices, reemphasizing the Corps' missions in support of the Army and Department of Defense, and strengthening the organization's commitment to serve the nation and its vital interests.

Lt. Gen. Ballard has managed Army Corps of Engineers missions—including the nation's vast Civil Works Program, environmental restoration, and construction on military installations. His leadership has guided the Corps in assisting with recovery from natural disasters as well as regulating work in the Nation's waterways and wetlands, conducting research and development, serving as the Army and Air Force real estate agent, and providing engineering services to 60 other Federal agencies and more than 80 other nations. Earlier, he served as Commander of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, with great distinction.

In addition to the military honors that he has achieved, the Council of Deans of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Career Communications Group recognized Lt. Gen. Ballard as the 1998 Black Engineer of the Year. He has also been the 1998–1999 president of the Society of American Military Engineers and a member of the National Engineering Honor society, Tau Beta Pi.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Gen. Ballard has had an outstanding career in the Corps of Engineers and with the Army. He will surely be missed by everyone at those organizations. As he retires, I wish Joe and his wife Tessie all the best. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American.

#### HONORING MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am rising today to honor five of my constituents who have been named to the Honor Roll of Volunteers by the Appalachian Trail Conference [ATC].

Phyllis Henry, Jim Botts, Lionel Edney, Bill Kerr, and Dick Ketelle are among the 75 people who received this award because of their hard work which symbolizes the efforts and dedication of thousands of volunteers who help manage and protect the Appalachian Trail.

The Volunteer Honor Roll was established to celebrate ATC's 75th anniversary this year. Founded in 1925 to promote, build, and protect the Appalachian Trail, ATC is one of the most successful volunteer-based conservation and outdoor recreation organizations in the United States.

As you know, the Appalachian Trail is one of America's premier hiking trails and the world's longest footpath. Located within a day's drive of two-thirds of the U.S. population, it is used each year by up to four million individuals from around the world.

It is only through the great work and leadership of individuals like these five people and organizations like the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, to which they all belong, that we are

able to protect and maintain this great national treasure.

Each of these individuals has dedicated thousands of hours over the years so that we could enjoy the Appalachian Trail. I would like to take the time to personally thank them for all of their work and to honor their great volunteer spirit for which Tennessee has been recognized for hundreds of years.

LORI BERENSON

#### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I support the recent letter signed by a majority of members of the House of Representatives urging the President to work for the release of Lori Berenson, an American Citizen illegally detained in a military prison in Peru.

It is ridiculous that I must bring up this issue yet again after four years. How many letters must we send to the President of Peru on Ms. Berenson's behalf. How many times must Mark and Rhoda Berenson appeal to members of their own government before they are reunited with their child?

Ms. Berenson was convicted four years ago of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment in Peru. The details of her case read like the script of a movie, secret Peruvian military tribunal, conviction in violation of international law, maximum security isolation, and now reports that her health is seriously threatened.

Ms. Berenson was convicted by a judicial system which has been characterized by the U.S. State Department as "inefficient, often subject to corruption, and easily controlled by the executive branch." The state department further states that "proceedings in the military courts—and those for terrorism in civilian court—do not meet internationally accepted standard of openness, fairness, and due process." Ms. Berenson's conviction has been condemned by the Organization of American States and the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights.

How does the American government, the most powerful government on the globe, the world's hegemon, sit by and allow this to happen. How can we continue to tell Mark and Rhoda Berenson "We're sorry, but there is nothing the United States of America can do to help free your daughter."

I cannot express in words, the pain I would feel if my child was being held illegally, health deteriorating. All of us in this chamber should try to imagine for just a moment the pain that is felt each and every day by the Berensons. We must then turn that sadness into a collective cry for action on the part of the administration. United States citizens must not be treated in such a barbaric manner.

I call on the President to act decisively. To use the vast resources of this great nation and demand Lori Berenson's release.

TAI KAI ATLANTA 2000

#### HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on August 18, 2000 a gathering will take place in Atlanta, Georgia of teachers and students of the traditional Japanese martial art of Ninjutsu. The International Bujinkan Tai Kai, as the gathering is called, will host visitors from every corner of the globe. They will be in Georgia to train under the guidance of Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi, the Grandmaster of Ninjutsu. Dr. Hatsumi is the 34th Grandmaster of Ninjutsu, is the founder of the Bujinkan Dojo, and is considered a national treasure by the Japanese government. Bujinkan, which means "Divine Warrior Hall," was named in honor of his teacher, Toshitsugu Takamatsu.

I am extremely pleased Dr. Hatsumi has chosen Atlanta, Georgia as the host city for International Bujinkan Tai Kai 2000. It is my sincere hope each participant will benefit from the principles of discipline, self respect, and respect for fellow man, at the heart of Bujinkan.

I submit the following for the RECORD.

TAI KAI,  
ATLANTA 2000,  
*July 1, 2000.*

Re: Request for Proclamation or Special Letter of Welcome  
Congressman BOB BARR,  
c/o Slade Gullede, Marietta Congressional Office, Marietta, GA.

DEAR MR. GULLEDGE: With regard to a conversation you had with a member of my staff, Sean Gerety, and later an e-mail, I am requesting a Proclamation from Bob Barr to Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi. Atlanta has been selected as the site of the International Bujinkan Tai Kai by Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi, the 24th generation grandmaster of the Bujinkan system. Dr. Hatsumi is the only grandmaster of the traditional Japanese martial art of ninjutsu, and consequently his selection of Atlanta for the Tai Kai constitutes an important event.

The Bujinkan Atlanta Dojo, America's original school of Japan's oldest martial art will be sponsoring the Tai Kai for the fifth time. Bud Malmstrom is the owner and 11 degree Black Belt instructor of this school. He began his training over 22 years ago. Bud's wife Bonnie, 9th degree Black Belt instructor has been the organizer of all five Tai Kai conventions. She was the first non-oriental and the third woman only in the world to pass the fifth degree black belt test.

Hatsumi's last visit to Atlanta was during the Olympic year, 1996. He decided in 1996 that he would like to revisit the fair and beautiful city of Atlanta for the Millennium 2000 American Tai Kai training celebration. August 18th 600 ninja scholars and enthusiasts from every corner of the world will convene in the Grand Ballroom of the OMNI Hotel at CNN Center to begin a four day training event with the grandmaster of ninjutsu. Ninjutsu simply stated; the skill of the ninja is the art of winning . . . "attaining that which we need while making the world a better place in which to live."

Please see the information included and provide us with a Proclamation if at all possible. We will have an opening reception August 18th and plan to bestow this to Dr. Hatsumi as a gesture of welcome. If there is anyone from your office who could present this award to Dr. Hatsumi, it would be wonderful. Please let me know where and when

we can pick up the proclamation. Thanking you sincerely,

With warmest regards,  
 BONNIE G. MALMSTROM,  
*Secretary/Treasurer.*

NICO FERRARO: 2000 LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, ALF-CIO

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nico Ferraro, business manager of the Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 230, as he is honored by the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO at the Eighteenth Annual John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet.

Nico Ferraro is being honored as the 2000 Labor Leader of the Year because he is an active labor leader who has gained a reputation for getting things done. His activism caught the attention of Local 230, and he was elected to the executive board in 1989. In 1992, he was elected pipefitter business representative and served in that capacity until his appointment as business manager in 1997.

As business manager of Local 230, he represents the 1600 member local union in many ways. He is a trustee to the pension and health and welfare funds, the secretary to the Joint Apprenticeship Committee, delegate to the District Council, and executive board member to the Building Trades and the Central Labor Council. He serves on a statewide committee for the International Union and is also a hearing officer for the International Union. He is a management trustee for the OPEIU pension.

Nico is dedicated to improving the wages, pension, and working conditions of his membership and demonstrating to all of San Diego the benefits of union membership. He has spoken before the Industrial Welfare Commission, the California Apprenticeship Council, to church groups and to community college students on the benefits of being a union member.

He is involved in all aspects of the labor movement. A number of his pro-union letters to the editor have been published in San Diego newspapers. He co-chairs the Labor Council Street Heat Committee. He raises money for Local 230's scholarship fund. Recently, he was appointed to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Board where he will be asked to determine the wages, work hours, and working conditions for the mining, drilling, and construction industries.

Nico's dad, uncles, brothers and neighbors in New York City were union members. He learned at an early age the value of union membership. He served a five-year steamfitter apprenticeship with one of the original United Autoworkers locals, Local 638. From the minute he was initiated into the union, he knew it was for him! A highlight was his work on the 110 story World Trade Center twin towers building in New York.

Nico has been married for the past fourteen years to his wife Lynn, who is a member of the California Teachers Association.

As a friend and supporter of the working man and woman, I want to sincerely congratulate Nico Ferraro on receiving this prestigious award for his long hours and intensive work in the cause of justice. It is an honor to know him and to support his work!

SECTION 907 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I stress the importance of retaining Section 907 of the Foreign Assistance Act in the Foreign Operations Bill.

For more than 10 years Azerbaijan has cut off the transportation of food, fuel and medicine from the United States and the United Nations to our ally Armenia. Armenia and its neighbor, Nagorno-Karabagh are both landlocked, and these blockades are virtually isolating them from the rest of the world.

Section 907 prohibits United States aid to Azerbaijan and constitutes a focused, appropriate message to the government of Azerbaijan that the United States won't support efforts to marginalize, via blockade, entire populations of neighboring states.

Section 907 must remain in place until the President of Azerbaijan confirms that country is taking steps to cease blockades and offensive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

I encourage my colleagues to support Section 907 in the Foreign Operations bill.

AUTHORIZING BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO PROVIDE COST SHARING FOR ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS FOR UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 2348, I rise to urge its approval.

This bill is an important one for Colorado and the other States within the upper basin of the Colorado River and the basin of the San Juan River.

The recovery program for endangered fish in the upper basin of the Colorado river is a cooperative program involving the State of Colorado and our neighboring States of Utah and Wyoming; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Western Area Power Administration, environmental organizations, and water-development interests in all three states.

The State of Colorado is also a participant in the recovery program for the San Juan program, along with New Mexico, the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes, USFWS and Bureau of Reclamation, the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, and water development interests.

Both recovery programs are aimed at recovering the endangered fish in ways that meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act while minimizing conflicts and allowing continued utilization of the area's scarce water resources for this and other purposes in ways that are consistent with applicable state laws, interstate compacts, and Supreme Court decrees allocating water among the states.

The purpose of the legislation is to provide a specific authorization for the funding that is necessary for implementation of these programs. Such funding has been consistently provided in recent years, but having such a specific authorization will provide greater certainty for all concerned.

The bill is the product of a cooperative effort among the participants in the programs and other interested parties. It is a sound and balanced measure that merits strong support. I am glad to have the opportunity to join with Chairman HANSEN and the other sponsors of this legislation in urging its passage by the House and hope that the Senate will act promptly to send it to the President for signature into law.

H.R. 1248, THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of Justice estimates that between 1 million and 4 million women are physically abused by their husbands or live-in partners each year.

Justice also reports that females account for 39 percent of the hospital emergency department visits for violence-related injuries.

According to another poll, up to 40 percent of teenage girls age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.

Family violence costs the nation upwards of \$10 billion annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity.

Mr. Speaker, I have only touched on the tip of the iceberg. Unlike many people, we are in a position to help turn these statistics around.

We can begin by passing H.R. 1248, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and help the thousands of men and the millions of women who face abuse in their own homes feel a little safer in knowing that we are here and we are listening and will once again fulfill our promise and help them escape from abuse and end the cycle of violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, not only for the men and women being abused today but for our children who may be the victims of tomorrow.

LARRY LUCCHINO: THE JOHNS FELLOWSHIP AWARD OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry Lucchino, as he is honored by the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO at the Eighteenth Annual John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet.

Larry Lucchino, President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Padres, is being recognized for his contribution to the community of San Diego and for fulfilling three fundamental commitments of ownership which he made as he purchased the San Diego Padres baseball team on December 21, 1994.

First and foremost, the Padres, under the leadership of Larry Lucchino have become active participants in the community, assisting the children of the region in their education, recreation, and health. The Padres Scholars Program was established in 1995 to aid students with college scholarships. The Little Padres Parks Program has committed to building or refurbishing 60 youth ballfields in San Diego and Northern Baja. The Cindy Matters Fund, named for a lifelong Padres fan who inspired Padres players and staff during her fight against cancer, pledges assistance in the fight against children's cancer and provides funding to the UCSD Medical Center's Pediatric Oncology Research Laboratory.

Second, he has helped to rebuild the club so that they were recognized as the most improved team in the National League in 1995 and champions of the National League West in 1996. In 1998, the Padres captured the National League West Championship and then proceeded to the World Series to play against the New York Yankees.

He has also created a warm and fan-friendly environmental at the local Qualcomm Stadium, and his passion for the internationalization of baseball has led to historic achievements with the Padres playing games in Mexico and Hawaii, and establishing relations with teams in Japan and Korea.

In addition, Larry Lucchino is active in both civic and charitable institutions in San Diego, serving on the CEO Roundtable, the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation, the Binational Advisory Council on Border-Crossing Process, and the Board of Directors of the Padres Foundation.

He has the unique distinction of earning a Final Four watch with Princeton in 1965, a Super Bowl ring with the Washington Redskins in 1983, and the World Series ring with the Baltimore Orioles in 1983. He has earned a reputation as one of baseball's modern-day innovators. As President and CEO of both the Baltimore Orioles from 1988-1993 and the San Diego Padres since 1995, he has broken ground in ballpark design and planning, the development of new marketing concepts, and the furthering of player-owner relations.

Larry Lucchino is being honored by a very special award. The JOHNS Fellowship Award was established to commemorate the late John Lyons of the Teamsters who was one of

the founders of the San Diego Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America. The proceeds from the Memorial Banquet will be used to support local charitable causes including bone marrow testing and local research grants.

My sincere congratulations go to Larry Lucchino, and I am proud to salute him and to recognize his accomplishment with this statement in the United States House of Representatives. Thank you, Larry.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4871) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Chairman, I want to support the efforts of Congressman WYNN and his desire to provide funding for FDA consolidation in Montgomery County, Maryland. In last week's Treasury Postal Appropriations bill, no funding was made available for the consolidation project. I wholeheartedly agree with Rep. WYNN's request that greater consideration for the project be made in conference.

Presently, the FDA has approximately 39 different buildings in 21 different locations and 6,000 employees throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The purpose of the consolidation project was to condense those buildings, employees, and locations into one site, the former Naval Surface Warfare Center in White Oak Maryland. There are several benefits of this consolidation: one, it would allow for the design and construction of a Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Laboratory (CDER). Two, there would be a savings of more than \$200 million in lease costs over a ten year term. Three, it would help fill the void left by the closure of the 700 acre White Oak Naval Surface Warfare Center.

I am aware that no construction projects were funded by the Treasury/Postal subcommittee; however, this project benefits the nation by establishing a much needed drug evaluation and research laboratory while reducing costs for taxpayers.

I urge the conferees to restore the funding that was part of the President's proposed FY 2001 budget.

A TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE MATT EATON

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Detective Matt Eaton, of the Montclair, California Police Department,

for earning the Montclair Chamber of Commerce 1999 Annual Achievement Award.

Detective Eaton was hired as a full-time police officer in 1989, working the cornerstone of policing, patrol enforcement. Over the past eleven years, Detective Eaton has developed his highly specialized skills through training and daily experiences.

Known for his energy and enthusiasm, Detective Eaton is quick to volunteer to help others with their tasks. He commits great effort and dedication to his job, often working late on his days off. His vision and leadership led to the development of a county-wide standardized Crimes Against Children Protocol. However, Detective Eaton's dedication is not limited to the City of Montclair. He drafted a California State Assembly Bill designed to protect all residents from the invasion of concealed cameras.

Detective Eaton has been recognized by Project Sister, Child Protective Services, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, and he has been honored by his own department as the recipient of their Annual Achievement Award.

Detective Eaton's eleven years of exemplary service distinguishes him as a true American hero, worthy of this Congress' praise and gratitude.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S INN AT NIH

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Children's Inn at the National Institute of Health, located in Bethesda, Maryland. The Children's Inn has provided the critical service of a warm, friendly, and comfortable environment for seriously ill pediatric patients and their families since June of 1990.

The NIH is the premier biomedical research facility in the world. Children from across the nation and around the world regularly travel to the NIH to receive extraordinary treatments for many illnesses and disorders. While patients receive their medical treatments, the Children's Inn provides a comforting, stable environment for families going through the emotionally draining experience of treating a seriously ill child.

During the past 10 years, nearly 4,000 children and their families have made 23,263 visits to The Children's Inn. The facility provides a welcome solace for both patients and families. A warm group of staff members and volunteers assure that each resident of the Children's Inn is comfortable and feels at home. At the end of long days filled with tests and treatments, the young patients are greeted at the Inn with a variety of activities. The children can enjoy arts and crafts, bingo, movies, video games, computers, and the fellowship of other children sharing similar experiences.

Families staying at the Children's Inn are provided a 24-hour support network of gracious and compassionate staff, volunteers, and other parents caring for children. This provides an invaluable resource in boosting morale, and makes the treatment process not

only bearable, but also enjoyable for both parents and family members.

A recent story in a local Montgomery County, Maryland newspaper told the story of a mother of a terminally ill child who was a resident at The Children's Inn on various occasions. Speaking of the positive influence the Children's Inn has had on her family, she said, "The Inn was one of the greatest gifts I could receive."

Congratulations to the Children's Inn for 10 years of devoted service to our community. Keep up the great work!

EDWARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:  
MUSTAFAA SALEH AND LISA  
MATTESON

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, these students are all credit to their families and the Chicago community. I wish them tremendous success in their continuing education and future aspirations. Furthermore, I charge all of them to use their strength and leadership in service to this great nation. Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to offer my sincere congratulations the winners of my 2000 Spirit of Achievement Award program.

RICHARD H. BLADES, 1930-1999:  
PUBLIC SERVANT

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, late last year, we lost a remarkable man—a man who made significant contributions to every field he touched: the non-profit sector, business, politics, and government, including the House of Representatives.

Richard H. Blades was an expert in public relations who never sought publicity for himself, a political strategist of the first rank who never held office, a man of comfortable means who never forgot those less fortunate, and a man with a great sense of humor who never failed to confront the serious issues of his community, state, and nation.

Dick Blades was born in Huntington Park, California, and established a reputation in high school, and at the University of Southern California, as a skilled debater. After graduating from U.S.C. in 1952, Dick began work as a public relations consultant and political strategist. He also established an extraordinary partnership with Alphonzo Bell.

In the 1950s, Al Bell was a major figure in the California Republican Party serving as Chairman of the State Republican Central Committee, and later as Chair of the Los Angeles County Republican Central Committee. Dick worked with Al Bell on some of the legendary internal battles of the Republican party in the 1950's—featuring such larger-than-life figures as Governor Goodwin Knight, Senator William F. Knowland, the Republican Leader of the United States Senate, Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, the Republican Whip, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

Alphonzo Bell was then elected to the House of Representatives in 1960 from Los Angeles and would serve for sixteen very distinguished years. During those years, Dick assisted Congressman Bell in a variety of capacities, including campaign manager, field representative, and administrative assistant. Dick also found time to consult on Nelson Rockefeller's 1964 campaign for President, and Charles Percy's victorious 1966 campaign for United States Senate in Illinois.

The partnership of Congressman Bell and Dick Blades enjoyed great success and they had many significant legislative accomplishments in the 1960's and 1970's, especially in the areas of education, space and technology, and the environment. Their proudest achievements included initiating the preservation of the Santa Monica Mountains and the Channel Islands, and establishing the San Onofre area as a public beach.

Dick had great respect for the House of Representatives as an institution where diverse people and interests would come together to resolve conflicts. He is an example of what makes this institution work—the dedicated staff member who serves his Representative, Congress, and the country, with honor, wisdom, and loyalty. Dick also respected the electoral process and was known for his keen understanding of the issues. The campaigns he managed spoke honestly and intelligently to the people, and Dick treated the voters as independent citizens capable of exercising good judgment, not as a pliable mass to be manipulated with modern media techniques.

After Congressman Bell's retirement, Dick provided consulting services to Bell Petroleum and embarked on another extraordinary career as a volunteer board member in the non-profit world. All of the skills Dick displayed in the political world were now being used to help charities—many of them very small or new organizations doing innovative work.

Dick's qualities of judgment, wisdom, and ability to get things done, along with his skills in finance, public relations, policy, and personnel, made him a revered and sought after board member in a variety of worthy causes, especially in the areas of health care, disability rights, and literacy. Dick was a life-long asthmatic who ultimately succumbed to respiratory failure. He served as President of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of Southern California and helped begin the Breathmobile project which brings critical medical services to inner city children. The Breathmobile program has been credited with saving hundreds, if not thousands, of lives, and was later expanded to the entire country.

Dick was also a valued board member and officer of Centro Latino Educacion Popular, which trains Spanish-speaking adults to read and write, the Western Law Center for Disability Rights at Loyola Law School, and the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment.

Although Dick was unquestionably a man of the sensible center, he had a diverse collection of friends who ranged from the far right to the far left. He helped to moderate them, but he, in turn, learned from them and was always open to good ideas from any source.

At Dick's memorial service, there was an astonishing array of friends from all walks of life—business, charities, education, politics, and entertainment—and from all stations in life, young and old, the wealthy and those of

modest means, celebrities and those whose names have never been in the papers.

What they had in common, along with Dick's friends who could not attend, was deep affection and respect for an extraordinary man who had no children but who touched the lives of many, and who leaves a legacy of achievement and generosity of spirit that is a model for us all.

IN HONOR OF EMILIO MILITO  
NAVARRO, EUGENE GENE SMITH  
AND WILMER RED FIELDS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Emilio "Milito" Navarro, Eugene "Gene" Smith, and Wilmer "Red" Fields; three players who have made a celebrated contribution to the baseball history of America.

Emilio Navarro played for the Cuban Stars and is the last known living player from the Eastern Colored League. Considered an excellent hitter, in 1928 Emilio was the regular shortstop and lead off batter for the Cuban Stars and posted a .337 batting average in the following season. Frequently listed as "Milito" in the box scores, he was a star in his homeland of Puerto Rico, and was elected to the Puerto Rican Hall of Fame in 1992.

Eugene Smith played in the Negro Leagues from 1939 to 1950 and pitched for the Cleveland Buckeyes in 1947. He was regarded as a power pitcher with a good fastball and slider, and was one of the "Big Four" on the St. Louis Stars' pitching staff.

Wilmer "Red" Fields was an ace pitcher for the Homestead Grays team that won the National Negro League Championship in 1948. He registered a 7-1 record in league games that year, appeared in the All-Star game, and pitched in two World Series games. After the Grays disbanded, Fields was offered positions with five major league teams, but turned all the offers down. He did, however, play for Toronto in the International League, as well as playing in several Latin American Leagues during winters.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in honoring these three admirable athletes, whose talents are being recognized at the Third Annual Negro/Hispanic Baseball Legends Celebration this year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN  
FRONT RANGE ROADLESS AREA  
AND MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PRO-  
TECTION ACT AND THE COLO-  
RADO FOREST RESTORATION  
AND FIRE REDUCTION ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Colorado's forest lands are one of the things that makes our state a very special place to live. But as our population increases, so do the pressures on our forests and the potential damage that can result from intense wildfires

in the areas where residential areas press against the forests.

Today, I am introducing two bills that respond to at least some aspects of these two serious problems. One will provide protection for roadless areas in the Congressional District I represent. The other would put new emphasis on cooperative efforts to restore forest lands and prevent catastrophic forest fires in areas of high risk throughout Colorado.

#### PROTECTION FOR ROADLESS AREAS

The first bill is the Northern Front Range Roadless Area and Mountain Backdrop Protection Act. Under that bill, the Forest Service would manage over 80,000 acres on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest as "protected roadless areas." All of these areas are within Colorado's Second Congressional District. They are areas that the Forest Service identified as roadless in its 1997 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt. Most of these areas would be appropriate additions to existing wilderness areas, and they are also included in President Clinton's Roadless Conservation Proposal for the national forests.

The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest is within a few minutes drive for more than 2.5 million people in the Front Range Denver-metro area. As a result, it is experiencing increasing use of all kinds, especially recreational use. I have supported the President's roadless area initiative in part because I know how those increasing pressures are affecting the Arapaho-Roosevelt and the other national forests in Colorado. And, with respect to relevant lands within my own Congressional District, I want to build on what the President has proposed. So, my first bill would undergird the President's initiative with a statutory requirement that the Forest Service manage these areas to preserve their roadless qualities until Congress determines otherwise.

With this interim protection in place, the bill would also require the Forest Service to study and evaluate these areas and then make recommendations to Congress regarding their future management. That report would be submitted within three years. In the meantime, and until Congress decides otherwise, these roadless areas would be managed under the "recommended for wilderness" management category in the Forest Plan, and require the Forest Service to study and report to Congress in three years about management options for these lands. The report would include recommendations about the suitability of wilderness designation for some or all of these lands but can also include any other recommendations the Secretary of Agriculture decides to make. The bill will thus maintain all options and allow the Congress to ultimately resolve the status of these roadless lands.

#### ROCKY FLATS MOUNTAIN BACKDROP STUDY

The bill also contains a section intended to help local communities preserve the Front Range Mountain Backdrop just west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site.

As all Coloradans know, Rocky Flats is just a few miles north and west of Denver. Once, it was a nuclear weapons production facility. But now that mission is over and the task of the Rocky Flats workforce is to carry out a thorough, prompt, and effective cleanup and closure. I strongly support that effort, and am also working to have the prairie land within the site's 6,500 acres protected as wildlife habitat and open space. But I think we need to look beyond the site's perimeters.

So far, development in the Denver-metro area has not yet surrounded the Rocky Flats site. However, growth and sprawl are heading its way. Now is the time to shape the future of this part of the Front Range, and I think we have a real but fleeting opportunity to establish Rocky Flats and lands to its west as a "crown jewel" of open space and wildlife habitat that will be of inestimable value for Coloradans for generations to come. I also think the federal government can help achieve that goal. So, my bill would call on the Forest Service to examine the land ownership patterns west of Rocky Flats, identify lands that are undeveloped, and recommend options on how these areas could be preserved.

#### FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION

The second bill I am introducing is the Colorado Forest Restoration and Fire Reduction Act. This bill complements the roadless-area protection bill by addressing some of the most pressing forest issues in other areas—the parts of Colorado's forests that adjoin urban development and that are at greatest risk for intense fires that can despoil watersheds and destroy homes.

As the news headlines continue to report, wildfires on national forests and other forested lands are a serious problem this summer—especially in Colorado. Right now, a major fire is still burning at the Mesa Verde National Park, another fire threatens the watershed of Glenwood Springs, and people are trying to recover from earlier fires that destroyed homes in areas of the Front Range.

Part of the problem results from hot, dry weather. But there are other, contributing factors. For many years, the Forest Service had a policy of trying to suppress nearly every fire, even though fire is an inescapable part of the ecology of western forests like those in Colorado. Today, in many parts of the forests there is an accumulation of underbrush and small diameter trees that is greater than would be the case if there had been more, smaller fires over the years. They provide the extra fuel that can turn a small fire into an intense inferno. Add to that our growing population and increasing development in the places where communities meet the forests—the so-called "urban interface"—and you have a recipe for worse problems ahead.

Properties, lives, and wildlife habitat are at risk, and so is the environment. Uncontrolled wildfires strip the land of its protective vegetative cover, making it highly susceptible to erosion. We have seen what that means in places like Buffalo Creek, where the eventual rain storms wash sediment and forest material into waterways, polluting and clogging sources of drinking water. In addition, wildfires also have serious adverse effects on the quality of the air.

Working with state and local partners, including our state forest service, the U.S. Forest Service has identified the interface areas at greatest risk of fire—the areas they call the "red zone." My second bill deals just with those areas.

Red zone areas in Colorado are situated in regions that contain complex land ownership patterns—frequently involving federal, state, Tribal, county, private and city lands. Those patterns make it difficult for any one agency to deal with the problem and so makes the problem that more intense. My bill would address these problems by establishing a program to share costs and provide incentives for collabor-

ative efforts at forest restoration and fire-prevention projects in the red zone.

The bill calls on the Forest Service to work with state and local agencies, independent scientists, and stakeholder groups to identify priorities and develop projects for forest restoration and fire prevention. The bill spells out clear and sound requirements that such projects would have to meet to be eligible for funding—including preservation of old trees and trees larger than 12" in diameter. It also specifies that preservation of roadless areas would be required, and that all projects would have to meet the requirements of all federal and state environmental laws.

To help assure the integrity of the program, the bill would require establishment of a technical advisory panel, including independent scientists as well as representatives of relevant agencies and stakeholder groups, to provide additional guidelines and set priorities. It would also require that the projects authorized under the bill be monitored and evaluated for their benefits and any potential adverse impacts to make sure the program is working as intended. The bill also authorizes funding to provide the federal share of the costs of the projects developed and implemented under the program.

Ultimately, the objective of this bill is to develop new collaborative relationships between the Forest Service and state, local and private forest experts and landowners—together with the public—to get out on the land and address problems before they become uncontrollable. The theory of this bill is that it is cheaper and more effective to prevent fires than to fight them. Reducing fire risks and restoring natural balance on our forested lands can help us accomplish that goal.

Mr. Speaker, these bills were not written overnight and they do not reflect just my own ideas. In developing them, I have drawn upon the technical expertise of federal and state agencies and have consulted with members of the Colorado conservation community as well as with other Coloradans who are familiar with the resources, values, and problems of our forests. I think these bills are sound, balanced measures that can help address some of the most pressing of those problems. I look forward to working with other Members of the Colorado delegation and the Congress as a whole to achieve the important goals of this legislation.

### NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we've had a busy agenda this week. But one important bill has been missing—the bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, or "VAWA." The House should take it up without delay.

VAWA is very important for Colorado. Through last year, our state received almost \$15 million in VAWA grants. That money has helped assist victims of domestic violence, but it has also done much more.

In fact, according to a letter from our Attorney General, Ken Salazar, and his colleagues

from other states, VAWA "has enabled us to maximize the effectiveness of our state programs that have made a critical difference in the lives of women and children endangered by domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking." The current authorization for VAWA expires this year. Because I know the importance of renewing and strengthening this vital measure, I have joined in cosponsoring H.R. 1248, the VAWA reauthorization bill. I was encouraged when the Judiciary Committee approved it for consideration by the full House. But that happened on June 27th—a full month ago—and still the bill has not reached the floor, even though many less important measures have been considered.

I call on the leadership of both parties to bring the VAWA reauthorization bill to the floor without further delay. This is too important a matter to neglect.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CARY J. BRAIRTON

### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I celebrate the 50th Birthday of Cary J. Brairton of Pittsford, NY.

Mr. Brairton was born on August 19 to his father and mother, James and Arax Brairton in Rochester, NY and has been living in the Rochester-area for all of his 50 years. His father was a member of the Rochester City Council and owner of a small business in the heart of downtown Rochester. Mr. Brairton graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1972. He has been an employee of the Eber Brothers Corporation for 27 years.

Mr. Brairton has been an active member in the community and to youth development. He has come to the aid of many youth athletic teams to ensure the kids would have the opportunity to play little league baseball, football or soccer by becoming a coach, volunteer or referee when no one else would agree to do so.

But his biggest achievement has been his devoted love to his two sons, Michael and Scott. Mr. Brairton lost his father in 1963 and grew up much of his life without the benefit of a paternal influence. For this reason, he has been a loving father and role model to his sons. Mr. Brairton's greatest accomplishment has been his overwhelming commitment to encourage and support his children in whatever activities they chose to participate in, whether it was sports, musicals, or other activities. He almost never missed one of his children's activities, even when his older son was playing lacrosse in college six hours away or when his youngest was participating in soccer tournaments all along the eastern shore.

Mr. Brairton will also be celebrating his 28th Wedding Anniversary on August 19. Mr. and Mrs. Brairton met while they were students at Eastridge High in Irondequoit, NY in 1967. The couple weathered the strains of a long distance relationship as Mr. Brairton attended 2 years at Heidelberg College in Ohio while Mrs. Brairton enrolled at Buffalo State. Hundreds of weekend visits to his wife-to-be allowed their love to flourish and in 1972, the

two were wed at Saint James Church in Rochester, NY.

Cary J. Brairton has been a committed father demonstrating great family values and deserves the congratulations of this Congress on his 50th Birthday and the anniversary of his 28 years as a dedicated husband.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK STAMP ACT JULY 27, 2000

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, in this new century, an education is more important to Americans than ever before in our nation's history. We have progressed from the agricultural-based economy of our forefathers to one that is knowledge-based and dependent on information and communications technology.

Today, in order to succeed and even just to function in this new economy, Americans must have a solid education and foundation of skills. In addition, Americans must be equipped with the skills necessary to continue learning. They must be prepared to survive in a world of rapid social and technological change.

Literacy is the primary tool needed for lifelong learning. It opens up doors to new opportunities and experiences.

Yet, today, too many Americans are unable to read a single sentence. In fact, nearly 40 percent of our nation's children cannot read at grade-level by the end of the third grade. In disadvantaged communities, this failure rate is a shocking 60 percent. Without the basic skill of literacy, these children are likely to fall to the wayside in our new economy.

We must combat illiteracy. However, we cannot wait until these children start school; we must reach them earlier. We should eagerly seek to give these children the excitement, the satisfaction, the empowerment, and the impetus for growth that comes from reading.

Studies have confirmed that reading to young children in the years before age 5 has a profound effect on their ability to learn. Doctors have told us that a child's brain needs intellectual stimulation to grow to its full potential, so we must read to our children from birth through school age. But many families do not have access to children's books. A recent study found that 60 percent of kindergarten children who performed poorly in school did not own a single book.

The Book Stamp Act, which I am introducing today along with my colleagues Mr. UPTON, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MILLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, and which was recently introduced in the Senate by Senators KENNEDY and HUTCHISON, will help provide children with their own books before they enter school.

The act authorizes an appropriation of \$50 million a year for this purpose. It also creates a special postage stamp, which will feature an early learning character and which will sell at a slightly higher rate than the normal 33 cents, to create additional revenues for the Book Stamp Program.

The resources will be distributed through the Child Care and Development Block Grant to

the state child care agency in each state. The state agency then will allocate its funds to local child care research and referral agencies throughout the state on the basis of local need.

These non-profit agencies will work with established book distribution programs such as First Book, Reading is Fundamental, and Reach Out and Read to coordinate the buying of discounted books and the distribution of the books to children.

However, since these young children cannot read on their own. These agencies will also work with parents and child care providers to educate them on the best ways to read to children and the most effective use of books with children at various stages of development.

Illiteracy is a serious problem. For our Nation to continue to thrive in this new century, we must ensure that all children have the ability to read and learn. The Book Stamp Act will help achieve this goal.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

#### HONORING LOUIS' LUNCH ON ITS 105TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to celebrate the 105th anniversary of a true New Haven landmark: Louis' Lunch. Recently the Lassen family celebrated this landmark as well as the 100th anniversary of their claim to fame—the invention and commercial serving of one of America's favorites, the hamburger.

A hundred years ago, Louis Lassen, founder of Louis' Lunch, ran a small lunch wagon selling steak sandwiches to local factory workers. A frugal business man, Louis did not like to waste the excess beef from his daily lunch rush. So, he ground up the excess, grilled it, and served it between two slices of bread—without ketchup. With a meat grinder and a streak of that infamous Yankee ingenuity, Louis changed the course of American culinary history, serving America's first hamburger. This is the story that each faithful patron will hear when they visit the small Crown Street luncheonette still owned and operated by the third and fourth generations of the Lassen family. Hamburgers are still the specialty of the house where steak is ground fresh each day and hand molded, still slow cooked on the same turn-of-the-century gas grills, broiled vertically, and served between two slices of toast with your choice of three acceptable garnish: cheese, tomato, and onion. Requests for ketchup or mustard are briskly declined. This is the home of the greatest hamburger in the world—a claim that is not easily contested—perhaps best known for allowing their customers to have a burger their way or not at all.

More than just another diner, Louis' Lunch has held a special place in the hearts of the residents of New Haven for more than a century. Thousands turned out in the 1960s and 1970s when the city announced plans to raze Louis' to make room for a new high rise building—testimony to its immeasurable popularity and special place in our City's history. After

fighting City Hall for ten years, Ken Lassen, Louis' grandson, agreed to move the luncheonette to its present Crown Street location. To help with the reconstruction, patrons donated bricks for the new walls. Today, as he takes you on the "tour of the walls", Ken recounts each brick's unique story and can point to stones from Rome's Colosseum, paving bricks from Lisbon, Portugal, even a chunk of rock from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Designated an historic landmark in 1967, it was with great pride that I nominated Louis' Lunch as a part of the Library of Congress' "Local Legacies" project earlier this year. The Lassens and the community of New Haven shared unparalleled excitement when the Library of Congress named Louis' Lunch a "Connecticut Legacy"—nothing could be more true.

The Lassen family has left an indelible mark on our community's history—and our country's history. I know the New Haven community will join me as I stand today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ken Lassen and his family on the 105th anniversary of Louis' Lunch. My best wishes for another century of success.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a great day in our nation's history. On August 14, 1935, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law the historical Social Security Act. This law has been improving Americans' lives for sixty-five years, and I recognize the anniversary of its signing.

Social Security represents a sacred compact between the generations that benefits both seniors and younger members of our nation. Senior citizens have earned the right to these benefits from a lifetime of work. Social Security has granted our elders the peace to live independently and with dignity. In addition, the great pressures placed on our younger generations to support their elderly parents are lessened because of America's Social Security program.

Complementing retirement benefits, the Social Security Administration also provides citizens with disability, survivor, Medicare, and family benefits. In fact, one in three social security beneficiaries is, in fact, not a retiree. As a result, Social Security has grown into a family protection plan which forms a base of economic security in today's society. In my view, Social Security is the most successful federal program in history.

As President Roosevelt explained upon signing the Social Security Act, "this law . . . represents a cornerstone in a structure which is being built but is by no means complete." As he predicted, the program has been amended many times throughout the past sixty-five years. With each change, the Social Security Administration has extended its aid to another group of needy Americans. Once again, as Roosevelt foreshadowed, the law has served to "take care of human needs and at the same time provide the United States an economic structure of vastly greater soundness."

These social insurance programs have blessed America with a reputation of protecting her citizens. As the Declaration of Independence famously states, our government has the responsibility to secure the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In the past sixty-five years, the Social Security Administration has been safeguarding these rights for citizens who otherwise may easily be overlooked. Our great nation has earned its reputation for greatness in partial measure because of the accomplishments the Social Security Administration has achieved in the past sixty-five years.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Social Security Administration, Congress, and the American people for their commitment to the social security system. I look to the past and recognize the magnitude of the Act's effect; I look to the future and envision the achievements that are yet to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in this celebration and recognize the sixty-five years that Social Security has been improving America.

A TRIBUTE TO OFFICER BRIAN ROSE

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Officer Brian Rose, of the Montclair, California Police Department, for earning the Montclair Chamber of Commerce Officer of the Year Award for 1999.

Officer Rose began his law enforcement career in 1993 with the Adelanto Police Department. While in Adelanto, he served as a K-9 Officer on the HINET task force which targeted drug transportation on the desert roadways.

In 1997, Officer Rose was hired by the Montclair Police Department. Since his arrival, he has been an outstanding law enforcement officer. Last year, Officer Rose maintained a stellar record of arrests, averaging over 14 apprehensions each month. Many of these arrests were felony drug charges which stemmed from routine traffic stops. Officer Rose also made over 20 DUI arrests, assisted in the discovery of a methamphetamine lab in the city, and aided in the investigation and arrests on the charge of kidnapping for ransom. A vehicle pursuit and stop conducted by Officer Rose resulted in the arrests of parolees, the recovery of a firearm, drugs and over \$20,000 in drug monies. Most recently, he stopped an out-of-state plated car which resulted in the arrests for car theft and for a murder warrant.

In addition to his work on the streets, Officer Rose has been training to become an "Officer in Charge" for his shift, as well as performing the duties of a Field Training Officer. Officer Rose serves as the Montclair Police Department's Drug Recognition Expert and trainer.

Officer Rose's outstanding service to the City of Montclair distinguishes him as a true American hero, worthy of this Congress' praise and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO CARL L. BLUM, P.E. UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and recognize Mr. Carl L. Blum, on the announcement of his retirement as a Deputy Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Carl has served the people of the County of Los Angeles with nothing less than the utmost integrity and professionalism. During his years of service at the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and Department of Public Works, Carl demonstrated an unwavering commitment to making Los Angeles County a better—and safer—place to live.

After 21 years with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Carl joined the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. In the many capacities he has served in, Carl has played a large part in the successful management of public works in the County. I want to commend Carl in particular for his integral role in working with local, State, and Federal officials and members of the community to construct the Los Angeles County Drainage Area Project (LACDA). It is a testament to Carl's work—and that of other officials with County and Corps of Engineers—that the LACDA project has been one of the most successful public projects in Los Angeles County's history.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to see Carl retire, but I want to congratulate him on his many accomplishments and thank him for his dedication to the people of Los Angeles County. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Carl health and happiness in his future endeavors.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TAX REFORM AND SIMPLIFICATION

**HON. JIM DeMINT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. This was true when our founding fathers decided to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to secure freedom and democracy in our country. It is also true of our work in Congress, where even the most difficult tasks must begin with a single step.

Today we are here to take the first-step on an issue crucial to the American people and to me—fundamental tax reform. My friend ROB PORTMAN and I are introducing legislation creating a national commission on fundamental tax reform and simplification. The Portman/DeMint bill establishes a commission to study tax reform, and report to Congress with findings and recommendations, so we can go forward.

A similar commission was passed as part of my friend STEVE LARGENT's bill which would

sunset the Federal Tax Code and allow Congress to debate a replacement. I am still hopeful the Senate will do the right thing and take up that bill. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that this is an issue that, if we hope to make serious progress, we must have a serious study. A serious and comprehensive report to Congress and the President will allow us to move forward on this issue with some foundation.

The Tax Code has become so intrusive, it invades the daily decisions of families and businesses. I know this from my own experience in starting and running a small business, as well as from raising a family. As Americans, I know we can do better.

There is no question that fundamental tax reform is desperately needed. The Federal Tax Code is 7 million words long, a patchwork maze of complexity and confusion. It is intrusive, invasive, and overly complex—as my constituents continually remind me.

The majority of Americans now turn to tax professionals to prepare their tax forms. This is hard to believe, but it is true. Many have no choice—they simply do not understand all the tricks and traps. Unfortunately, many of these same tax professionals are calling for tax reform and simplification as well. I have spoken with accountants and tax professionals from my district who have told me of their struggles and uncertainty.

This is not just my district. In 1998, Money Magazine asked 46 tax professionals to calculate a hypothetical family's tax responsibilities. Not one got the correct answer, and no two even got the same answer. When tax professionals do not understand the Federal Tax Code, what about American families?

There are exemptions you may never know you qualified for, and deductions you forgot to take. There are different rates, and different dates by which you need to file different forms to qualify for those rates. There are ways in which money must be moved through a complex series of traps to avoid paying maximum taxes, and there are mine fields of forms you may never have known existed, which you needed to file last week to avoid the fine you just received. And there are people who make their living mapping out the maze and guiding others through this code. I do not fault these people—it is a good living, and they are only dealing with something that we in Congress created. But is this the best we can do? Is this in keeping with a government of the people, by the people, for the people?

The Internal Revenue Service, which is generally made up of honorable men and women, has been given the task of managing this monster. It takes 136,000 people to administer our federal tax laws. The FBI employs less than 30,000—and they combat terrorism.

Since 1986, there have been over 5400 modifications to the Tax Code—and it is still not fixed.

We must return fairness and simplicity to our federal tax policy. I recognize this will not be an easy task, I know that some are comfortable with the way things are, but I believe it is the right thing to do.

I believe we are most secure when we are most free, and the complexity and confusion of the federal tax code hinders our freedom. I am convinced that we can do better.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. When I came to Congress, I came with a dream of increasing freedom for

people. In this, I continue to dream of a world in which Americans live under a tax code that is simple and fair, a code that makes sense. To get there, it takes courage. To get there, we must take the first step.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor the Portman/DeMint tax reform commission bill and help us move forward on this issue in a responsible way. We can get a handle on this issue, and get a foothold to move forward with fundamental tax reform. This is what the American people have entrusted us to do, and I ask for your help in securing the future for our country.

**KASHMIRI LEADER RAISES AUTONOMY ISSUE—OTHER STATE LEADERS FOLLOW HIS LEAD**

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Chief Minister of Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah, recently called for greater autonomy for the state of Kashmir. However, Abdullah is closely allied with India's ruling BJP, and the BJP government firmly rejected the demand. Other state leaders like Gurcharan Singh Tohra and Simrangid Singh Mann asked Chief Badal to pass a similar measure in the Punjab Assembly.

Under India's constitution, Kashmir was supposed to have a special status, but India has systematically chipped away at it. How would Chief Minister Abdullah make sure that they do not do so under his autonomy plan? The Indian government has imposed President's Rule on Punjab nine times. How would Punjabi leaders ensure that it would not happen again if Punjab has autonomy?

When India forcibly and illegally occupied Kashmir, they promised that there would be a plebiscite on Kashmir's status. That promise has not been kept. The Sikhs in Punjab were promised "the glow of freedom" in Punjab. That promise, too, has been broken. India proclaims its democratic principles loudly, but fails to live up to them when the time comes.

Mr. Speaker, the book *The Politics of Genocide* by Iderjit Singh Jaijee reports that the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims, more than 200,000 Christians in Nagalim, and thousands of others. According to Amnesty International, thousands of innocent civilians are being held as political prisoners. Christmas of 1998 unleashed a wave of violence against Christians that has resulted in church burnings and bombings, the murders of priests and missionaries, and other atrocities. Just recently, two extensive, independent studies concluded that the Indian government killed 35 Sikhs in Chithi Singhpora. Amnesty International has also said that India is responsible. How is autonomy going to prevent these things from happening?

America should support self-determination for all the peoples and nations of South Asia. We should act against the atrocities by cutting off American aid against India until basic human rights are enjoyed by all people within its borders. We should declare India a terrorist nation. And we should declare our support for self-determination in South Asia by calling for

a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence. Not autonomy, but independence. That is the only solution, the only way to bring true freedom to all the peoples and nations of South Asia. If India is truly a democracy, why can't it allow the people of Kashmir to have the plebiscite fifty-two years ago? Why can't it allow the people of Khalistan, Nagalim, and the other nations seeking their freedom to vote on their status the democratic way? Is that too much to ask of democracy?

**IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER MOSES HART, UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FORCE**

**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and one of Capitol Hill's finest, Officer Moses Hart. Officer Hart was appointed to the United States Capitol Police Force on October 15, 1973. He will be retiring on July 31, 2000, after almost 27 years of distinguished service. He has spent his entire career assigned to the House Division of the Capitol Police. For the past 10 years, he has been assigned to the Ford House Office Building. Over these years, Moses has made a tremendous difference in the lives of Members of the House, Congressional staff, and visitors from throughout the world.

I wish him well in his retirement and hope he will take the time to enjoy fishing, one of his favorite hobbies. In addition, I am sure he will devote time to his number one love, barbering. Moses has been a licensed barber for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Moses Hart upon his retirement for the United States Capitol Police Force.

**NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2919, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Act. As the Representative of a Southern Indiana district that housed many "stops" on the Underground Railroad, I am a co-sponsor of this legislation to promote preservation and public awareness of the Underground Railroad and those who helped African American slaves escape to freedom in the North.

As we all know, the Underground Railroad was an informal system of transporting runaway slaves to freedom in the North and Canada. The "stations" of the Railroad were homes of slavery's staunchest opponents, and the "conductors" took the fugitives at night to the next station along the secret routes. The brave individuals who took these runaway

slaves into their homes, fed them, hid them from authorities, and transported them to the next stop up the road did so at high risk, as those who aided fugitives were prosecuted, especially after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

I am proud to say that Southern Indiana played a key role in the Underground Railroad, one of the most powerful and sustained multiracial human rights movements in world history. The Ohio River, which separates Kentucky and Indiana, represented the border between slavery in the South and freedom in the North. There were twelve major crossing points for runaway slaves along the Ohio River, three of which were in my Congressional district. Once the slaves crossed the Ohio River, they were not only in free territory, Indiana, but they had placed that wide river between themselves and their pursuers.

In Indiana, fugitives could find refuge at Bill Crawford's farm near the town of Corydon. Conductors transported fugitives from the mouth of Indian Creek in Corydon across Jackson County or Jennings County on their way towards Ohio. Those who took a different route over the Ohio River found refuge in Jeffersonville and Rising Sun. John B. Todd's house in Madison, the site of some of the busiest Underground Railroad activity in the state, was a well-known safe haven for escapees. There were an estimated 600 to 800 successful escapees through Kentucky and Indiana each year due to these brave efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I salute both the Hoosiers who helped the fugitive slaves through the Underground Railroad and the slaves whose love for freedom motivated them to risk their lives by escaping to the North. The Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, will facilitate a greater understanding of our nation's history and honor those who risked their own freedom to stand by their conviction that no person should be slave to another.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2000 "SPIRIT OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" WINNERS

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of my 2000 Spirit of Achievement Award program. In 1982, when the current citizens of the 3rd District of Illinois elected me to represent them in the United States Congress, I introduced this very successful program. Since then, every middle school in the 23rd Ward of Chicago annually selects a graduating 8th grade boy and girl who they feel represents overall outstanding academic achievement, community service and extracurricular activities. Today, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the hard work of 28 young achievers and future leaders from the 23rd Ward of Chicago.

St. Jane De Chantal School: Nora Krause and Christopher Paluch; Our Lady of Snows School: Amanda Hartman and Jeffrey Mikula; St. Camillus School: Amanda Kurmpel and Kevin Jasionowski; St. Bruno School: David Szwajnos; St. Rene Elementary School: Anthony Garcia and Catherine O'Connell; St.

Daniel the Prophet School: Deanna Maida and Paul Bruton; and St. Richards School: Monika Dlugopolski and Christopher Dyrdak

Gloria Dei School: Faith Krasowski and Jeremiah Jurevis; Hale Elementary School: Emily Fisher and Xavier Hernandez; Peck Elementary School: Maribel Pantoja and Anthony Naranjo; Dore Elementary School: Robert Bradel and Jennifer Collins; Kinzie Elementary School: Victoria Okrzesik and Patrick Forbes; Byrne Elementary School: Jennifer Turner and Ryan Nabor; and Twain Elementary School: Sebastian Gawenda.

TAKE YOUR KIDS TO VOTE DAY

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a piece of legislation that will designate November 7, 2000 as National Take Your Kids to Vote Day.

Since 1972, voter participation in national elections has dropped dramatically. In 1972, nearly two-thirds of eligible adults cast their ballots. In 1996, the last Presidential election, less than half of all eligible voters (43 percent) exercised their right to vote. Even more disturbing, however, is the drop-off in voter participation rates among younger adults, ages 18-24. Since the 1972 election there has been nearly a 20-percentage point decline, with only 32 percent going to the polls in 1996.

If we are going to turn this trend around, we have to start with our children. Parents need to talk to their children about the importance of voting. In fact, parents, if they have the opportunity, should take their children to the polls on Election Day.

Studies indicate that young people whose parents vote in every election are twice as likely to vote as those whose parents vote infrequently or not at all. And it's even more important for parents to talk to their children about the value of voting and democracy. Children whose parents talk to them about government and politics are far more likely to vote when they become adults. Kids Voting USA, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has been working to involve youth in the election process for nearly a decade now says that "Taking your child to the polls is one of the most important things you can do as a citizen and parent."

This is something that all of us—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—should agree upon. Democracy is too important to waste. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help make voting a family tradition.

SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 3676, the

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act.

Congress has an opportunity to enact legislation which was originated by the constituents of California's 44th Congressional District. When these residents came to see me and suggested that I introduce legislation to designate our local mountains a National Monument, I decided it was an idea worth pursuing.

For years, my family has enjoyed these scenic wonders and recreational opportunities that are abundant in this remarkable range. I have often hiked the canyons and hills above our home in Palm Springs, sharing with my children, Chianna and Chesare, the beauty of an ecosystem that continues to thrive despite its close proximity to a highly urbanized community. I have developed a profound respect for the people who, over the past century, have served as stewards of these lands. They have done a remarkable job in balancing the preservation of these mountains with the inevitable development that has occurred in Southern California.

It is appropriate that we also recall the original caretakers of this land, the Cahuilla people. For centuries, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians made the canyons and hills above Palm Springs their home. And the Cahuilla people roamed throughout the desert and mountains of this entire region living in harmony with this unique environment. Their culture and heritage is an integral part of the history of this region. And even today, the Indian Canyons near Palm Springs offer a welcome respite from the hectic pace of the urban areas of the Coachella Valley.

One of the tangible benefits that will be derived from this Monument designation is the preservation of tribal lands and historic artifacts. The Agua Caliente Tribe has been a partner in this process from the start, and I want to thank the Tribal Council and all the Cahuilla people for their support of this legislation.

In crafting this bill, I was confronted with a challenge to balance traditional uses and private property rights that the people of the region enjoy with the need to preserve these mountain vistas.

The intention of H.R. 3676 is not to diminish the decisionmaking authority of Local Government (City, County, Water District, School District, etc.) over land use decisions on private property located next to or inside the boundary of the proposed Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument.

The bill provides that "nothing in the legislation shall be construed as affecting any private property rights within the boundaries of the National Monument". Therefore, if a local City or County has a General Plan designation on property within the Monument boundary, for urban land uses such as hotel, resort, golf course or residential uses, then the legislative intent of Local Government shall not be changed, modified or impeded solely by this Federal Law.

H.R. 3676 has eliminated the concept of buffer zones or protective perimeters around the boundary of the proposed National Monument. This elimination of buffer zones is designed to protect private lands located both on the outside and inside of Monument boundaries. The intent is to protect private land nearby and within the boundary from any form of Federal Monument regulation by this Congress or the Federal Administration. The right

to use private land by private land owners is paramount in H.R. 3676.

This bill's intent would not allow any federal administrative agency the existence of this proposed Monument to exact mitigation, money or other land use restrictions on private lands, directly or indirectly. The regulation of land use and authority over private lands inside or near to the Monument boundaries is solely vested in Local Government and is totally outside the purview of this bill.

In addition, I would like to emphasize that no existing Federal law or Federal Agency governing air quality, water quality or any other regulated resource shall seek to regulate or affect local land use control over private land near to or inside the Monument with any reference to a negative impact on this proposed National Monument by virtue of impacts on the above mentioned regulated resources.

So, we returned to the fundamental concept of how our system of government should work. I went directly to the people of the 44th district and sought their participation and input on how best to draft legislation that would reflect their commitment to both environmental preservation and private property rights protection. The result of their efforts is contained in the bill before you today.

Mr. Speaker, the best way our constituents can be heard on matters such as these is if Congress, not the Administration, takes this action. With all due respect to those who serve in Washington, the people who live in this area know better than any federal worker how to resolve these issues. Therefore, it was encouraging that early on, the Secretary of the Interior took a personal interest in this effort and publicly supported the Congressional process as the preferred vehicle for this designation. I thank the Secretary and Bureau of Land Management offices out of Washington, Sacramento and Palm Springs for working with me on this issue.

With this bill, we are able to protect private property rights with strong buffer zone language, willing seller provisions and clearly worded access language. And we are able to further protect these mountains by prohibiting future withdrawals, curbing motorized vehicle use and controlling cattle grazing.

I have said many times that I would not go forth with a bill which does not protect the rights of those individuals who live within the proposed boundary lines and those who live right at the foot of the mountains. This bill strikes an appropriate balance by protecting the rights of affected constituents as well as these unique mountains. I wish to thank Chairman HANSEN and his able staff, Allen Freemyer and Tod Hull, for assisting me in this process so that I could achieve this balance.

In addition, I would like to thank the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy under the direction of Bill Havert, the Desert Chapter of the Building Industry Association and its Executive Director Ed Kibbey and the local branch of the Sierra Club and its head, Joan Taylor.

Too often, environmentalists and private property rights advocates are at odds with one another. In my heart, I believe that we can work to achieve the goals of each group for the betterment of all. It may be the more difficult course to chose, but one well worth taking. So, I would also like to thank my many colleagues, my Legislative Director, Linda

Valter and the rest of my staff who have helped me along this way.

Mr. Speaker, as a child, my parents drove our family all over this wonderful country, visiting National Parks and awe inspiring lands throughout the West. Now, my constituents have given me the opportunity to do something that will allow future families the same privilege. I hope you will all join me to achieve this worthy goal.

## OCEANS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2327, The Oceans Act of 2000. This important bill pays tribute to and increases support for one of the most important environmental resources we have—our oceans.

This bill would establish a 16-member Commission on Ocean Policy to review existing federal ocean policy and make recommendations to Congress on a new, coordinated, comprehensive policy.

The oceans play a vital role in the daily lives of millions of Americans. Not only do we go to the ocean for recreation but we also depend upon the resources for our survival. Coastal communities like those in my congressional district, use the ocean for fishing, tourism, and business, among other things. Our oceans also play an important role in the ecological system by providing habitat for numerous species of life and influencing whether we will reduce or worsen other environmental threats such as global warming, flooding, water pollution, endangered species survival, and coral reefs existence.

The coasts and oceans have seen a flood of new development and population migration over the past few decades. In fact, approximately 50 percent of the United States population now live in coastal areas. This will only increase in the future with estimates expecting 75 percent of our population to live in coastal areas by 2025.

We need to ensure that we have a coordinated policy to deal with the pressures our oceans and coastal areas face. Our last effort to update our national policies on oceans was the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering, and Resources—known as the Stratton Commission—in 1969. I'm pleased that many of the Commission's recommendations are now the law of the land, but it has been far too long since we last updated our ocean policies.

State and local jurisdictions have enacted numerous laws and policies to deal with the environmental problems that have occurred in our oceans and coastal communities. This has resulted in overlapping and conflicting rules between the federal and state levels. The bill we consider today will help alleviate this problem by bringing ocean policy into the 21st Century by creating new coordinated and comprehensive policies.

I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the House version of The Oceans Act of 2000 that my good friend from California, Mr. FARR, introduced. His work on this issue has inspired me and has done a great deal to ensure that our oceans are taken care of.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill today and I thank the leadership for bringing it before the House for consideration.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church as it hosts the inaugural session of the American Baptist General Convention of Texas Congress of Christian Workers & State Youth Convention. I want to congratulate Pastor William H. King, III who's leadership touches his congregation and the community in so many ways. I would also like to welcome Pastor Adrian Johnson, president of the convention, along with the young people attending to the city of Dickinson.

Today's youth are growing up in a world very different from the one I knew years ago. We live in an age where most families require two incomes to make ends meet, and nearly half of all marriages end in divorce. Our children simply do not have as much supervision or guidance as we did. Add to that, the dangers of drugs and the prevalence of gangs and violence in our schools—as any parent knows, it is not an easy time to raise a family or to be a student.

My father died when I was a young boy, leaving my mother to care for me and my brothers and sister. She couldn't have done it alone. In those days, neighbors looked out for each other and watched out for each other's kids. Our family received support from the entire community. In fact, our friends and neighbors considered us an extension of their own families. That's an important reason why my siblings and I were able to achieve our goals and live the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, now more than ever, our schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples need to stand together with our families to set an example for our children. Our kids are the future and we must invest as much time and energy into their well-being as possible. I offer my sincere congratulations to the Greater Hope Missionary Baptist Church and all of the conventioners as they come together next week in spirit and in faith to learn and grow with one another.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT YOUTH CONGRESS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the 10th Congressional District Youth Congress, whose work on school violence is an inspiring vision of the potential for peace in the human spirit. The tireless work of these students stands as a testament to the ability of youth to lay the foundation for long lasting peace in our schools and communities.

The 10th Congressional District Youth Congress convened in 1998 to work on advancing democratic principles by involving youth in activities to improve their schools and communities. Providing an open forum for discussion, the Youth Congress brings students together to establish themselves as a strong voice in community issues and initiatives.

A student run organization, the Youth Congress is an advocate for parent and community participation in shaping students to reach their maximum potential. The Youth Congress endeavors to embrace and promote all forms of diversity in race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation, and works to bring understanding and acceptance to every aspect of local schools and communities. The students work to achieve these goals through promoting nonviolent organizing principles, and encouraging their schools to actively embrace peace.

Concerned about the overwhelming presence of violence in their schools and a growing intolerance for diversity, the Youth Congress conducted a year long study of all aspects of violence, including peaceful resolutions. The students assembled a district-wide coalition of public officials, police forces, school administrators, teachers and parents, to form a network of experience, expertise, and idea exchange. Drawing on this wealth of knowledge, the Youth Congress drafted a resolution to encourage and inspire action by their school administrators and the government officials.

The action points of the resolution are as follows:

We, the Students of the 10th Congressional District Youth Congress, for our safety and continued growth as problem solvers, critical thinkers, and involved citizens, urge you to adopt the following policies and programs:

Establish a core curriculum throughout all high schools on conflict resolution and diversity education. This program should devote time evenly to nonviolent conflict resolution training and in-depth studies of diversity training and acceptance. The diversity training should include, but not be limited to, studies of the civil rights movement, gay and lesbian issues, native American history, a study of the Holocaust, and a wide range of cultural and ethnic education studies.

Implement peer mediation and other proven student-to-student problem-solving initiatives.

Form a parent/student advisory board and task force charged with development and promotion of honor codes and disciplinary policies. The advisory board and task force will work to increase parent education and establish workshops to help parents teach and support nonviolent and cooperative problem-solving for families and communities.

Establish student review boards with oversight of honor codes and disciplinary policies. The review board will also promote on-going conflict resolution awareness and training for all students and staff.

Establish a policy that no student be removed from the student population without due process, and a plan for the student's eventual reentry or a clear and specific action plan for the student and family.

Review the role of uniformed and non-uniformed police officers as well as security staff. Promote the role of police and security as facilitators or models of effective conflict resolution. Police officials should be resources to

encourage students and staff to respect differences, as well as being informed liaisons with youth- and family-serving organizations in the community.

Work to reduce class size to create an atmosphere conducive to appropriate learning and one that is less prone to create conflict.

Provide access to mental health services, through creative partnerships with community-based health and mental health providers. Establish the presence in all schools of a full range of mental health services for students and staff. Special emphasis should be placed on continuing staff training, assessment and mental health counseling for all students and families, and establishing strong links with community social service agencies.

Pass reasonable and uniform gun control laws within our cities, including registration and safety lock laws.

Study the impact of a culture that among other things, has sold violence as entertainment and promotes insensitivity to human suffering. Encourage print and electronic news media to balance their coverage of tragedy, terror, death and disaster with attention to the aspects of human existence that ennoble, enrich and empower students, families and communities and in doing so begin to tell new stories about all of us.

The students and youth of the Cleveland area will play a significant role in replacing our culture of violence with a culture of peace. The model they set forth this day can be used as a model in cities all across our nation.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the work of the 10th Congressional District Youth Congress, as these students continue to lead the way in establishing long lasting peace in our schools and communities.

#### BRING GEN. AUGUSTO PINOCHET TO JUSTICE IN THE UNITED STATES

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the murder in Washington, D.C. of Orlando Letelier and his assistant Roni Karpen Moffitt by the Chilean intelligence agency (DINA) has been a point of contention for the Chilean and United States governments since it occurred in September of 1976. Letelier was an important figure in the democratically elected government of President Salvador Allende and he came to this country after being imprisoned and beaten in Chile and then released by the Pinochet dictatorship from the position he had held, Chile's ambassador to the U.S. There is compelling evidence that Gen. Pinochet ordered his assassination. Moffitt died because she happened to be driving in the car with him which had been wired with a bomb.

Now that Pinochet has had his immunity revoked by a Chilean court, U.S. authorities have begun to review whether sufficient grounds exist to authorize his extradition.

Joshua G. Hill, a Research Associate with the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), authored a brief research memorandum on Pinochet's involvement in the assassinations and steps being taken to bring him to justice. I commend to my

colleagues this brief paper on a case that has remained of such great importance to so many people in the U.S. and Chile.

"Pinochet and the Letelier Case," by Joshua Hill, research associate, Council on Hemispheric Affairs, Washington, D.C.

#### PINOCHET AND THE LETELIER CASE

##### BACKGROUND

Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet's seventeen-year reign was one of terror and murder. Not only were well over three thousand political opponents killed or "disappeared" in Chile (including several U.S. citizens), but Pinochet's murderous group extended into the United States as well. Orlando Letelier, one of the most famous Chilean dissidents living abroad was murdered September 21, 1976 on the streets of Washington, D.C. Now that the Santiago Court of Appeals has removed General Pinochet's immunity, the U.S. Department of Justice is reviewing the possible extradition of Pinochet to stand trial for the car bombing murders of Letelier and Roni Moffitt, an American colleague of Letelier's at Washington's Institute for Policy Studies. According to the evidence presented at the time of the trial, the bomb was detonated by remote control. Letelier was killed instantly, while Roni Moffitt died when a metal shard pierced her body. Her husband, Michael, who was in the back seat, miraculously survived the blast.

##### THE INITIAL TRIALS

The Department of Justice led by Attorney General Janet Reno reopened the Letelier case once Pinochet returned to Chile after being held under house arrest, in Great Britain. Accusations arising in Chilean and Spanish courts have rejuvenated interest in bringing Pinochet to justice for the fatal car bombing. In a 1978 U.S. federal trial, Gen. Manuel Contreras, the former head of the Chilean National Intelligence Directive (DINA) was convicted along with seven others, including the DINA operation director, Pedro Espinoza, in the deaths of Letelier and Moffitt. In subsequent trials between 1978 and 1990, two more DINA operatives and two Cuban exiles were also convicted. The Espinoza trial exposed evidence that could have possibly implicated Pinochet in the murders, but until now, Pinochet has been able to hide behind his immunity clause that he himself implemented before he left office.

##### THE MOUNTING EVIDENCE AGAINST PINOCHET

In March and April of this year, the U.S. Justice Department and FBI investigated and interviewed witnesses in Chile. They were allowed to submit questions through a Chilean judge to forty-two subpoenaed people. John Dinges, a journalist and author who obtained a secret memo from a Chilean reporter, claims that an affidavit exists attesting to the existence of an order from Pinochet to Espinoza to murder Letelier. Compounding this testimony, it is a fact that Pinochet revoked Letelier's Chilean citizenship only ten days before his assassination in a response to growing outcries by Letelier against Chile's atrocious human rights policy. "What was important to me about the stripping of his citizenship was the timing of it—just 10 days before the assassination," said E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., a former federal prosecutor who won two other cases against Chileans involved in the murder of Letelier. "It clearly shows that the efforts of Letelier was making to bring pressure on Chile were working. He was getting under the junta's skin."

After his imprisonment in the United States, the Chilean government sentenced Contreras in 1995 to seven years for murder. Since it is highly doubtful that Contreras was acting without the President's approval,

this conviction strengthens the case against Pinochet. In fact, in Contreras's 1997 affidavit, he stated that no DINA missions were ever undertaken without prior consent from Pinochet.

#### U.S. DOMESTIC PRESSURE IS APPLIED

Adding to the domestic political pressure in the U.S., on May 26 California Congressmen George Miller and thirty-four other Congressmen sent a letter to President Clinton to insist that the U.S. continue to press the Chilean government for greater assistance in carrying out the investigation of Pinochet's complicity. They labeled the Letelier case the worst incident of terrorism committed by a foreign government on U.S. soil and the letter requested the president to focus on discussing the investigation in his meeting with Chilean President Ricardo Lagos in Berlin on June 2. It also called for the possible extradition of Pinochet to the United States if the evidence continues to point toward a significant connection between the former Chilean dictator and Letelier's murder.

The extradition of Pinochet may be unlikely due to his advanced age and ailing health, but many members of Congress and others still are calling for a trial and a conviction to reinforce the principle that the U.S. will not tolerate terrorism on its soil. The Letelier case represents the effort to demonstrate that no one is above the law, not even a former dictator and self-proclaimed president.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ISRAEL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ACT

##### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation, along with Congresswoman NITA LOWEY, in an effort to correct a grave injustice being committed against our friend and ally in the Middle East; Israel.

Many of my colleagues may not be aware that a number of nations have not established full diplomatic relations with Israel. Israel currently maintains diplomatic relations with 162 countries. Approximately 25 countries do not have any diplomatic relations with Israel at all. Another 4 countries have only limited relations.

In order for Israel to be a full member of the world community, she must establish diplomatic relations. The Israeli Embassy tells me that Israel is actively seeking to establish and upgrade their relations with several countries. This has proven difficult with many of the Islamic nations, such as Pakistan and Indonesia.

In 1994, Representative Lee Hamilton had language included in the State Department Foreign Relations FY94-95 Authorization bill that stated the Secretary of State should make the issue of Israel's diplomatic relations a priority and urge countries that receive U.S. assistance to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Unfortunately, despite this provision, the U.S. government has not made this issue a priority.

At the beginning of this year, during an International Relations Committee hearing, I asked Secretary of State Madeleine Albright about Israel's diplomatic relations with coun-

tries receiving U.S. assistance. The Secretary replied that she considers Israel's relations with the world community and other nations essential to peace and stability and has been actively encouraging countries, such as Indonesia, to establish full relations with Israel. I could not agree more.

I believe the U.S. should be doing everything possible to help Israel establish these relations. In fact, Congresswoman LOWEY and I worked together to include a provision in the Report to the FY 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that urges Israel's Arab neighbors to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

However, more needs to be done. That is why Congresswoman LOWEY and I are introducing the "Israel Diplomatic Relations Act," to help promote Israel's role in the international community.

Our legislation spells out clearly the importance of Israel's status in the international community and the need for Israel to receive the recognition she deserves. It also requires an annual report to Congress by the U.S. Department of State on U.S. government activities to help promote Israel's diplomatic relations in the world community.

This report is of critical importance because it will require our embassies to focus attention on Israel's diplomatic relations.

I urge my colleagues to help us promote peace and stability in the Middle East by supporting and cosponsoring this critical legislation.

#### HONORING NORM ANTINETTI

##### HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a very special person, Mr. Norm Antinetti as he enters into a well-deserved retirement after 40 years of dedicated service to Oakdale High School.

Norm's list of accomplishments is impressive. He has the distinction of holding the longest tenure in the history of Oakdale High. During that career he coached football, baseball and the love of his life, basketball.

There's a saying in Oakdale, Mr. Speaker: If you grew up in Oakdale and played basketball, you know Norm. He's as much a fixture on the court as his red Oakdale Mustangs baseball cap or jacket is on him.

As a coach, he guided teams to four Valley Oak League championships and won four other major tournament championships. He coached the Kiwanis Large Schools South All-Star basketball team twice and started Oakdale's 30-year-old Rotary Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament.

He's been named the California Interscholastic Federation—San Joaquin Athletic Director of the Year, Stanislaus District Coach of the Year, Valley Oak League Varsity Coach of the Year and Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coach of the Year to name only a few of his accolades.

It is rare that we are able to recognize such a selfless person. He is a fitting example of what is right about getting involved with our young people and being a positive role model for them.

I consider it a privilege to call him friend and am very proud to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Norm Antinetti.

#### HONORING MINNIE ELIZABETH SAPP

##### HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that today I honor Minnie Elizabeth Sapp, who recently celebrated her one-hundredth birthday. Mrs. Sapp had the rare fortune of seeing a complete century unfold. It was on July 12, 1900 that Mrs. Sapp was born—in the log house built by her grandfather, James Waymon Mitchell, on Lost Creek in White County, and it was on July 12, 2000 that we celebrated her one-hundredth birthday.

On Christmas Day in 1921, Mrs. Sapp married Homer Floyd Sapp in the same room in the log house where she was born. The couple traveled by buggy to Homer's father's home, at what is now Rim Rock Mesa at Bon Air. Six years later they moved to a forty-acre farm on Corolla Road.

The couple had seven children. The two boys died as infants, and sadly one daughter, Helen, passed away at 14. The other four daughters survived: Josephine, Norma, Evelyn, and Betty. Although her husband Homer died in 1980, Mrs. Sapp continues to live at the farm that the couple moved to 73 years ago.

In 1993, Mrs. Sapp wrote her personal memoirs, and among her memories are recollections of lighting the house with coal lamps and making lye and soap. The United States has changed much since the days of her childhood, but her memories of quilting, walking barefoot to free school and later attending boarding school at Pleasant Hill Academy, carrying water from the spring, and keeping the fire going year round have shaped a strong, loving woman who is devoted to her family and friends.

Two weeks ago I had the honor of attending Mrs. Sapp's birthday celebration, and on the 16th of July the Bon Air United Methodist Church honored her with a service, singing, and presentation of a plaque. The family and friends who surround her serve as a testament to the impact this amazing woman has on all who meet her.

Truly, Minnie Elizabeth Sapp is a blessing to her community. Mrs. Sapp's devotion to family and religion has seen her through 100 years, and I am confident that it is her love of life which will fill every day that is to come. That is why it is in the spirit of all who know and love her that I wish to congratulate Mrs. Sapp on her one-hundredth birthday celebration.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY FRANK PUCKETT

##### HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, today I draw my colleagues' attention to the years of service that Mr. Frank Puckett has provided to the

city of Abilene and I congratulate Frank upon his retirement from the Abilene Reporter-News, the largest newspaper in the 17th Congressional District where he was employed for 19 years. Both with the newspaper and in the community, Frank's leadership has been tireless and productive.

It took Frank awhile to find his way to us out in West Texas. Having begun his life in Indiana, he journeyed through the wilderness of Ohio and Illinois before making it to the Promised Land of Abilene in 1981. We're glad he persevered.

Frank joined the Reporter-News in 1981 as executive vice president and general manager. It took him only two years to be promoted to the position of president and then in 1995 he assumed the publisher's mantle.

While his role with the newspaper has been significant, it may be that his involvement with the city of Abilene has been even more far-reaching. During the 1980s when the Texas economy presented numerous challenges to local residents, Frank was instrumental in providing the leadership necessary to move towards greater economic development and security. He chaired ACT-NOW, which successfully orchestrated Abilene's economic recovery. He also served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, the West Texas Rehabilitation Center, Abilene Industrial Foundation, Hendrick Home for Children, Tax Increment Financing District, Abilene Improvement Corp and Abilene Community Foundation.

With Dyess Air Force Base fulfilling such a significant role in Abilene's economy, Frank took on a major responsibility when he became chairman of the Military Affairs Committee for Abilene's Chamber of Commerce. In that capacity, he has focused on helping the base secure new missions and update current facilities. With Frank, I share a fond hope that Dyess will one day house the Air Borne Laser program. In recognition of his contributions, Frank has been named Outstanding Citizen by both the Strategic Air Command and the Air Mobility Command.

While all of us in Abilene join in wishing Frank the very best in his retirement from the newspaper, none of us expect or hope to see Frank's retirement from all of the other many activities which have made his presence in Abilene so valuable. We know that he has much yet to contribute and we look forward to our continued mutual efforts to strengthen our beloved community and District.

COMMEMORATING HUMBOLDT COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NINTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Larry Olson and the citizens of Humboldt County, California for their recent efforts in the fight against cancer. At the Ninth Annual "Relay for Life" on July 14th and 15th, 2000, the local chapter of the American Cancer Society raised a record-breaking \$640,000.

Mr. Larry Olson was the event's chairman and under his leadership the Humboldt County

"Relay for Life" was the top fundraising community in the state of California and one of the top ten nationwide for the third consecutive year. The spirit and the generosity of the people of the North Coast are what make this "Relay For Life" such a success. Hundreds of individuals, small businesses and organizations made generous donations. Their dedication and commitment should echo across the nation.

This 24-hour event embodies the spirit of community and fellowship. There were 232 teams who competed, each consisting of 12 members. Combined with hundreds of volunteers, the total number of participants exceeded 3,500. Among the hundreds of participants were over 500 cancer patients and survivors. Their participation underscores the sense of hope that one day there will be a cure to this devastating disease.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of Larry Olson and the people of Humboldt County for their effort in the fight against cancer.

THE HOUSING FINANCE REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT ACT

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3703, the Housing Finance Regulatory Improvement Act, if enacted, would enhance the regulatory structure of the housing GSEs—Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBanks).

While I do not agree with every proposal under this bill, I support advancing a constructive dialogue between Congress, the housing GSE's, their regulators and all industries involved. Continued work is needed to guarantee GSE mission compliance to forestall unfair competition into non-mission related products, as well as to ensure GSE safety and soundness to limit taxpayer liability.

Currently, the housing GSEs are under good management and are in sound operating condition. That is why it is important to examine the systemic risk that these entities may pose to our financial system at the present time.

Overall, I believe that the duties of the housing GSE's are somewhat divergent. On one hand, they have a mission to homebuyers to maintain liquidity in the housing markets and to stabilize mortgage rates. On the other hand, they are publicly traded companies that must return a profit to their shareholders. The means for a high shareholder return is manipulation of the GSE's implicit government subsidy, and there is a fine line between how much of the subsidy's benefits should be returned to homeowners and how much should be passed on to shareholders.

Regardless, the GSEs have played an important role in bringing together homebuyers, lenders and capital from across the country and reducing mortgage rates. Again, while I do not support all provisions of H.R. 3703, I believe it is a step in the right direction. Introduction of this legislation has been a catalyst for serious discussion over the housing GSE's mission and the implications of financial fail-

ure. In cosponsoring this bill, I want to advance a dialogue to make certain that taxpayers and the private sector are protected from excessive risk and unfair competition.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIVES OF LT. CMDR. GARETH RIETZ AND LT. RAYMOND O'HARE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the unfortunate deaths of two Navy test pilots at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station on July 11, 2000. Lt. Cmdr. Gareth Rietz, 33, and Lt. Raymond O'Hare, 33, lost their lives while training to become test pilots at the prestigious U.S. Naval Test Pilot School. The students were flying on a familiarization flight aimed at refreshing their flying proficiencies following a short break. Both seniors, they were experienced aviators and were scheduled to graduate in December 2000.

Commander Bob Stoney, the Naval Test Pilot School's Commanding Officer, in an interview with the Washington Post following the incident, commented, "What they would have wanted us to do is get back on our horses and ride." There are safety and legal investigations under way, but life is returning to normal as a new class is beginning its training.

Gareth Rietz, a native of Washington State, "was the cheerleader for everybody, the coach, the quarterback," Stoney said. A graduate of Washington State University, he leaves his wife and daughters behind.

Raymond O'Hare, a native of Illinois, was, as Stoney said, "a tremendously gifted man who seemed to have a calling to higher things. He was extremely smart, good at everything he did." A graduate of Harvard University, he is survived by his wife and three children. Before he died, he had been selected for the grade of Lieutenant Commander.

Their untimely deaths should prompt us all to take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices that they and thousands of others have made to keep this Nation safe and free. We should also take this time to re-evaluate the benefits for our troops and their families. It is easy for us to take the military for granted in this time of relative peace and prosperity. But the crash at Pax River should remind us that what our military does each and every day is still dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the families of these two proud Americans who have sacrificed their lives for their Country. We should all pause to reflect on the loss of these two distinguished individuals who were being trained as test pilots, an occupation that directly benefits the safety and performance abilities of aircraft weapons systems. I also would ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the men and women who are left behind at the Test Pilot School to carry on the proud mission of this small elite program which has produced so many American heroes, both the famous, including John Glenn, dozens of Space Shuttle astronauts, and the unsung heroes who quietly dedicate their careers to pushing the technology envelope for aviation systems.

Past and present members of the U.S. Armed Forces deserve to have our full and continued support and we should not wait for another tragedy like the one at Pax River, to remind ourselves that our troops are in danger on a daily basis, whether in harm's way or preparing to go into conflict. The men and women of our armed services are defending this nation so that we may go about our daily lives feeling safe and protected. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the Congress to ensure that we provide them with the latest and best weapons systems available and that we continue to recognize their hard work and honor the sacrifices they make on a daily basis.

ON BEHALF OF LORI BERENSON

**HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I call for action on behalf of Lori Berenson. Tomorrow, Peruvian President Fujimori will be inaugurated for another term and President Clinton will most likely congratulate him and wish him success. But what our President should be doing is raising the issue of Lori's release. And our diplomats should be working on it every minute of every day.

This is an American citizen, Mr. Speaker—on our own. As a result of a conviction by a secret military tribunal, Lori has toiled in a Peruvian jail for more than 4 years now, and has endured severe health effects as a result. Throughout this ordeal, Lori has maintained her absolute innocence. Numerous international human rights organizations, the United Nations, and the Organization of American States have all called for her release and pointed to widespread corruption in the Peruvian courts. But still, the United States has not taken the action necessary to obtain Lori's release.

Mr. Speaker, our nation has an excellent working relationship with the government of Peru. We cooperate on a wide range of issues together. The release of Lori should be one of those issues that is important to our nation. This is the time we must use the influence we've gained in Peru. It is time that President Clinton demands Lori's release at the highest levels it is time this nation stands up for Lori—it is time for Lori Berenson to come home.

THE HOME OWNERSHIP TAX CREDIT ACT: MAKING THE AMERICAN DREAM A REALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Home Ownership Tax Credit Act (HOTCA). This bill will help address a crisis in home ownership among low-income Americans.

The booming economy has helped boost the national home ownership rate to a record high level. However, home ownership among low-income households, minorities, women and families living in rural areas still lags behind. Although the national average of home ownership is 67%, only 45% of low-income families own their homes.

While present Federal policy promotes home ownership for higher income families by allowing taxpayers to deduct mortgage interest and real estate taxes, it does little to help low-income families achieve home ownership. The deductions of mortgage interest and real estate taxes benefit almost exclusively middle and upper-income Americans. In fact, only 10% of these tax benefits go to home owners who make less than \$40,000 a year. Rental assistance is available for poor families through a variety of federal subsidies (primarily HUD's Section 8 program), but there's little help for low to middle income families who want to make the transition from renters to home owners.

This legislation will lend a hand to our hard-working families so that they too can achieve home ownership. By leveraging private resources and without creating new programs or bureaucracies, this bill will help hundreds of thousand of families finally realize the American dream of home ownership.

This tax credit tackles the two leading obstacles of home ownership: affordability and lender risk. First, many low income families simply cannot afford the monthly mortgage payments and initial downpayment for even a modest home in their area. The home ownership tax credit addresses this "wealth hurdle" by offering interest-free second mortgages to the low-income buyer. This is critical because this second mortgage will reduce the buyer's down payment and monthly mortgage costs by as much as 30%.

Second, lenders are often reluctant to make so-called "risky" loans due to fear of foreclosures. By lowering the loan amount needed for the first mortgage, the home ownership tax credit reduces the risk for the lender.

Similar programs implemented in North Carolina and New York have already proven successful in increasing homeownership for low-income families and jump-starting formerly distressed neighborhoods. It's time we take this program nation-wide and help families throughout the country achieve the American dream of owning their own home.

I urge my colleagues to join me and co-sponsor the Home Ownership Tax Credit Act.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4871) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Execu-

tive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4871, the FY 2001 treasury-postal appropriations bill.

I am pleased that the committee reported an appropriations bill that strongly supports law enforcement efforts in this country. Fully funding the administration's gun-law-enforcement initiatives, including a proposal to add 600 employees to the agency to more fully enforce existing gun laws, suggests that this Congress is finally getting serious about stopping the scourge of gun crimes that have crippled this nation.

I hope this is a sign of more to come in promoting public safety and preventing these senseless crimes by approving legislation on juvenile justice which has languished in a conference committee for over a year.

This bill also contains a provision that I strongly support which would roll back the 0.5% surcharge on federal employee retirement contributions. This increase was mandated by the 1997 balanced budget law and has disproportionately affected federal employees by taxing more of their gross income for retirement than their private sector counterparts contribute.

Just yesterday, the CBO announced that we will run in FY 2001 a surplus of over \$100 billion. Mr. Speaker, the budget is balanced: it is time to stop funding surpluses at the expense of our hard working federal employees.

While I support many of the priorities in this bill and commend the committee on a job well done in allocating finite resources, I remain concerned about one provision in this bill that suggest this Congress is not serious about holding the line on spending.

Mr. Chairman, about a decade ago, through legislative slight of hand, Congress passed a law to allow for the automatic annual increase in Members' salaries. This was a politically motivated move to shield Congress from casting embarrassing votes to increase their own pay. While we were technically afforded the opportunity to vote against an increase by casting a no vote on a procedural issue, the fact remains that by voting in support of this legislation, we will be voting for our own pay raises.

This will be a vote that comes at the expense of other mandates an earlier Congress created: Two years ago the House voted overwhelmingly for the IRS Reform and Restructuring Act which followed recommendations of a commission that studied the IRS and stated that IRS budgets "should receive stable funding for the next three years so that the leaders can . . . improve taxpayer service and compliance."

Mr. Chairman, this bill, contrary to the recommendations of a bipartisan commission and contrary to the will of this House, cuts \$465 million from the administration's request. If this Congress is serious about holding the line on spending, we would not hold our other priorities hostage to our desires of a larger paycheck.

I will be voting against this bill and I will be voting against a pay increase—I urge my colleagues to put their money where their mouth is and reject final passage of this legislation.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF  
RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4920, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. The legislation would improve service systems for individuals with disabilities, including state developmental disability councils that assist individuals with disabilities, protection and advocacy systems for individuals with disabilities, and university affiliated programs for research and public service programs. I am pleased to see that others here in Congress are taking up this fight, particularly Rep. RICK LAZIO, the sponsor of this legislation we are now considering.

Rep. LAZIO has done an outstanding job of bringing the need for this legislation to the attention of Members. Under his leadership, H.R. 4920 has been crafted to provide many quality services for individuals with disabilities. Mr. LAZIO's bill builds upon the programs in current law to create a well-rounded approach toward assisting individuals with disabilities.

I also find it very appropriate that we consider this legislation on the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In its ten years, the ADA has done much to improve the daily lives of individuals with disabilities. The ADA has helped move these individuals into the mainstream of American life.

The Committee I chair has jurisdiction over several laws that provide assistance and protections for individuals with disabilities, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Throughout my time in Congress, I have consistently fought for improved programs and funding for individuals with disabilities.

I am particularly pleased with the increases in funding for IDEA that we have seen over the past five years, although we still have a long way to go.

I am pleased to support this bill.

THE REGISTER GUARD

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, an Opinion Editorial written by my predecessor, former Congressman Jim Weaver. In the article, printed in the Register Guard, Wednesday, July 26, 2000, Weaver discusses his encounters with Governor Bush's newly appointed running-mate, Dick Cheney. I recommend Jim Weaver's well-crafted, thought-provoking article to my colleagues for its insight and importance.

CHENEY HAS SHOWN HE'S SOFT IN NATURE,  
BUT TOUGH ON ISSUES

(By Jim Weaver)

Dick Cheney and I were members of the House Committee on the Interior in the 1970s

and 1980s. We sat opposite each other on the upper tier of the committee bench, he on the Republican side, and I on the Democratic side.

Cheney was always cordial, even gentle in demeanor, willing to discuss any matter and listen to other views. I grew to like him and conferred with him often.

While writing a book on the U.S. House of Representatives, he discovered that an ancestor of mine, James B. Weaver, had conducted a filibuster in the House in 1888 on the Oklahoma Land Bill. As I, too, had filibustered a bill, he told me the story. I appreciated his personal consideration.

So it always surprised me that when decisions were actually made in the committee, Cheney was hard as steel, and uncompromising on the hard-fought issues over forest preservation, revision of the 1872 mining act, grazing on public lands or nuclear power. He was three or four places down from the ranking Republican on the committee, but there was little question as to who controlled the Republican side—Dick Cheney. This very strong, highly intelligent, determined man kept the Republicans unanimous against any environmental incursions the Democrats attempted.

The chairman of the committee at that time was Mo Udall of Arizona. He bent over backward to conduct the committee fairly and to give the Republicans every parliamentary opportunity. His reward, offered by Cheney and his cohorts, was constantly and vehemently to accuse him and the Democrats of tyranny and railroading our bills. I only wish we had done so.

After the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in 1979, a House committee was chosen to conduct an investigation. I was named chairman and Cheney vice chairman. It was an intensive inquiry and resulted in many revelations. Cheney was an admirable person to work with. Conscientious and penetrating, Cheney helped make the inquiry the best of the presidential, Senate and House investigations.

But when the committee reported its findings, Cheney wrote a minority report to accompany my majority report.

My report blamed the accident on the extreme technological complications of nuclear power while Cheney, as did the other reports, blamed "human error." Cheney concluded with the NRC estimate that the accident would take a year and \$60 million to repair. My report predicted 10 years and \$1 billion dollars. Ten years later and more than a billion dollars spent, they were still cleaning up the last remnants.

I think Cheney would make an outstanding Republican vice president; actually, an outstanding Republican president. If I were a dyed in the wool Republican, I could not find a better person to vote for. But I am not a Republican.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 439, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 440, on motion to suspend the rules and pass Illegal Pornography and Prosecution Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 441, on passage disapproving the exten-

sion of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 442, on agreement to providing for consideration of H.R. 4942, making appropriations for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2001, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AMERICORPS

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following two articles for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and recommend that all members read and consider them when looking at the issue of AmeriCorps. These articles were brought to my attention by former Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford, and I hope that members find them helpful when considering reauthorization of AmeriCorps.

[From The Hill, June 21, 2000]

WHY I CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT AMERICORPS  
(By Dan Coats, former Republican Senator  
from Rhode Island)

When I was in the Senate, I did not support the legislation that created AmeriCorps because of my fundamental belief in private voluntary service and my skepticism about government-based solutions. I thought that government-supported volunteers would undermine the spirit of voluntary service and that new federal resources might subvert the mission and the independence of the civic sector.

My faith in the civic sector has not diminished one bit; in fact, it is stronger today than ever before. However, I have changed my mind about AmeriCorps. Instead of distorting the mission of the civic sector, AmeriCorps has proved to be a source of new power and energy for nonprofit organizations across the country.

My changed view about AmeriCorps is in no small measure because of the leadership that Harris Wofford, my Democratic former Senate colleague from Pennsylvania, has given to that program. Wofford and I did not vote on the same side very often in the Senate, and we still differ on many issues. But his leadership of AmeriCorps has convinced me that I should have voted with him on this issue.

First, thanks to Wofford's steadfast commitment to place national service above partisanship, AmeriCorps has not become the political program that some of us initially feared. Second, he shares my belief that the solutions to some of our most intractable problems lie in the civic sector. Accordingly, he has set AmeriCorps to the work of supporting, not supplanting, the civic sector.

I have seen firsthand how AmeriCorps members have provided a jolt of new energy to the civic sector from my experience as president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. As Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity and another former skeptic of government-supported volunteers, also discovered, the leadership provided by full-time AmeriCorps members is a key addition for nonprofit and faith based organizations that are tackling the most difficult community and human problems.

AmeriCorps members, through their idealism, enthusiasm and can-do spirit, have multiplied the impact of organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Habitat, and hundreds of other organizations large and small.

The number of Republicans who have changed their mind about AmeriCorps continues to grow.

In the last years, Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) and Rep. John Kasich (R-Ohio) have spoken out about the positive role AmeriCorps plays in strengthening the civic sector. Together, we join a growing bipartisan list of present and former federal and state legislators, governors and civic leaders in support of AmeriCorps.

Their support is part of a quiet, yet remarkable, transformation in American politics that has occurred since the white-hot debate that took place a few years ago between those who believed that government should take the lead in solving community problems and those who thought government could accomplish little or nothing, and was even likely to be a negative force.

Now, as evidenced by both major party presidential candidates and by growing bipartisan support in Congress, a new middle ground has emerged, leading to a unique partnership between AmeriCorps, the nonprofit organizations and private and religious institutions that are critical to strengthening our communities. It is these institutions that transmit values between generations that encourage cooperation between citizens, and make our communities stronger.

In a recent speech to the nation's governors, retired Gen. Colin Powell declared himself "a strong supporter of AmeriCorps." After spending two years working with the organization Powell concluded, "[W]hat they do in terms of leveraging other individuals to volunteer is really incredible. So it is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future. . . ."

Later this month, a bipartisan coalition in the Senate will introduce legislation to reauthorize AmeriCorps and its parent agency, the Corporation for National Service. I hope that Congress will move quickly to enact this legislation so that AmeriCorps can continue to work with the nonprofit and faith-based sectors to strengthen our communities and build a better future for us all.

[From The NonProfitTimes, March 2000]

#### TWO PRESIDENTS: A SHARED LEGACY

(By Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation for National Service and Bob Goodwin, President, Points of Light Foundation)

Most people would not think that Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton have that much in common. But, Presidents Bush and Clinton share an important legacy. By making citizen service a central idea of their presidencies, these two presidents have fundamentally changed the landscape of the civic sector by moving citizen service from the margins to the center of the public agenda.

It wasn't always this way. In 1988, President Bush called for a "thousand points of light" in his inaugural address and thereafter created the Points of Light Foundation. President Bush recently told us that he never imagined the Points of Light would be viewed as a Republican venture. Nonetheless, Democrats were dubious and sometimes belittled it as an inadequate substitute for government action.

Today, much of that skepticism has passed. With bipartisan support, the Points of Light Foundation was included as part of the National Service Act of 1993 and receives regular funding through the Corporation for National Service. The foundation's network of hundreds of volunteer centers, often part of the United Way, is thriving—helping to connect local residents with opportunities to serve. And two years, President Clinton

joined with President Bush to resume the Daily Points of Light Award.

Similarly, President Clinton's special contribution to citizen service—AmeriCorps—faced still opposition from some Republican skeptics. After the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, there were recurring threats to eliminate AmeriCorps.

But President Clinton was steadfast, governors and mayors, Republicans and Democrats, and local and national nonprofits and faith-based organizations rallied in support, and the critics have been quieted.

By a large majority, including many Republicans, the Senate has voted for two years in a row to continued support for AmeriCorps. Republican Sen. Kit Bond stated, "The battle over whether we ought to have an AmeriCorps program or not is over. It has been decided." And Colin Powell has said, "It is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future, and I am a strong supporter of AmeriCorps."

Today, the partisan bickering around service and volunteering has almost disappeared. The call for citizen service is a major theme of presidential candidates of both parties. Al Gore, George W. Bush, John McCain and Bill Bradley all have spoken powerfully on the need for citizen service and the role that nonprofits and faith-based organizations can play in solving community problems and uniting us as a nation.

While the political winds have been shifting, two great streams of civilian service—community volunteering and intensive national service—have become partners in communities across the country.

These collaborations work because the Points of Light and AmeriCorps are founded on the same fundamental belief: through service we can bring people together to solve the problems that still plague our country. Their operating principle is to provide resources—usually people power—to thousands of nonprofits, with government playing the role of junior partner, supporting the work of these organizations, not guiding it.

Three years ago the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service cemented and elevated their partnership when Presidents Bush and Clinton came together to convene the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. They enlisted Colin Powell to chair the Summit and to lead the continuing campaign for America's Promise.

Powell's mandate is to rally the forces of all the great institutions in this country, businesses, the nonprofit sector, governments at all levels, and committed individuals, traditional volunteers and those in full-time service, to make a concerted effort to assure the conditions for success for all young Americans.

In coming weeks this partnership between the Corporation for National Service and the Points of Light Foundation will be demonstrated again as a bipartisan coalition in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate introduces legislation reauthorization the Corporation and its three main programs—AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps, and student service learning. This legislation will extend the life of the Corporation and support for the Points of Light Foundation into the next Administration.

Presidents Bush and Clinton pressed—and are still pressing—an idea and an ideal. Together they have raised a standard to which, as George Washington said at the Constitutional Convention, "the wise and the honest may repair."

This is a legacy of which they can jointly and justly be proud.

By passing this legislation, Congress will honor and share in this important bipartisan and nonpartisan legacy.

HONORING MARY MIYASHITA

## HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a woman with a remarkable career in public service, Mary Miyashita. To say that Mary has a flair for politics would only begin to skim the surface of the extraordinary contributions that she has made to numerous candidates and causes over the years.

Mary first got involved in politics during the 1948 gubernatorial campaign of Adlai Stevenson and has been a dedicated social and political activist ever since. The best way to describe Mary's political interests and involvement is exhaustive. I consider her presence to be a staple in the Democratic Party. She carries with her enough charisma to charm a crowd as well as the political savvy and assertiveness needed to fight the good fight. She has been selected as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention five times in the past 30 years, served as Co-Chair of the California Affirmative Action Committee in 1976 as well as Co-Chair of the California Democratic Party Budget and Finance Committee in 1976.

She has done everything from Chairing the 1980 Kennedy Caucus to hosting political leaders at her home. In fact, the only thing that stretches farther than Mary's dedication is her knowledge of the political scene. By just glancing at her impressive list of political involvement, it is easy to attest that Mary is a true champion of public service.

Over the years, Mary has been recognized by a host of organizations for her Herculean efforts. In 1975 she was named Democratic Woman of the Year and Key Woman of the Democratic Women's Forum in 1960. This year she is being recognized once more, this time by the esteemed publication *Asia Week* for her many years of public service. As a founding member of the first Asian Pacific Caucus in 1976, Mary helped to pave the way for equal and just treatment of Asian Pacific Americans. Time and time again she has succeeded in ensuring that the interests of the Asian Pacific Community are heard and protected. She has been the shining light that has inspired scores of youth to get involved in politics. I can think of no one else more deserving of this honor than Mary.

Her involvement is not exclusive to strictly politics. She is an active member of the PTA, ACLU, Women for Peace and the League of Women Voters to name a few. Programs such as Meals on Wheels, and the Woman and Children Crisis Shelter would not have found the success that they have enjoyed without Mary to support them.

Her continuous leadership is a true testament to public service. If a template for leadership could be made, it would bear the resemblance of my good friend Mary Miyashita. Her career thus far as a social and political activist is commendable, and happily far from being over.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM

**HON. JIM TURNER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have a special opportunity today to honor the Huntsville Item, a fine newspaper in East Texas, which will be celebrating its 150th birthday on August 18.

The Huntsville Item is the second oldest continually published newspaper in the state of Texas. Over the last century and a half, it has reported the everyday challenges facing East Texans, as well as the triumphs and tragedies of our great nation.

The Huntsville Item began publication in Huntsville, Texas on August 20 1850, under the editorship of George Robinson, who was born in Liverpool, England. From 1863–1864, during Robinson's enlistment in the Civil War, the Item was irregularly published due to Robinson's war duties and scarce supplies.

A fire destroyed the printing house of the Item on May 4, 1878, and the paper had to be printed several blocks away. But again, six years later, fire struck down the printing house, interrupting the Item's distribution for several weeks while printing was relocated to nearby Willis. Later that year, George's youngest son, Fred, took over management of the paper, moving all its operations back into Huntsville.

For several years early in the twentieth century, the Huntsville Item operated as the Huntsville Post-Item under publisher J.A. Palmer. In 1915, the paper was sold to Ross Woodall, who, along with his wife, published the paper until 1967.

The Item is currently owned by Community Holdings Newspapers, Inc.

The faded headlines of this newspaper tell the story of our nation's history.

Through the Civil War, two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and Kosovo, the Item relayed news of brave American soldiers to their parents, siblings, and loved ones. Its newsprint has captured the Great Depression, the Baby Boom, the Oil Rush, the S&L crash, and the digital revolution. Its columns have examined Nolan Ryan, Willie Nelson, LBJ and Sam Rayburn.

I congratulate all the editors, photographers, and reporters who have made this newspaper last through the test of time. Even after four fires and other challenges, the paper has survived and flourished.

I hope that the stories it reports in the next hundred and fifty years will mirror the same growth, progress, and success that our nation has experienced since its first copy, published in 1850.

TRIBUTE TO POSTMASTER ROY C. BUNCH

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I pay a special tribute to Postmaster Roy C. Bunch who resides in North Carolina's

Third Congressional District, which I have the privilege to represent.

Next week friends, family, and officials will gather at the Albemarle Plantation in Hertford to recognize Mr. Bunch for 50 years of dedicated service to the federal government.

Mr. Bunch began his career in the United States Navy on August 24, 1944 and served our Nation until March 6, 1946.

His career as Postmaster of the Belvidere facility began on January 24, 1952 where he has tirelessly served for over 48 years.

After fifty years of service to the Federal Government and to the men, women and children of our great Nation, Mr. Bunch is not slowing down.

He is in wonderful health and has mentioned no plans of retirement.

He currently resides in Belvidere, North Carolina with his wife of 51 years, Clemma Bunch. Together Roy and Clemma have one son and a daughter.

He continues to be an exemplary example of an outstanding public servant and for that I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Bunch.

All of our federal employees deserve great thanks from this Nation. It is not an overstatement to say that without federal employees our country would not be able to function. They touch every aspect of our lives and provide immeasurable benefits to us all. Without the dedication to service that federal workers such as Mr. Bunch provide, our Nation would not be the great country it is today.

Mr. Roy Bunch, "thank you," I salute you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MINGE-HOOLEY COMPREHENSIVE RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

**HON. DAVID MINGE**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, today I announce the introduction of landmark legislation to help maintain the viability of America's rural economy. I join with my colleague Representative DARLENE HOOLEY and members of the Democratic Rural Task Force in introducing the Comprehensive Rural Telecommunications Act.

Several months ago, I was given the opportunity to chair the Democratic Rural Task Force. This task force was developed with the aim of pursuing initiatives which ensure our rural communities are not left behind in the new millennium. Many factors comprise a robust economy. That is true in an urban, suburban or rural community. It was my job to decide which economic sectors of rural America we could most realistically pursue.

With the advice and input of the telecommunications innovators in my Congressional district, I saw the important need for a strong investment in telecommunications infrastructure to provide for the maintenance and future growth of rural America. The Internet creates great commercial opportunities; therefore, telecommunications infrastructures are more than ever a crucial tool of our economic development. However, rural communities are at a real disadvantage when it comes to building these new advanced networks, given their

distance from urban centers and low population densities. Telecommunication providers often prefer to deploy advanced telecommunication systems in urban areas, where fixed costs are spread over more customers and volume is greater.

The gentlewoman from Oregon and I set to work on an ambitious proposal that would take a comprehensive approach rather than several fragmented efforts. This collaborative effort led to the three part Comprehensive Rural Telecommunications Act. Our legislation combines incentives for infrastructure creation along with the educational opportunities needed to ensure a population who can utilize the new infrastructure.

The legislation establishes National Centers for Distance Working which would provide training, referral, and employment-related services and assistance to individuals in rural communities and Indian Tribes to support the use of teleworking in information and high technology fields. These centers would help people in rural areas link up with employers so they could take advantage of new career opportunities even if they do not live in areas with numerous employers.

To encourage infrastructure creation, the legislation provides a 10% to 15% tax credit on expenditures by companies deploying broadband (1.5 MBPS) or enhanced broadband (10 MBPS) in rural areas. The legislation also authorizes the USDA's Rural Utility Service to provide up to \$3 billion in loans or credit extensions to eligible telecommunications carrier providers to finance the deployment of broadband service in rural communities.

A special thanks goes to the esteemed Senators DORGAN, ROCKEFELLER, and WELLSTONE. Much of this legislation is based on individual bills they have previously introduced. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, Representative MARTIN FROST.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my House colleagues join with me in supporting and passing the Minge-Hooley Comprehensive Rural Telecommunications Act, which is critical to rural America's future.

FREE SPEECH AND MEDIA IN THE OSCE REGION AFTER 25 YEARS

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today freedom of the press and media in the OSCE participating States is deteriorating and regressing, largely unnoticed by the peoples of the region. This is happening in Western and Central Europe in much the same way one cooks a frog. Place the frog in cold water and start the fire. As the water heats up, the frog is gradually cooked—having never known he was in danger. This type of political gradualism is a true threat to the peoples and States of Europe.

Recent hearings held by the Helsinki Commission, on which I serve, have noted a number of high profile cases in Eastern Europe showcasing the situation. We have heard of the rise of influence and pressure from heavy-handed government authorities who feel the need to control the views and reports of independent journalists. Such actions have been

especially evident in Bosnia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine. The recent arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky, head of Media Most and an outspoken critic of Russian President Putin, has raised our concern about Russia's approach to an agenda of free media.

A key OSCE commitment allows for the development and protection of freedom of expression, permitting independent pluralistic media. Three years ago, the OSCE States were concerned enough about the problems in this area that they mandated the creation of the position of Representative on Freedom of the Media. The 25th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act marks an appropriate occasion to review the past relations between the OSCE governments and the media, and to review the current situation of free media in the region.

Last year, 11 journalists were killed in the region, with a number of the deaths accompanied by suspicious circumstances. In addition to those killed while reporting the news, many others were arrested under suspicious circumstances and without due process. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reporter Andrei Babitsky's story is a frightening example of just how badly the situation for reporters has deteriorated in Russia. While covering and reporting on the war in Chechnya, Babitsky was arrested by Russian troops for "participating in an armed formation," and yet later was traded to Chechen rebels in an exchange, thus being placed in grave danger. Babitsky was later retrieved by Russian forces and subsequently charged with using false papers.

While Babitsky was fortunate to have survived and received international exposure, most other journalists are not so lucky in Russia. In Vladimir Putin's first "state of the union" speech, he said that he supported a free Russian press, but was angered that media owners could influence the content. That is, while Putin openly declares support for a free media, he chills the media in his next utterance. Likewise, Gusinsky's arrest has heightened our concern as we see the tightening of the noose on the throat of a free press in Russia.

Actions by governments in Southeastern Europe are also a cause for concern. Turkey and the Balkan States present serious impediments towards promoting and allowing free media. Serbia continually threatens, harasses, and fines all media that do not follow the official line. Milosevic has seen to the gradual demise of any independent Serbian media, not the least through fines totaling \$2.1 million last year. Turkish authorities continue to block free media in key areas, with either the Kurdish issue or criticism of the military most likely to land journalists in jail.

Mr. Speaker, I could continue. Such developments are rife throughout the Caucasus and Central Asia. It is not enough for OSCE States to ardently promote the idea of free speech and media. Collective accountability must be used, along with public diplomacy, if the OSCE is to consist of States that rise to the standard envisioned at Helsinki 25 years ago regarding free speech and media.

RECOGNIZING THE NYSP PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—EAU CLAIRE

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a fantastic program that benefits young people throughout the nation, and to pay special tribute to the chapter in my congressional district.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure to spend some time at the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) on the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire campus. This is the twentieth year that an NYSP summer camp has operated in the Chippewa Valley region of western Wisconsin, at which disadvantaged youth take part in athletic, math and science activities for five weeks. The sports component of the program emphasizes instruction, competition, physical fitness and lifetime sports. The classroom programs cover nutrition, drug and alcohol awareness, higher education preparation and career discussions in addition to the science and math curriculum.

Of the 180 or so NYSP programs that operate nationwide each summer, the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire camp has been recognized as one of the top five programs seven times. It has also been rated as the top program twice in the last decade.

NYSP is an excellent example of how federal partnerships with communities can work for the betterment of America's young people. Funds for NYSP are provided through the Department of Health and Human Services and are administered through the NCAA. In my home state, additional funds for food services are provided through the Department of Agriculture.

NYSP provides the kids who participate in the camps with wonderful opportunities they would not otherwise have to learn, play, and form new friendships in friendly, safe and supportive environments. This year at UW—Eau Claire, 589 young people participated in NYSP.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all of the many staff and volunteers who run the NYSP program at UW—Eau Claire. In particular, I wish to recognize Lisa McIntyre, Bill Harms, Jeff Lutz, Tom Platt and Tony Hudson, whose dedication to the program is very admirable, and who make sure I am kept up-to-date about the progress and success of NYSP each year.

I offer a special word of congratulations and thanks to Diane Gibertson, who has been the Activities Director of NYSP in Eau Claire. Diane is retiring this year, and was instrumental in establishing NYSP in the Chippewa Valley twenty years ago. Diane's tireless efforts over the years on behalf of youth in our community serves as a shining example for all of us—young and old—to follow our dreams, and to take time to help make the dreams of our children come true.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of western Wisconsin, I congratulate and thank all those who have made the NYSP program an amazing success. Our children, and our communities, are certainly the better for their efforts.

THE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill with Mr. MORAN, Mr. COX, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. TOM DAVIS, Mr. DRIER, Mr. ADAM SMITH, Mr. SALMON and Mrs. TAUCHER to address the severe worker shortage in technology related industries. The Technology Education and Training Act provides a \$1,500 tax credit for information technology training expenses.

This tax credit is necessary to address the serious shortage in the United States of trained technology professionals. This shortage has a dramatic effect on the U.S. economy. According to the CompTIA Workforce Study, as a result of unfilled IT positions, the U.S. economy loses \$105.5 billion in spending that would otherwise go to salaries and training. This reduces household income by \$37.2 billion and prevents the creation of 1.6 million jobs. Currently, an estimated 268,740 (10%) of IT service and support positions are unfilled. This results in \$4.5 billion per year in lost worker productivity. An ITAA study released April 11, 2000 predicts a shortage of 843,328 for the 1.6 million new IT workers needed in 2000.

The tax credit we establish in this bill would be available to both individuals and businesses for training and educational expenses for individuals being trained in technology related industries. The allowable credit would be \$1,500. For small businesses, or businesses and individuals in enterprise zones, empowerment zones, and other qualified areas, the credit would equal \$2,000. The training program must result in certification.

This bill encourages a private-public sector partnership which allows the private sector to determine who, what, where and how to train workers. It also helps to fill the IT worker pipeline with thousands of new and retrained IT skilled workers which would otherwise leave thousands of jobs in cities across America unfilled.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of The Technology Education and Training Act.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A GLOBAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND GLOBAL WIC PROGRAM

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was very excited to read the July 23, 2000 statement by President Clinton at the G-8 Summit in Okinawa, Japan, announcing a \$300 million initial start-up program in support of a universal school and pre-school feeding program for the over 300 million hungry children of the world. On July 27th, the Senate Agriculture Committee held a hearing on this issue and invited former Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole, the two chief proponents of this initiative, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, Senator RICHARD DURBIN, myself, and several others to testify.

This is a remarkable initiative to promote education and reduce hunger among children world wide. I would like to enter into the RECORD the President's statement describing this initiative, as well as the testimony of Ambassador George McGovern and my own testimony before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION:  
BUILDING A STRONGER GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SUPPORT FOR BASIC EDUCATION AND CHILDHOOD NUTRITION—JULY 23, 2000

Today, President Clinton announced new Initiatives to expand access to basic education and improve childhood development in poor countries. Part of the Okinawa Summit's unprecedented emphasis on international development, these measures include:

(1) A new \$300 million U.S. Department of Agriculture international school nutrition pilot program to improve student enrollment, attendance, and performance in poor countries. (2) Endorsement by the G-8 of key international "Education for All" goals, including the principle that no country with a strong national action plan to achieve universal access to primary education by 2015 should be permitted to fail for lack of resources. (3) A new commitment by the World Bank to double lending for basic education in poor countries—an estimated additional \$1 billion per year. (4) An FY 2001 Administration budget request to increase funding for international basic education assistance by 50% (\$55 million) targeted to areas where structural weaknesses in educational systems contribute to the prevalence of abusive child labor.

Better access to basic education can be a catalyst for poverty reduction and broader participation in the benefits of global economic integration. Literacy is fundamental not only to economic opportunity in today's increasingly knowledge-intensive economy but also to maternal and infant health, prevention and treatment of HIV-AIDS and other infectious diseases, elimination of abusive child labor, improved agricultural productivity, sustainable population growth and environmental conditions, and expanded democratic participation and respect for human rights.

(1) The U.S. will launch a \$300 million school feeding pilot program working through the UN World Food Program in partnership with private voluntary organizations. Building on ideas promoted by Ambassador George McGovern and former Senator Robert Dole and explored at the World Food Program (WFP), the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) would purchase surplus agricultural commodities and donate them for use in school feeding and pre-school nutrition programs in poor countries with strong action plans to expand access to and improve the quality of basic education.

For the first year of the program, the USG would spend \$300 million for commodities, international transportation, and other costs under the current CCC authorities, feeding as many as 9 million schoolchildren and pre-schoolers.

The program would be initiated working through the WFP in partnership with Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs), the U.S. share of which could grow over time depending upon participation by other donors and eligibility by developing countries.

Selection criteria would be based on need and include a commitment and contribution of resources by the host government, technical feasibility, good progress toward a strong national action plan to achieve the

Dakar Education, for All goals, and a commitment by the host government to assume responsibility for operating the program within a reasonable time frame where feasible.

A portion of the commodities could be sold to provide cash resources for incountry program management, funding any associated programs (e.g. feeding equipment purchases and local-commodity purchases, etc.). Incountry product storing, processing, handling and transportation, and purchasing the appropriate foods for the local program.

Funding would come from USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation under the surplus removal authority of the CCC Charter Act, and Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which provides for overseas donations of commodities in CCC's inventory to carry out assistance programs in developing countries and friendly countries. The last several years have seen record food surpluses in the U.S., with corresponding record donations of food overseas. USDA analysts project continued surpluses over the next few years.

(2) The G-8 has strongly endorsed Education for All goals and called for increased bilateral, multilateral, and private donor support for country action plans. At the initiation of the U.S., the G-8 has agreed to endorse the goals of a recently concluded international conference on access to basic education. Held in April 2000 in Dakar, Senegal, the World Education Forum gathered over 1,000 leaders from 145 countries to increase the world community's commitment to basic education in poor countries by:

Ensuring that no country with a strong national action plan to expand access to and improve the quality of basic education should be permitted to fail to implement its plan for lack of resources;

Ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality;

Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in level of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women;

Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005; and

Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education.

(3) In connection with the Summit and at the suggestion of the U.S., World Bank President James Wolfensohn has pledged that the Bank will increase education lending by 50% and devote the increase to basic education in support of the Dakar Framework—a \$1 billion increase or doubling of the Bank's lending for this purpose. This step could galvanize action on the part of the developing countries and other public and private donors to develop a deeper partnership in support of educating the world's youth.

(4) The G-8 action builds on the President's FY 2001 budget initiative to increase by 50% (\$55 million) US assistance to strengthen educational systems in areas of developing countries, targeted to areas where abusive child labor is prevalent. The International Labor Organization has estimated that 250 million children work worldwide. A lack of educational alternatives exacerbates this problem. The Administration initiative would complement direct efforts to reduce abusive child labor such as those by the International Labor Organization by providing support for improvements in educational systems.

The Okinawa Summit's focus on basic education in developing countries builds on one of the primary achievements of last year's G-7/G-8 Summit, the Cologne Debt Initiative, which will triple the scale of debt relief available to countries undertaking economic

reforms and committing to devote the resources freed up by lower foreign debt repayments to the education and health of their people. The President has requested \$435 million in appropriations for this years participation in the Cologne Debt Initiative, \$810 million including FY 2002 and 2003.

The international community has set a goal of achieving universal access to primary education by 2015; however, half of children in developing countries do not attend school and 880 million adults remain illiterate. An estimated 120 million children in developing countries do not attend any school at all, and an additional 150 million children drop out of school before completing the four years of schooling needed to develop sustainable literacy and numeracy skills.

Girls represent over 60% and perhaps as many as two-thirds of the children who are not in school.

Where 20% of women or less read and write, those women have an average of six children each. By contrast, in countries in which female literacy has reached 80% or more, this figure drops to fewer than three children each.

Each year of maternal education reduces childhood mortality by eight percent, deworming medicine.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of children (42 million) are out of school. In South Asia, 26% (46 million) are not enrolled in primary education. Of those children who do enroll, 33% never finish in Sub-Saharan Africa, 41% in South Asia, and 26% in Latin America.

The United Nations World Food Program estimates that 300 million children in developing countries are chronically hungry. Many of these children are among the nearly 120 million who do not attend school. Others are enrolled in school but underperform or drop out due in part to hunger or malnourishment.

A 1996 World Bank study concluded that when children suffer from hunger or poor nutrition and health, their weakened condition increases their susceptibility to disease, reduces their learning capacity, forces them to end their school careers prematurely, or keeps them out of school altogether.

An estimated 210 million children suffer from iron deficiency anemia, 85 million are at higher risk for acute respiratory disease and other infections because of vitamin A deficiency, and 60 million live with iodine deficiency disorders. Each condition adversely affects cognitive development, physical development, and motivation, yet each is susceptible to cost effective treatment because the body requires only minute quantities of the nutrients in question.

By helping to address these problems, school feeding and pre-school child nutrition programs have been shown to have a significant positive impact on rates of student enrollment, attendance and performance.

The Presidents international school feeding pilot program and the G-8's support for basic education in poor countries are part of the G-8's unprecedented emphasis on development. One of the principal objectives of the Okinawa Summit has been to strengthen the partnership of developed and developing countries, international institutions, the private sector, and civil society in support of global poverty alleviation. The Summit will create a framework for significantly increased bilateral, multilateral, and private sector assistance to poor countries with effective policies in three interrelated areas: infectious diseases, basic education, and information technology. The goal is to mobilize a more comprehensive response by the international community in response to developing countries that exert leadership at home on these issues. No issue is more fundamental to human progress than basic education:

Primary education is the single most important factor in accounting for differences in growth rates between East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa because it leads to greater achievement of secondary education, according to the World Bank.

An education helps people understand health risks, including AIDS, and preventative steps and demand quality treatment.

Education opportunities are also critical to eliminating abusive child labor. Around the world, tens of millions of young children in their formative years work under hazardous conditions, including toxic and carcinogenic substances in manufacturing, dangerous conditions in mines and on sea fishing platforms, and backbreaking physical labor. Some children labor in bondage, are sold into prostitution, or are indentured to manufacturers, working against debts for wages so low that they will never be repaid.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE MCGOVERN, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE AGENCIES ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, ROME, ITALY—JULY 27, 2000

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, I'm pleased to be associated once again with this important committee. During eighteen years as a Senator from South Dakota, I served every day as a member of this Committee: That was one of the deep satisfactions of my life. I also enjoyed my service on the Foreign Relations Committee, the Joint Economic Committee and my Chairmanship of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. But Agriculture was my bread and butter committee.

This morning I'm especially pleased to be accompanied by my friend and longtime Senate colleague, Bob Dole. As you know, Bob and I represent opposing parties. But we formed a bipartisan coalition in the Senate on matters relating to food and agriculture. That coalition reformed the field of nutrition and virtually put an end to hunger in America. We reformed and expanded food stamps for the poor; we improved and expanded the school lunch and breakfast programs; we launched the WIC program for pregnant and nursing low-income women and their infants. In the 1980's and 1990's there has been some slippage in the coverage of these excellent programs and that needs to be corrected. It is embarrassing that in this richest of all nations we still have an estimated 31 million Americans who do not have enough to eat.

But today I want to describe a new vision for you. It is a vision that would commit the United Nations, including the U.S., to providing a nutritious meal every day for every child in the world.

There are now 300 million hungry school age children in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Most of them do not have a school lunch or breakfast. One hundred and thirty million of them do not attend school and are condemned to a life of illiteracy. Most of those not in school are girls because of the favoritism toward boys and discrimination against girls.

How can we draw these children into the classroom? The most effective attraction anyone has yet devised to bring youngsters into the schools and keep them there is a good school lunch program. The American school lunch program is the envy of the world. At the recent convention in St. Louis of the American School Food Service Association there were visitors from half a dozen foreign countries, including Japan, who were there to find out how they should erect school lunch programs.

By actual test results, a school lunch program will double school attendance; it will also dramatically improve the learning proc-

ess and academic achievement. Children can't learn on an empty stomach. Nutrition is the precondition of education.

Nearly 40 years ago when the late President Kennedy brought me into the White House as Director of Food for Peace—a bipartisan program under P.L. 480 launched in the Eisenhower Administration—I received a telephone call from the Dean of the University of Georgia. He said, "Mr. McGovern, I'm calling to tell you that the federal school lunch program has done more to stimulate the social and economic development of the south than any other single program. It has," he said, "brought our youngsters into the schools, improved their learning capability, made them stronger, faster and healthier athletes, and more stable and effective citizens."

I believe the Georgia Dean was right then, and based on what he told me so many years ago, I know that he would support a daily school lunch for every child across the world.

If we could achieve the goal of reaching 300 million hungry children with one good meal every day, that would transform life on this planet. Dollar for dollar it is the best investment we can make in creating a healthier, better educated and more effective global citizenry.

One enormous benefit from such an effort is that it would help mightily in breaking down the barriers to the education of girls. Third World parents will send both girls and boys to school if lunches are provided. In six countries where studies have been conducted, it was revealed that illiterate girls who enter into marriage at 11, 12 or 13 years of age have an average of 6 children. Girls who have been schooled have an average of 2.9 children; they marry later and are better able to nurture and educate their children.

One significant benefit of an international school lunch program is that it would raise the income of American farmers and those in other countries that have farm surpluses. Every member of this Committee knows that nearly every farm crop is now in surplus. This depresses farm markets and farm income. But if the Secretary of Agriculture—Dan Glickman, a great Secretary—used his authority in the market he can buy everything from California and Florida oranges to Kansas and Indiana wheat, Iowa corn, Montana, Texas and North and South Dakota cattle and hogs, Wisconsin and New York milk and cheese, and North and South Carolina and Georgia peanuts.

I'm pleased that President Clinton has endorsed this concept. In a White House meeting a month ago he told me: "George, this is a grand idea. I want us to push it." I cite Secretary Glickman and Undersecretary Gus Schumacher as my witnesses.

The President proposed \$300 million for the first year—largely in the form of surplus farm commodities. If other U.N. countries will consider that \$300 million as a 25% share with the other three-fourths coming from the rest of the world for a total of \$1.2 billion, that would not be a bad start.

I'd like to yield now to Bob Dole for some comments and then perhaps the Committee will wish to question us.

Governor George Bush has described himself as a "compassionate conservative." The most compassionate conservative I know is Bob Dole. He was terribly wounded in World War II. I suspect partly because of that he has a tender heart for veterans. But beyond this, wherever there are hungry poor people, or undernourished children, or farmers in trouble, Bob Dole is always there.

The late Martin Luther King, Jr. once preached a sermon on the New Testament verse: "Be ye wise as serpents and gentle as doves." Translated into the modern vernacular, Dr. King said this means: "Be ye tough-minded and tender-hearted."

That's Bob Dole.

TESTIMONY OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JAMES P. MCGOVERN—JULY 27, 2000

THE IMPORTANCE OF A GLOBAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

I want to thank the Chairman, Senator Lugar, and Ranking Member, Senator Har-kin, for the opportunity to appear before your Committee this morning. Your years of service and leadership both on agriculture issues and on foreign aid and humanitarian issues are admired and appreciated by your colleagues and, I might add, the people of Massachusetts. By holding the first hearing to explore the importance of a universal or global school feeding program, once again this Committee demonstrates that leadership.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, I'm happy to report a bipartisan movement is growing in support of this initiative. Congressman Tony Hall, Congresswomen Jo Ann Emerson and Marcy Kaptur and I recently sent a bipartisan letter to President Clinton signed by 70 Members of Congress, urging him to take leadership within the international community on this proposal. I am attaching a copy of that letter to my testimony and ask that it be part of the Record of this hearing.

I would also like to enter into the Record as part of my testimony a letter in support of this initiative by the National Farmers Union. In their letter, NFU states: "The benefits to those less fortunate than ourselves will be profound, while our own investment will ultimately be returned many times over. The international nutrition assistance program is morally, politically and economically correct for this nation and all others who seek to improve mankind."

As Senators George McGovern, Bob Dole and Richard Durbin have just testified, the proposal we are discussing today is very simple: to initiate a multilateral effort that would provide one modest, nutritious meal to the estimated 300 million hungry children of the world. I do not wish to repeat their testimony, but there are points I would like to underscore.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the world moves on simple ideas.

This simple idea is also a big idea, made more compelling in its potential to move us closer to achieving many of our most important foreign policy goals:

- reducing hunger among children;
  - increasing school attendance in developing countries;
  - strengthening the education infrastructure in developing countries;
  - increasing the number of girls attending school in developing countries;
  - reducing child labor; and
  - increasing education opportunities for children left orphaned by war, natural disaster and disease, especially HIV/AIDS.
- Over the next ten to twenty years, achieving these goals will significantly affect the overall economic development of the countries that participate in and benefit from this initiative. Children who do not suffer from hunger do better in school—and education is the key to economic prosperity. The better educated a nation's people, the more its population stabilizes or decreases, which, in turn, decreases pressures on food and the environment.

Our own prosperity is clearly linked to the economic well-being of the nations of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. As their economies grow stronger, so do markets for U.S.-made products. The generation of children we help save today from hunger and who go to school will become the leaders—and the consumers—of their countries tomorrow.

This simple idea, Mr. Chairman, might prove to be the catalyst to a modern-day Marshall Plan for economic development in developing countries: A coordinated international effort to create self-sustaining school feeding programs and to enhance primary education throughout the developing world. Our farmers, our non-profit development organizations, and our foreign assistance programs could help make this a reality.

On the other hand, it could also fail.

It could fail, Mr. Chairman, if we in Congress fail to provide sufficient funding for this initiative; if we fail to provide a long-term commitment of at least ten years to this initiative; and if we fail to integrate this initiative with our other domestic and foreign policy priorities.

In its July 23rd announcement, the Clinton Administration has made available \$300 million in food commodities to initiate a global school feeding program. This is an admirable beginning for a global program estimated at \$3 billion annually when it is 100 percent in place, with the U.S. share approximately \$755 million per year.

To ensure the success of this initiative, we will need to commit ourselves to long-term, secure funding for this and related programs.

First, new legislation to authorize this program, and the necessary annual appropriations to carry it out, must at a minimum provide for the total U.S. share. These funds would not only provide for the purchase of agriculture commodities, but also for the processing, packaging and transportation of these commodities; for the increased agency personnel to implement and monitor expanded U.S. education projects in developing countries; and for an increased number of contracts with U.S.-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implementing these feeding and education programs in target countries.

A significant portion of this assistance will go to our farming community for the purchase of their products, and that's as it should be. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I would rather pay our farmers to produce than watch them destroy their crops or pay them not to produce at all.

Second, the United States must lead and encourage other nations to participate and match our contributions both to the food and the education components of this project.

Third, we will need to increase funding for development assistance to strengthen and expand education in developing countries. One of the key reasons for supporting school feeding programs is to attract more children to attend school. If that happens, then the schools will need cooking centers, cooking utensils and cooks. Within a year or two, the increase in student population will require more classrooms. Those classrooms will need teachers and supplies. Additional development assistance, delivered primarily through NGOs, will be needed to successfully implement both the food and the education components of this proposal.

Fourth, we will need to secure greater funding for and recommit ourselves to debt relief and to programs that support and stimulate local agriculture and food production in these countries—two important priorities of our foreign assistance programs. Revenues that developing countries must now use to service their debt could instead be invested in education, health care and development. Successful school feeding programs also rely on the purchase and use of local food products, which are in harmony with local diet and cultural preferences. If the ultimate goal is to make these food and education programs self-sustaining, the promotion of local agricultural production and

national investment in education are essential.

Fifth, our commitment to this effort must be long term. Too often initiatives are announced with great fanfare and then fade away with little notice given. Many development organizations currently active in the field with "food for education" programs are skeptical of this proposal. Many governments of developing countries share that skepticism. They have heard it before. They have seen programs announced, begun and then ended as funding abruptly or gradually ended. Our commitment to both the food and education components of this initiative must cover at least a decade.

Sixth, we do not need to re-invent the wheel to implement this program, or at least the U.S. participation in this multilateral effort. We have a long and successful history of working with our farming community to provide food aid. We have successful partnerships with NGOs already engaged in nutrition, education and community development projects abroad. We also have established relations with international hunger and education agencies, including the Food Aid Convention, the World Food Program, UNICEF and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO).

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I believe we must also take a good long look at our own needs, and at the same time we contribute to reducing hunger abroad, we must make a commitment to ending hunger here at home. In a time of such prosperity, it is unacceptable that we still have so many hungry people in America. None of our seniors should be on a waiting list to receive Meals-on-Wheels. No child in America should go to bed hungry night after night. No family should go hungry because they don't know where the next meal will come from. No pregnant woman, no nursing mother, no infant nor toddler should go hungry in America. We have the ability to fund existing programs so these needs are met.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to add one more comment. As first proposed, this initiative also had a universal WIC component. The United States is already involved in several nutrition and health programs for mothers and infants. I was very pleased to see in the President's announcement that it contained a pre-school component. I hope that we might also expand our assistance in this area and reach out to our international partners to increase their aid as well. We all know how important those early years of development are in a child's life. I fully support the school feeding and education initiative we are discussing this morning. But if a child has been malnourished or starved during the first years of their life, much of their potential has already been damaged and is in need of repair. Surely the best strategy would include health, immunization and nutrition programs targeted at children three years and younger.

I believe we can—and we must—eliminate hunger here at home and reduce hunger among children around the world.

I believe we can—and we must—expand our efforts to bring the children of the world into the classroom.

I hope you and your Committee will lead the way.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

IN HONOR OF THE UPCOMING 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DAVID AND ARMIDA MURGUIA OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride, honor and happiness that I rise to recognize the upcoming 50th wedding anniversary of David and Armida Murguia of San Antonio, Texas.

David and Amy were married November 8, 1950 at Our Lady of Perpetual Hope Catholic Church in San Antonio and honeymooned in Allende, Mexico.

Immediately after their honeymoon, David was inducted into the U.S. Army and transferred to Ft. Lee, Virginia, where Amy was able to join him after a short separation. After his military service, the Murguia's returned to San Antonio where they have lived ever since. The Murguia's are members of St. Ann's Catholic Church.

David graduated from St. Gerard's High School and attended St. Mary's University, where he obtained a law degree. He worked at Kelly Air Force Base before starting his own law practice.

Amy graduated from Ursuline Academy in San Antonio, and after raising their children, went to work as David's legal assistant. Both retired in 1998 after a long, productive, and well respected legal career.

As a result of their marriage, David and Amy are the proud parents of eight children, Michael David, Vincent John, Philip Andrew, David III, Theresa Armida, Catherine Ann, Mark Anthony, and Matthew. They have 13 grandchildren, and several great grandchildren. As do all couples, David and Amy have had their joyous occasion and rough times, but through it all, they have stuck by each other, and in a rare occasion in America today, will soon celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

On behalf of all citizens of San Antonio, I want to wish them a wonderful anniversary and I hope that they are able to celebrate many, many more. May their love and dedication to each other inspire each of us to work even harder on our own relationships so that we too may someday celebrate as the Murguia's are doing now.

### BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT BART

### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, as the Congresswoman representing eastern Contra Costa County and the Tri-Valley area of Alameda County, I rise today to express my firm belief that the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system should be extended to Antioch and Livermore, California. While I am aware and understand that there are those who want to extend BART only to the South Bay, I must remind them that the families and businesses of the Antioch and Livermore areas also need BART and have been paying their hard-

earned dollars into the BART system for almost four decades.

As a very large number of our commuters know, getting to and around Silicon Valley, more often than not, is a very difficult problem. This year, state and regional planners have begun deciding on the next generation of rail and road improvements for the region to address the traffic congestion problems. Furthermore, it is clear from the Governor's transportation plan and proposed budget that BART to San Jose is going to receive certain consideration. However, that does not mean that Antioch and Livermore citizens, who have made significant financial investments into the BART system, should be overlooked. Moreover, any new communities who seek BART service must first buy into the system.

During the next few months, I will be working closely with the Governor as well as state and Bay Area planners on a regional transit plan. One thing is certain: in order to successfully build any and all of these very expensive extensions, we must unite as a region and accept one common regional transit plan. As the only Bay Area Member of Congress on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I know that regional unity is the necessary key in securing the federal and state transportation funds we need to build these important transit projects. When we are competing for scarce federal dollars with other urban centers, we cannot afford to waste our time and resources arguing among each other.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that any regional plan will incorporate the history of BART with the equity of its stakeholders. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as our Bay Area planners to develop the next generation of transit and road projects to meet the ever-growing needs of our region.

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COMMON SENSE FOR THE  
TRIANGLE

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to my colleagues the following article that appeared in the July 16, 2000, Raleigh News & Observer. Mack Paul, Chief of Staff to North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Dennis Wicker, wrote it. Mr. Paul has been active in local planning and transportation issues over the years as a civic leader, focusing on enhancing the Research Triangle area's quality of life and economic growth. The regionalism issue Mr. Paul addresses is one that will continue to gain importance and deserves the thoughtful attention of the Congress and the nation.

[From the News & Observer, July 16, 2000]

COMMON SENSE FOR THE TRIANGLE

(By Mack Paul)

RALEIGH.—Spurred in part by intense media attention, the public dialogue on growth in the Triangle has progressed markedly over the last two years. Many now see that gridlock, Code Orange days and dwindling open space bear a direct relation to the low density, auto-dependent pattern of development known as sprawl. The "Smart

Growth" principles adopted last year by the Triangle Smart Growth Coalition and Greater Triangle Regional Council embody this recognition.

The next step remains much more problematic: what strategies do we pursue to achieve smarter growth?

Public transportation, downtown revitalization, open space protection, affordable housing and traditional neighborhood development top the list of preferred policy prescriptions. Elected officials say that it is time to act. But we're not acting—at least not with haste. Municipalities still see little to gain within their local context from enacting Smart Growth policies.

We're confronted with the classic game theory known as "the tragedy of the common." In this scenario, herders must share a common meadow. But no herder can limit grazing by anyone else's flock. If a herder limits his own use of the common meadow, he alone loses. Yet unlimited grazing destroys the common resource on which the livelihood of all depends. Therefore, the herders are seemingly doomed to self-defeating opportunism.

In the Triangle, the common meadow represents all those resources that comprise our economic health and quality of life, including our open space, air quality, infrastructure, schools, jobs and housing. As each municipality grapples with how best to utilize these resources in the face of a rapidly growing herd, it confronts the reality that no matter how wise its policies, it has no control over the other herders.

In the tragedy of the common, mutual cooperation represents the only way for the herders to survive long-term. Similarly, mutual cooperation at the regional level—regionalism—offers the best way for the Triangle to ensure long-term prosperity.

Regionalism offers a framework for maximizing our use of common resources in two ways. First, it encourages the coordination of resource systems that cross jurisdictions. For example, a regional transit system cannot succeed unless station-area planning in all of the affected municipalities supports it.

Second and more important, regionalism helps to mitigate disparate impacts that arise from competition for economic growth. If one area captures most of the new jobs but offers little affordable housing, it increases traffic and sprawl in neighboring municipalities. If outlying rural areas attract all of the new development, they can contribute to the decline of a central city, worsen air quality and significantly reduce the amount of open space.

As shown by the tragedy of the common, regionalism poses a real challenge because it requires a shift in thinking. Individuals must see that their personal interests are better served by cooperating with those with whom they compete for a precious resource. It builds over time. With each success comes trust and a desire for bolder action. Experience from other areas provides three important lessons about regionalism.

First, regionalism cannot succeed without a strong civic life. Those regional efforts that have succeeded all enjoy active and ongoing participation by businesses and citizens through a variety of civic organizations. The Triangle Smart Growth Coalition, Greater Triangle Regional Council, Regional Transportation Alliance and Triangle Community Coalition offer examples of emerging regional civic groups. These types of organizations provide our best opportunity for building the strong relationships necessary for regional cooperation.

Second, regionalism cannot succeed without a regional framework for decision-making. Areas that have been successful at pursuing Smart Growth strategies have some

form of regional authority. The tragedy of the common demonstrates the difficulty in relying on the voluntary actions of one's neighbors. Regional models vary widely—from purely advisory as in Denver to more authoritative as in Atlanta and Minneapolis. Any framework we adopt should reflect and be an extension of the Triangle's civic life.

Third, regionalism cannot succeed without some encouragement from the state. Areas that have adopted effective regional frameworks have benefited from state laws supporting such action. A new law permitting the Triangle's two Metropolitan Planning Organizations to combine would facilitate regional transportation planning.

Next year, the Smart Growth Commission will consider making other recommendations, including financial incentives, to encourage regionalism. The Triangle's leadership should help shape and push for this legislation.

Ultimately, the Triangle cannot fulfill its promise as a "world class region" without regionalism. We will remain a collection of dissonant localities simply exploiting the economic principle that specialized industries tend to cluster together. Once our quality of life wanes, those industries will cluster elsewhere.

Regionalism can ensure that does not happen by showing us where self-interest is self-defeating and by offering a forum for mutual cooperation. It offers the best hope for seeing that our herd continues to prosper.

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A BILL TO ENSURE THAT INCOME  
AVERAGING FOR FARMERS NOT  
INCREASE A FARMER'S LIABILITY  
FOR THE ALTERNATIVE  
MINIMUM TAX

**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Farmer Tax Fairness Act, along with my Ways and Means Committee colleagues, Representatives THURMAN, HAYWORTH, DUNN, TANNER, CAMP, MCCRERY, ENGLISH, and FOLEY. This legislation will help ensure that farmers have access to tax benefits rightfully owed them.

As those of us from agricultural areas understand, farmers' income often fluctuates from year to year based on unforeseen weather or market conditions. Income averaging allows farmers to ride out these unpredictable circumstances by spreading out their income over a period of years. Last year, we acted in a bipartisan manner to make income averaging a permanent provision of the tax code. Unfortunately, since that time, we have learned that, due to interaction with another tax code provision, the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), many of our nation's farmers have been unfairly denied the benefits of this important accounting tool.

Our legislation directly addresses the concerns being raised by farmers using income averaging. Under the Farmer Tax Fairness Act, if a farmer's AMT liability is greater than taxes due under the income averaging calculation, that farmer would disregard the AMT and pay taxes according to the averaging calculation. As such, farmers will be able to take full advantage of income averaging as intended by Congress.

This provision is a reasonable measure designed to ensure farmers are treated fairly

when it comes time to file their taxes. I urge my colleague to join me in promoting greater tax fairness for our nation's farmers.

HONORING JOEL PETT FOR HIS  
2000 PULITZER PRIZE IN EDITORIAL  
CARTOONING

**HON. ERNIE FLETCHER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, It is my honor to recognize today the outstanding achievement of Joel Pett for being awarded the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in Editorial Cartooning.

Since 1984, Joel has served in the capacity of Editorial Cartoonist with the Lexington Herald Leader and has produced cartoons on local and national government. Since that day in 1984—Pett's outstanding and talented work has appeared in many newspapers and magazines around America. This is why it is not surprising that he was recognized with such a prestigious national award.

With keen wit and acute perception, he has been able to highlight subtle perspectives that demand a more careful examination by the public. By presenting difficult topics in a comical way, Joel Pett is able to touch upon the core issues within the daily life of politics and government.

His distinction as the recipient of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning is one that highlights his creativity, inventiveness and intellect. Joel is a talented professional journalist who is dedicated to his work that he presents to readers throughout the year. I know that the Lexington Herald Leader, Lexington community and Commonwealth, of Kentucky are all proud of his outstanding achievement.

It is a pleasure to recognize Joel Pett, on the House floor today, for his superior work in political cartoons that has earned him the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in Editorial Cartooning.

MORATORIUM NEEDED ON FEDERAL  
LAND EXCHANGES UNTIL  
SYSTEM IS FIXED

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, land exchanges between private parties and the federal government have long been a source of contention in Congress and in local communities. Exchanges are supposed to provide the federal government a valuable tool to acquire lands with high public interest values, such as enhanced recreational opportunities or wildlife habitat, and to dispose of lands with less or limited public value.

According to a new General Accounting Office study that I commissioned, however, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service have wasted hundreds of millions of dollars swapping valuable public land for private land of questionable value, and the Bureau may even be breaking the law. In response to this report, I have called on Interior Secretary Babbitt and Agriculture Secretary Glickman to immediately suspend all land ex-

changes until the exchange programs can be fixed.

The GAO report was prominently covered earlier this month by NBC Nightly News, CBS Radio, the Washington Post, and other media outlets across country. Subsequently, my call for a moratorium on exchanges has received strong support from newspapers, organizations and individuals from across the country as well.

I commend to my colleagues three of the newspaper editorials that have appeared so far endorsing the call for the moratorium. I hope that my colleagues will review the GAO report and the call for a moratorium and will support such a move. The public is being taken advantage in these deals and their wallet and the environment are paying the price. "Let's Make a Land Deal," The Washington Post, July 15, 2000; "Public Land Deals Better Not Cheat The Public," The Bozeman (MT) Chronicle, July 20, 2000; "Land Exchange Programs Troubled, But Well Worth Fixing", Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune, July 24, 2000.

[From the Washington Post, July 15, 2000]

LET'S MAKE A LAND DEAL

It seems like a simple idea: If the federal government owns some land it doesn't necessarily care to keep, and a private landowner has some land the government wants, and the two are roughly equal in value, then make a trade. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have had the authority to make those kinds of deals for years, with the idea that the exchanges would help the agencies consolidate federal lands and acquire important resources. But the transactions are often far from simple and, according to a General Accounting Office report released this week, the land-exchange program has shortchanged taxpayers by millions of dollars by undervaluing federal land or overvaluing private land in some of its deals.

The GAO said there are so many inherent difficulties in the land-exchange process that Congress should consider giving up the program altogether, opting for more straightforward sales and purchases. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management reacted sharply to the report, contending that GAO looked at too few transactions to justify its broad recommendation and that many of the cases it cited are old and have already been addressed. They say significant reforms are already underway.

Properly handled, land exchanges give the two agencies resources (public lands suitable for exchange) that they can use to acquire valuable and useful lands, including habitat for endangered species. If they lose that resource and wind up having to compete for funds for every proposed purchase, the likelihood is that their ability to obtain important land or consolidate holdings will be curtailed.

But it is important to be sure that those purposes are being served by the land swaps and that the public's interest is protected, both in terms of what land is being traded away and what value is being obtained for it. Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), who requested the GAO report, has called for a moratorium on land exchanges until each agency "demonstrates that it can insure all exchanges are in the public interest and of equal value, as required by law." That's a challenge they ought to be able to meet.

[From the Bozeman Chronicle, July 20, 2000]

PUBLIC LAND DEALS BETTER NOT CHEAT THE  
PUBLIC

(By Chronicle Editor)

Intelligent, well-meaning people can disagree over what's the appropriate amount of

land for the federal government to own. But when the government strikes a deal to buy, sell or trade land, there should be no disagreement on the necessity of making certain the public is getting a fair deal.

That apparently has not been the case.

A recent General Accounting Office audit found that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have lost millions of dollars from land exchanges by either buying too high or selling too low. This is a serious indictment of public land stewardship that should not be taken lightly.

Exchanges have become an important part of Western public lands policy as land managers seek to consolidate fragmented holdings, increase wildlife winter range and improve access.

All of these are important public benefits. But it is a serious breach of the public trust if land deals aimed at accomplishing those ends cheat the taxpayers out of land values that are rightfully theirs.

Several major land exchanges have involved Gallatin National Forest in recent years and have accomplished some important land management goals. The problem arises when negotiations and appraisals involved in these land deals are kept secret. Public land managers argue they must be kept secret because revealing proprietary business information from private parties involved in the negotiations could kill the deal.

But if the GAO report is correct in its dismal assessment of the outcome of many of these deals, maybe we'd all be better off if the deals were killed.

Public land managers need to find ways to conduct these negotiations in the open where all can see. If the lands involved are of sufficient value to arouse private parties' interest, then conditioning a trade on open negotiations and publicly revealed land appraisals will not kill deals.

Public negotiations allow anyone with an interest to step forward and point out aspects of the proposed trades that might be overlooked by agency officials. Open negotiations only invite more complete information about factors contributing to land value and reveal the public's priorities for managing these lands.

Public land managers need to remind themselves occasionally that the land they manage is not theirs; it belongs to the citizens of the United States, and those citizens are entitled to a say in how it's done.

[From the Minneapolis [MN] Star Tribune,  
July 24, 2000]

LAND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS TROUBLED, BUT  
WELL WORTH FIXING

There are outrages aplenty in a recent congressional audit of federal land-exchange programs: Nevada acreage valued at \$763,000 was transferred by the government to private owners, who resold it the same day for \$4.6 million. A 4,300-acre Douglas fir forest in Washington state was swapped to a timber company for 30,000 clearcut acres near Seattle.

These are patently bad deals. But do they, and others documented by the General Accounting Office in its recent report, justify ending the programs?

The GAO's auditors think so. Arguing that land-swapping is inherently problematical, they urge Congress to consider abandoning the practice—perhaps replacing it with a cash-purchase system, wherein the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management simply sell parcels they don't want and use the revenue to buy others they do.

But it's unclear how this approach would ease the key bedevilment of the exchange programs: the difficulty of establishing fair

value for tracts of land that may be remote, undevelopable, depleted, largely unmarketable to private buyers—or all of the above. Appraising such land is a wholly different task from pricing a farm, homestead or business based on recent sales of comparable properties.

This doesn't excuse the agencies' worst flubs, of course, but it does argue for some tolerance in reviewing their overall performance—3 million acres of unwanted federal land traded, since 1989, for 2 million desirable acres whose acquisition protected habitat, improved recreation, consolidated fragmented holdings, buffered parks or wilderness from incompatible development. The GAO has carefully measured taxpayers' losses in a few dozen swaps, but not their gains in thousands of others.

Moving to a cash-purchase system would almost certainly slow the agencies' acquisition of valuable lands and subject their work to congressional micromanagement. Congress has long been reluctant to fully fund its own land-conservation commitments; in recent years the budgets for the land-owning agencies have come under increasing pressure, reflecting a sentiment against acquisition of public lands—especially in the West, where most exchanges occur.

Moreover, the Forest Service and BLM have adopted significant reforms since 1998, prompted by newspaper reports exposing their failings. Though the GAO audit was commissioned in part to review the effectiveness of these changes, most of the truly terrible transactions cited by the auditors—including the aforementioned Nevada and Washington deals—occurred before they were adopted.

It is certainly true, as the auditors observe, that the agencies' clearer policies, better training and more stringent review of proposed deals can't guarantee perfect performance. But it is also true that the agencies deserve a better chance to show results.

Rep. George Miller, the California Democrat and public-lands advocate who asked for the GAO study, isn't persuaded that the programs ought to be scrapped, but he has called for a halt to new swaps until the agencies can show they have shaped up. There's little chance that Congress will adopt such a moratorium this session, but the agencies shouldn't take that as a reprieve. Having overhauled their procedures, they must now strive to regain the public's trust in the outcome.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, due to the birth of my daughter Grace Elizabeth, I was not present for rollcall votes 416 through 428 on July 19 and July 20, 2000. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 416; "aye" on rollcall No. 417; "aye" on rollcall No. 418; "aye" on rollcall No. 419; "aye" on rollcall No. 420; "aye" on rollcall No.

421; "nay" on rollcall No. 422; "aye" on rollcall No. 423; "nay" on rollcall No. 424; "aye" on rollcall No. 425; "aye" on rollcall No. 426; "nay" on rollcall No. 427; and "nay" on rollcall No. 428. I also was not present on July 26, 2000 to vote on rollcall No. 422. I would have voted "nay."

IN HONOR OF COMMANDER  
GREGORY LAWRENCE

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor my dear friend, Commander Gregory Lawrence, a member of the Milpitas, California Police Department. I would like to congratulate Commander Lawrence on his retirement, September 8, 2000.

Commander Lawrence attended high school at William C. Overfelt High School in San Jose, California. Between the years of 1966 and 1969 he served as a Tank Commander in the U.S. Army. He continued his education at San Jose City College and San Jose State University. In 1979 he graduated from San Jose State with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Administration of Justice. In 1995 he earned a Masters Degree in Management from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. During his 29 year police career he attended the FBI National Academy, the POST sponsored Supervisory Leadership Institute and Command College.

Commander Lawrence began his career with the Milpitas Police Department on June 18, 1971. Through hard work and dedication he rose through the ranks and was promoted to Senior Officer in September 1973, Sergeant in July 1980, Lieutenant in October 1991, and Commander on September 15, 1998.

Commander Lawrence served as a supervisor in patrol, traffic, community relations, personnel, and investigations. He was instrumental in the development and implementation of the first Community Relations unit where he taught drug resistance classes at Ayer and Milpitas High Schools. He was also one of the department's first Crisis Negotiators. He was as a duty assignment and researched, developed, and implemented the department's driver training and bicycle programs.

Commander Lawrence served his community extremely well and I cannot thank him enough for his unselfish dedication to the city of Milpitas. He has accomplished a lot in his 29 years with the police department and has set a great example for dozens of other police officers, friends, and members of the community for years to come.

Commander Lawrence deserves great commendation, and I would like to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his retirement.

HONORING GOULD CONSTRUCTION

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an exceptional group, Gould Construction, as well as its President Mark Gould, whom the Associated General Contractors of America honored with the Design-Build Award for 2000. The Associated General Contractors selected Gould Construction because of their dedication to Colorado and to its community.

Gould Construction succeeded in winning the Design-Build competition, which is new this year, of the 33,000 strong Associated General Contractors organization, because they demonstrated an ability to work under extreme circumstances. The selection criteria included difficulty of the job, project management, innovation, state-of-the-art advancement, sensitivity to the environment, client service, and contribution to the community. Gould Construction excelled in all these criteria when they worked for the city of Glenwood Springs to construct the Grizzly Creek raw water diversion. The Grizzly Creek water diversion dam was experiencing problems after close to a century of operation and after several natural disasters inhibited its functionality. Gould Construction worked in a challenging environment to restore the dam operation. The employees of Gould Construction worked nine weeks, suspended high above the narrow Roaring Fork Valley in the White River National Forest, to complete a plan that originally was scheduled for thirteen weeks.

Gould Construction worked endlessly under these treacherous conditions to complete this immense project; workers, food and construction material all had to be air lifted in to the site. The conditions were such that workers had to live in camps for the duration of each workweek. The nature of the project led to other challenges as well, Gould had to deal with environmental permits and had to operate to preserve the historical parts of the old dam; all in conjunction with creating a groundbreaking design that would deal with avalanches and rockfalls from the steep valley walls. Mark Gould, President of Gould Construction, said this about receiving the award "I'm thrilled for our employees, this award recognizes that we're doing important and innovative work nationally, not just in the Roaring Fork Valley. I think it will help us attract employees who come to the area seeking a challenge."

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious why Gould Construction was chosen as the Design-Build Award winner for 2000. Congress should extend a well-deserved recognition for the award and our thanks for their service and dedication to Colorado and to its outdoors.