

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEANNA SAUCEDA DEPARTS KRQE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, one of the finest and most respected news anchors in New Mexico, Deanna Saucedo, is departing KRQE television of Albuquerque, New Mexico, after a distinguished career with the news station for nearly 12 years. She has often been credited with making a major contribution toward building KRQE's solid reputation.

There are thousands of loyal KRQE watchers who have great faith in what they see from the Channel 13 KRQE newscasts. They believe them to be fair and thorough—providing news coverage that keeps them well informed by separating fact from opinion. As the lead anchor for the program, Deanna Saucedo insisted on good reporting, crisp writing, visual stories, and accuracy in every thing covered in KRQE's news reports.

I had the privilege of being interviewed by Deanna just over a week ago. That opportunity was afforded because KRQE has committed to giving all the candidates for federal office 5 minutes of free air time to help constituents learn what the issues are and where candidates stand. I applaud KRQE for providing this service and engaging its viewers in our democracy. The professional that she is, during our interview Deanna asked me some hard-hitting and engaging questions. While she was tough, she also had a wonderful sense of humor and it was a lovely dialogue.

I know that Deanna Saucedo will be missed for her judgment, experience, toughness under pressure, and for her vast knowledge of the people, places, and events that have made New Mexico over the last two decades.

Deanna, I wish you the best of luck in your new endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH BRONX OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON ITS 28TH ANNIVERSARY,

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I again pay tribute to the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation for its 28 years of fruitful service to the South Bronx community.

In 1972, U.S. Senator Jacob Javits, New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams, and six major banks joined together to establish the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SOBRO). The corporation was founded at a time when the South Bronx was suffering from major economic devastation, jobs were scarce, and people were leaving the area.

Over the past 28 years, SOBRO has successfully encouraged investment and economic growth in the South Bronx and has provided education and job training to area residents. Among its many accomplishments, SOBRO has trained or placed in jobs more than 20,000 residents, created or retained more than 30,000 jobs in the area, stimulated more than \$120 million in investments, and assisted in the reconstruction of commercial districts.

In collaboration with Mott Haven Neighborhood Strategies Project, SOBRO has been successful in training residents and placing them in jobs with businesses in empowerment zone areas. SOBRO also provides business training and technical assistance to minority entrepreneurs. It has also established a credit loan program to facilitate financial services, including loans for small businesses.

In addition, by forming partnerships with local businesses and area high schools, SOBRO has succeeded in providing valuable internship programs and part-time jobs for high school and intermediate school students. The organization also trains adults in many skills including cable installation, computer repair, home health care, customer service, and building maintenance.

Moreover, SOBRO has assisted in the transformation of abandoned buildings into affordable housing and commercial space. It currently has many projects underway, including the reconstruction of a 60-unit housing project for people living with AIDS. In addition, SOBRO has been successful in renovating Bruckner Boulevard, which has attracted many artists, antique shops, and other businesses to the area.

Changes in the welfare law are placing greater constraints on organizations like SOBRO that are trying to assist people in need. Despite this, SOBRO has continued to provide quality services to low-income South Bronx residents and to attract businesses to the area.

I would like to especially compliment this year's honorees, Maura Markus, President Citibank North America, Ken Williams, District Manager, The Home Depot, Bernard Beal, CEO, M.R. Beal & Company, and Dave Valentin, world-renowned jazz flutist, for their leadership in improving the quality of life in our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize SOBRO for its 28 years of achievements, training and educating the youth, spurring economic growth, and beautifying our South Bronx congressional district.

ON S. 2950, SAND CREEK MASSACRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the companion House legislation, I support the passage of this Senate measure so it can go to the President for signature into law.

This bill is important for the country, and particularly for Colorado because it would authorize establishing a National Historic Site at the site of the Sand Creek Massacre—an event that for more than a century has been regarded as one of the most emotionally charged and controversial events in American history.

On November 29, 1864, Col. John M. Chivington, leading about 700 soldiers of the First and Third Colorado Volunteers, attacked a village of about 500 Cheyenne and Arapaho people. These people were under the overall leadership of Black Kettle, and had camped on Sand Creek at the direction of Major Scott Anthony, who commanded Fort Lyon, about 40 miles to the south. By day's end, the soldiers had killed at least 150 people, including women and children.

The massacre resulted in almost instant controversy, which ultimately led to three federal investigations, all of which condemned Chivington's actions. By the 1865 Treaty of Little Arkansas with the Cheyenne and Arapaho, victims of Sand Creek received minor compensation for their suffering and loss of property. While some efforts were made to understand the massacre, place blame on the responsible parties, and compensate the tribes, little was actually done.

Many people, including Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, visited the site and collected artifacts of all kinds. The land involved later was used for large-scale cattle operations, and eventually small private landowners farmed and grazed the property. As time passed, evidence of the massacre slowly disappeared. Although the event continued to be remembered, mostly by the tribes and historians, the only commemoration of the massacre was a simple granite marker placed near the site by the local community in 1950.

In 1998, Public Law 105-243 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to identify the location and extent of the Sand Creek Massacre and to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park System. Starting in 1998 a variety of techniques and methods were used to locate the site of the Sand Creek Massacre. These included a thorough research of written records, archaeology, geomorphology, aerial photographic analysis, traditional tribal methods and recording the oral traditions of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma,

• 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.

the Northern Cheyenne and the Northern Arapaho.

Once the location of the site was identified, the next task was to determine national significance and suitability and reasonability of the site as a unit of the system. To be eligible for consideration, National Park Service management policies state that an area must possess nationally significant natural, cultural or recreational resources; be a suitable and feasible addition to the system; and require direct NPS management instead of protection by some other governmental agency or private sector. The Special Resource Study for the Sand Creek Massacre site, completed in July 2000, concluded that the area is nationally significant.

I agree with that assessment. The Sand Creek Massacre site possesses exceptional value in illustrating and interpreting the history of U.S.-Indian relations in the American West. The

Thus, a National Park System unit at Sand Creek would provide an opportunity for Americans to better understand the significance of the massacre, the chain of events that led to it, the relationship between Indians and whites during the mid-to late-19th Century, the devastating effects of the massacre upon the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples, and its far reaching repercussions, many of which linger today. The site also retains a high degree of physical integrity, and its isolated setting will give visitors an opportunity to contemplate the complexities of the human tragedy that unfolded there.

The Interior Department's Special Resource Study also concluded that Sand Creek is both suitable and feasible as a unit of the National Park System—suitable because it represents a cultural theme that is not already adequately represented in the system, and feasible because the area taken as a whole is of sufficient size and configuration to ensure long-term resource protection and accommodate public use.

S. 2950 would authorize the establishment of Sand Creek National Historic Site. The unit would be established once the Secretary of the Interior determines that sufficient lands have been acquired to provide for the protection and commemoration of the Sand Creek Massacre. Lands are identified on a map dated July 1, 2000 and would be acquired through donation, purchase from willing sellers or exchange. Priority for acquisition is given to the site containing the historical member. Keys to managing the site would be protection of the natural and cultural features that and critical to telling the story of Sand Creek; and cooperation and consultation with the tribes in the development of management plans and educational programs.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by commending the senior Senator from Colorado, Senator Campbell, for introducing this bill and for all he has done to make it possible for this bill to be before the House today. I urge its passage.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT J. BLOUGH, FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO HENRY COUNTY, OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the State of Ohio. Dr. Robert J. Blough retired from his family practice in Ohio's 5th Congressional District after nearly five decades of distinguished service.

Dr. Blough joined the U.S. Air Force following high school. It was while stationed in China that he decided to become a doctor. A bomb blast occurred costing many lives with countless injured. The terrible incident inspired him to spend the rest of his life helping people.

Dr. Blough has combined his sound medical skills with his compassionate, personal, and dedicated approach to the practice of medicine for nearly 47 years. One of his patients remarked on his dedication by stating, "Dr. Blough was on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. He's touched the life of everybody in this community for miles around, either themselves or their family member." His medical career alone distinguishes him as a most valued citizen, but Dr. Blough has contributed so much more.

Dr. Blough has worn many hats throughout his life. Previously, he piloted his own private plane traveling from coast to coast on vacations. He also served as an examiner for the Federal Aviation Administration and as manager for Deshler Airport.

The doctor recently retired from 35 years of service as the on-call doctor for Oak Grove Nursing Home. And Dr. Blough will retire soon as coroner of Henry County when his term expires at the end of the year.

Dr. Blough's dedication to his community is second only to his great love for his family. Along with Celia, his loving wife of more than 55 years, he is blessed with three children.

Mr. Speaker, I have known of Dr. Blough's dedication and service that has earned him the highest regard for his character and abilities as a physician. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Robert J. Blough. His professionalism and service to his community is an example for all citizens of Ohio and across the country. We thank him, and wish him and his wife, Celia, the very best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING ERIC FONOMOANA

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Fonoimoana from my district. On Tuesday, September 26th, Eric and his teammate Dain Blanton captured the Olympic gold medal for beach volleyball.

Eric has excelled in the sport of beach volleyball for more than a decade. A lifelong

resident of the South Bay, Eric was the star player on both the Manhattan Beach Mira Costa High School and University of California Santa Barbara volleyball teams. Following a storied collegiate career, he turned pro in 1993.

For eight years, Eric has been a dominant beach volleyball player. The endless training and competition culminated with the victory in Sydney. I congratulate Eric Fonoimoana on this outstanding achievement. I commend his commitment and dedication to athletic excellence. He has brought honor to the South Bay. He has brought honor to the United States. Congratulations to one of the best beach volleyball players in the world.

PAY IT FORWARD

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention a concept that I believe has the potential to inspire all people, but particularly middle-school children. It's a unique idea called "Paying it Forward." I am only too pleased to tell my colleagues about this idea.

The idea I am referring to has been encapsulated in the book by Catherine Ryan Hyde entitled "Pay it Forward." This book was also recently released as a motion picture. It is the tender yet powerful story of Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-old boy with a vivid imagination and a paper route, who takes to heart the challenge of an extra-credit assignment for his Social Studies class: Think of an idea for world change, and put it into action. Responding to the challenge, Trevor chooses three people for whom he will do a good deed. Then, rather than allowing them to pay him back, he tells them to "pay it forward" by doing something good for three more people. In turn, those three people are to help three more people and so on. In this way, Trevor believes his acts of kindness will multiply out, geometrically, until the world is a different place. Mr. Speaker, in the end, "Pay It Forward" is the story of seemingly ordinary people participating in the extraordinary through the simple faith of a child.

It has been brought to my attention that there is a Pay It Forward Foundation. The purpose of the foundation is to encourage middle school children to get involved in their local communities and to "pay it forward." As children create their own ideas for how to pay it forward with their schools and communities, teachers can incorporate relevant social needs and current affairs into their discussions. A Pay It Forward project can be applied to all aspects of academic institutional life. This is a worthy mission that not only helps the surrounding communities, but also helps our students realize that they can change the world. Quite frankly, that is a message that is long overdue. It is a message about overcoming the belief in our individual cynicism that has resulted in withdrawal from participation in our governmental, educational, and community activities. I encourage each and every one of you to take the message to heart. We can never do enough to make the world a better place.

TRIBUTE TO AQUINAS HOUSING CORPORATION

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy and pride that I pay tribute to Aquinas Housing Corporation (AHC) which will celebrate its Nineteenth Anniversary of providing services to the community on Wednesday, November 8, 2000, at the Marina Del Rey restaurant in the Bronx.

Aquinas Housing Corporation was founded in 1981 by a group of volunteers who understood the need to provide quality transitional housing services to families in need.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 19 years, Aquinas Housing Corporation has sponsored and developed the rehabilitation of 35 buildings, 990 residential units, 104 cooperatives and 115 two and three family homes. By the year 2000, AHC plans to renovate 10 more buildings with 160 additional units for a total of 1,152 decent and affordable rental housing units that were non-existent prior to AHC's creation.

Along with housing development, AHC provides a full range of social services to the residents of its buildings and community at large. Services offered include an adult job readiness program, a computer learning center, a clothing bank, case management, tenant organizing, neighborhood improvement projects, classes in English as a Second Language, parenting skills, senior services, a home based child care resource and referral center, a tree maintenance program, and activities and field trips for youth and seniors.

It is a privilege for me to represent the 16th district of New York where Aquinas Housing Corporation is located, and I am delighted by its success. I have witnessed first-hand the exemplary work they are doing for our community and I am deeply impressed. I applaud the commitment and the efforts of Aquinas Housing Corporation's staff in the assistance they provide to the elderly, and low- and moderate-income families, as well as, in facilitating educational opportunities for our talented youth.

I would like to especially compliment this year's honorees, Monadnock Construction which has been with Aquinas Housing since 1992, Ana Maria Chamorro, a long time resident of Community Board Six, and John DelValle Senior Vice President of retail banking at Banco Popular, for their leadership in improving the quality of life in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Aquinas Housing Corporation and its staff and in wishing them continued success.

SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the companion House legislation, I rise in support of this important bill to designate the Spanish Peaks as wilderness. Enactment of this legislation has been delayed far too long.

The mountains we call the Spanish Peaks are two volcanic peaks in Las Animas and Huerfano Counties. Their Native American name is Wayatoya. The eastern peak rises to 12,893 feet above sea level, and the summit of the western peak is at 13,626 feet.

These two peaks were landmarks for Native Americans and for some of Colorado's other early settlers and for travelers along the trail between Bent's Old Fort on the Arkansas River and Taos, New Mexico.

This part of the San Isabel National Forest has outstanding scenic, geologic, and wilderness values, including a spectacular system of more than 250 free-standing dikes and ramps of volcanic materials radiating from the peaks. These lands are striking for their beauty and are also very valuable for wildlife habitat.

Since 1977, the Spanish Peaks have been included in the National Registry of Natural Landmarks, and the State of Colorado has designated them as a natural area. The Forest Service first reviewed them for possible wilderness designation as part of its second roadless area review and evaluation and first recommended them for wilderness in 1979. However, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980 instead provided for their continued management as a wilderness study area—a status that was continued on an interim basis by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the Spanish Peaks are a very special part of Colorado. As I said, their inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System has been too long delayed. In fact, I had hoped that designation of this area as wilderness would be completed two years ago after the House passed a Spanish Peaks wilderness bill sponsored by my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs, and Representative McINNIS.

Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on that measure, so it was necessary to start again in this Congress. And again it has taken longer than I would have liked—the House passed a bill more than a year ago, and the bill now before us was passed by the Senate back in April of this year. But, better late than never.

This bill does differ from the prior Skaggs-McInnis bill in a few respects, and in particular by the exclusion from wilderness of an old road, known as the Bulls Eye Mine Road, and the inclusion of language related to that road. There have been some questions about the scope and effect of that language. However, in a floor colloquy when the House debated the companion legislation last year the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. McINNIS clarified matters—and the committee report on the Senate bill echoes that colloquy. That report says:

"Section 3(a) addresses the management of the Bulls Eye Mine road. The subsection directs the Secretary of Agriculture to allow for the continuation of

Like the House colloquy, this report language is an important part of the legislative history of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third wilderness bill involving lands in Colorado that has passed during this Congress. I have supported all of them, because I think we need to make it a priority to protect our state's open spaces and wilderness areas, and I think we should be proud of their enactment.

But much more remains to be done. Still pending in the Resources Committee are two wilderness bills I have introduced, dealing with the James Peak area and with lands within Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as a very important bill by our colleague Ms. DeGette that breaks important new ground in terms of protecting wilderness areas on public lands in Colorado managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

I had hoped that before now all these measures would have been given consideration in our Committee and here on the floor of the House. But that hasn't happened. So, if I have the opportunity to serve in the next Congress, I will do all I can to have them considered next year.

Meanwhile, I urge enactment of the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act.

HONORING RACING LEGEND DARRELL WALTRIP ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor racing legend Darrell Waltrip of Franklin, Tennessee, on the occasion of his retirement after twenty-nine successful years at the top of the sport. Waltrip is concluding his monumental NASCAR career with a Victory 2000 tour across the nation.

Darrell Waltrip was born February 5, 1947, in Owensboro, Kentucky. His love of racing began at the age of 12 when he first drove a go-kart. Just four short years later, he was racing a stock car. Eventually, his father helped him build a 1936 Chevrolet Coupe that he could race on a dirt track in his hometown. Fortunately, his father was able to share almost his entire career with him until he passed away after an extended illness in early 2000. Today, Waltrip makes his home in Franklin, Tennessee, near Nashville, with his wife Stevie, and children Jessica and Sarah.

Darrell Waltrip's first professional race was a Winston Cup race at the Talladega, Alabama, Superspeedway in 1972. Over the years, Waltrip sped to the top of his field, earning numerous accolades and winning many races including the coveted Winston Cup championship a total of three times. For example, he was voted Most Popular Driver two times by his peers and named American Driver of the Year three times. In 1977, 1981, and 1982, he was named National Motorsports Press Association Driver of the Year. In

addition, the years 1981 and 1982 brought honors as Auto Racing Digest Driver of the Year. Today, he is considered one of the foremost race drivers to participate in the sport, and his influence can be seen among the new generation of NASCAR drivers.

During the years 1981–1986, his partnership with car owner Junior Johnson yielded three series championships, 43 victories and 34 pole positions. The highlight of Waltrip's career came in 1989 when he won the Daytona 500 on February 17, in car No. 17, in his 17th attempt for one of racing's highest honors.

Darrell Waltrip's statistics are phenomenal. With a career that includes 276 top-five finishes, 390 top-ten finishes, 37 Superspeedway wins, 47 short track wins, and winnings totaling nearly \$18 million, there is no doubt that Waltrip is a true racing legend.

He has broken many barriers in the sport by becoming both a driver and an owner, and is recognized as the first corporate spokesperson in racing. In Tennessee, he is known and loved for his numerous and continuous charitable contributions to the community. In 1979, he was named Tennessee's Professional Athlete of the Year.

Currently, he owns and operates Darrell Waltrip Honda-Volvo Car Dealership, serving many of his fans. I consider Darrell Waltrip a personal friend. In fact, I was with him for the grand opening of his car dealership in Williamson County.

Darrell Waltrip is to be commended and honored for his incredible racing career, which has entertained and enthralled thousands of fans for the past twenty-nine years. He is a true racing pioneer, taking the sport beyond the racetrack and into the hearts and homes of America.

RECOGNIZING PAUL TOWNSEND'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional man who has dedicated himself to Long Island, its people, its businesses, and its natural resources. A tenth generation Long Islander, Mr. Paul Townsend has worked for more than half a century to promote and preserve Long Island.

Mr. Townsend has provided leadership at the highest level. He has served as a catalyst for change and development of our region. His energy and enthusiasm for a wide range of projects is unparalleled. He promoted landmarks such as Levittown. He worked with the federal government to create the Fire Island National Seashore. He created institutions such as Long Island Business News and North Shore University Hospital. He and his wife Terry, worked to establish Long Island's first professional Equity theatre. He served as editor of the Long Island Business News for 45 years and now serves as editor emeritus.

Using his vision, Mr. Townsend assembled the talent to bring important projects to fruition. He worked to produce affordable housing which is now a model for the nation. He, and his colleagues, developed the United Way of Long Island and he served as its first executive director. Long Island's United Way now

consists of over 160 health and human care service agencies. The United Way helps local people and in the process, strengthens the community. This organization has helped to prevent youth violence, help care for the very young and the old, provide emergency food, shelter and clothing, and support job assistance training for the disabled.

Mr. Townsend also founded the Long Island Business Development Council and worked to establish Long Island's Entrepreneur Awards Program. He and his wife received the Long Island Association's first Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been an integral part of the Long Island business community.

Mr. Townsend has made countless contributions to the Long Island community. His dedication to the community distinguishes him as a role model all Americans should aspire to emulate. And so it is with great pleasure that I commend Mr. Townsend on his achievements, and wish him all the best for the future.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER U.S.S. "COLE"

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to honor the crew of the naval destroyer U.S.S. *Cole*. A tragedy of great magnitude occurred in the Yemen port of Aden on October 12, 2000. While the U.S.S. *Cole* was refueling in Aden, in an apparent terrorist suicide mission, a small boat loaded with explosives struck the U.S.S. *Cole*. The impact of the explosion left a 40-by-45 hole in the side of the destroyer, but this impact extends far beyond the port of Yemen, and into the hearts of the American people.

Not only did this explosion strike a devastating blow to the ship itself, but the ship's crew as well. This deliberate act of terrorism has left seven crewmembers dead, ten missing and presumed dead, and over three dozen wounded.

So, we gather here today to not only express our heartfelt sympathies to the families, friends, and loved ones of these servicemen and women, but also to express our thanks for the ultimate sacrifice that these men and women made for their nation. The United States Government has yet to identify the culprit of this terrible act, but we do know that the U.S.S. *Cole* and its crew were going about routine duties in the area and performed dutifully and selflessly in a situation of great duress.

This unfortunate tragedy has taken seventeen lives and wounded over 40 U.S. servicemen. We cannot commend the crew of the U.S.S. *Cole* highly enough for the exemplary spirit and patriotism which they demonstrated in salvaging their crew and ship. Let the memory of those who perished in the U.S.S. *Cole* attack, motivate us to carry on with the same spirit with which they served to preserve the future peace and security, of our nation.

STROKE THERAPY'S NEW PUSH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a recent article in the Washington Post reminds us of the urgent attention stroke deserves as the third leading cause of death in this country.

Stroke affects the most delicate and vital organ of the body, the brain. The National Stroke Association uses the term "brain attack" to characterize this medical condition and describe the urgent need for prompt medical attention. A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted either by a clogged artery or a blood vessel rupture.

Stroke touches the lives of four out of every five American families. It touched the Congress this year with the tragic death of our friend and colleague, Senator Paul Coverdell. Each year 750,000 Americans will suffer a stroke and 160,000 of them will die. African Americans and Latinos are at an even greater risk of stroke. Stroke is also a leading cause of adult disability, leaving a majority of survivors with disabilities ranging from moderate to severe. The statistics are staggering, but fortunately, many strokes can be prevented.

There are important resources available for stroke prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The National Stroke Association has a wealth of information available on its web site at www.stroke.org, or by calling 1-800-STROKES. Clearly, stroke is an issue that deserves debate, discussion and our immediate attention as a major public health issue. I submit this article to my colleagues and look forward to discussing approaches we might take to reduce the terrible toll from stroke.

[From The Washington Post, Sept. 24, 2000, Sunday, Final Edition]

STROKE THERAPY'S NEW PUSH; AGGRESSIVE DOCTORS GO DEEP INTO THE BRAIN

(Susan Okie)

Like a wisp of cloud that's really the edge of a hurricane, the first sign of what was about to happen to Garline Perry seemed a small thing.

One morning last month, Perry complained to his wife that he couldn't keep his balance. When he tried to walk, she said, he kept "listening to the right."

Susana Perry took her husband, 57, to the emergency room at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital. Minutes after they arrived, the storm hit.

"He yelled, 'I can't hear you! I can't see you!' . . . He fell to the floor and starting convulsing," recalled Susana Perry. A two-inch clot had blocked a major artery at the back of Perry's brain, producing a catastrophic stroke.

Unable to move, talk, breathe or even blink, the Fairfax man was placed on a respirator and flown by helicopter to Inova Fairfax Hospital, where radiologist John J. "Buddy" Connors embarked on a rescue mission that few doctors would dare attempt. He snaked a long, fine tube through an artery to reach the plug of congealed blood inside Perry's brain and began to drip in a clot-busting drug, hoping to reopen the blocked vessel.

Along with perhaps 300 other doctors in the United States, Connors works on the uncharted borders of stroke therapy, putting novel devices and powerful drugs deep into an organ where a mishap can mean death,

coma or paralysis. Such maneuvers signal a newly activist approach to a disorder that doctors once met with resignation. Strokes, the third-leading cause of death in the United States, are now viewed as emergencies in which rapid and aggressive treatment may save lives and minimize disability.

Although the treatment administered by specialists such as Connors has produced dramatic results for some patients, it remains largely untested except in small pilot studies. The situation underscores the challenge researchers face in developing a new treatment, especially a complex one that combines drugs, devices and technical skill. Often, such therapies are refined and tested one patient at a time, evolving and proliferating for years before anyone is certain how well they work.

"The fact that [a new treatment] seems logical and does what it should doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to benefit the patient," said John R. Marler, associate director for clinical trials at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Doctors such as Connors, faced daily with desperate cases, contend that they are advancing medical knowledge as best they can. "We have to do this," Connors said. "We know we can help patients. . . . There is no regulatory process for this kind of thing."

DAMAGE CONTROL

Some 600,000 Americans suffer strokes each year. The problem occurs when a blood vessel in the brain becomes blocked by a clot or hemorrhage, causing nerve cells supplied by the vessel to die. Until recently, there was no way to mitigate the damage, only physical therapy and the hope that the brain would partially recover in time.

That changed in 1996, when the Food and Drug Administration approved the clot-dissolving drug tPA as the first effective treatment. But only about 2 percent of U.S. stroke victims receive tPA, a major reason is time: The intravenous therapy only helps if it is started within three hours of the first symptoms, and few people with an incipient stroke make it to the emergency room and through the required battery of checkups and tests before that deadline has passed.

The approach Connors uses appears to be effective if started within six hours after symptoms begin. Specialists in his field also believe it may produce better outcomes by delivering clot-dissolving drugs directly into an artery of the brain instead of through an arm vein, the only mode of administration approved by the FDA.

When tPA is given intravenously, Connors said, "they give you a massive amount . . . just so that a teeny bit of it might get to a small clot in your brain." It's like pouring Drano into a house's main water intake pipe, hoping that some will reach a blocked sink. In contrast, Connors said, he uses a different clot-dissolving drug at about one-fiftieth the usual intravenous dose and puts it as close as possible to the blockage.

The effectiveness of intra-arterial treatment varies, depending on how soon it is started and on the size and location of the clot. Only two studies, funded by Abbott Laboratories, maker of a clot-dissolving drug called prourokinase, have evaluated such treatment by comparing it with a placebo. In the larger study, involving 180 patients, 40 percent of those who received the therapy recovered enough to live independently, compared with 25 percent of patients given a placebo. The degree of benefit was similar to that seen with intravenous tPA, but the rate of brain hemorrhages was high-

er—about 10 percent among recipients of intra-arterial prourokinase, compared with 6 percent among patients in the tPA study.

Although the findings suggested that the treatment could be beneficial, the FDA asked the manufacturer to conduct another study to obtain more data about the therapy's safety and effectiveness. Abbott has not decided whether to do so.

Genentech Inc., which makes tPA, also has not decided whether to study intra-arterial treatment, a spokesman said.

Connors believes that companies do not want to fund additional trials because they doubt they will recoup research costs. "Genentech, Abbott and other companies have done the math. . . . The doses that we use for [intra-arterial] therapy are so small that it would take 500 years for them to make that money back at the rate that we are using the drugs now," he said.

Tareta Lewis, an Abbott spokeswoman, said cost is not the only consideration. "There are many things that go into making the decision," she said.

Lacking such studies, Connors and other specialists say they don't know the exact benefits and risks of what they are doing.

"We get the patients who don't meet the three-hour time window" for intravenous tPA, said Richard Latchaw, chief of neuroradiology at the University of Pittsburgh. "Using a compassionate view, we will go ahead and give intra-arterial tPA in a dosage that we personally think is efficacious. Do we know exactly what that dosage should be? No."

The therapy has never been directly compared with intravenous tPA. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke plans to fund a study at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in which researchers will give 80 patients with major strokes a combination of intravenous and intra-arterial treatment. They intend to compare the outcomes to existing data on intravenous tPA.

"Intra-arterial therapy does more than put the drug next to the clot," said Marler. "They're passing the catheter into the clot, trying to break [it] up. . . . There are definitely patients it will help, but does it balance out" against the increased risk of bleeding?

In the meantime, Connors said, "hundreds of patients are being treated right now, all over the United States." He has organized a training course for doctors to be held in Washington next month and is setting up a registry to collect data on patient outcomes.

"This is a new field and we don't know everything we need to know," Connors said. "You're playing statistics. The whole thing is statistics and odds."

DIFFICULT DECISIONS

The odds in Perry's case looked to be long. His clot was in the basilar artery, dreaded location for a stroke because it nourishes areas of the brain that control life-support functions such as breathing. Without treatment, he

But there was a third possibility. Perry might end up in a nightmarish state that neurologists call "locked in"; awake and aware, but permanently unable to speak, move or communicate.

If that were the outcome, Connors told Susana Perry that afternoon, "if it was me, I wouldn't want to make it."

He offered to stop treatment if she thought it best.

When Connors posed that question, he and his team had already been working on Perry for an hour at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Perry

lay on a table in an operating room equipped with X-ray machines that took magnified pictures of blood flowing through the vessels of his brain.

While an anesthesiologist monitored Perry's vital functions, surgically gowned nurses and technicians rushed to fetch drugs and equipment.

Connors and another doctor, Firas Al-Ali, had threaded a long, slippery tube called a catheter, thinner than a strand of angel hair pasta, through a larger tube in Perry's groin, guiding it along major arteries of his abdomen, chest and neck until the tip rested against the clot inside his skull.

Through the catheter, they squirted dye to illuminate the blocked vessel on X-rays and dribbled in medicines that they hoped would tease apart the clump of protein and blood cells.

Most clots that Connors attacks in this way are the size of a grain of rice. Perry's was the size of his little finger.

Connors asked Susana Perry for permission to "go for cleaning everything up" to maximize her husband's chances of recovery—even though doing so would heighten the risk that the drugs might cause bleeding in his brain.

"His outlook was 99 percent death," Connors said. "The options were so bad. It's one thing to have a stroke where you can't move your arm but you're mostly still you. It's another thing to have a stroke where you're paralyzed from the eyes down. . . . There's no right or wrong decision on this. It's something where you have to think, 'What if this was me?' and get the family involved."

Susana Perry told Connors to go for broke. "I said, 'I'm not ready to get rid of this guy,'" she recalled.

Connors treated Perry for eight more hours. At last, he removed the catheter and stitched up the small wound in Perry's groin. He estimated that he had dissolved about 95 percent of the clot. Now, it was a matter of waiting to see whether the treatment had worked.

At 1 a.m. the next day, a nurse woke Susana Perry, who was asleep in a room near the intensive care unit. "He's responding," the nurse said. "He's nodding 'yes' or 'no' to simple questions."

Perry was still on a respirator and his left side was paralyzed, but the pace of his recovery over the next few days astonished his doctors. Three days after his stroke, he signaled to his son that he wanted something. A nurse handed him a pad and pencil. He wrote, "Beer."

Two days later, doctors disconnected the respirator and Perry was able to breathe on his own. A week after the stroke, he had regained some movement in his left leg and was eating and cracking jokes about the hospital food. "There's so much I'm learning from the beginning," he said, speaking slowly. "You take so much for granted."

"His level of recovery is—what can I say?—miraculous," said David Grass, Perry's neurologist. "This would have been fatal, absolutely no doubt. . . . He has a left-sided weakness that is improving. He has normal mental function. He has some mild difficulty seeing to his right, but that's improving. He's had no problems with speech. . . . He's going to need several months of rehabilitation, but I'm optimistic that he may eventually be able to return to work."

PRESENTATION OF TERESA OE:
NORTH DAKOTA'S STATE BEEF
AMBASSADOR

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on September 28–30 of this year, the North Dakota Stockmen's Association held its annual convention in Bismarck, ND. I would like to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues the remarks of one of the conference presenters. Ms. Teresa Oe, a high school student from Belfield, North Dakota and North Dakota's State Beef Ambassador, gave an impressive speech to the convention delegates. Ms. Oe's remarks addressed the environmental benefits of cattle grazing. I would encourage my colleagues to take a moment to review her remarks which may help to bridge communication between cattlemen and environmentalists.

THE MISUNDERSTANDING

(By: Teresa Oe—North Dakota State Beef Ambassador)

Cattlemen and environmentalists have long regarded each other as the enemy. Rarely do they wish to converse with one another, let alone compromise. When they eventually agreed to "discuss" matters, the resulting arguments are based primarily on biased opinion and accusations. This communication gap has led to the disastrous misunderstanding that cattle and conservation cannot successfully coexist.

The irony in this notion, however, is that modern day cattlemen, equipped with new range management tools, are extremely capable and dedicated conservationists. Believe it or not, grazing cattle are their most valuable means for upgrading environmental well being.

According to the 2000 Cattle and Beef Handbook, produced by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, "Grazing lands comprise about one-third of the land in the United States." Due to steep terrain or dry conditions, these lands often are not suitable for cultivation or development. Cattle graze these virtually useless lands, utilizing grass, one of our country's most ample, renewable resources. Cattle are capable of efficiently transforming grass and other forage into nutritious high-protein beef.

Nevertheless, more and more every day, environmentalists are questioning if cattle belong on the rangelands. Surely, if environmental agencies only knew the significance of cattle to these areas, then their minds would be at ease and our cattle could continue to do their job. With this motive in mind, it is my privilege to share with you five major environmental benefits of cattle on the rangelands.

First of all, properly grazed cattle promote healthy soil and plant vigor. As a matter of fact, as documented in the Soil and Land Conditions publication, the Wildflower Research Center states, "Grazing is necessary for the maintenance of grassland systems." Cattle actually help plants and grasses grow by aerating the soil with their hooves. When cattle saunter over the land, they loosen the dirt which allows more oxygen to enter the soil. Without this oxygen, the soil develops a hard crust and is unable to readily absorb water and nutrients. Moreover, cattle naturally fertilize the soil in the form of manure.

Cattle also encourage plant reproduction. As a natural means of reseeding, they scat-

ter the seeds of various plant life and bury them in the ground, surrounding them in soil that is necessary for the onset of growth.

Regulating bothersome weeds and shrubs is also characteristic of cattle. They consume these nuisances which, otherwise, without the use of herbicides, would have the potential to grow and reproduce uncontrollably.

Furthermore, cattle are doing a large favor for many species of wildlife. Elk, deer, wild sheep, antelope, and geese, among others, are partial to young, palatable grass shoots. In order to stimulate and enhance this new, preferred growth, cattle must first remove the rank fall vegetation that other animals are hesitant to eat.

Last, but certainly not least, cattle grazing aids in preventing fires. Longer vegetation helps carry uncontrolled wildfires that cause mass destruction and expense. In the *Wow that Cow!* pamphlet published by the American National Cattle Women Inc., it points out that grazing these areas reduces the amount of matter on the ground, thus limiting the quantity of fuel to burn and restricting the fires ability to spread quickly.

Many members of our society have been misinformed that rangelands are in pitiful condition and that cattle are to blame, when in fact, just the opposite is true. As quoted by Rockwood Research in 1996, "73 percent of cattlemen's range of pasture land had been reported as improved in the past ten years, while only six percent had declared a decline." Not surprisingly, this study also showed that 62 percent of cattlemen reported an increase in wildlife. People for the USA! Grazing Position Paper states, "Scientists and range experts are constantly proving that rangelands are currently in their best condition since the turn of the 20th century, and the improvement is continuing."

If statistics verify that rangelands and the wildlife therein are truly thriving, why then do members of the environmental community still feel the cattle should be removed from these areas? Mistakes by ranchers of the past are mostly responsible for the negative attention that cattle receive, but this is unfair. Cattle can only be as efficient workers as their owners are good managers. Ranchers of the past did not have the educational resources that are available to us now. Today's cattlemen have a tremendous understanding of the correlation between the proper maintenance of natural resources and their success as livestock producers. Educated ranchers of this generation are better able to make use of cattle grazing as an effective management tool.

Please, take just a moment to visualize the rangelands without cattle. Better yet, try to imagine McDonald's without hamburgers, a shower without soap, Tupperware

In order to prevent this dilemma, we must enlighten others with the truth about cattle and grazing. The devastating misunderstanding that cattle and conservation cannot successfully coexist will be reversed only by knowledge and communication. Please take it upon yourselves to share with others the virtue of cattle on our rangelands and beef in our every day lives.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eastern Municipal Water District, who observed its 50th anniversary of service to western Riverside County on October 14th. On that nostalgic day Eastern Municipal celebrated with present and past employees, and their families, with a fly-over, antique car show, displays and demonstration, live '50s music, clowns, a magic show and much more.

Formed in 1950 to secure additional water for the western Riverside County, which faced declining groundwater supply and continuing droughts, Eastern Municipal has exceeded expectations. Originally only serving a lightly populated area, it now has a service area of 555 square miles, with a total of nearly 440,000 people, while additionally providing sewage collection and water recycling services. In 1999/2000 Eastern Municipal sold 83,000 acre-feet of fresh water alone (one-acre-foot is 325,900 gallons, or as much as two families use in and around their homes in one year). One quarter of their water supply comes from wells, while the remainder comes from the Colorado River Aqueduct and its connections to the California State Water Project. Additionally, Eastern Municipal sells to eight other water agencies, which serve the areas of: Elsinore Valley, Western Riverside County, Lake Hemet, City of Hemet, Nuevo, City of San Jacinto and Rancho California.

In water storage, Eastern Municipal maintains 76 tanks which hold nearly 170 million gallons of water. These tanks provide assurance that water will be available during possible future droughts or declining water supply.

Mr. Speaker, for the state of California there are two issues constantly at the forefront: water, and more water. Therefore, the importance of municipal water districts cannot be underestimated—they will continue to grow and play an increasingly important role in southern California. As the Riverside and the Inland Empire continue to grow, we will need to find ways to live within the 4.4 million acre-foot restriction on the Colorado River that has been imposed by the Secretary of the Interior on southern California. The goals of reclamation will become even more important. Eastern Municipal Water District has proven itself capable of solving our water supply challenges for the past 50 years. I look forward to working with them on our important shared goals for

years to come. Again, I extend my "Congratulations!" to Eastern Municipal Water District.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FISCAL YEAR
2001 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4461, the Fiscal Year Agriculture Appropriations Conference report. Although this bill is flawed, it contains critical provisions which reflect my commitment to providing seniors access to lifesaving prescription medications. The measure provides \$78.5 billion—\$3 billion more than the House-passed bill—for critical programs from prescription drugs to hunger, food safety, and clean water.

I vigorously support efforts to increase seniors' access to affordable prescription drugs. This Conference agreement allows U.S. pharmacies and wholesalers to buy American-made prescription drugs abroad and reimport them into the United States. Since these drugs are often sold abroad at prices significantly below those charged in the United States, America consumers will be able to purchase these reimported drugs at lower prices than they would otherwise pay.

Although I support the reimportation provisions, this step should not be mistaken as a substitute for much-needed prescription drug coverage under Medicare. I continue to urge my colleagues to join me in calling for the enactment of a comprehensive prescription drug program to be included as a part of all Seniors' basic Medicare benefits.

In addition to addressing the problem of prescription drugs for seniors, the Conferees have taken steps to ameliorate several other pivotal issues in the House-passed bill. The report addresses the ongoing prevalence of hunger and food insecurity in America by incorporating sections of H.R. 3192, the Hunger Relief Act. Low-income families are currently disqualified from participation in the food stamp program if they own a car worth more than \$4,650, or if they pay monthly housing costs of more than \$275. As a cosponsor of the Hunger Relief Act, I am pleased that under this report both vehicle and housing expenses would be updated to more accurately reflect the expense of reliable transportation, and the high cost of housing incurred by America's working families—allowing increased participation in the nation's first line of defense against hunger.

The measure also improves upon the House bill by providing sufficient funding for critical food safety and conservation programs. The Conference measure increased funding for the Food Safety and Inspection Service by more than \$22 million, which will help minimize contamination and ensure consumer food safety. Additionally, the bill provides additional funding for state water quality grants and conservation programs, which include essential flood prevention operations.

Unfortunately, the Conference committee did not act in the best interest of our children, or our farmers, when it agreed to a \$500 million subsidy for tobacco companies. I have worked hard to protect America's children from

the dangers of tobacco, and I have supported long-term solutions to the fundamental problems facing the small family-run tobacco farm, which is why I am deeply dismayed that the Conferees have included such an ill conceived provision that undermines the health of our children and the viability of the struggling family farm.

My colleagues, as unsatisfactory as some of the provisions in this bill may be, it is up to us to do everything in our power to provide access to prescription drugs that can mean the difference between life and death, or between health and chronic disease, for senior citizens. Although the Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report is not a perfect bill, I urge you not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. For that reason, I support H.R. 4461, the Fiscal Year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations Conference report.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THELMA M.
WILLIAMS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a very special person, Mrs. Thelma M. Williams, who will be honored in New Jersey by the Elks Pride of Trenton on October 28th for her many years of dedicated community service.

A native of Freehold, New Jersey, Mrs. Williams is a member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, where she works on the Building Ground Committee and with the Episcopal Church Women. A caring person who is always there to help others, Mrs. Williams serves as a volunteer in the soup kitchen. Organizations to which she belongs include the Elks Pride of Trenton; the NAACP; and AFSCME, where she holds the post of treasurer. In addition, she works on the Board of Elections and serves as a trustee of the Northwest Community Improvement Association. She was employed by the State for 32 years and retired in 1990.

Mrs. Williams is proud of her family—she has a daughter, Marie Meadow, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She serves as an inspiration to all of those around her.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to Mrs. Williams for her dedicated service and our very best wishes as she is honored this weekend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2000 the House in recorded vote number 459 voted on H.R. 4844 the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act. During this vote I mistakenly voted Nay against the bill and should have voted Aye in favor of the bill. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 4844 and wish to express my support for the bill.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT INFILTRATING ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE THE SPECTRE OF "TERRORISM" IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to light that the police in Punjab have been planting RDX explosives on members of the Babbar Khalsa organization in Punjab and then killing them in encounters, claiming that they are importing the explosives from Pakistan.

The Indian government is known to have infiltrated the organization's top levels. They used their agents within this and other organizations to carry out the bombing of their own Air India airliner off Canada in 1985, which killed 329 innocent people.

In November 1994, the Hitavada, an Indian newspaper, reported that the Indian government paid \$1.5 billion to the late Governor of Punjab, a man named Surendra Nath, to foment terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir. In March, according to two extensive investigations, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithi Singhpora. Between 1993 and 1994, 50,000 Sikhs "disappeared" at the hands of Indian forces. According to Amnesty International, there are thousands of political prisoners being held without charge or trial. Human-rights activists say that there are 50,000 Sikh political prisoners alone. The Akali Dal government in Punjab promised to get these political prisoners released, buy they have made no move to do so.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear who the real terrorists are. As the defenders of freedom and democracy, America must declare India a terrorist state and cut off its aid until the terrorism and human-rights violations end. We should also declare our support for protecting the rights of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities by supporting self-determination for their homelands in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on their political status, with international supervision to make sure that neither side tries to corrupt the vote.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has issued a press release on the Indian government's effort to revive the spectre of "terrorism" in Punjab by planting RDX explosives on Sikh activists. I encourage all my colleagues to read this informative press release, and I would like to insert it into the RECORD at this time.

BABBAR KHALSA MEMBERS BEING KILLED FOR RDX—PLANTING EXPLOSIVE IS MODUS OPERANDI OF INDIAN INTELLIGENCE

INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INFILTRATED SIKH ORGANIZATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 24, 2000.—Punjab Police have been killing members of Babbar Khalsa in encounters in Punjab, claiming that they are bringing RDX explosives in from Pakistan. Planting RDX explosives is the modus operandi of the Indian government. A few years ago, they planted RDX in the car of an American businessman who was visiting Punjab and Pakistan to visit relatives and religious shrines.

"The Indian government has infiltrated the top levels of Babbar Khalsa," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the

Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. He noted that the book "Soft Target," written by two Canadian journalists, proves that the Indian government carried out the 1985 bombing of an Air India jetliner that killed 329 people. They used their agents within Babbar Khalsa in that operation, he charged.

"There is no terrorism in Punjab except the terrorism of the Indian government," Dr. Aulakh said. He noted that in March, during President Clinton's visit to India, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithi Singhpora, Kashmir. Two independent investigations and an Amnesty International report have confirmed the government's responsibility. In November 1994, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, about \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir. The Indian Supreme Court described the situation in Punjab as "worse than a genocide."

About 50,000 Sikhs languish in Indian prisons as political prisoners without charge or trial. Between 1993 and 1994, 50,000 Sikhs were made to disappear by Indian forces. More than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered since 1984. Over 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947 and over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988, as well as tens of thousands of Dalit "untouchables," Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, and others.

"There are many good people in Babbar Khalsa who just want freedom for our homeland, Khalistan," Dr. Aulakh said, "but they are being used by Indian intelligence and its agents within Babbar Khalsa to revive the myth of Sikh terrorism and undermine the Sikh struggle for freedom. The infiltration goes to the highest levels," he said. "I call on Babbar Khalsa members to make sure that they are not used by Indian infiltrators. I call on them to unite with the Council of Khalistan in the peaceful, democratic, non-violent movement to liberate Khalistan," he said.

"India is on the verge of disintegration," said Dr. Aulakh. "Kashmir is going to be free. Khalistan will also be free during this decade, by the grace of Guru. Guru gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation," he said. "It is time for a unified effort to liberate Khalistan. We need to support the leadership which is sincere, capable, committed, and dedicated to the liberation of Khalistan," he said. "The Council of Khalistan has led the struggle for the last 15 years and has the above mentioned qualities. We must unite behind the Council of Khalistan, form a Khalsa Paj Party in Punjab, Khalistan, and begin a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan."

WILLIAM KENZO NAKAMURA
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of HR 5302, to designate the United States Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, as the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse".

This designation is a fitting tribute to a great American who overcame great obstacles to uphold the honor and love he had for America.

Mr. Nakamura displayed immense courage and bravery on the battlefield.

On July 4, 1944, Mr. Nakamura crawled within range of an enemy machine-gun nest and destroyed it with four grenades. Later that afternoon Mr. Nakamura was killed near Castellina, Italy by a sniper as he provided cover fire for his retreating platoon. For his bravery and sacrifice his commanding officer nominated him for the Army's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Nakamura was a Japanese-American. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, Japanese-Americans were immediately targeted as the enemy. It did not matter that we were citizens, or had worked hard alongside other Americans for a better future for ourselves and our children. Up and down the West coast more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans, 70,000 of whom were native-born U.S. citizens, were removed from their homes and communities and placed in internment camps.

On February 1, 1943, President Roosevelt reversed his stance on Japanese-Americans and declared "Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry." With this announcement he established the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), a regiment composed solely of second generation Japanese-Americans, or Nisei. Mr. Nakamura was one of the nearly 12,000 Nisei who volunteered, 3,400 were inducted into the Army.

After nine months of training the 442nd RCT joined the 100th Infantry Battalion consisting of 1,300 Nisei from Hawaii. During seven major European campaigns the 442nd and 100th received 9,486 Purple Hearts, 18,143 individual decorations, and 21 Congressional Medals of Honor. The 442nd became the most highly decorated military unit in U.S. history.

The Medal of Honor that Mr. Nakamura and other soldiers of the 442nd RCT were nominated for were not officially awarded. It took fifty-six years for the government to award Mr. Nakamura his Medal of Honor. Only seven honorees were alive to receive their award in June 2000.

By designating the United States Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, as the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse" we acknowledge the courage and the sacrifice made by Mr. Nakamura.

I thank this House for the recognition you have bestowed on this great American who never once doubted his country or his love for it, even from behind the barbed wire of a concentration camp.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARIZONA
WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2000 with the entire Arizona House delegation. This is landmark legislation which, as stated in the delegation's introductory statement, will resolve long-standing issues pertaining to the repayment obligations of the state of Arizona for the construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP). In addition, it will address allocation of remaining CAP

water to satisfy the water rights claims of a number of Arizona tribes, including the Gila River Indian Community and the Tohono O'odham Nation. This is an issue that is important to the state of Arizona, as evidenced by the delegation's full support. In fact, the principal purpose of introducing this legislation at this time is to encourage all parties involved to expeditiously resolve the few remaining issues of the agreement, and to show the Arizona delegation's full commitment to the issue. We fervently hope that all the parties will work in the coming months to wrap up the last remaining details of the settlement.

Some of these issues also reflect a delicate balance. For example, the issue of lands acquired by the tribes after the settlement date and the procedures with which the tribes bring these lands into "trust" is an issue that is still being negotiated. It is my understanding that although the tribes have been working closely with the other parties, and that a tremendous amount of work has already been accomplished, the final details have yet to be agreed upon. All of Indian Country will be looking to this provision because it could very well affect all future Native American water and land dispute settlements.

Another critical component of the bill is the use of the settlement funds. It is important that we come to an agreement with the affected Arizona tribes on how best to utilize the funds associated with the settlement. I know that the Gila River Indian Community has worked hard to come to a consensus on this issue, and I hope we will be able to put this issue to rest prior to the start of the 107th Congress. These are important and difficult issues that still need to be finalized, but I am extremely encouraged that all the parties are so close to an agreement. I commend all the parties involved not only for their perseverance, but more importantly, their willingness to negotiate their differences for the benefit of all Arizonans.

Along with this introductory statement, I am also including a statement from the Arizona congressional delegation in support of this legislation and a letter from Governor Hull expressing her support for this bill. I am happy to sponsor this bill and look forward to enacting legislation on this issue early in the 107th Congress.

STATEMENT OF THE ARIZONA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REGARDING THE ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2000

October 24, 2000.

We are pleased to announce that legislation was introduced today to resolve issues relating to the repayment obligations of the State of Arizona for construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP), allocation of remaining CAP water (including the use of nearly 200,000 acre-feet of water to satisfy the water rights claims of the Gila River Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and other Arizona Indian tribes), and other issues, including final settlement of all claims to waters of the Gila River and its tributaries.

Legislation is needed to codify several aspects of the settlement of these various water related issues. Although not all water users have reached agreement on all issues, negotiations are continuing at a rapid pace. We, therefore, expect that all of the remaining differences will be resolved and settlement agreements will be signed by the parties in the next two months. When final agreements are signed, we intend to introduce the final version of legislation to effectuate those settlements. In the meantime,

we have introduced this first version of legislation to demonstrate our commitment to the settlement process, and to allow all interested parties the time to suggest changes to precisely reflect the terms of the settlement.

One of the purposes of this legislation is to implement the settlement (in lieu of adjudication) of all of the water rights claims to the Gila River and its tributaries. Once this legislation is enacted, and the presiding judge approves the settlement agreement, water litigation over rights to the waters of the Gila River, which has been ongoing since 1978, will be terminated. Resolution of this case, and of other issues addressed in the settlement agreements, will help to ensure that there is a more stable and certain water supply for the various water users. This is a significant benefit to the citizens of Arizona, the tribes, and the United States.

The legislation will also resolve several financial issues. For example, it will effectuate a settlement of litigation between the state and federal government over the state's repayment obligation for construction of the Central Arizona Project. It also amends the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expand funds from the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund to construct irrigation distribution systems to deliver CAP water to the Gila River Indian Community and other CAP water users.

In addition, this legislation authorizes the reallocation of 65,647 acre-feet of CAP water for use by Arizona communities, and the reallocation of nearly 200,000 acre-feet for the settlement of Indian water claims.

We compliment the parties for their hard work and their commitment to resolving these difficult and sometimes contentious issues. We hope and expect that all parties will continue to

Since the parties have not yet completed their negotiations, this bill is, of necessity, also a work in progress. We point out that some of the provisions in the bill may have to be modified (e.g. Section 207 has not been totally agreed to by all interested parties), and other provisions will have to be added (e.g., resolution of conflicts involving water users in the Upper Gila Valley, the City of Safford, and the San Carlos Apache Tribe).

We note that, while Interior staff have been active in the ongoing negotiations and have served on the committees drafting the bill, the Department of the Interior has not had an opportunity to vet some sections of this draft prior to its introduction. One reason for introducing this bill now rather than waiting until the final settlement agreement has been completed, is to enable Secretary Babbitt to analyze and comment upon the draft legislation before he leaves office in January. Secretary Babbitt has been a major participant in the negotiations over the last two years; and his input into the final legislation will be very important to the successful conclusion of the process.

In summary, our intention is to initiate public discussion of the issues and elicit constructive comments on this bill. Our plan is to reintroduce a modified form of this bill early in the 107th Congress. We expect that the necessary settlement agreements will be complete and signed prior to reintroduction. In relation to the Gila River Indian Community Settlement, we expect that all of the participants named in the attached list will support the settlement agreement, and the implementing legislation, Section 213 has been left open for additional parties to the agreement.

We hope that agreement can be reached to settle the claims of the San Carlos Apache

Tribe. Title IV has been left open for this purpose. However, if the San Carlos Tribe cannot reach agreement with the other parties, including the United States, it is our intention to proceed without Title IV. A separate San Carlos settlement will have to be pursued at a later date.

We pledge our continuing effort to work with the parties to successfully conclude these historic settlements.

John McCain, Bob Stump, Jon Kyl, Jim Kolbe, Ed Pastor, Matt Salmon, J.D. Hayworth, John Shadegg.

SETTLEMENT PARTICIPANTS

Gila River Indian Community
United States—Department of the Interior;
Department of Justice
State of Arizona/Arizona Department of
Water Resources
Central Arizona Water Conservation District
Salt River Project
Roosevelt Water Conservation District
ASARCO
Phelps Dodge
City of Mesa
City of Chandler
City of Scottsdale
City of Peoria
City of Glendale
City of Phoenix
Maricopa Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage
District
Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage Dis-
trict
San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District
Town of Coolidge
Hohokam Irrigation and Drainage District
Gila Valley Irrigation District
Franklin Irrigation District
City of Safford
Town of Kearney
Graham County Utilities
Arizona State Land Department
Arizona Water Company
City of Tempe
Arizona Game and Fish
City of Casa Grande
Town of Gilbert
Town of Florence
Town of Duncan
Buckeye Irrigation Company
Roosevelt Irrigation District
New Magma Irrigation and Drainage District

STATE OF ARIZONA,

Phoenix, AZ, October 11, 2000.

Hon. JON KYL,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KYL: I commend you for the introduction of the draft legislation the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2000. This bill will maintain the momentum toward the completion of negotiations on difficult water issues concerning the Central Arizona Project, the Gila River Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

The Central Arizona Project is the lifeblood of Arizona. Confirming the repayment settlement between the United States and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District will benefit all of Arizona's taxpayers. Confirming the agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and the Arizona Department of Water Resources on the allocation of CAP water will provide for Arizona's future.

It is my understanding that when this legislation is reintroduced in the next congressional session, the parties will approve the Gila River Indian Community settlement agreement. The Governor of the State of Arizona has traditionally been a signatory to Indian water rights settlements and I expect

to be a signatory to the Gila settlement. However, I want to emphasize that I will only support a complete settlement of the Gila River Indian Community claims. For example, the economic well being of the upper Gila River Valley communities and agricultural interests is of great interest of the State of Arizona. I understand that much work remains to resolve these upper valley issues and I urge all the participants to reach an agreement as part of the overall settlement.

Again, I commend your efforts to move the process along, and I look forward to our continued work together on Arizona water resource issues.

Sincerely,

JANE DEE HULL,
Governor.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 782, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000. I am delighted that we are at long last reauthorizing this very popular program that has helped to improve the lives of America's seniors since it was first established in 1965, my first year in Congress.

Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) is long overdue. Authorization of programs under OAA expired at the end of fiscal year 1995. Nonetheless, Congress has continued to appropriate funds for OAA programs. These programs have earned broad bipartisan support.

H.R. 782 contains several provisions that will strengthen the Older Americans Act, including establishment of the National Caregiver Program to aid families in caring for frail elders and for grandparents caring for grandchildren. This program, authorized at \$125 million, provides grants to states for a multifaceted system of supportive services including information, assistance, counseling, and respite services.

The bill also provides new demonstration programs on domestic violence, rural health, computer training, and transportation. H.R. 782 authorizes as permanent two current demonstration programs—the Eldercare Locator Service and the Pension Rights and Counseling Program.

These are in addition to the mainstays of the Older Americans Act: elderly nutrition programs that provide congregate and home-delivered meals to over 3 million older persons annually; the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which provides opportunities for part-time employment in community service activities for unemployed, low-income older persons; and elder abuse prevention and long-term care ombudsman programs.

I am very pleased to be given an opportunity to reauthorize this vital legislation, which makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our senior citizens.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TOM
EWING ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I have served with TOM EWING since he was elected in a special election on July 2, 1991. TOM is one of a handful of members who serve on four committees: Agriculture; Transportation and Infrastructure; Science; and Administration. He is also a member of the President's Export Council. TOM represents the 15th District of Illinois, which covers the east central portion of our great state. Before his election to Congress, TOM served 17 years in the Illinois House of Representatives. He was the Assistant Republican Leader of the House from 1982 to 1990 and was named Deputy Minority Leader in 1990. During his tenure in the Illinois General Assembly and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, TOM has received numerous state and national awards from business, education, environmental, senior citizens and agricultural organizations. He has been recognized for his leadership in the areas of crime prevention, welfare reform, economic growth and health care.

TOM's emphasis on fiscal integrity and personal responsibility has earned him praise from such groups as the United States Chamber of Commerce, the 60/Plus Senior Citizens Association, the United Seniors Association, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, and Americans for Tax Reform. In Congress, TOM has made balancing the budget, reducing the national debt, preserving Social Security, sending more money directly to the classroom and healthcare his top priorities. I know first hand from visiting with farmers in TOM's district that he has been a stalwart champion of agriculture issues and the opening of new, foreign markets for United States agriculture products. I want to wish TOM and his wife Connie all the best as they head toward their golden years.

TURN ON THE LIGHTS! MAKE
EVERY SCHOOL A COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, "Turn on the Lights! Make Every School a Community School," is the theme of the 19th annual National Community Education Day to be observed in communities across the country on Tuesday, November 14, 2000.

Sponsored by the National Community Education Association (NCEA), this special day was established in 1982 to recognize and promote strong working partnerships between schools and communities. In my hometown of Flint, Michigan the day will be celebrated with a Community Education Breakfast for 250 people representing school districts and communities across Genesee County. The featured speaker will be John Windom, the Direc-

tor of Community Education in St. Louis, Missouri.

Community Education Day in 2000 calls attention to the benefits of the community school, a school that is open beyond the regular school day—in the evenings, on the weekends, during the summer—to all members of the community.

The 20,000 community schools across the country focus on meeting community needs with community resources. Differing from community to community, needs range from health and nutrition services, to literacy training, social services, school-age care, extended day programs, career retraining, workforce preparation, continuing education, and recreation opportunities.

Community schools foster community involvement. They are places where community members can meet to learn, to have fun, to tackle issues. They provide safe, nurturing environments for children and youth.

Schools can serve their communities beyond the traditional six hour day and 180-day school year. Located in most neighborhoods, they're easily accessible, they belong to the public, they have good resources, and their traditional hours leave lots of time for other uses.

National Community Education Day is co-sponsored by over 35 organizations, including the Alliance for Children and Families, the Children's Defense Fund, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National PTA, the National Assembly of Health and Human Service Organizations, and the U.S. Department of Education.

I am pleased to stand before you today to support our community schools and the fine work being done by the National Center for Community Education in Flint, Michigan. The contributions that community education has made to millions of children and families deserve the recognition of the United States Congress.

BEVERLY SAN AGUSTIN: GUAM'S
2001 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the winner of Guam's 2001 Teacher of the Year Award, Beverly San Agustin.

Beverly teaches Social Studies and American Government at Simon Sanchez High School. Her unique educational and motivational techniques as well as her desire to reach out to every student have distinguished her among her hard working colleagues. Her selection was based on interviews and classroom observations. Beverly also makes extra efforts to see that her classes are learning to their potential and preparing themselves for the demands of the 21st century. A 22-year veteran in the field of education, Beverly's efforts to increase the credibility of teaching as a profession is designed to entice and encourage a new generation of students into following her in this most honorable profession.

As Teacher of the Year, she will be visiting us here in Washington, D.C. while representing Guam at the National Teacher of the

Year announcement ceremony. In addition, she will also be the island's representative in a number of Teacher of the Year activities throughout the 2000–2001 school year. These include Space Camp and the National Teacher of the Year Forum.

Also worth mentioning are the finalists: Monina Suga of Vicente Benavente Middle School, Cheryle Jenson of Price Elementary School, John Randolph Coffman of P.C. Lujan Elementary School, and Alvaro Abaday of my alma mater, John F. Kennedy High School. Ms. Jenson, a first grade teacher, was the runner-up.

Teachers make great contributions towards shaping our future. They provide the foundation and support to foster the education of our children. They help mold and shape students into knowledgeable young adults. Teachers help students realize their potential for success and foster self-confidence. They have a personal commitment to help students become a whole person, equipped with the knowledge, self-confidence, and respect they need to compete and excel in today's ever changing world. Tomorrow's leaders are being prepared for their impending roles in society by today's teachers.

I would like to congratulate this year's Guam finalists and, especially, the 2001 Teach of the Year, Beverly San Nicolas. I take great pride in having these individuals counted as my colleagues in the field of education and I urge them to keep up their excellent work. Si Yu'os Ma'ase'.

COMPUTER SECURITY
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2413, the Computer Security Enhancement Act of 2000, contains modest but important changes to the legislation as it was reported by the Committee on Science. These changes to section 12 and other provisions of the bill were made at the request of the Committee on Commerce, and, as a result of their adoption, I have no objection to this bill. I want to thank and commend the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Science Committee, Representative BART GORDON, and their staffs, for their courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

The changes made clear that, as in the case of the Electronic Signatures Act that recently became law, the Federal Government will not establish a one-size-fits-all standard for electronic authentication technology that must be used by government agencies and those entities that report to them. Federal agencies and their committees of proper, legislative jurisdiction must be unconstrained in their ability to see that electronic authentication technologies that best serve their statutory and regulatory purposes are adopted. As a result, this legislation only asks that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) serve as a resource for federal agencies on electronic authentication technologies, and any guidelines and standards NIST develops are to be both advisory and, very importantly, technology-neutral.

In fact, a provision of the bill as it was reported by the Science Committee would have required NIST to report to Congress within 18 months after enactment, evaluating the extent to which electronic authentication technology being used by federal agencies conforms to NIST standards. That provision of the Committee-reported bill has been deleted. Instead, NIST is only asked to report to Congress concerning progress federal agencies made and problems they encounter in implementing electronic authentication technologies. In addition, a new provision of the bill provides that a study on electronic authentication technologies to be completed by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences may not recommend any single technology for use by government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the Science Committee has focused attention on an important issue, and I thank them for their hard work. I have no objection to suspending the rules and passing this legislation.

AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1452, especially subtitle B of title V. The title expands housing assistance for native Hawaiians by extending to them the same types of federal housing programs available to American Indians and Alaska natives. The provision authorizes appropriations for block grants for affordable housing activities and for loan guarantees for mortgages for owner- and renter-occupied housing. It authorizes technical assistance in cases where administrative capacity is lacking. The block grants would be provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands of the government of the State of Hawaii.

I thank the Chairman of the Banking Committee [Mr. LEACH], the Ranking Member [Mr. LAFALCE], the Chairman of the Housing Subcommittee [Mr. LAZIO], and the Ranking Member of Subcommittee [Mr. FRANK] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BEREUTER] for their assistance in incorporating the provisions for Native Hawaiian housing in the bill.

Passage of this bill is critical because within the last several years, three studies have documented the housing conditions that confront Native Hawaiians who reside on the Hawaiian home lands or who are eligible to reside on the home lands.

In 1992, the National Commission on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing issued its final report to Congress, "Building the Future: A Blueprint for Change." In its study, the Commission found that Native Hawaiians had the worst housing conditions in the State of Hawaii and the highest percentage of homelessness, representing over 30 percent of the State's homeless population.

In 1995, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a report entitled, "Housing Problems and Needs of Native

Hawaiians." This report contained the alarming conclusion that Native Hawaiians experience the highest percentage of housing problems in the nation—49 percent—higher than that of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing on reservations (44 percent) and substantially higher than that of all U.S. households (27 percent). The report also concluded that the percentage of overcrowding within the Native Hawaiian population is 36 percent compared to 3 percent for all other U.S. households.

Also, in 1995, the Hawaii State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands published a Beneficiary Needs Study as a result of research conducted by an independent research group. This study found that among the Native Hawaiians population, the needs of Native Hawaiians eligible to reside on the Hawaiian home lands are the most severe. 95 percent of home lands applicants (16,000) were in need of housing, with one-half of those applicant households facing overcrowding and one-third paying more than 30 percent of their income for shelter.

S. 1452 will provide eligible low-income Native Hawaiians access of Federal housing programs that provide assistance to low-income families. Currently, those Native Hawaiians who are eligible to reside on Hawaiian home lands but who do not qualify for private mortgage loans, are unable to access such Federal assistance.

I look forward to enactment to the bill because it is so important to the native people of Hawaii.

HONORING CAROL BEESE OF BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a good friend, Carol Beese, of Barrington, Illinois. Carol is a community leader without equal, and is retiring from the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce after 32 years of service.

Carol became involved in the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce many years ago. A true professional, her career in public service as a leader is rarely equaled. As President of the Chamber of Commerce, Carol has built the organization into one of the most energetic and engaged Chambers in the State of Illinois. She has been both dedicated and adamant with regard to the issues facing Chamber members, and is active as liaison between local businesses and Village officials.

She is truly deserving of this tribute, and I am certain she will remain committed to serving the Barrington community for many years to come.

HONORING FLINT, MI OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you to call attention to an event taking place in my

hometown of Flint, Michigan. Today, civic and community leaders will gather to mark the official relocation of the Social Security Administration's Flint Office of Hearings and Appeals to 300 W. Second Street.

Last year, the Flint Office of Hearings and Appeals celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Since 1974, the office has existed in the downtown business district, providing an accessible service for thousands of individuals. The office provides a public service not only to residents of Flint, but also to Ann Arbor, Bay City, Saginaw, West Branch, Alpena, and many other surrounding communities. Staffed by three Administrative Law Judges, a Senior Administrative Law Judge, and 25 loyal staff members, the office is one of the Social Security Administration's ten most productive offices nationally. During the 2000 fiscal year, the Flint OHA processed 1,994 dispositions.

I would also like to recognize Paul C. Lillios, Regional Chief Administrative Law Judge for Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Judge Lillios will be in attendance to officiate the ceremony. His presence is proof of the SSA's commitment to the city, and its pledge to implement reform that will prove beneficial to its customers.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it both my duty and my privilege to work to improve the quality of life for our citizens. I am glad that one person who shares this sentiment is Kenneth Apfel, the Commissioner of Social Security. He has diligently worked to ensure that the offices under his care maintain a high standard of productivity. I am pleased that the Flint OHA is one such office that has lived up to this ideal. I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing the opening of the new OHA office, and the beginning of a new era in public service.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I rise in support of all of the women and families across this nation who have been affected by or are at risk of breast cancer.

Breast cancer is a serious health concern for all women. Besides skin cancer, more women in the United States are diagnosed with breast cancer than any other cancer each year. One in nine American women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime, and about 40,800 will die from this disease during this year alone.

All women are at risk. Two-thirds of women with breast cancer have no family history of the disease or show other risk factors. Although there is a greater chance of incidence in women over 50 years old, breast cancer can occur at any age. White women are more likely to develop breast cancer than other women, however women of all races can be affected. For example, Asian Pacific Americans have a rate of 72.6 incidences per 100,000 people, and Hispanics have a rate of 69.4 of incidences per 100,000 people.

Such facts and figures illustrate the widespread severity of this issue, and I commend

the many local and national organizations who have dedicated their time and efforts in the fight against breast cancer. Many organizations are active in developing programs to raise awareness on breast cancer, conducting extensive research, organizing programs and support groups for breast cancer patients and families, performing community services and volunteer work, and compiling and distributing information. With the help of such efforts, women have detected breast cancer earlier through monthly breast exams and annual mammograms. Currently, there are two million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join the battle against breast cancer and support initiatives that help women across our nation face the challenges of this deadly disease. Therefore, I recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month for all of the mothers, sisters, and daughters, families, and friends across the nation who have been affected by or are at risk of breast cancer, and I pay tribute to those who have passed on due to this disease.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BASIC ACCESS TO SECURE INSURANCE COVERAGE (BASIC) HEALTH PLAN ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Basic Access to Secure Insurance Coverage Health Plan (BASIC) Act which builds on existing health insurance programs to provide all uninsured Americans, regardless of age or family status, the opportunity to get health insurance. The BASIC plan would create a universal guarantee for health insurance for all Americans.

While we are experiencing unprecedented prosperity and a strong economy, yet there are still 43 million of Americans who are uninsured. Being uninsured is not a "Washington problem." It is a human problem, as those 43 million people understand. In any given year, one-third of the uninsured go without needed medical care. Eight million uninsured Americans fail to take medication their doctors prescribe, because they cannot afford to fill the prescription. A new study published this month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* confirms the serious health consequences of lacking insurance. Long-term and short-term uninsured adults were more likely than insured adults to face cost barriers to care and forgo needed care.

Lack of health insurance can have serious financial consequences as well. An uninsured family is exposed to financial disaster in the event of serious illness. Unpaid medical bills account for 200,000 bankruptcies annually. Over 9 million families spend more than one fifth of their total income on medical costs.

The BASIC Health Plan Act builds on two successful federal-state health insurance programs: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The BASIC plan would extend these programs to all individuals and families with income up to 300% of the poverty level through a multi-year phase in. Other uninsured individuals may buy in to the program by paying the cost through premiums.

Since nearly three-fourths of the uninsured have family incomes below 300 percent of the poverty level, this expansion is targeted at those who need it.

This bill also includes a number of provisions to ensure that families can easily access health insurance through the BASIC program. First, it simplifies and streamlines the application and enrollment process for these programs to make them seamless. Second, the bill would make it easier for states to identify and enroll families in coverage. Third, the bill improves upon the CHIP benefit package to guarantee all children receive adequate preventive services and treatment.

Additionally, since 82 percent of the uninsured are workers or dependents of workers, this bill seeks to use families' connection to employment to facilitate access to health insurance coverage. Employers will not be required to provide coverage or contribute to the cost of coverage, although they may if they so wish. However, they will be required to facilitate access to the coverage by withholding any required premium contributions from the employee's periodic pay, just like they do for taxes today.

I believe the BASIC Health Plan Act is an excellent starting point for providing health care coverage for every American. Over the past few years, Congress has lost focus on addressing this pressing issue. This time is upon us again to place health insurance at the forefront of our agenda.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and the Senate on the BASIC Health Plan Act to help provide health insurance coverage to many of the millions of Americans who are currently without health insurance.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION AND SUMMARY OF THE "BASIC" HEALTH PROGRAM: UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTH INSURANCE

America is the only industrial country in the world, except South Africa, that does not guarantee health care for all its citizens. The number of uninsured declined last year for the first time in more than a decade—but 43 million Americans remain uninsured, and any slowdown in the economy is likely to send the number up again. The vast majority of the uninsured are workers or dependents of workers. The consequences of being uninsured go far beyond vulnerability to catastrophic medical costs. The uninsured often lack timely access to quality health care, especially preventive care. They suffer unnecessary illness and even death because they have no coverage.

Growth in the Uninsured

The number of the uninsured has grown from 32 million in 1987 to 43 million this year. Except for a brief pause in 1993 and 1994, the number of uninsured has consistently increased by a million or more each year until this year. Even these figures understate the number of the uninsured. During the course of a year, 70 million Americans will be uninsured for an extended period of time.

Characteristics of the Uninsured

The vast majority of privately insured Americans—161 million citizens under 65—receive coverage on the job as workers or members of their families. But the uninsured are also overwhelmingly workers or their dependents. Eighty-two percent of those without insurance are employees or family members of employees. Of these uninsured workers, most are members of families with at least one person working full-time.

Most uninsured workers are uninsured because their employer either does not offer coverage, or because they are not eligible for the coverage offered. Seventy percent of uninsured workers are in firms where no coverage is offered. Eighteen percent are in firms that offer coverage, but they are not eligible for it, usually because they are part-time workers or have not been employed by the firm long enough to qualify for coverage. Only 12% of uninsured workers are offered coverage and decline.

The uninsured are predominantly low and moderate income persons. Almost 25 percent are poor (income of \$8,501 or less for a single individual; \$13,290 or less for a family of three). Twenty-eight percent have incomes between 100 and 200 percent of poverty. Eighteen percent have incomes between 200 and 300 percent of poverty. Almost three-fourths have incomes below 300 percent of poverty.

Consequences of Being Uninsured

An uninsured family is exposed to financial disaster in the event of serious illness. Unpaid medical bills account for 200,000 bankruptcies annually. Over 9 million families spend more than one fifth of their total income on medical costs. The health consequences of being uninsured are often as devastating as the economic costs:

In any given year, one-third of the uninsured go without needed medical care.

Eight million uninsured Americans fail to take medication their doctors prescribe, because they cannot afford to fill the prescription.

Thirty-two thousand Americans with heart disease go without life-saving and life-enhancing bypass surgery or angioplasty, because they are uninsured.

Twenty-seven thousand uninsured women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. They are twice as likely as insured women not to receive medical treatment until their cancer has already spread in their bodies. As a result, they are 50% more likely to die of the disease.

The tragic bottom line is that 83,000 Americans die every year because they have no insurance. Being uninsured is the seventh leading cause of death in America. Our failure to provide health insurance for every citizen kills more people than kidney disease, liver disease, and AIDS combined.

THE PROPOSAL: SUMMARY OF BASIC ACCESS TO SECURE INSURANCE COVERAGE HEALTH PLAN ("BASIC" HEALTH PLAN)

Overview

The BASIC program builds on two successful federal-state health insurance programs: Medicaid and the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP). It also incorporates a number of elements from Vice-President Gore's proposal to improve and expand upon insurance coverage under CHIP and Medicaid to the parents of eligible children. The BASIC plan extends the availability of subsidized coverage to all uninsured low and moderate income Americans, regardless of age or family status. It guarantees the availability of coverage in every state for every uninsured person, and includes provisions to encourage enrollment by those who are eligible. The plan also allows other uninsured individuals to buy-in to the program by paying the full premium.

Key Provisions

PHASE I: COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS—EXPANSION OF CHIP AND MEDICAID

Eligibility levels are raised to 300% of poverty (\$42,450 for a family of three) for all uninsured children over 2 years.

Coverage is made available to all uninsured parents of enrolled children.

Coverage is made available to legal immigrant children, and their parents.

The minimum benefit package under CHIP for children is improved by adding eye-glasses, hearing aids, and medically necessary rehabilitative services for disabled or developmentally delayed children.

Additional steps are established to encourage enrollment of eligible children and their parents, including presumptive eligibility, qualification for at least twelve months, and simplified application forms.

The system of capped state allotments under CHIP is eliminated and federal matching funds are made available for all eligible persons enrolled in the program.

PHASE II: COVERAGE FOR THE REMAINING UNINSURED

Subsidized coverage is made available for the remaining uninsured with incomes below 300% of the poverty level. Coverage is phased in by income levels, beginning with those below 50% of the poverty level in the third year of the program, rising to 300% of the poverty level in the ninth year.

Other uninsured individuals above 300% of poverty may buy-in to the program by paying the cost through premiums.

Responsibility of Employers

Eighty-two percent of the uninsured are workers or dependents of workers. Employers will not be required to provide coverage or contribute to the cost of coverage—but they will be required to offer their uninsured employees an opportunity to enroll in the program and agree to facilitate the coverage by withholding any required premium contributions from the employee's periodic pay.

Cost

Preliminary estimates of similar proposals indicate that the federal cost will be \$200-300 billion over the next ten years, beyond the amount already budgeted for expansions of coverage under the current CHIP program.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and on behalf of the victims and families affected by domestic violence, I rise to speak on this rapidly growing and widespread health concern. Domestic violence involves serious physical, sexual and psychological consequences not only for women, but for children and entire families. It affects our entire nation and cuts across all lines of race, age, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and religion. Not only does domestic violence include spouse or partner abuse and woman battering, it also involves child abuse, elder abuse, and violence between roommates.

The devastating statistics demonstrates the urgency of this matter. Every year, 3 to 4 million women are beaten by male partners. Every 21 days, a woman is killed by domestic violence, and every 15 seconds, a domestic violence act occurs somewhere in the U.S. This means that there are over 2.5 million victims of domestic violence per year. Almost 2 out of 3 females from this group have been attacked by a family member or acquaintance. In addition, more than 53 percent of male abusers beat their children, and 32 out of 1,000 people over age 65 experience elder abuse.

Domestic violence not only affects the victim but also affects families, relatives, and unborn children. While victims are traumatized and left with a sense of vulnerability and helplessness, the over 3 million children who witness acts of domestic violence display emotional and behavioral disturbances. Also, pregnant women who are victims of physical abuse have greater chance of miscarriage.

Unfortunately, domestic violence involves victims from all walks of life and all geographic locations. In Guam, of the 2,090 violent offenses reported to the Guam Police Department, 661 arrests were made for family violence. In 1999, the Guam Child Protective Services received 1,908 referrals, and between 1997 and 1999, the Guam Adult Protective Services received 907 referrals for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Such violence should not be tolerated. Every woman, man, and child has the right to a healthy and safe environment. Numerous national and state organizations have contributed to efforts in raising awareness, conducting programs encouraging preventive mechanisms, providing counseling services, and building centers or shelters for victims and their families.

In recognition of this growing concern and the need to address this issue, October has been declared "Family Violence Awareness Month" by the Governor of Guam. It has included a Silent Witness Ceremony in honor of domestic violence victims, a Hands Across Guam Rally for island wide community outreach, a Family Violence Conference for the general public and professional staff, and a Poster Exhibition for Elementary Schools including children's artwork on family and love.

Guam has also benefitted from the \$300 million in "STOP (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution) Violence Against Women" grant funds, which were awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office to 4,715 grant recipients nationwide. Of these funds, 51 grants were awarded to agencies and organizations in Guam, totaling more than \$2.5 million.

Domestic violence is a widespread and growing problem needing urgent and constant attention. We must all work together so that women, children, and families can live in a safe and nurturing home environment. I will continually support this issue for all victims of domestic violence and for the healthy and safe environment of our entire Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO RENAME "MEDICARE+CHOICE" AS "MEDICARE-NO-CHOICE"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, sometimes a lie is repeated so often, that people forget what a falsehood it is.

For years, people who want to privatize Medicare have been saying that joining a managed care plan—an HMO—will give seniors more choice. In 1997, they even renamed the whole HMO program, "Medicare+Choice," pronounced Medicare Plus Choice.

What a lie.

In traditional, fee-for-service Medicare, you have total freedom of choice. One of my constituents in Medicare from Fremont, California can decide to go to Baltimore's Johns Hopkins, which US News consistently rates as the Nation's best hospital, and Medicare will pay.

But when you join a Medicare+Choice HMO, all of a sudden you are limited in the hospitals you can go to and the doctors you can see that the HMO and Medicare will pay for.

So Medicare+Choice really isn't "more choice." More HMOs simply mean "more choices of plans that limit your choice of doctors and hospitals."

Therefore, let's be honest: to stop the lie and make it clear what managed care is all about, I am today introducing a bill that says, in its entirety,

"Strike the words 'Medicare+Choice' wherever it appears in the law, and substitute the words 'Medicare-No-Choice'."

This name change may seem like a silly idea at first blush, but there is a good reason for it. The current name gives the impression that you are getting more than you would in traditional Medicare. All too often, that is not the case. The reality is that seniors are being duped by HMOs each and every day into joining plans that offer the world and then take most of those benefits away year by year—if they even remain in the program at all.

"Medicare-No-Choice"—this name change would give Medicare beneficiaries pause and might cause them to look at the details of the plan more than is currently the case. And, Mr. Speaker, that is not a silly change at all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to vote on the following measures yesterday.

On roll No. 541—H. Res. 634 (Rule on H.R. 4656), if I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

On roll No. 542—H. Con. Res. 414 (Regarding establishment of representative government in Afghanistan), if I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

On roll No. 543—H.R. 4271—National Science Education Act, if I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

HAIL THE VETERAN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as Veterans' Day approaches, I wanted to share a poem which was written by one of my constituents, Charlie Reese, with my colleagues.

Hail the Veteran—whose noble deeds,
Nurtured Liberty's growing seeds,
Soldier, Sailor, airman, grunt,
Who held this Nation's battle fronts.

These selfless people who paid the price,
With years or life in sacrifice.

In war or peace they joined the ranks.
Hail the Veteran—and give them thanks.

Hail the Veteran—whose heroic duty,
Helped preserve this Nation's beauty,
Who came to their great country's aid,
With dedication that will never fade.

In barracks or bulwarks, on sea or soil,
Our freedom protected because of their toil.
The campaigns and marches and endless
drills—

Hail the Veteran—for their mighty will.

Who through the years answered the call,
Who soared and swam and stood and crawled.
Who in our history shall ever stand tall,
Hail the Veteran—they gave their all.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY
HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN
SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R.
4868, TARIFF SUSPENSION AND
TRADE ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I am disappointed that a section of H.R. 4868 may ease the process in which gum arabic from Sudan may be imported into the United States.

The President imposed comprehensive sanctions against Sudan because of its horrible human rights record, sponsorship of terrorism, and implication in the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, under Executive Order 13067, on November 3, 1997.

With the events of the past few weeks, including the bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole*, this Congress should not be weakening or adjusting the sanctions in place on Sudan. We have reports that Osama bin Laden has been involved in and may still have a role in the gum arabic industry in Sudan. It has also been reported that bin Laden could be a prime suspect in masterminding the bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole*. We do know that he has been implicated in the attacks on two U.S. embassies in Africa.

In short, this is a horrible time for Congress and for the Administration to weaken our resolve on sanctions against Sudan.

LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE
BANKRUPTS MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the record of the 106th Congress on major health care policy issues—Medicare prescription drug coverage, managed care reform, and extension of coverage to the 44 million Americans who lack it—is appalling. Our failure to enact legislation that provides baseline coverage for all of our citizens is not simply that emergency rooms are overcrowded and public health clinics are overflowing. Our lack of a guaranteed health care safety net indirectly plunges millions into bankruptcy and financial ruin who, once sick,

cannot afford to pay for their high medical treatment costs out-of-pocket.

This piercing fact is highlighted in a column that was published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on Oct. 8. Health care economist Uwe Reinhardt points out the fallacy of self-reliance when it comes to health insurance. I submit the following article in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Oct. 8, 2000]

ISSUE NO. 1: HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM WANTED

(By Uwe Reinhardt)

Several years ago, in a fit of compassion, New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani appointed former Republican Mayor John Lindsay to two no-show municipal jobs, solely to provide the latter with city-financed insurance coverage for health care not covered by Medicare. Lindsay, after several strokes and with Parkinson's disease, was facing out-of-pocket outlays for health care that had begun to strain his finances.

Millions of fellow Americans share Lindsay's predicament. The most recent estimate by the U.S. Bureau of the Census revealed that about 42 million Americans find themselves without any health insurance coverage for at least part of the year. Almost half the uninsured at any time have been uninsured for more than two years. Many millions more, including Medicare beneficiaries like John Lindsay, have shallow insurance coverage.

To be sure, most of the uninsured probably are relatively healthy. When they do fall seriously ill, they usually receive critically needed care at nearby hospitals. Ultimately, the hospital tries to recover the cost of its "charity care" from insured patients, but only after first hounding the uninsured themselves for payment, often with the help of tough collection agencies. According to survey research by Harvard law professor Elizabeth Warren, medical bills now are the second most frequently cited reason for the bankruptcy of American families, right behind "job loss" and ahead of "divorce."

Political leaders in any other industrialized nation would think it unacceptable nation would think it unacceptable to force families, stricken by serious illness, to face the added prospect of bankruptcy. Not so with this nation's policy-making elite. To illustrate, in their first debate, neither presidential candidate addressed the problem on his own. And moderator Jim Lehrer saw no reason to accord the issue an explicit question. Perhaps all of them surmised that, in these times of economic bounty, their audience would have little interest in the acute distress of a misfortunate few.

Alas, the economy may not always remain bountiful. If it doesn't, American consumers, feeling poorer, might tighten their belts, thereby triggering a consumption-led recession. With a recession would come layoffs, and with them a loss of employment-based health insurance. The middle class might then be reminded once more that it lacks what families in all other industrialized nations enjoy; universal, permanent protection against the financial consequences of illness.

Universal coverage could easily be provided in this country, if only the nation's political elite were willing to do three things. First, there must be a mandate on every individual to have at least catastrophic health insurance. Second, between \$60 billion and \$100 billion a year would have to be appropriated to subsidize the health insurance of low-income families. Third, government regulation would have to ensure an efficient market for individually purchased health insurance. That insurance could be private or, should private insurance fail to meet social

needs, public (e.g., Medicaid and Medicare). The shelves of the nation's think tanks bend under the weight of ready-to-go proposals that could achieve both objectives.

Opponents of such measures are fond of reminding us of this nation's "rugged individualism" and its tradition of "self-reliance." For the most part, it is empty talk. Most corporate executives, for example, enjoy comprehensive, tax-sheltered "social insurance" paid for by their corporations, literally until these executives' last day on earth. Furthermore, the plight of former Mayor Lindsay stands as a stark warning to all would-be rugged individualists who believe that self-reliance is the proper solution to this nation's health-care woes. In the end, even he could not be protected by our nation's brittle private health-insurance system. He was saved by what is otherwise derided as "a complete government takeover" of his health-care needs.

A common lament is that the typical college student today insists on doing well by doing good. Too few of them are said to heed President John Kennedy's eloquent exhortation to self-sacrifice: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." But why would any American youngster seek to lay out for a country that thinks nothing of letting its citizens slide into the undignified status of health-care beggars, and into financial destitution, simply because serious illness struck? America's allegedly selfish young have read their country's soul and are acting accordingly.

AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF
2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House today considered S. 1452, the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act, and I would like to thank Housing Subcommittee Chairman RICK LAZIO for all of his efforts to open homeownership opportunities to so many American families.

This bill encompasses many important provisions from H.R. 1776, the homeownership bill that passed the House overwhelmingly earlier this year. It also includes important provisions to preserve affordable housing for seniors, and other low-income and working families.

I would like to mention two provisions that I introduced (H.R. 2860 and H.R. 2931) which were included in H.R. 1776, and now S. 1452.

The first would create a pilot program to assist law enforcement officers purchase homes in locally designated "at risk" areas. The proposal would allow law enforcement officers to purchase homes with no downpayment. They must use the property as their primary residence for at least 3 years, and have 6 months of service. It is modeled after a pilot program that was conducted in Wisconsin. The Milwaukee pilot was successful because it offered a "no downpayment option." Seventy-five percent of those who participated in the program said they did so because of the no downpayment requirement.

This proposal will not only provide homeownership opportunities for law enforcement officers who might otherwise not have the

money for a downpayment on a home, but will also deter crime. Criminals will be far less likely to commit an act of violence if they know a police officer lives right next door. Finally, this gives control to local officials, allowing mayors to designate the areas they believe need the most protection.

My second provision expands on the Section 8 homeownership rule to make it more accessible to persons with disabilities. This provision provides incentives for employment and homeownership for the most underserved group of homeowners in the country. Nationally unemployment rates among the disabled of working age exceed 70 percent and homeownership rates at less than 5 percent.

Two of the biggest barriers to homeownership for persons with disabilities are affordability and accessibility. It costs \$20–\$40 thousand to customize a home for some disabled individuals. This pilot program addresses these problems by allowing disabled families making up to 100 percent of the area median income to qualify to use their Section 8 voucher for homeownership. The benefit may continue for the entire term of the mortgage provided they remain eligible for such assistance. It also requires one or more members of the family to have achieved employment and participation in a homeownership counseling program.

While I am very pleased with the outcome of the negotiations on S. 1452, I am concerned at the omission of one provision in particular. Section 102 of H.R. 1776 requires the federal government to perform a housing impact analysis before it issues new regulations. This important provision would give the private sector an opportunity to see the impacts on housing before a rule is implemented. Hopefully, this would result in less costly regulations that impede homeownership. While it was omitted from the final version we considered today, I am hopeful we can come back to this next year and pass it into law.

S. 1452 will help so many Americans achieve the dream of homeownership. I am pleased at the House's actions, and am hopeful that the other body will quickly take up and pass this extremely important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on October 24, 2000, I missed rollcall votes 541, 542 and 543. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

HONORING DR. ROBIN BEACH

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize a remarkable member of the medical community, Dr. Robin Beach. Her contributions to the citizens of Colorado are immeasurable and deserve the recognition of this body. I would at this time like

to pay tribute to a truly inspirational and compassionate human being.

Robin began her distinguished career in medicine with an education almost as impressive as her work in medicine. She received her undergraduate degree in Zoology from Duke University graduating with distinction. Robin then went on to receive her M.D. from Duke and her M.P.H. from the University of California at Berkeley. This impressive educational background easily prepared her to become the expert in Pediatrics she is today.

Robin's illustrious career in pediatrics began at the University of Colorado Medical Center where she completed her residency. She then went on to work for the University Health Services in Boulder, Colorado where she served as Chief of Staff and Chief of the Medical Services. Her expert knowledge of medicine along with her natural ability to lead has propelled her into leadership roles for many different organizations within the medical community. She has served the Denver Health Authority in the capacities, of assistant director of Community Health Services, and Director of the Westside Medical Center, the Adolescent Ambulatory Services, and the Westside Teen Clinic.

Robin's career has been one of great distinction and has been full of many immeasurable contributions to her community. But it is her recent academic appointment that may rank above all when it comes to her accomplishments. She is now able to utilize her advanced knowledge of pediatric medicine to educate future doctors. She is currently a professor of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. In addition to this great honor she has also received a number of awards for her work in the medical community, the Kathleen Ann Mullen Memorial Award and the Adele Dellenbaugh Hofmann Award both for her work with adolescent medicine.

Robin is a truly remarkable human being and her contributions, not only to her community but also to the field of Pediatrics, are unparalleled. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Colorado and the US Congress I would like to commend Dr. Beach on her many accomplishments and wish her the very best as she continues to educate Colorado's future doctors in the field of Pediatrics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on October 24, 2000 the House debated and voted on H. Res. 634, "Providing for the consideration of H.R. 4656, Lake Tahoe Basin School Site Land Conveyance Act", H. Con. Res. 414, "Relating to the Reestablishment of Representative Government in Afghanistan", and H.R. 4271, the "National Science Education Act." Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 634, (roll call vote number 541) "aye" on H. Con. Res. 414 (roll call vote number 542), and "aye" on H.R. 4271 (roll call vote number 543).

HONORING A FORGOTTEN HERO,
SEAMAN ARTHUR REID, JR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, more than five decades have passed since a massive explosion at the Port Chicago naval base in California claimed the life of a courageous young Seaman, Arthur Reid, Jr. and 319 other servicemen, mostly African Americans. Nearly 400 more were wounded in the incident.

On October 26, 2000, I will have the privilege of presenting to Seaman Reid's sister, Margaret Reid Severin, three long overdue military awards in his behalf—the American Campaign Medal, the Gold Star Lapel Button, and the World War II Victory Medal. Mrs. Severin was only 13 at the time she lost her brother, but she has faithfully honored his memory ever since, despite the fact that the Navy provided very little information or support following the tragic loss of his life.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to help secure Seaman Reid's service records from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, which confirmed his meritorious military record recommending him for leadership.

It was through the efforts and outstanding research of Mrs. Severin's coworker, Ms. Sheri Humphrey, that the story of Seaman Reid came to light. Ms. Humphrey worked diligently to track down information from veterans' files which revealed the plight of Seaman Reid and his fellow servicemen at Port Chicago.

The Port Chicago tragedy has been described as "America's Dark Secret" because of the circumstances surrounding the disaster. It was on the evening of July 17th, 1944, during World War II, that the munitions blast occurred. In an era of a segregated military, enlisted African Americans were relegated to duties separate from those of their white counterparts. Instead of obtaining ship duty, they were assigned to load ammunition and explosives on ships at port without the benefit of proper training for this potentially dangerous responsibility. After the terrible tragedy, African American servicemen still suffering from the trauma of the explosion were ordered back to work handling ammunition at another location. At that point, 258 of them refused that specific assignment, saying they would take any other duty but that one in view of their experience. At a racially charged court martial trial, 208 servicemen were given bad conduct discharges and denied three months' pay. Another 50 were convicted of mutiny, which could have resulted in the death penalty. Sentences of 8 and 15 years at hard labor were meted out, but eventually clemency was granted at the conclusion of the war.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring a true World War II hero, Seaman Arthur Reid, Jr., and in expressing to his sister Margaret Reid Severin our profound appreciation for his ultimate sacrifice for our country.

IN MEMORY OF ENSIGN ANDREW
TRIPLETT

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I come before the House of Representatives to honor the life of an outstanding American, and member of the United States Navy, Ensign Andrew Triplett, originally of Shuqualak, Mississippi. Ensign Triplett was among the 17 brave sailors who gave their lives for our country in the attack on the U.S.S. *Cole*, on Thursday, October 12, 2000. This attack also injured 33 other sailors in the harbor of Aden, Yemen.

Andrew Triplett, noted for his quiet, shy nature, grew up near Willow Grove in Shuqualak, Mississippi, where he attended Reed Elementary School and in 1987 graduated from Noxubee High School in Macon, Mississippi. Upon his graduation Andrew Triplett enlisted in the Navy, where while serving his country he met his wife, Lorrie, a Detroit native. Just seven years ago, they began their family with the birth of their first daughter, Andrea, and three years later their second child Savannah Renee was born. Andrew and Lorrie lived in Virginia Beach, Virginia and were members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Successfully moving up the ladder as an enlisted man, Andrew was accepted for Officers' Candidate School and received his commission as an officer in April, 1999. On the U.S.S. *Cole*, he was assigned to the engineering department, a job that he was said to love. Tragically, it was the engineering department that suffered the blast damage from the explosive in the harbor.

For Ensign Andrew Triplett's thirteen years of service to the United States of America in the United States Navy, and for his life-long devotion as a son, husband, brother, father and citizen, I pay tribute. Ensign Triplett was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ree D. Triplett of Shuqualak, Mississippi. He is survived by his wife, Lorrie, and his two little girls, Andrea (age seven) and Savannah Renee (age four); his parents, Savannah and Ree Triplett of Shuqualak, Mississippi; and his two brothers, two former servicemen, Theotis Donald (Air Force) and Wayne (Marine Corps).

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in remembering this present day hero, Ensign Andrew Triplett. Our sincere prayers and thoughts are with the Triplett family at this difficult time, and the other families who lost loved ones on the U.S.S. *Cole*.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
HUGH DESMOND HOYTE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His Excellency, the Honorable Hugh Desmond Hoyte, the former President of Guyana and current leader of the People's National Congress.

During his Presidency from August 1985 to October 1992, Mr. Hoyte initiated far-reaching electoral and economic reforms that strength-

ened the bases of the democratic culture of Guyana, promoted market-oriented policies and stimulated economic growth. Prior to becoming President, Mr. Hoyte served as First Vice President and Prime Minister. In addition, he held numerous Ministerial posts, including those of Home Affairs, Finance, Works and Communications, and Economic Development.

As a Minister of Government, Mr. Hoyte had at various times responsibility for African, Caribbean and Pacific affairs under the Lome Convention. His portfolio also included Caribbean Community Affairs. As a member of its Conference, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community charged him with responsibility for promoting freedom of movement within the Community and for coordinating the Caribbean Community's policy on the environment for the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

In fact, Mr. Hoyte has always taken a keen interest in ecological and environmental matters, working closely with the London-based Commonwealth Human Ecology Council. He is the architect of the Iwokrama International Rainforest Project in Guyana, which he initiated as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1989.

Born in Georgetown, Guyana in March 1929, Mr. Hoyte received B.A. and LL.B. degrees from the University of London. He is a British-trained lawyer, a Barrister-at-Law of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and a Member of the Guyana Bar. He was appointed to the Queen's Council in 1969, and his designation was changed to Senior Counsel in 1970 when Guyana became a republic.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hoyte is more than worthy of receiving this honor and our praises, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join his wife, Joyce Hoyte, and me in recognizing this truly remarkable man.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESPONSIBLE
DEBT RELIEF AND DEMOCRACY REFORM ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Responsible Debt Relief and Democracy Reform Act, legislation intended to provide debt relief to poor countries that have an insurmountable debt burden and to encourage these same countries to implement reforms for sound democracy and the maintenance of a civil society.

Many of the poorest countries of the world are struggling with democracy or with bad governance, and they are caught in a downward spiral of debt. Their futures are difficult and uncertain because of an overwhelming debt burden.

Many of the poorest countries have to spend an exorbitant amount of their budgets simply to make their debt payments. The rock singer, Bono, a vocal advocate for providing debt relief to heavily indebted poor countries, says, "A country like Niger, with a life expectancy of 47 years, spends more paying off their debts than on health and education combined."

Indeed, a country like Niger is not alone. Debt payments by the poor countries of the

world can consume as much as 30–40 percent of a country's revenue. The chances of these countries ever paying back their loans is slim, to none. Realistically, none of their debt is going to be repaid.

The problem is that it is the poorest people of the world in the poorest countries who suffer as a result of their governments' massive debt. The poorest of the poor struggle to find food to survive. Suffering from malnourishment, their immune systems are lowered and people catch horrible diseases that wrack their bodies. The poor countries of the world have an alarmingly low life expectancy rate, with reports indicating that the average person in Sierra Leone only lives for 27 years. Canceling or reducing the debt of the poorest countries of the world is an opportunity for the U.S. to alleviate the suffering that these people face.

An article in *Sojourners* magazine describes part of the problem in Africa:

It might seem odd to describe Hamsatou, a 13-year old girl in the West African country of Niger, as lucky. A mysterious flesh-eating disease known as "the Grazer" has consumed the left side of her face, leaving a gaping hole at the side of her nose, through which you can see her pink, unprotected tongue. She shields her head in embarrassment in her village, has no prospect of marriage, and rarely walks further than the nearby well. "When I go to the market . . . I'm ashamed of myself. I cover my face so people won't stare at me and laugh."

But Hamsatou is lucky because she is alive. One in three children in Niger, the world's poorest country, do not reach 5 years of age. And while the Grazer will kill 120,000 children in the world this year, a \$3 mouthwash would have ensured she need never have succumbed to its ravages. Unfortunately the government of Niger does not have \$3 to spare. Three quarters of its annual tax revenue is spent on servicing its \$1.4 billion international debt. *Sojourners* May-June 2000

Unfortunately, many of these poor countries that have insurmountable debt and that need democratic reform are in Africa. The Clinton Administration's Africa policies have failed across the board. "African Renaissance" Hailed By Clinton Now a Distant Memory" is the title of a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times* by Robin Wright. Ms. Wright says that just two years ago, President Clinton hailed what he called an "African renaissance." Now, despite several years of rhetoric on Africa by the Clinton administration, this article states that a recent national intelligence estimate says that "Africa faces a bleaker future than at any time in the past century." Most Africans are worse off now than they were eight years ago.

The U.S. can help provide hope and opportunity for those who may be hopeless. Providing debt relief to the poorest governments of the world, if done in the right way, can free these governments to better address the needs of their own people.

But simply canceling a country's debt doesn't necessarily pave the way to good government. The governments of poor countries are often part of the

That is why the legislation I propose today will provide incentives to countries to reform

their governments, to institute needed democratic reforms and basic structures of a civil society such as, respect for human rights, promoting religious freedom, freedom of the press, and freedom of association.

This legislation says that debt relief by the U.S. will be provided to countries that meet the following requirements, as determined by the President of the U.S.: freedom of the press, freedom of association, an independent and non-discriminatory judiciary, reduction or elimination of corruption relating to public officials, including the promulgation of laws prohibiting bribery of public officials and disclosure of assets by such officials; the establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission; the establishment of an independent agency to audit financial activities of public officials, free and fair elections, practice of internationally recognized human rights, opposition to international terrorism as determined by the Secretary of State.

The President may waive one or more of these requirements for emergency humanitarian relief purposes, if the President determines and certifies to Congress that it is in the national security interests of the U.S., or if the President determines that a recipient country is making demonstrable progress in the aforementioned areas.

The President is to notify Congress of the justification for the determination of the countries that will receive a cancellation or reduction of debt according to the conditions in this legislation.

Finally, this legislation conveys the sense of Congress that the President should instruct the U.S. director at each international financial institution to which the U.S. is a member to use the voice, vote, and influence of the U.S. to urge the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the institution by a country only if the country meets the same requirements applicable in this legislation.

Debt relief to poor countries as described in this legislation is responsible debt relief. Passage of this legislation could help to foster the growth and development of democracy, respect for human rights, the promotion of religious freedom, the establishment of freedom of the press, and greater freedom of association in poor countries through helping these countries to have economic growth that will help their people.

We need to help poor people in these countries overcome their debt burdens but it must be done responsibly. Rather than just write off debt from poor countries, this legislation sets up a framework to help those nations in their struggle toward democracy. It says progress in democratic reforms, honoring human rights, and opposition to terrorism are important for developing or poor countries. It says that one of the ways to help the poor is to give them opportunities created by engendering democracy, transparency, and much needed relief from their country's overwhelming debt burden. Lastly it says that if those goals are met, the U.S. will help those countries struggling to help their citizens to a better, more prosperous life.

I introduce this legislation to begin the discussion of how the U.S. can help bring hope to the poorest people in the world through the promotion of debt relief and good government. While this legislation may not be the perfect answer, I am hopeful this legislation could provide the foundation for discussion on how to

help the poor and give them opportunities so that the next Congress and the next Administration can deal with this important issue.

H.R. —

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Responsible Debt Relief and Democracy Reform Act".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART VI—ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES

"SEC. 901. CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT.

"Beginning on and after the date of the enactment of this part, the President may cancel or reduce amounts owed to the United States (or any agency of the United States) by foreign countries as a result of concessional or nonconcessional loans made, guarantees issued, or credits extended under any other provision of law only if, in addition to the requirements contained under the applicable provisions of law providing authority for the debt cancellation or reduction, the requirements contained in section 902 are satisfied.

"SEC. 902. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A foreign country shall be eligible for cancellation or reduction of debt under any other provision of law only if the government of the country—

- "(1) ensures freedom of the press;
- "(2) ensures freedom of association;
- "(3) has established an independent and nondiscriminatory judiciary;
- "(4) provides for the reduction or elimination of corruption relating to public officials, including—

"(A) the promulgation of laws to prohibit bribery of and by public officials, including disclosure of assets by such officials upon taking office, periodically while in office, and upon leaving office;

"(B) the establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission—

"(i) to receive and verify the disclosure of assets by public officials in accordance with subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) to investigate allegations or corruption or misconduct by public officials and to make all findings available to the appropriate administrative or judicial entities; and

"(C) the establishment of an independent agency—

"(i) to audit the financial activities of public officials and agencies; and

"(ii) to make all audits under clause (i) available to the appropriate administrative or judicial entities;

"(5) is elected through free and fair elections

"(6) does not engage in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; and

"(7) does not repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined by the Secretary of State under section 6(j)(1) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)) or section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a)).

"(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The President may waive the application of 1 or more of the requirements of subsection (a) with respect to the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the United States by a foreign country—

"(1) for emergency humanitarian relief purposes;

"(2) if the President determines that it is in the national security interests of the United States to do so; or

"(3) if the President determines that the foreign country is making demonstrable progress in meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a) by adopting appropriate legal and other related reforms.

"(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 7 days prior to the cancellation or reduction of debt in accordance with section 901, the President shall transmit to the Congress a report that contains a justification for the determination by the President that—

"(1) the requirements contained in each of paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a) have been satisfied with respect to the foreign country involved; or

"(2) the requirement of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (b) has been satisfied with respect to the foreign country involved."

SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RELATING TO CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF MULTILATERAL DEBT.

It is the sense of the Congress that the President should instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to which the United States is a member to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to urge that the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the institution by a country may be provided only if the country meets the same requirements applicable to the cancellation or reduction of amounts owed to the United States under paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 902(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2).

A TRIBUTE TO BOB GREGORY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who has given his considerable talent and energy for the betterment of his community, Mr. Bob Gregory of Colonia, New Jersey.

As Chairman of the Merck Volunteer Focus Group, Mr. Gregory personally coordinated more than fifty community service initiatives last year which raised about \$128,000 while providing hundreds of hours of in-kind and volunteer services. He also chaired the Rahway Downtown Revitalization team as part of the Neighbor of Choice initiative and was instrumental in effectively aligning the efforts of the Volunteer Focus Group with Rahway's revitalization goals. He remains very active in local community organizations, including Merrill Park Youth, Rahway P.A.L., Rahway Aesthetic Committee, Union County Board of Agriculture, Rahway Lions, Rahway Honorary P.B.A., Rahway Excellence in Education, John Shippen Minority Youth Association, and as an advisor to Union County VoTech Schools.

Mr. Gregory has been a positive influence in the lives of children in his community. Last year, he worked on the Environmental Champions project which involved the completion of horticulture projects with children at all of the Rahway Schools, the Library, City Parks, City Hall, JFK Youth Center and the Capo Bianco Housing Project. He also helped spearhead

the renovation of the Rahway Elks banquet hall, with all profits earned from rentals going to support handicapped children. He coordinated the Linden Interfaith Council Food Drive to feed 100 needy families in Linden and the Cancer Care Golf Outing to raise funds for Cancer Research and Home Care. His good works have extended to an international level, as he traveled to the Dominican Republic with the Volunteer Medical Team sponsored by Healing the Children.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Gregory for all that he has done to improve the lives of so many people. Please join me in commending him for his outstanding work and in wishing him continued success.

IN MEMORY OF MR. PRENTISS
WALKER

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, whereas Mr. Prentiss Walker, a former citizen of Mize, Mississippi, dedicated many years of his life in working for the conservative Christian principles on which this nation was built; and

Whereas, Mr. Walker sacrificed in working to build the Republican party in the South and especially Mississippi; and

Whereas Mr. Walker believed so strongly in conservative Christian principles that he offered himself as a candidate for Congress of the United States and was elected in 1964 as the first Republican Congressman from Mississippi in over 100 years.

Whereas Mr. Walker served his state and his nation in this office demonstrating his strong convictions by every vote he made and by leading others to join in his patriotic stand; and

Whereas Mr. Walker was a true political pioneer in the state of Mississippi, making the way for many others to follow in his path of service in our nation's capitol; and

Whereas Mr. Walker continued to lead in the development of the Mississippi Republican Party and leading the citizens of Mississippi to dedication to conservative Christian principles long after he left the Congress, be it therefore resolved:

We express our deep appreciation to his wife Dimple and to his memory for his tireless service to the cause of returning our nation to the greatness it achieved by following the foundational beliefs on which our forefathers founded these United States of America.