

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF THOMAS L. GROOMS, JR. AS A WORLD WAR II VETERAN

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a great American hero from my district Savannah, Ga., Thomas L. Grooms, Jr. as a World War II Veteran. We should all stand up and applaud Mr. Grooms for his service in the Battle of the Bulge. He used his talent as a Medic to treat those injured and hurt in the line of duty. Without his dedication to helping others many lives would have been lost.

The Battle of the Bulge took place in Germany in 1944. While Mr. Grooms was there he sent all of his pay home to provide for his mother and sister. When the war ended he did not get to go home, instead he stayed in Germany to manage multiple hospitals. Several months later he returned to the United States with no great fan fare. All of the jobs were already taken by the soldiers that had returned earlier.

Mr. Grooms decided to go back to school since he was struggling to make ends meet. He became a Chemist and stayed with American Cyanamid/Kemira Pigments for 33 years. He has since retired and is desperately trying to battle colon cancer.

Mr. Grooms and his wife Bette will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 5th. In today's society marriages like theirs represent a shining example of family devotion. Both are native Georgians—with their families having migrated from England and Ireland in the 1700's. He and his wife raised four children with strong Christian ethics and family values.

Mr. Grooms wife, Bette, is retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with over 25 and 1/2 years service. The citizens of my district have been the true beneficiaries for the many personal sacrifices this family has done in order to serve their community, church, and country.

Mr. Grooms' presence and dedication to our country helped insure the freedom we enjoy today. His unselfish acts made a difference to the families of each person he helped. America's all volunteer military has always served with pride meeting the challenges necessary to maintain our national security, to protect American interests at home and abroad, and to guarantee our freedoms and way of life. Our Veterans made many sacrifices to protect our freedoms and way of life, and Americans owe them a great deal.

Please join me again in applauding Mr. Grooms. His warmth, generosity, and friendship has touched thousands of people in his community, church, and family. Without him our country's history would be different. The dedication of this brave man helped shape our history. Our society today needs more people like him who unselfishly dedicate to their lives

and fight for the freedom of our country. This man is a very brave person and deserves to be recognized as an American hero. I am pleased to submit this acknowledgment of his continuing life in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

My name is (Tommy) Thomas L. Grooms, III. I have met you before and I have been in your office here in Savannah (on Abercorn). I am a staunch Republican Christian Married Male who is retired from the U.S. Air Force (having served over half of my career assigned to an active-duty slot with the 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard in Savannah). I was a single parent of two precious daughters for over ten years and struggling in service to our country as an enlisted member on a "fixed" income in a slot with no upward mobility. I was forced to retire three years ago when my slot was abolished and I was devastated to say the least. I am now employed with the Coastal Heritage Society, here in Savannah, in an administrative position as Assistant to the Executive Director. This is more of a title than anything, as my income is very low—due to this being a non-profit organization, as you well know. I was blessed with a new wife a little over a year ago. My father has cancer (in the final stages—he is currently in ICU at Candler Hospital, here in Savannah). My wife was one of his medical care-providers when he was initially diagnosed with cancer.

The reason that I am writing to you with this long message is two-fold:

1.) My Father, Thomas L. Grooms, Jr., is a World-War II Veteran—he served as a "Hero" in The Battle of the Bulge—as a matter of fact, Time-Life has a series of books out on World War II, with one book dedicated solely to The Battle of the Bulge—and in this book is a full-one-page picture of my Father on the Battle-Field. He served as a Medic and, when the War ended, he did not get to come home, but was left to manage multiple hospitals in Germany for a number of months. When he arrived back in the states, there was no ticker-tape parade for him and all of the jobs were taken. While he was away at War, he sent all of his pay home to provide for his Mother, who was dying of colon cancer (the same that he now has) and for his sister (his Father, who was a Medical Doctor, had passed away when my Father was an infant) . . . My Father struggled and to make ends meet, went back to school, married my Mother at Calvary Baptist Temple—here in Savannah (with the ceremony being performed by Dr. John Wilder), and I was born a year later in 1951. He retired from American Cyanamid/Kemira Pigments—with over 33 years employment—here in Savannah over 10 years ago, as a Chemist, where he was exposed to many chemicals for many years (contributing, I believe to his cancer condition today). My Father just had his 77th Birthday on October 5, 2000. On November 5, 2000—my parents—Tom & Bette Grooms—will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

a. What I am getting to is this:

(1) Is there any way that you could possibly have my Father recognized in some special way for his War efforts (so many sacrifices) in behalf of our country—before it is too late? You obviously are aware that our country, to date, has not ever properly recognized our World War II Veterans—I am aware of the planned Washington Monument/

Memorial—but, it may be too late for my Dad, Jack. . . . Please do something if you can. . . . You don't know how much I would appreciate this. . . .

(2) Congrats ltr? you could have both of my parents recognized for their 50th Wedding Anniversary (NOV 5)—should my Dad live long enough to be here for it??? . . . Their Names, Again: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Grooms, Jr. (Tom & Bette)—My Mother's Maiden Name is: Barbaree. Both of my parents are native Georgians—with their family having migrated here from England and Ireland in the 1700's. They are both dear Christian people who have been so involved in their church all of their lives and have reared four children in a Godly, Christian home. They are well-respected in the community by their peers and family alike. They truly deserve to be recognized. As an added note, my Mother, Bette Grooms, retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with over 25½ years service, including employment at Historic Fort Pulaski under Mr. Ralston B. Lattimore, the original Superintendent who was responsible for the original restoration efforts there. She, too, was a hard worker who contributed much to this community for many years. . . . So, if you can have them recognized for all of this on this very special occasion, it would mean the world to them, me and the rest of our family and friends. . . .

2.) The second issue deals with me and my fellow Veterans who have served our country as a career in the U.S. Air Force. I retired after having served over 25 years. I am, once again, a conservative Christian Family Man Who is a Card-Carrying Republican. I am appalled at what our country has done to its Veterans. We were promised free medical, dental, insurance, etc. for the rest of our lives—in return for 20 or more years of service. We however, have to pay for "Tri-Care" and have no Dental Insurance, Eye Care, or Life Insurance. . . . I, also, happen to have qualified for V.A. benefits due to disability suffered from a broken back, etc. while in service (I am a Viet Nam Era Veteran, as well). However, every dollar that I receive in V.A. is taken out of my retirement pay. Why is it that a young person can serve 6 months of service and be placed on V.A. due to an injury/disability and receive the same pay that I receive after having had served for over 25 years.

(a) If there is any way you could help initiate a bill and push it through Congress to eliminate this unfair practice/discrepancy—and allocate payment of retirement pay to those who have earned it, as well as V.A.—and another bill to return the proper medical care to all Veteran Retirees for Life, as originally promised by our U.S. Government Representatives/Recruiters/Retention Officers—this would be so very much appreciated, along with a reasonable increase in Retirement Pay for Military Retirees, so we won't have to struggle so much on the outside. . . . If I was making more in retirement at this very moment, I would not have to be working to make ends meet and would be at the hospital, helping to morally support my parents during this very trying time. . . .

In closing, thank-you, Jack, for all that you have done for our community, our state and our nation—and for how you present yourself—as an Honest, God-fearing, Christian, Family, Moral Man with Values. If

● 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.

there is ever anything that I can do to help support your mission, your campaign, your office, please do not hesitate to call upon me, sir!

Anything that you can do positively relative to the above shared situations would be greatly appreciated and would not go unnoticed. Thank-You, again, Jack, and May God Continue To Richly Bless You In All That You Undertake For His Glory and For The Betterment of Mankind, Our Country, Our Community, and Your Family!!!

Looking forward to hearing from you in the near future in a most positive manner concerning these matters, I am most humbly and sincerely,

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 575 on October 29, 2000 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

IN HONOR OF PETER AKINYELE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable man, one who genuinely exemplifies what it means to be a loving, peaceful person, even under the most adverse circumstances.

On Thursday, September 14, around 11:00 pm, Peter Akinyele's 16-year-old neighbor asked to use his phone. He did, only to return with a friend—and a gun. The young boys demanded money while holding the weapon to Peter's head, and yet the 67-year-old maintained a calm, collected composure, asking them simply to "put the gun down."

Peter Akinyele also maintained his composure as the boys proceeded to slash his throat open, beat him and bound his hands and feet with an electrical cord. Near unconscious, the boys threw him in the basement, ignoring his last request: "Please don't set the house on fire," as he collapsed from pain and fatigue. Peter awoke to the smell of gasoline and smoke, and the sound of firefighters extinguishing the blaze. Peter broke through a basement window with his bare hand, and, shouting for help, was eventually heard amidst the chaos. Finally, his ordeal was over and he was brought to safety.

To this day, Peter Akinyele has no trace of anger toward his young and ruthless attackers. Throughout the entire fiasco, he says, his main concern was not only that he would live to see the next day, but that the boys would have a future themselves. Realizing the potential danger if he struggled for control of the gun, he simply talked to the young boys, saying "Please don't shoot me. Don't do this. This is not the right thing to do." Even when someone was attempting to brutally end his life, Peter Akinyele remained strong-willed, and yet empathetic. He would not give up this own life, but he would not even attempt to harm theirs for the sake of his

own survival. Certainly, this is a man who does not believe in fighting violence with more violence.

My fellow colleagues, Peter Akinyele is a man who deserves the highest respects for his noble suffering. Many people can look to him as an example of the peaceful nature and genuinely loving heart that all should aim to cultivate in their lives. I commend him for his courage, bravery, and loving heart.

RECOGNITION OF U.S. WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM—MICHAEL COHEN, HEAD COACH; CHERYL HAWORTH; CARA HEADS-LANE; SUZANNE LEATHERS; MICHAEL MARTIN; AND OSCAR CHAPLIN III

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Michael Cohen, head coach; Cheryl Haworth; Cara Heads-Lane; Suzanne Leathers; Michael Martin; and Oscar Chaplin III as members of the United States 2000 Summer Olympic Weightlifting Team. All of these amazing individuals live in my Savannah, GA., part of my congressional district. They have worked hard and represented our country well. We should be proud of the way they represented our country.

Michael Cohen the head coach of the U.S. Women's Olympic Team was an alternate for the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team that was boycotted so he did not get to participate. In 1984 Cohen did not get the chance to compete again because he was an alternate. In 1988, he injured his back and was unable to compete. It was then that he realized that the only way he would make it into the Olympics was to be a coach and it was then he founded the Paul Anderson/Howard Cohen Weightlifting Center. He is a great coach and an inspiration to all of the people that come into his gym.

Cohen had to wait some 20 years to experience his dream of participating in the Olympic Games. He was allowed to walk in the open ceremonies with all of the athletes. This was a treat because some countries do not allow the coaches to walk in the open ceremonies. Cohen's father started him lifting weights at the age of 5.

Cheryl Haworth of Savannah, Georgia became the youngest U.S. athlete ever to win an Olympic medal in weightlifting when she earned a bronze medal in the women's plus 75kg with a total of 270.0kg. On her way to winning the bronze medal, Haworth set four American records—two in the snatch and two in the total.

Haworth began lifting only three and a half years ago. She is the exception to the rule of training for many years equals success. She walked in the gym some three years ago in order to increase her strength for playing softball. As soon as she walked into the Paul Anderson/Howard Cohen Weightlifting Center the coaches at the gym immediately realized her amazing natural talent and began her training.

Haworth is a three time national champion and holds every American record in her weight class. Haworth won America's only medal at the 1900 Worlds, a bronze in the snatch.

Cara Heads-Lane moved to Savannah, Georgia four years ago from Costa Mesa, California in order to train. She has been training since the age of 8 and has worked a long time in order to make it to the Olympics. Cara placed 7th in the Women's Heavyweight in the 2000 Olympic Games.

Oscar Chaplin III was the first American in history to win Junior World Championship. Chaplin finished 12th in the men's Middle Weight in the 2000 Olympic Games. Chaplin has been lifting weights since the age of 9 and is ranked in the top 15. He holds the National Junior and Senior records for the last three years.

Suzanne Leathers was an alternate for the 2000 Olympic Weightlifting Team. She moved to Savannah, GA. with her coach Donald McCauley to be in the weightlifting capitol. She and Donald decided that they would get married if she made the Olympic Team. So, on September 14, 2000 they tied the knot in Australia. I wish them a happy and joyful life together.

Michael Martin was the youngest person to ever make it on to an Olympic weightlifting team. He was picked as an alternate for the 2000 Olympic Team. His sights are set for the 2004 Olympics.

Please join me in applauding all of these fine young men and women. They have worked extremely hard to reach this momentous goal. Let us all look up to them and strive to work as hard as they have to reach a goal. Our society needs more people like them that work extremely hard to represent our country. These young people proved that our American youth are indeed the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 574 on October 29, 2000, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

IN HONOR OF OHIO PTA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ohio PTA on its 100th Anniversary, on May 21, 2001.

For the past century, the Ohio PTA has been actively fighting for our children. When the Ohio PTA first convened on May 21, 1901, during the National Congress of Mothers, it recognized the importance of our children, and their need to be educated and raised in a healthy manner. The PTA made it their mission to act and speak on behalf of our young people throughout the community as well as before government agencies.

In the 1920's, the PTA worked to ratify the National Child Labor Amendment as well as advocated the need of special classes for developmentally handicapped children. During

the 1940's, the PTA assisted the war effort by working with the Red Cross and other agencies to help abroad. Meanwhile, the PTA also established the Memorial Scholarship Program to train teachers to better educate our children at home. During the 1980's, the PTA launched its "Come Back to School" project to improve parent involvement as well as increase participation in the larger cities. Most recently, the PTA has been instrumental in increasing parent involvement, advocating legislation on behalf of the youth, as well as leading the Citizens Against Vouchers coalition.

The Ohio PTA recognizes the role of parents as primary educators in partnership with the schools with whom we entrust our children. The Ohio PTA acknowledges that we are all parents as long as we carry significant responsibilities for a child's development. Presently, there are 150,000 PTA members in 800 local units throughout the state.

The Ohio PTA plays an important role in striving to maintain the safety, welfare, and education of all of our children in the state of Ohio. Please join me in honoring the Ohio PTA on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

MARGARET MARKETA NOVAK

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to commend my constituent Margaret Marketa Novak for her dedicated contributions to Holocaust education and remembrance, and acknowledge the recent completion of her autobiography *One Left, Just One*.

For over 30 years, Ms. Novak has been active in Holocaust issues, as a speaker, an author, and a member of Holocaust survivor support organizations. Her volunteerism and commitment exemplify the belief she notes in her book that "Surviving is not enough, it's what we do with our lives that counts."

As the only survivor in a family of nine that perished in the Holocaust, Ms. Novak has lived a challenging life, as so many others who, like Ms. Novak, relied upon faith, fear and courage to survive the ghetto, Auschwitz, the DP camps, and the uncertain trip to settle in the United States.

Although nothing can vindicate the murders of the innocent six million who perished, or reclaim the lost childhood she documents in her book, Ms. Novak's resolve to share this history is a testament to the determination of all of the survivors who struggled to reclaim their lives after the war and put them on record for future generations.

Our community is grateful to Ms. Novak for her devoted service. I extend her my best wishes for the future.

AMBASSADOR DAVID IVRY DISCUSSES ISRAEL'S RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST VIOLENCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the Washington Post published an excellent article

by His Excellency David Ivry, ambassador of Israel to the United States. Ambassador Ivry has served as commander of the Israeli Air Force and Deputy Chief of the General Staff. For the past year he has represented Israel in the United States. I want to commend Ambassador Ivry's article to my colleagues in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, all of us regret the tragic deaths which have resulted from the violence in the Middle East. It is a great tragedy that this turmoil has turned the focus from efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully to dealing with a new wave of disorder that undermines the basis for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The violence is unacceptable, and it is undermining the very basis for peace—the notion that Palestinians and Israelis can live together.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the evening newscasts are giving a false image of the true dimensions and nature of this violence. The carefully orchestrated turmoil and the cynical and tragic use of little children should stand condemned by all of us. It is important that we understand the full significance of what is happening as this disorder continues to threaten stability and the progress that has already been achieved.

Ambassador Ivry has laid out in particularly clear and incisive terms the Israeli interest in achieving a peaceful reconciliation with the Palestinians. He also explains the position and policy of the Israeli government in its effort to deal with the unacceptable levels of Palestinian-orchestrated violence that now threatens to undermine the progress that has been achieved over the past seven years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Ambassador Ivry's article be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give it the careful and thoughtful attention that it deserves.

ISRAEL'S RESTRAINT

By David Ivry *The Washington Post*, Oct. 27, 2000

The current wave of violence in the Middle East has left more than 100 Palestinians dead, while the number of Israeli fatalities has been relatively small. This uneven casualty ratio has raised questions by some as to whether the Israeli forces are too eager to pull their triggers in response to Palestinian violence. The answer to such concerns is clear: Israel has shown the greatest restraint possible in the face of continued violent provocations, and Israel's forces have made a maximum effort to avoid Palestinian fatalities.

Israel has no interest in the continuation of violence, and our tactical response has been to avoid actions that could lead to escalation. Every Israeli soldier on the ground receives strict orders as to the rules of engagement, which state clearly when it is permissible to use live fire. An Israeli soldier may respond only when shot at first or in a life-threatening situation. In either case his response must be directed at the source of the fire.

On Oct. 12, the day the two Israeli soldiers were brutally lynched in Ramallah, Israel responded by sending helicopters into action in Ramallah and Gaza. Not only were our pilots under strict instructions to surgically strike designated points but Israel also warned the Palestinians to evacuate the specified targets. It was no accident that there were no Palestinian fatalities in the Israeli counterstrike.

Israel's operational procedures for dealing with violent crowds involve the use of tear-

gas and rubber bullets. Palestinians are propagating the fallacy that Israeli troops meet street demonstrators with live fire. Unfortunately, we have witnessed many incidents in which armed Palestinians have opened fire on Israelis from street demonstrations—using their fellow Palestinians as human shields. The Palestinian leadership has gone as far as closing the schools and busing children to points of friction, knowingly putting youngsters in harm's way. International treaties clearly condemn the enlisting of children to participate in hostilities. The international community should speak out against this reprehensible exploitation of children for political purposes.

Today's violence is quite different from that of the intifada in the 1980s. Israel then controlled the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Israeli soldiers were stationed inside Palestinian cities.

Today, as a result of the Oslo accords, 40 percent of the territories, including all the population centers, are under Palestinian control with more than 95 percent of Palestinians living directly under the rule of the Palestinian Authority. Our forces sit outside the population centers at points agreed to in the Israeli-Palestinian interim agreements. For violent incidents to erupt, Palestinians must seek out those forces or Israeli civilian targets.

During the intifada, our forces had to deal primarily with violent demonstrations. Currently, Israeli soldiers face armed Palestinian forces, either the official Palestinian security or the Tanzim militia (which, according to the interim agreements, should not have weapons at all). Palestinian gunmen have opened fire on Israelis in hundreds of incidents. Pictures of Palestinian boys with slingshots do not accurately reflect this new reality on the ground.

The ultimate irony of the current situation is that Prime Minister Ehud Barak has shown unprecedented flexibility in the peace process. The Palestinians, rather than opting to negotiate, chose to revert to violence. It was the Palestinian side that reneged on the cease-fire brokered by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris, and it was the Palestinian side that failed to implement the deal brokered by President Clinton at Sharm el-Sheikh. Israel did not want, seek or encourage this round of fighting. The questions must be asked: Which side has acted to contain and to end the violence, and which side has not?

The truth about the ratio of Palestinian to Israeli deaths is that Israelis have been actively seeking to limit fatal casualties in this conflict while, unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the Palestinian side. As retired Gen. Wesley K. Clark wrote recently: "for the Palestinians, every casualty, even their own, can be a strategic gain." As long as the Palestinian leadership acts on the assumption that there is a net political advantage in bloodshed, surely they, and those in the Arab world who encourage this violent strategy, should be held accountable for the appalling and unnecessary loss of life over the past four weeks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 29, 2000 I was unavoidably detained from presence in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall 574, Approval of the Journal—Yes.
Rollcall 575, One Day Continuing Resolution—Yes.

Rollcall 576, Pallone Motion to Instruct Labor-HHS Appropriations Conferees—Yes.

HONORING THE INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Inland Empire Utilities Agency of California, as they celebrate 50 years of excellence in water resources and quality management.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency plays an integral part in distributing water, providing wastewater collection, and other utility services for nearly 700,000 people that reside within a 242-square-mile area of Western San Bernardino County. They have eight agency facilities within their jurisdiction that are designed to meet the specific needs of their regional community. Additionally, they have a five member Board of Directors that represents each division.

One of the critical aspects to the success of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency has been their ability to keep the lines of communication open. They have done an outstanding job working closely with local, State, and Federal legislators to ensure that California's water needs are being met.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, a quality company that has taken a pro-active role in addressing water issues, is poised to meet the demands of the future. I ask that this 106th congress join me in congratulating the Inland Empire Utilities Agency as they celebrate 50 years of excellence in water resources and quality management.

TRANSPORTATION RECALL ENHANCEMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND DOCUMENTATION ACT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, the House of Representatives passed by voice vote the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability and Documentation Act.

The quick passage of this bill was a direct result of the public's concern over the safety of automobile tires. This was a good and proper beginning. However, I am hopeful that next year, in the new session of Congress, we can take a more comprehensive look at all automobile safety issues. In particular, Congress should closely examine the availability of information necessary to repair vehicles.

Oftentimes, consumers and repair shops do not have access to adequate information on how to properly repair and maintain vehicles. When information concerning the proper repairs and appropriate replacement parts for automobiles is withheld or tightly controlled, motorists are put in jeopardy. This situation

can lead to unsafe vehicles on the road and must be addressed.

In the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, Congress required new vehicles include an On-Board Diagnostic System to monitor vehicle emissions. At that time, Congress also mandated that the information necessary to make emission repairs be made available to all those who repair the vehicles, including the after market.

Since this time, diagnostics have evolved to monitor most car systems such as brakes and air bags. Yet the information required to make repairs on these systems is not made available to the car owner or the local repair shop. It is time for Congress to carefully consider the benefits of extending the information sharing requirements to cover all the systems in an automobile.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 576 on October 29, 2000, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following Recorded Votes due to the death of my father. I wish the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following had I been present:

Rollcall No.	Bill No.	I would have voted—
563	H.J.Res. 117: Passage of Continuing Appropriation for FY2000.	AYE
564	S. 2943: Passage of International Malaria Control Act.	AYE
565	H.R. 2498: Passage of Cardiac Arrest Survival Act.	AYE
566	H.Res. 655: Passage of consideration and Senate amendment to H.R. 1550 (authorization appropriations for the United States Fire Administration).	AYE
567	S. 2712: Passage of Reports Consolidation Act.	AYE
568	H.R. 5309: Passage of Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Bldg.	AYE
569	S. 3194: Passage of Robert Walker Post Office Bldg.	AYE
571	H.J.Res. 118: Passage of Continuing Appropriation for FY2000.	AYE
572	H.R. 4577: Passage of Motion to Instruct Conferees regarding LIHEAP funding on Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, FY2001.	AYE
573	H.R. 4577: Passage of Motion to Instruct Conferees regarding disagreeing to Senate Amendment that deny President's request for dedicated resources to reduce class sizes on Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, FY2001.	NO
575	H.J.Res. 119: Passage of Continuing Appropriations for FY2000.	AYE
576	H.R. 4577: Passage of Mr. Pallone's Motion to Instruct Conferees on Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, FY2001.	NO
578	H.J.Res. 120: Passage of Continuing Appropriation for FY2000.	AYE
579	Mr. Linder's motion regarding House Meeting Hour for Tuesday, October 31, 2000.	AYE

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE APPROPRIATIONS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, when we passed the H-1B legislation recently, it was my deep regret that Congress missed an opportunity to grant long-awaited parity to certain groups of immigrants in our country. Today I rise to speak against the measure currently before us because we're heading for another missed opportunity.

Significant portions of our Nation's population have been living, working, and raising families in the United States for many years. But they've been living in legal limbo, fearing deportation, because they were wrongly denied legal status to which they were entitled and which they qualified for in the 1980's

Another group of immigrants has also been treated unfairly. In 1996 and 1997 Congress gave Nicaraguans and Cubans the opportunity to become permanent residents, but thousands of refugees from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti were left with only temporary residency status. This group deserves the same opportunity to obtain American citizenship.

The remedy for these problems, the Latino Fairness and Immigration Act, has been kept out of the Commerce, Justice and State appropriations bill. The Act is based on our country's basic tenet that people in similar situations should be treated equitably. It would keep immigrant families united through restoration of Section 245(i) of the INS Code. It would reward them for their hard work and recognize that they've paid their taxes and made other contributions to this country. It would also establish legal parity for all refugees who fled political turmoil in the 1990s.

It is important to state that because of past congressional action and bureaucratic bungling, some who were eligible for a legalization program enacted in 1986 are now U.S. citizens, while others are facing deportation. If we pass the Latino Immigration and Fairness Act, we'd be rewarding people who have played by the rules, telling them that the U.S. Government is willing to correct its mistakes of the past, keep their families united and exercise fairness.

What we're simply asking for is that a correction be made to an acknowledged wrong. Congress has taken this sort of action numerous times in the past when it has acted to legalize the residency of those who have been in America for many years.

This fair remedy is long overdue. What has been brought to the floor is an incomplete, inadequate measure that rewards some and denies others. Its inadequacy and unfairness falls short of what we stand for as a nation and what in the name of fairness should be done.

I ask my colleagues to reject the C-J-S appropriations bill for these reasons and instead support the Latino Fairness and Immigration Act.

A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUE, SIDNEY RICHARD YATES

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to Congress in 1991, I became acquainted with my colleague, Sid Yates, who represented the 9th Congressional District of Illinois. Mr. Yates had first been elected to Congress in 1949 and was passed the four decade mark in service to the U.S. Congress when I met him.

While Congressman Yates and I served in different parties, we all served the state of Illinois and worked together on projects of mutual interest to our state and our nation. Congressman Yates had one of the most distinguished careers of any member ever to serve in the House of Representatives. He was a man whose reputation for honesty and integrity was untarnished after years of public service. He was a man who understood and loved the system that is the U.S. House of Representatives.

After Sidney Yates retired in 1999, I had the opportunity to visit with him about how he liked his new status. While I know that he enjoyed his retirement he missed very greatly the institution in which he had spent so many years of his productive life.

It is with regret that I acknowledge the passing of Sidney Yates so soon after his retirement. Yet, he was a man whose life was very full, who had so many good and productive years in which he dedicated himself to his state and nation. For his service, for his life, for the standards he set, he will long be remembered and always admired.

FTS 2001 PROGRAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the U.S. Government Federal Telecommunications Services contracts, called FTS 2000/2001. As a member of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology and with my continued interest in information technology issues, I believe it is important that we do all we can to ensure that a customer—as large and important as the U.S. Government—is not short-changed in the midst of the digital age.

Since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, telecommunications and high-tech companies have experienced colossal incentives to offer more advanced services and lower prices for consumers. This industry continues to have the opportunity to form strategic unions with its government customers to place a new emphasis on the latest technological innovations and showcase offerings of voice, data and video services throughout the United States and the world.

Even though we are making progress since passage of the 1966 Act, I remain concerned about the recent articles I've read stating that

winning FTS vendors and the Federal government have run behind schedule in conversion of the contracts from FTS 2000 to 2001. This has impacted the competition built into the FTS 2001 contract. I find it troublesome to learn that this has resulted in a limited competitive opportunity for young, cutting-edge companies. As a result, this marketplace has experienced little in the way of introduction of new products and services to the government market.

I believe that it is important that we exercise our Congressional oversight authority and we quickly review the fair process that was initially established for federal agencies under the FTS 2000/2001 programs in order to restore competition within the government sector.

AMERICA WILL MISS
CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Illinois Congressman Sidney Yates. I appreciate this opportunity to join his colleagues in honoring his memory and his legacy of service.

Congressman Sidney Yates served the people of Illinois and the American people with distinction. He actively and assertively championed the cause of cultural development, as one of the Congress' leading advocates of the National Endowment for the Arts. He reminded us that continued public sponsorship of artistic expression is essential to nourish America's creative spirit, and the Chicago Tribune called him the "greatest friend" of the arts. As an active member of the Appropriations Committee and as Chairman and Ranking Member of its Interior Subcommittee, Sidney Yates also championed the cause of America's outdoors. Due in large part to his devoted stewardship, the National Park System grew as visitorship increased from 29 million in 1948 to almost 280 million in 1998.

This natural leadership should have come as no surprise. Sidney Yates was clearly an exemplary American. He excelled at the University of Chicago. There, he developed both the keen intellect that served him and his constituents so well in Congress and a real devotion to the outdoors, as a star basketball center and an exceptional amateur golfer. When the shadow of the Second World War brought darkness to our shores, Sidney Yates served in the United States Navy, earning the rank of Lieutenant. The young veteran again answered the call of duty in 1948, winning a seat in Congress that he eventually held for almost a half-century. Over the years, his steadfast dedication to the interests of his constituents won the support of the political machine that dominated Chicago politics during his first few terms, as well as the backing of Chicago's reform advocates. Sidney Yates retired last year as the longest-serving member in the history of the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I will recall Sidney Yates with fondness. In honoring his memory, I honor the example of a life given in selfless service to our nation, and I can say with confidence that America will miss Congressman Sidney Yates.

HONORING MARILYN CULPEPPER

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Marilyn Culpepper for her dedication to the health and well being of Monroe County, Alabama, citizens.

Marilyn Culpepper was appointed to the Monroe County Hospital Board in July 1996 and elected its chairman by unanimous vote of the board a few months later. She served as chairman from 1997 to 2000. Mrs. Culpepper has since moved to Mobile, and I wish her well as she takes on new challenges.

A native of Grove Hill, Alabama, Mrs. Culpepper is a 1980 graduate of the University of West Alabama (formerly Livingston University) and was the recipient of that school's Alumni of the Year Award in 1996.

Over the years, she has had several successful careers and civic achievements. In 1986, at age 27, she was elected to the Sumter County Board of Education. She was elected a second time in 1988 and served with distinction until moving to Monroe County in 1991.

In Monroe County, Marilyn Culpepper served first as associate editor, then managing editor of the Award-winning weekly newspaper, The Monroe Journal. She also distinguished herself through community service in several capacities. To name a few, she was president and/or board member of the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Monroe County Public Education Foundation, the Monroeville Kiwanis Club (where she was the first woman elected as "Kiwanian of the Year"). She also served as a volunteer for the Monroe County Heritage Museums, and for the Alabama Writers Symposium during their inaugural year. In addition, she served in Israel as the representative of the Monroe County Commission and the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce during performances of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Manifesting her talent, Mrs. Culpepper is a two-time recipient of the Alabama Medical Association's Douglas L. Cannon Recognition for Excellence in Medical Journalism.

As editor of The Monroe Journal and, later, economic developer for Monroe County from 1997–2000 and as chairman of the Monroe County Hospital Board, Mrs. Culpepper was an advocate for accessible health care for all citizens regardless of age, social or economic status. She was a driving force behind expansion of hospital services and creation of a rural health clinic in Monroe County.

Under Mrs. Culpepper's leadership, the hospital in Monroeville embarked on a major expansion and construction project, the creation of a cancer-treatment center and the development of a diabetes support program. She also oversaw the creation of the Monroe Health Foundation and has been a contributor to the foundation.

Today, Mrs. Culpepper serves as executive director of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. Her commitment to community development—preservation, education, and innovation in enriching the lives of all citizens continues. She is committed to developing a regional network of cultural, civic and humanitarian efforts to benefit all residents of south Alabama and

continues to be a friend to Monroe County and Monroe County Hospital in this endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 574, a bill approving the Journal of October 29, 2000. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 575, H.J. Res. 119, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 576, a motion to instruct conferees on the Labor, Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

HONORING JAMES HEIDEN

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Mr. James Heiden upon his retirement from Easter Seals. It is an honor to recognize Mr. Heiden and the outstanding service he has given to the entire community of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Heiden has served Easter Seals for 26 years and is currently Executive Director of the local affiliate. Over the past 20 years as director of the local Easter Seals, he has worked tirelessly to implement new programs for this community and to expand Easter Seals services to thousands of families.

Under the direction of Mr. Heiden, the local affiliate serving Montgomery, Philadelphia, Bucks and Chester Counties has become a national leader in early intervention services for children up to five years of age and their families. The Easter Seals affiliate has also been successful in expanding home- and community-based services. They have implemented many cutting-edge programs including specialized assistive technology services for children and adults with disabilities, programs for siblings and families of children with disabilities, and a variety of adaptive recreation programs.

Easter Seals has received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This is a prestigious recognition that has been achieved by only seven percent of early childhood programs nationwide.

It is a privilege to honor the contributions of Mr. James Heiden to the Easter Seals foundation of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His hard work and dedication is appreciated by all whose lives he has touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on October 28 and 29, 2000, I was detained with business in my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on roll call numbers 570 through 576. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 570 through 576.

In addition, this morning, I was unavoidably detained, and therefore unable to cast my votes on roll call numbers 577 and 578. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 577 and 578.

TRIBUTE TO ELMER A. FERGUSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am proud to recognize Elmer A. Ferguson in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to our nation.

Elmer Ferguson distinguished himself through his devotion to his family, friends, and community. He was born in DeWitt, Arkansas on September 17th, 1910, the son of a local farmer. His family instilled in him the value of an education, and he and his sister enrolled at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville in 1930, but he was able to remain only for one year because of financial difficulties. Elmer never forgot his hardship, and he would later do everything he could to make sure that deserving students could go to college.

Of course, Elmer made the most of his opportunities, despite his initial challenges. After returning from Russellville, he worked his way from a \$15 a week job at a DeWitt grocery store to being the manager there. Eventually he became a successful grocery store owner, an accomplished farmer, and the well-respected board chairman of the DeWitt Bank and Trust Co., a position he held until he died last week.

Elmer would probably count his family as his greatest success, however. After marrying Gladys Guthrie in 1934, he was blessed with three daughters, seven grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

As mentioned earlier, Elmer always remembered his humble beginnings, and used his success to help others have the opportunities he missed. In 1987, he established the Elmer Ferguson and Gladys Ferguson Charitable Trust, which funded four-year college scholarships for DeWitt students. Elmer also donated a scholarship to the University of Mississippi.

Elmer's generosity and empathy had no limit. He and Gladys gave \$250,000 to the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, and underwrote the creation of the Neuroscience Unit at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, which is named for them. Just eight years ago, both were also named to the honorary board of patrons by the Baptist Medical System Foundation in recognition of their support to that organization.

Sadly, Elmer Ferguson passed away on Friday, about a month after Gladys died. They

were great friends of mine, and I will miss them as much as their family, friends, and the great community of those who ever knew them. On behalf of the Congress, I extend my deepest sympathies to their family, even as I encourage them to join me in celebrating their extraordinary lives.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK, NOVEMBER 19, 2000–NOVEMBER 26, 2000

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to serve as Congressional Co-Chairman of National Bible Week with Senator CONRAD BURNS. It is fitting that National Bible Week occurs the week of Thanksgiving, a week used by many to reflect on the past and give thanks for their blessings. Whether you consider the Bible a book of comfort, guidance, or literature, I hope this week will be one of reflection and study of the Bible.

I have read and studied the Bible for as long as I can remember. I memorized passages for Sunday school as a child. As an adult, the Bible has become an important source of guidance.

I have always found the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 25:31–46, most helpful as a guide to setting public policy. But even more important is Matthew 16:26 which says, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" This verse is especially relevant to today's national leaders who are increasingly faced with votes of conscience.

I commend the National Bible Association for setting aside this week to encourage others to read and study the Bible. The Bible has influenced Western art, literature, music, and even our laws. I encourage you to read and study it this week.

RECOGNITION FOR ADOPTIONS TOGETHER

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as National Adoption Month 2000 approaches, I take great pride in recognizing the exceptional work being done by Adoptions Together, a nonprofit organization in my Congressional district, on behalf of children in need of a permanent, loving adoptive home. Since its founding ten years ago by Janice Goldwater of Silver Spring, Maryland, Adoptions Together has worked to help all children in need of a home regardless of the child's age, health, race, physical or mental handicap. Adoptions Together welcomes every child who seeks its help.

Many things about adoptions needed to be changed for the better than Janice Goldwater began Adoptions Together in 1990. At the time, there was little hope that medically fragile infants whose birth families could not care

for them would quickly find their way to loving adoptive homes. African American infants waited for years in temporary placements because there were so few resources available to them. Families who had already adopted had no place to turn when their children asked difficult questions and struggled with adoption issues. Ms. Goldwater, a licensed clinical social worker, set out to make Adoptions Together a place where these difficulties could and would be overcome.

The organization that Ms. Goldwater founded and continues to lead as executive director has helped change the picture of adoptions in Maryland and the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Through Adoptions Together, more than 1,400 children have been welcomed into loving, healthy adoptive homes. One homes in particular deserves recognition. Darren and Laurie Morgan of Burtonsville, Maryland have fostered 93 children, adopted one, and raised three. Their willingness to open their hearts and their homes to so many children is an amazing kindness that all of us can learn from. The Morgan's have touched so many lives through Adoptions Together and I am honored to have them in our community.

In addition, older children who have languished for years in foster care are now finding adoptive homes through Adoptions Together. It is the first private-sector organization in Maryland authorized to provide adoption services for the thousands of older Maryland children who are growing up in public foster care. Adoptions Together has helped more than 300 children with special medical needs such as HIV, birth defects, or serious prenatal drug exposure to become part of loving, permanent families. The organization has provided over 10,000 days of care to more than 300 newborns while their futures were being settled. More than 600 children left orphanages and institutions in Eastern Europe, Asia and Central America to happily join their new adoptive families in Maryland and beyond in other states.

Adoptions Together serves the needs of both adoptive families and birth parents, offering programs that can be a model for adoption organizations nationwide. Every birth parent who has sought the organization's help has received free adoption counseling for as long as they wished. Over the past ten years, more than 5,000 women facing unplanned pregnancies have received counseling and other help, whether or not they chose adoption for their child. At Adoptions Together, birth parents who are unable to raise their child themselves consider adoption as a pro-active plan for assuring that their child's needs will be met.

Adoptions Together believes that placing a child is only the first step in building a strong adoptive family. Once a child is placed, the goal becomes helping the family through life-long education, counseling and support. More than 1,000 families—clients of Adoptions Together and many other adoption organizations—have found support and guidance in Adoptions Together's Center for Adoptive Families program. More than 500 teachers, educators, social workers, ministers and therapists throughout the country have received professional training by Adoptions Together on adoption topics.

Today, the need for this organization's good work is greater than ever before. More than 3,000 children in Maryland and the District of

Columbia are now waiting for a permanent home. Increased drug abuse, institutional poverty, and the lack of community resources make Adoptions Together a safety net for these children. Fortunately, members of our community are rallying behind Adoptions Together's efforts. Corporate and private benefactors teamed up September 22 at the Adoptions Together Tenth Anniversary Gala to raise funds that will support Adoptions Together's second decade of care giving. Among those instrumental in this effort were: gala co-chairs Judy Polk of Rockville, Pam Cole Finlay of Bethesda, Jane Phillips of Howard; television's Rosie O'Donnell; and corporate sponsors Credit Management Solutions, Inc. (CMSI), Hecht's, OTG Software, SFX Entertainment, and Sun Trust. In November, washingtonpost.com will sponsor an innovative, two-month on-line fundraising effort for Adoptions Together. With help from these and other benefactors, a great Maryland nonprofit organization will begin a new year—its second grade—of loving care giving, welcoming all children who turn to Adoptions Together for a permanent adoptive home. I applaud the past efforts of Adoptions Together and wish them all the best on behalf of the children of Maryland and their families.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
BILL ARCHER

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, BILL ARCHER. Few legislators have the opportunity in their careers to effect such far-reaching reforms as the gentleman from Texas has during his time in this body, particularly his years as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

As we all know, the Committee on Ways and Means carries a very heavy legislative load, dealing each and every year with 100 percent of our nation's revenues. BILL ARCHER has taken this responsibility very seriously since becoming Chairman in 1994, and his accomplishments reflect this.

First and foremost, BILL ARCHER left his mark on legislative history with his work on the Balanced Budget Act of 1977. Among its many provisions, the Balanced Budget Act gave Americans the first tax cut in 16 years. It also helped taxpayers by shifting the burden of proof on tax issues from the taxpayer to the Internal Revenue Service. Taxpayers received new rights and protections in their dealings with the Internal Revenue Service, and the Internal Revenue Service in turn became subject to the oversight of an independent agency.

However, reforming the Internal Revenue Service is not BILL ARCHER's only legacy. He also fought hard and successfully for welfare reform which has resulted in millions of former welfare beneficiaries leaving the welfare roles and moving back into the workforce. In addition, he has worked toward meaningful Social Security reform, and we know that the ground-work he laid will help us realize that goal effectively.

BILL ARCHER's legislative accomplishments speak volumes about his integrity, dedication, and commitment. These are the characteristics that have led his constituents to send him back to Washington 15 times. These same characteristics are the ones we, his colleagues, will miss most when BILL ARCHER retires. I join all BILL ARCHER's friends and colleagues in thanking him for his many years of service and wishing him the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

SALUTING EARL LLOYD

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 31, 2000, the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association will commemorate 50 years of integration in the NBA. The Knick's special guest in Madison Square Garden on this historical evening will be Mr. Earl Lloyd. Mr. Lloyd was the first African American player to participate in an NBA game. Drafted by the Washington Capitols, Mr. Lloyd made his NBA debut against the Rochester Royals on October 31, 1950. There were two other players making their debuts the following day. Chuck Copper was the first choice of Red Auerbach and the Boston Celtics. Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton's contract was bought by the New York Knicks from the Harlem Globe Trotters. Earl Lloyd grew up on the other side of the 14th Street Bridge in the shadows of the White House in Alexandria, Virginia. He was an all around athlete at Parker Gray High School. He excelled in football, basketball and baseball. It was on the Banneker and Park View playgrounds in Washington, D.C. that he developed his game. Mr. Lloyd and his friend the legendary running back of Parker Gray and West Virginia State Bubba Ellis would make regular walks across the 14th Street bridge into the Nation's Capital for pickup basketball, D.C. playground style—no holds barred!

Mr. Lloyd would graduate from high school with honors and as one of the school's greatest athletes. He would matriculate to West Virginia State on a basketball scholarship. In college he was named to the All-American team and here he would leave a lasting impression on his opponents. Hall of Fame basketball coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, former coach of Winston-Salem State University says, "I knew we were in trouble when I first laid eyes on him. He could run up and down the floor better than any big man I had ever faced." In college they called Mr. Lloyd "The Moon Fixer" because of his great size. He would have a great college career and be named to the Black College All-American team. Mr. Lloyd says, "Everything good in my life can be traced back to those college years."

In 1950 Mr. Lloyd was also drafted by another team the United States Army! On Halloween night after serving his military time Mr. Lloyd returned to make professional basketball history. The Washington Capitols would play the Rochester Royals. In the stands that night would be Mr. Lloyd's proud mother. Mrs. Lloyd was sitting directly in front of two fans who acknowledged that Mr. Lloyd was the first

black, but could the Nigger play? Without missing a beat Mrs. Lloyd turned and looked the two fans directly in their eyes and said "Take my word for it, the Nigger can play."

NBA legendary coach Arnold "Red" Auerbach of the Boston Celtics says, "Earl blocked shots and played defense like there was no tomorrow." Red should know. Earl Lloyd led the Syracuse Nationals team that eliminated the Boston Celtics from the 1955 playoffs. The Nationals would go on to capture their one and only NBA Championship. 1955 was a good year. Mr. Lloyd and teammate Jim Tucker would become the first African Americans to play on an NBA Championship team.

A 1994 Sports Illustrated Magazine article read, "In the NBA Mr. Lloyd was called Big Cat because of his size and quickness." Mr. Lloyd's NBA career would last for nine years. His last NBA stop would be with the Detroit Pistons. In 1960 he retired and was named the team's first African American assistant coach. He would later become the first African American head coach in the Detroit Pistons' organization, only the second African American head coach in the NBA.

In May 1993 he was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in Portsmouth, Virginia. In 1998 twenty-eight years after being selected to the 25th Anniversary All-Time Great CIAA Team Mr. Lloyd was inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame.

Earl Lloyd has always made it clear where the credit belongs for his NBA success story. He says, "If it had not been for Red Auerbach and the Boston Celtics, we may still be trying to get into the NBA. The Celtics were the first to draft a Black player, the first to put five Black players on the floor at the same time, the first to hire a Black coach and the first to hire a Black General Manager." The Boston Celtics are truly equal opportunity employers in professional sports.

Halloween night in the NBA would be great if the N.Y. Knicks were hosting the rest of the league's players. They all could learn a little history and then be treated and introduced to a man who does not have a problem with being called a role model. Mr. Lloyd made it all possible for today's NBA black players and thousands of others like them. Earl Lloyd was Number One in 1950 and he is still Number One in the New Millennium 2000.

GAO INVESTIGATION OF ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARD UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 664

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution, H. Res. 664, expressing the sense of the House regarding the Clinton Administration's lack of cooperation and efforts to impede the ongoing investigation by the General Accounting Office into the implementation of United States policy toward United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Since March of this year, the GAO has been attempting to provide the Congress with its report on the Administration's Peacekeeping Policy Blueprint, examining how the Administration has applied its Presidential Decision

Directive 25 policy blueprint for four key UN peacekeeping operations, including those in East Timor, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The International Relations Committee was briefed on two occasions this month by the GAO Deputy Comptroller General, Mr. Henry Hinton, on the status of the General Accounting Office study on the process whereby the U.S. approves U.N. and other multilateral Peace Operations and provides timely and relevant information to Congress concerning their implementation.

This report was requested late last year by this Committee on a bipartisan basis and follows a number of similar GAO reports on peacekeeping-related topics conducted over the past several years on a timely basis and with the cooperation of the Administration.

It is my understanding that the GAO still lacks access to some 26 key documents as well as full and independent access to agency records needed to complete its work. Furthermore, during the course of this investigation, its access to key documents has been restricted, delayed or sometimes denied in a way that would appear designed to undercut its objectives. With no independent access to records, the GAO feels that the integrity and reliability of its work has been compromised.

The GAO investigators have produced an extensive summary of their communications with the Administration which is now publicly available.

While the work of the GAO in this area is not yet complete, it is becoming clear that the Administration—particularly the State Department—has yet to take a cooperative attitude toward the completion of this peacekeeping review by the GAO investigators.

In short, we are still waiting for a full explanation of what went wrong in the course of the Department's response to this investigation, and we are hopeful that key Department officials will meet with the members of our Committee later this week to review the Department's response to this long overdue GAO report.

I submit the full text of H. Res. 664 to be included in the RECORD:

H. RES. 664

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Clinton Administration's lack of cooperation and efforts to impede the investigation by the General Accounting Office into the implementation of United States policy toward United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Whereas at the request of the Chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) initiated a review on March 23, 2000, of the executive branch's application of United States policy in the approval of new or expanded United Nations peacekeeping operations in East Timor, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas in the course of this 7-month long investigation into the Presidential Decision Directive 25 (PDD-25) process, providing guidance for making choices about which United Nations operations the United States will support, the GAO encountered substantial problems in obtaining access to records pertinent to its review;

Whereas PDD-25 directs officials to consider whether such operations serve United States national interests and have timetables for the completion of their mandates, clear exit strategies, integrated political and military strategies, specified troop levels, and firm budget estimates;

Whereas the State Department withheld information from GAO investigators for months about the existence of numerous PDD-25 documents and the GAO still believes that there are additional documents in department files that have a direct bearing on the investigation;

Whereas the National Security Council is in possession of 26 remaining documents and memorandums which have only recently been shown to GAO investigators in heavily redacted form; and

Whereas in past assignments the GAO has had access to this type of information and used it to report to Congress on similar peacekeeping policy issues without damaging the deliberative process on operations of the government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that after seven months of delay the Administration should stop impeding the investigation by the General Accounting Office into how it has applied its peacekeeping policy process to several ongoing United Nations peacekeeping operation and that the following recommendations would help to bring the investigation to a successful conclusion:

(1) The President is urged to direct the Secretary of State and all other relevant government officials to cooperate fully with the investigation, including prompt compliance with outstanding document requests and full cooperation with the efforts of the Committee on International Relations to convene a briefing with State Department officials on this matter.

(2) The GAO should consider taking enforcement action against the Administration for any continuing failure to provide requested documents.

(3) The Administration should provide to the GAO the full text of any documents, policy papers or memorandums that it has agreed to make available to any other member country of the United Nations General Assembly.

(4) The Administration should cooperate fully with the GAO and with Congress in their efforts to oversee future United States participation in United Nations or other multilateral peacekeeping operations.

HONORING RON HASKINS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as the 106th Congress comes to a close, my colleague Mr. SHAW and I pay tribute to Dr. Ron Haskins, Staff Director of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. Ron will leave the Committee at the end of this year and he will be sorely missed by the Members of the Committee and the many staff who have worked with him over the years.

Since joining the Ways and Means staff in 1986, Ron's hard work, intelligence, quick thinking, and unique personality have made him a strong force in the Congressional process as we have worked to improve the lives

of children and families. His ability to truly understand the diverse points of view of people intensely interested in a problem has made action possible where others would have failed.

Once he became Staff Director in 1995, Ron put his extensive knowledge of the nation's welfare system to use by working with Chairman E. CLAY SHAW to develop and pass legislation overhauling the system. Despite two Presidential vetoes, Ron successfully urged Republican Members to continue to push for welfare reform. On August 22, 1996, the welfare reform bill finally became law (P.L. 104-193). The sweep of this reform has been spectacular, resulting in dramatically reduced child poverty, increased numbers of working single parents, and families living improved lives with both more income and real hope.

Three years later in 1999 the Speaker of the House, J. DENNIS HASTERT, spoke of the accomplishments of welfare reform: "we've broken the mold from a lifestyle of generational welfare dependency. In turn, we've created a path to the American dream which holds more personal security and more control for individuals over their own lives."

In 1999, Representative NANCY L. JOHNSON took over as Subcommittee Chair. Since then Ron has continued to have a major role in developing important legislation including the Foster Care Independence Act (P.L. 106-169), the Fathers Count Act of 1999 (H.R. 3073), and the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000 (H.R. 4678). The positive influence of Ron's presence here on Capital Hill will be felt long after he's moved on to new endeavors and by millions of families who will never know his name.

Before joining the Committee staff, Ron was a U.S. Marine, a high school teacher, and a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition to working for the Committee, Ron is a devoted father and husband, a prolific writer, an outstanding public speaker, a man of strong principles, one of the most honest people either of us has ever met, and a true friend.

As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, we wish Ron well and know that he will be a great success in any endeavor he undertakes. We will always be grateful to him for his fine service, his good cheer, his high energy, and his excellent advice.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have decided to do a little distortion for Halloween about the record of the Republican-led Congress. Let's make a comparison based on the facts.

As we all remember, the Democrat-led 103rd Congress was a not a success for public health in this country. As Congressional Quarterly noted, "Clinton" had presented his health care plan—crafted under the direction of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in a massive, secret and much-criticized task force

process . . . the bill was immensely complex. . . . The committee system, designed to resolve both the policy and political problems of legislation, broke down entirely . . . For all their work, not one committee had managed to write a health care bill that the leadership was willing to bring to the floor. . . ."

With the Democrat leadership resorting to scare tactics in the past few days, it might bode well for the American people to remember their record

The Republican-led Congress has been active and provided real public health improvements for the American people. In the prior two Congresses, we have empowered states and localities to meet the health care and nutritional needs of two-income residents, and provided relief to those hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic. We provided portability so working Americans can change jobs without risking the loss of their health care insurance due to a preexisting condition. This was a fundamental change that the Democrats weren't able to get done on their watch.

Our Republican led Congress has also reined in health care fraud and abuse, eliminated tax code discrimination against millions of small businesses and the self-employed and provided tax relief for the long-term health care needs of terminally ill patients and their families. We enhanced Americans' access to safe, abundant, and affordable food and water. In the Food and Drug Modernization Act of 1997, we enacted measures which have significantly cut down the waiting time at the FDA for approval of new medicines. As a result, many patients will have access to life saving drugs much quicker. Our Republican Congress also passed landmark legislation in 1997 that established the Medicare+Choice Program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Under our legislation, low-income children will have expanded access to quality health care coverage. Democrats talked about that for years; it took a Republican Congress to make it happen.

We enhanced the Birth Defects Prevention Program, reauthorized the National Bone Marrow Registry, reauthorized Mammography Quality Standards, and enhanced Women's Health Research and Prevention.

That's a pretty strong record for public health.

Now let's look at the 106th Congress. Here are a number of public health provisions that are already enacted into law: the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments, and the Medicare, Medicaid, & SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act. Under this Act—

Hospitals received an additional \$7.3 billion; Skilled nursing facilities received over \$2 billion;

Home health agencies received an additional \$1.3 billion;

Health plans participating in the Medicare+Choice program received an additional \$1.9 billion;

Nearly \$1 billion in additional monies were provided for the Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs; and,

\$150 million was provided to ensure that organ transplant recipients could continue to receive access to immunosuppressive drugs.

We also enacted into law the Health Research and Quality Act, and the Work Incentives Improvement Act. This law was sponsored by Mr. LAZIO and expands the availability of health care coverage for workers with

disabilities. Add to this list the Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act and the Children's Health Act of 2000, which increases and intensifies research on and programs for autism, juvenile diabetes, asthma, prevention of birth defects, epilepsy, infant health, pediatric research, skeletal malignancies, adoption awareness, healthy start, traumatic injuries and autoimmune diseases. This Act also reauthorizes the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and improves drug addiction treatment programs.

Add to this list the Ryan White CARE Act of 2000, which provides funding for those suffering with AIDS, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.

Those bills that have already been enacted are a solid record but we have even more that are sent or being sent to the President. This includes the Public Health Improvements Act. This bill was sent to the President containing the following provisions which are bipartisan efforts:

Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act;
Clinical Research Enhancement Act;
Twenty-First Century Research Laboratories Act;
Cardiac Arrest Survival Act;
Rural Access to Emergency Devices Act;
Lupus Research and Care Act;
Prostate Cancer Research and Protection Act;
Organ Procurement Organization Certification Act;
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinical Research and Training; and,
Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Research and Training.

We are also sending to the President the Medicare, Medicaid, and S-CHIP Benefits Improvement & Protection Act. This Act increases preventive benefits, including glaucoma screening, medical nutrition therapy, colonoscopy, and biennial pap smears, limits beneficiary exposure to hospital outpatient charges, increases payments to providers under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, adjusts the allocation formula under the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and provides \$475 million for the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Trust Fund.

These are real and meaningful bipartisan accomplishments.

There are other important bills we have not been able to reach consensus on. That should not be an excuse for dismissing the many public health accomplishments of the Republican-led Congress. Nor should we easily forget the failure of the Hillary-care Congress.

We have heard that Republicans are not for a real patients bill of rights. That is false. Indeed, the distortion from AL GORE and the White House is the problem. Republicans have voted for legislation both to increase access to insurance and to provide for HMO reform. The Vice President erroneously claimed in his last debate that Republicans opposed an enforceable, independent external review board. He also claimed that Republicans opposed emergency room and access to specialists provisions. That is nonsense and distorts our record.

Republicans have voted for legislation that provides an enforceable independent external review board for benefits denials. This will make sure health care professionals make

medical decisions and that we don't resort to unnecessary litigation.

Republicans have also supported the patient protections which included the emergency room issue and access to specialist issues Mr. GORE mentioned. We have basic bipartisan agreement on these issues and could easily have such legislation alone.

Let's look at the remaining disagreements. The White House and the trial lawyers want uncapped liability and litigation. Employers around the country are opposed to these features of Norwood-Dingell because they would increase litigation, drive up costs, and would force many employers to drop health insurance. That is the opposite of what we want.

We are also concerned about interfering with State patient protection programs. We need to make sure that States can implement their own programs where they want to without federal interference and disruption to programs that are already in place. Norwood-Dingell does not address this problem and places a huge implementation burden on the Federal government. We need to find a middle road on this.

Finally, we cannot understand the failure of the White House and Democrat leadership to support provisions which provide choice, access and tax deductions to help increase the number of people with health insurance. There are over 40 million uninsured people in America. The Republican-led Congress has passed serious proposals to address this problem and they are being ignored by the White House.

When Democrats sent a letter to Senator NICKLES in early summer saying that they would no longer meet with him in private conference, that was not a good sign. Obviously, you can't negotiate through the press and you can't negotiate if you do not meet.

The plain fact is that the Republican-led Congresses have been energetic, productive, and responsible on public health. The many bipartisan accomplishments are a tribute to both Democrat and Republicans. We have enacted legislation that improves Americans' access to quality health care. Under our proposals, our country's commitment to basic medical research has been expanded and our promises to provide high quality to seniors and the most vulnerable in our society kept. Distortion of this record is not helpful and will only risk jeopardizing future gains.

NATIONAL LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of various parts of the body.

Lupus is not rare. In fact, it is more prevalent than AIDS, sickle cell anemia, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and cystic fibrosis combined. Lupus affects 1 out of 185 Americans, and almost 30% of the Lupus cases in Florida are found within my South Florida region.

This month we celebrate National Lupus Awareness Month.

And, I congratulate The Lupus Foundation of America for its work on patient education, and dedication to raise funds for research.

I especially congratulate J. Reeve Bright, Chairman of the Board of the Lupus Foundation of America and President of the Southeast Florida region; Jack McAllister, the Executive Director; Jackie Brown, and all who helped arrange an educational symposium in my district this month.

The House passed a bill that provides research and services to fight Lupus. As a cosponsor, I thank my dear colleague, Congresswoman CARRIE MEEK, for the Lupus legislation and for her dedication in seeing it through.

This represented a great victory in women's health care, and it is our wish that this triumph will generate countless benefits for American men and women who suffer from Lupus.

CHINA AND PNTR: SUCCESS STORIES NEEDED

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, one of the truly momentous decisions reached by this Congress was to approve Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. Supporters of PNTR worked very hard to achieve this outcome, which held out so much promise for the development of stronger trade and business ties between China and the United States. Now, the major challenge facing both countries will be to show positive results that justify such extraordinary efforts and faith in the future.

Like many of my colleagues, I voted for PNTR and view with hope the potential for mutual benefits. For that reason, it concerns me to learn of examples where American companies have encountered unexpected difficulties in trying to do business in China. One such distressing case of which I am aware involves Panda Energy. Panda is a Dallas-headquartered company with a significant gas-fired cogeneration power plant located in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, within my Congressional district. Based upon an earlier agreement reached with the local Chinese government, in 1995, Panda began construction of a major, private, foreign-invested plant near Tangshan in Hebei Province. Unfortunately, while that facility is now completed and ready to commence generating electricity, it is still not operational. Why? Because the local government has failed to honor its agreement to grant a reasonable tariff computed on a negotiated formula. The situation is even more complicated and troubling in its implications, because construction of the facility was financed through the U.S. capital markets in good faith reliance on this agreement. Unless a fair tariff is granted soon, the bonds are in danger of default, putting at financial risk not only the investors but also the company.

Mr. Speaker, Panda's experience in China is disappointing and contrary to the spirit of PNTR. Therefore, I would urge the Beijing government and its Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Li Zhao Xing, to review this situation carefully and do everything possible to find a fair and workable solution. It is not too late to avoid an unnecessarily negative precedent that could undermine high hopes raised by passage of the PNTR legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on October 28, 2000, I was unavoidably absent when the House voted on "Approving the Journal", H.J. Res. 118, "Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001", and two Motions to Instruct on H.R. 4577.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on "Approving the Journal" (rollcall vote 570), "aye" on H.J. Res. 118 (rollcall vote 571), "nay" on the first motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 572), and "nay" on the second motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 573).

On October 29, 2000, I was also unavoidably absent when the House voted on "Approving the Journal" H.J. Res. 119 "Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001", and a Motion to Instruct on H.R. 4577.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on "Approving the Journal" (rollcall vote 574), "aye" on H.J. Res. 119 (rollcall vote 575) and "nay" on the motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 576).

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DR. NINO CAMARDESE AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO INSTILL A SENSE OF CITIZENSHIP IN OHIO'S YOUTH

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the efforts of Dr. Nino Camardese of Norwalk, Ohio and a bipartisan group of State Representatives in the Ohio general Assembly. Recently, legislation was introduced in the Ohio General Assembly that calls for a "bill of Responsibilities" which outlines a student's civic responsibility to the state of Ohio and the Nation to be posted in each school. This Bill of Responsibilities was developed by Dr. Nino Camardese, a family physician in Norwalk, Ohio. Dr. Camardese recognized that there is a definitive correlation between freedom and responsibility. He also noted that many schoolchildren overlook this fact.

Dr. Camardese, with the assistance of leaders and educators at a Freedom Forum conference, drafted the Bill of Responsibilities, which seeks to remind students that citizenship is an essential part of liberty. The bill reinforces the fact that students must be good citizens, responsible not only to themselves, but to others as well.

Recently, several members of the Ohio General Assembly drafted a resolution that would post the Bill of Responsibilities in each classroom across Ohio. I would like to honor the efforts of Representatives Bill Taylor, Dixie Allen, Sylvester Patton and Ron Young, and recognize the leadership they demonstrated in introducing this important legislation in Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Camardese and these Representatives have taken a monumental step to stop the downward spiral of violence,

substance abuse and apathy present in far too many of this nation's youth. I commend them for their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
HEROES OF THE 1944 ATTACK ON
THE U.S.S. LANSDALE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a group of twenty distinguished American World War II veterans, the survivors of the U.S.S. *Lansdale*. Fifty-six and a half years ago, on April 20, 1944, these fine heroes survived the tragic German aerial torpedo attack that sank the U.S.S. *Lansdale*.

I join the survivors in honoring the memory of the forty-seven crew members who sacrificed their lives that fateful day. They will all be remembered at the World War II Memorial, where construction is scheduled to begin Saturday, November 11, 2000.

The U.S.S. *Lansdale* was on convoy duty protecting ships transporting men and materials to the Italian campaign when a group of German warplanes attacked off the Algerian coast. The ship was nearly split in half by the second torpedo fired after dodging the first one. The Coast Guard was able to rescue 235 survivors from the surrounding waters. Among these men was my very dear friend and long time New York County District Attorney, the Honorable Robert J. Morgethau, who served as the *Lansdale's* Executive Officer and Navigator.

It is with great pride that I acknowledge this group of Americans who demonstrated tremendous courage and commitment to our fine nation. Their legacy, both to our country and to the protection of democracy the world over, will not be forgotten. Please join me in my praise of the following gentlemen who will convene here in Washington over Veterans Day weekend for the World War II Memorial ground breaking ceremony:

Edward S. Brookes of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Alvin S. Caplan of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. Rod Dugger of Milton, Florida.

Angelo Di Palma of Providence, Rhode Island.

Robert Dott of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

John L. Eden of Abingdon, Virginia.

Marshall Geller of Ocean Hills, California.

Peter P. Jannotti of Jacksonville, Florida.

Al Macklin of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Raymond A. Miller of Watertown, Massachusetts.

Ben Montenegro of Ashland, Massachusetts.

Robert M. Morgenthau of New York, New York.

John A. Peterson of Seaside Park, New Jersey.

Edward Rubinstein of Sun Lakes, Arizona.

George Shanabrough of Dallastown, Pennsylvania.

George T. Sinclair of Norfolk, Virginia.

Peter J. Soler of Cicero, New York.

John Tweedie of Horse Shore, North Carolina.

Philip Waldron of Lexington, Massachusetts.

Charles C. Wales of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID
IMPROVEMENTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, for the RECORD, I submit a letter signed by 133 Members sent to Speaker HASTERT in support of improvements to the Medicare/Medicaid amendments of 2000 and the need for an open, fair, democratic process.

If the requests in this letter had been followed, the quality of the bill passed by the House on October 26, 2000 would undoubtedly have been better and the veto threat may have been avoided.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, October 11, 2000.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Speaker's Office, The Capitol.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As Democratic Members of the House of Representatives, we are deeply concerned about reports that the full House may not be given the opportunity to offer amendments to the Medicare legislation which has been reported by the full Commerce Committee and by the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee.

We further understand that these two bills are being melded together without any involvement of Democratic Members or staff, and we are very concerned that the House will be asked to vote quickly on a final bill which we have not seen or been involved with.

Therefore, we ask that you schedule this legislation (which spends roughly \$25 billion dollars over the next five years) for at least several hours of debate and with a rule that allows a number of amendments.

We note that the two Committees' bills have many excellent features, particularly those sections that directly help beneficiaries. In particular, the various bills speed relief from the high co-payment burdens of hospital outpatient department services, help legal immigrants and their children under Medicaid, cover glaucoma screening, permanently cover immuno-suppressive drugs for organ transplant patients, help the low-income receive Medicare premium and co-payment relief, and make many other important program improvements. We hope that these important improvements will not be squeezed out, and that the final bill will retain these excellent features. We are certain that the final bill will receive the strong support of a majority of our Caucus.

Still, adequate and open floor debate is essential, because this is the last chance for this Congress to consider adding a real prescription drug program to Medicare. An open debate would allow Members to include the type of Medicare prescription medicine pro-

gram the American people want. It is unconscionable for this Congress to adjourn without addressing the prescription medicine crisis facing so many of our senior and disabled citizens. If the House can meet many of the legitimate needs of health care providers, it can certainly also address the needs of Medicare beneficiaries. To adjourn giving billions to managed care plans, but failing to help all seniors with prescription drugs costs would be shameful.

We would like to provide a completely voluntary prescription medicine benefit within the traditional Medicare program. Our plan has no deductible, covers half the cost of medicines up to \$2000 in the first year, gradually rising to \$5000 by 2009. Any beneficiary who has out-of-pocket costs greater than \$4000 would be fully protected against further catastrophic pharmaceutical expenses. Premiums for this voluntary program are \$25 a month in the first year, and will gradually increase as the benefit increases. All seniors would be assisted with price discounts on all of their medicine purchases and low-income seniors would be fully protected. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this proposal would cover almost all seniors, whereas the bill which passed the House this summer leaves 7.8 million Medicare beneficiaries (one-in-five) unprotected.

It is particularly ironic that the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee bill does not include a prescription drug bill for seniors, but provides hundreds of millions of dollars in extra payments to pharmaceutical companies, by delaying the implementation of more accurate non-chemotherapy drug prices which have become available as a result of an extensive investigation by the Justice Department.

In addition to the prescription drug amendment, various Members in the Democratic Caucus would like to offer amendments to provide more balance to the bill: by ensuring that it includes additional beneficiary protections and improvements; by ensuring that it includes additional beneficiary protections and improvements; by requiring HMOs to be more accountable to enrollees in exchange for the higher payments in the bill, and by doing more for hospitals, nursing homes and other traditional providers and less for HMOs. We believe the reported bills give a disproportionate amount of relief to HMOs. The Majority's decision to give HMOs so much should not prevent us from giving adequate relief to other deserving providers. We believe that more of the surpluses which allow such changes should go to traditional providers and the seniors and the disabled whom Medicare is designed to serve.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. This Congress must not adjourn without addressing the need to help health care providers with the unintended impacts of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997; the need for seniors and the disabled to afford necessary pharmaceuticals; and improvements in the Medicare and Medicaid program to fill gap in care for the disabled and homebound, in the cost of treatments, and in covering modern, preventive care services.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell, Ranking Democrat Committee on Commerce, Richard A. Gephardt, Democratic Leader; Charles B. Rangel, Ranking Democrat Committee on Ways and Means; David E. Bonior, Democratic Whip; Ed Markey, and 124 others.