they have also donated supplies to refugee students affected by the war in the Balkans in Kosvo. The ''Drive for Supplies'' program truly has the ability to reach thousands of students across the world.

Beginning with Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic Region, Learn Shop hopes to expand the program around the nation, in hopes of reducing poverty nationally and helping children in need. I applaud the efforts of Learn Shop and encourage them to continue all the work that is greatly needed in our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House about my leave of absence from March 21 through March 24 of this year. I was out of the country on official business. Accordingly, I was unable to cast any votes.

If present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall vote No. 75, H. Con. Res. 290, the Budget Resolution for FY 2001.

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 74, on agreeing to the Spratt amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 73, on agreeing to the Sununu amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 72, on agreeing to the Stenholm amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 71, on agreeing to the DeFazio amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 70, on agreeing to the Owens amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 69, on a motion that the Committee rise to H. Con. Res. 290.

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 68, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 290, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2001.

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 67, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 290, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2001.

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 66, on approving the Journal.

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 65, on passage of H.R. 3822, the Oil Price Reduction Act of 2000.

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 64, providing for consideration of H.R. 3822, the Oil Price Reduction Act of 2000.

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 63, on passage to S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 62, to commit with instructions S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 61, whether the House will consider S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 60, providing for consideration of S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000 (H. Res. 444).

''No'' on rollcall vote No. 59, providing for consideration of S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (H. Res. 444).

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 58, on approving the Journal.

''Yes'' on rollcall vote No. 57, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the National Park Service should take full advantage of support services offered by the Department of Defense (H. Res. 182).

TRIBUTE TO DYLAN GEORGE MOHAN

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the May 16, 2000, birth of Dylan George Mohan. Dylan was born at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC, at 8:56 p.m. He is the son of Kristin Young and Matthew Mohan. Dylan is the first grandson of his grandparent George and Phyllis Young and grandparents Jim and Mary Mohan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating this new family and to wish Dylan much joy and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING REV. CURTIS COFIELD II, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join the Immanuel Baptist Church and the New Haven community in paying tribute to my dear friend and an outstanding member of the New Haven, CT, community—Rev. Curtis Cofield. As a pastor and community leader, Reverend Cofield has dedicated his life to making a real difference in the lives of the residents of Greater New Haven.

The clergy has always played a vital role in our community and Reverend Cofield is a sterling example. His commitment to the service of our community through religious leadership is admired by many and rivaled by few. His involvement, not only with the congregation of the Immanuel Baptist Church, but with the entire community, has had a tremendous impact on many lives, especially those who face arduous struggles and frustrating situations in their daily lives. Working with his wife Elsie and the AIDS Interfaith Network, Reverend Cofield has helped hundreds of individuals and their families cope with the devastating effects caused by this terrible illness. For years, he has ministered to the spiritual needs of countless people in the New Haven community—strengthening the bonds of faith and helping to build stronger neighborhoods of which we can all be proud.

Throughout his decades of service to the New Haven community, Reverend Cofield has been a leading advocate for some of our country's most vulnerable citizens. He has served as a strong voice for their best interests. As a member of over 30 service and religious organizations throughout his career, he has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to ensuring that his actions and participation enriched his community. I have always held a deep admiration for community service and those who provide it. With his extraordinary record of service, Reverend Cofield serves as an example to all that one person really can make a difference.

As the first African-American chairman of the Connecticut State Freedom of Information Commission, organizing founder of the Dwight Neighborhood Corporation, and as a pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Reverend Cofield has enriched the lives of residents in New Haven and across the State of Connecticut. His dedication has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally. The myriad awards and honors that adorn his walls are testimony to his unparalleled commitment and dedication.

It is with great pride that I stand today to join Elsie, his children, family, friends, and the entire New Haven community to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Reverend Curtis Cofield for all of the good work he has done. As a pastor, community leader, and friend, he has touched the lives of thousands and leaves a legacy of dedication and inspiration second to none.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for H.J. Res. 123. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Mr. Speaker, I stayed in Washington until the last possible moment, hoping that Congress could finish the business of the people of the Central Coast and all Americans. There are critical unresolved issues still on the table—including school modernization, common-sense tax relief, and adequate funding for Medicare.

I am deeply dismayed that the Congressional leadership has decided to push these issues off to a lame duck session. The American people deserve better.

LAOTIAN-AMERICANS FROM PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND PARTICIPATION IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL FORUM ON LAOS

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents form Rhode Island recently participated in a U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos held on October 19. Laotian and Hmong leaders from around the United States and the globe gathered to present testimony to policymakers and Members of Congress. They joined in a special ceremony in Congress to honor former Congressman Bruce Vento, who recently passed away, for his leadership role on behalf of the freedom-loving for the people of Laos.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a significant Laotian and Hmong-American population in Rhode Island. I share their deep concern about their relatives and countrymen still in Laos—and the need for human rights and democracy. My uncle, President Kennedy, also believed strongly in freedom for the people of Laos, and committed the United States to that goal. I am honored to continue that