

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### ACHIEVEMENTS OF KIMBERLY STEVENSON

#### HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to take a minute to tell my fellow colleagues and the American people about Kimberly Stevenson of McComb, Mississippi. Kimberly is a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service. She has been named one of my State's top honorees in the 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Stevenson are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

Ms. Stevenson should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Stevenson for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's volunteer spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

### A TRIBUTE TO MS. AMBER VICKERY

#### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Indiana student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ms. Amber Vickery of Indianapolis has just been named one of my state's top honorees in the 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Vickery is being recognized for organizing and teaching a cooking class for chil-

dren with a protein disorder who must follow a strict diet.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighbors. Young volunteers like Ms. Vickery are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by the Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past six years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 100,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Vickery should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Vickery for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING WILLIAM E. CHANEY

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, William E. Chaney currently serves as president of the Ohio Hills Health Services' Board of Trustees; and,

Whereas, through Mr. Chaney's twenty-five years of leadership and unselfish commitment the families of eastern Ohio have received prompt, courteous, and affordable health care; and,

Whereas, due to his tremendous contributions to the Ohio Hills Health Services organization and the community he will be honored by the Ohio Hills Health Services' Board of Trustees; and,

Whereas, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing William E. Chaney for his commitment and dedication to making lives better in our area. I am honored to call him a constituent.

### A BILL TO CLARIFY THE TAX TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION

#### HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, along with Mr. MATSUI and Mrs. JOHNSON, to ensure that needless Treasury regulation does not add unnecessarily to the cost of housing.

The need for this legislation is brought about because the Department of Treasury has issued regulations to provide guidance on the definition of CIAC as enacted under the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. Despite the fact that Congress specifically removed language concerning "customer services fees" in its amendment in 1996, the Department added the language back into the proposed regulation specifying that such fees are not CIAC. They then defined the term very broadly to include service laterals, which traditionally and under the most common state law treatment would be considered CIAC.

Because state regulators require all of the costs of new connections to be paid up front, these regulations will force water and sewerage utilities to collect the federal tax from homeowners, builders, and small municipalities. Because they collect it up front, the utility is forced to "gross up" the tax by collecting a tax on the tax on the tax, resulting in an over 55 percent effective tax rate.

This bill will clarify that water and sewerage service laterals are included in the definition of contributions in aid of construction (CIAC). It clarifies current law by specifically stating that "customer service fees" are CIAC, but maintains current treatment of service charges for stopping and starting service (not CIAC). Because this is a clarification of current law, the effective date for the bill is as if included in the original legislation (Section 1613(a) of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996).

Mr. MATSUI and Mrs. JOHNSON along with many of our colleagues here in the Chamber, worked hard over the course of a number of years to restore the pre-1986 act tax treatment for water and sewage CIAC. In 1996, we succeeded in passing legislation. It was identical to pre-1986 law with three exceptions. Two of the changes were made in response to a Treasury Department request. The third removed the language dealing with "service connection fees" primarily because of potential confusion resulting from the ambiguity of the term. The sponsors of the legislation were concerned that the IRS would use this ambiguity to exclude a portion of what the state regulators consider CIAC.

As part of our efforts, we developed a revenue raiser in cooperation with the industry to make up any revenue loss due to our legislation, including the three changes. This revenue raiser extended the life, and changed the method, for depreciating water utility property

● 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.

from 20 year accelerated to 25-year straight-line depreciation. As consequence of this sacrifice by the industry, our CIAC change made a net \$274 million contribution toward deficit reduction.

It is my belief that the final revenue estimate done by the Joint Committee on Taxation on the restoration of CIAC included all property treated as CIAC by the industry regulators including specifically service laterals. In an October 11, 1995, letter to Senator GRASSLEY the Joint Committee on Taxation provided revenue estimates for the CIAC legislation. A footnote in this letter states, "These estimates have been revisited to reflect more recent data." The industry had only recently supplied the committee with comprehensive data, which reflected total CIAC in the industry including service laterals.

I urge my colleagues to join with us in sponsoring this important legislation in order to ensure that American homeowners do not face further burdens.

TRIBUTE TO THE INDEPENDENT  
ORDER OF FORESTERS, HIGH  
COURT OF THE CALIFORNIA  
NORTH/NEVADA NORTH

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Independent Order of Foresters, High Court of the California North/Nevada North, on the occasion of their 43rd Quadrennial Session, for their commitment to providing fraternal and community services to their members and the northern California and Nevada communities.

The concept of Forestry originated hundreds of years ago when people formed groups called Friendly Societies to provide help for one another in times of distress. Based on the spirit of brotherhood and the desire to help in times of need, each family contributed to a fund from which they could draw when emergencies arose. In 1874 in Newark, NJ, a group of people carrying on these early traditions of mutual aid and fraternity started the Independent Order of Foresters.

Today, the 35,000 members of the California North/Nevada North IOF play a variety of roles in our neighborhoods and communities. IOF members are involved in youth scouting and athletic activities, fund-raising for nonprofit organizations, and confronting child abuse through community education and direct service to children and families in crisis. These are people who care about and are engaged in their communities. This past year, the IOF has sponsored numerous organizations, including the Solano and Contra Costa Food Bank, the Make A Wish Foundation, the Atkinson Youth Center, the Young Life Capernium, Meals on Wheels, the Boys and Girls Club Shelter for Battered Women and Samaritan House, Young Life, the Yellow Brick House, Silver Dollar Court, and the Children's Crisis Center.

The California North/Nevada North IOF meets February 24, 2001, to celebrate their years of commitment to their families and communities. I know I speak for all Members

when I thank the IOF for their positive contributions to our communities and wish them continued success in their endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO STEVEN R. MEYERS,  
SAN LEANDRO CITY ATTORNEY

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I commend Steve Meyers, upon his retirement after twenty-three years, for dedicated service to the city of San Leandro. Mr. Meyers has served as City Attorney and Redevelopment Agency Counsel to the city of San Leandro since 1979. He has worked with six mayors and four city managers during his tenure as City Attorney and Agency Counsel and has played a central role in many projects during his employment with the city. He has negotiated a number of real estate transactions for both the city and the Redevelopment Agency, which have resulted in achievements such as affordable housing and business expansion in San Leandro.

Mr. Meyers graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara and received his J.D. degree from the University of California Hastings College of the Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif. Upon his graduation in 1973, Mr. Meyers devoted his practice to municipal law serving in the Sacramento City Attorney's Office until moving to San Leandro in 1977. He is admitted to practice in the State courts and the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Meyers was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the State Bar Public Law Section in 1994 and served as editor of the Public Law Journal. He has served on the Legislation Committee of the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities; served as president of the Bay Area City Attorney's Association and is a recipient of the John J. McCoy Fellowship in Urban Studies. He is currently chairman of the Board of the Bay Planning Coalition.

Upon his retirement from his position with the city of San Leandro, Mr. Meyers assumed the role of Special Counsel to the City on January 1, 2001. I join his friends and colleagues in thanking him for his past contributions and wishing him well in his continued service to the community of San Leandro.

MEDICARE OSTEOPOROSIS  
MEASUREMENT ACT OF 2001

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Medicare Osteoporosis Measurement Act of 2001. This Act will extend bone density screening to men—as opposed to just women—being treated for prostate cancer, as well as groups of Medicare-eligible individuals clinically at risk for osteoporosis. Testosterone, the male sex hormone, is a major factor in stimulating the growth of prostate cancer. Testosterone suppression therapy

is a well respected and often used treatment to control advanced prostate cancer. Unfortunately, the treatment also predisposes these men to osteoporosis.

Although osteoporosis is commonly thought of as a disease that affects only women, about one third of all men will suffer an osteoporotic fracture in their lifetime. These men often do not know that they are at risk until a bone fracture occurs because external symptoms are rarely present. This could be prevented with a simple and cost-effective test. The cost of bone density screening is less than \$200 and would be an effective way to decrease the \$14 billion spent each year on direct medical costs for osteoporosis and related fractures.

Osteoporosis affects more than five million men in the U.S. Early detection is a key component in containing the human and economic cost of this disease. Please join me in supporting this legislation to bring parity to the Medicare program and help combat this preventable disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2001, I inadvertently missed a vote on rollcall 4, adopting the rules package. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted in favor of the measure. Please accept this unanimous-consent request and have the RECORD show my intent.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Black History Month for 2001.

Beginning in 1926 we have set aside a special time to celebrate Black History. Mr. Carter G. Woodson established this period for one week in February, the month that includes the birthdays of President Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both of whom made immense contributions to civil rights. Today, we set aside the entire month of February to celebrate Black History, and the men and women who have made that history. So many of these men and women have yet to receive the credit which they justly deserve for their many contributions. As this new millennium goes forward we must continue to educate our country of these outstanding great African-American men and women.

African-Americans have been fighting for the United States since before our Independence was declared and have continued throughout the course of history. The first American to lose his life to the Revolution was Crispus Attucks, a free black man of Boston, Massachusetts during the infamous Boston massacre. Since then African-Americans have served in every great war. Many fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War, and at least 400,000 African-American men fought in World War I. During World War II more than

1 million African-American men served in the Armed Forces, and at least 4,000 women also served the U.S.

African-Americans have also taken leadership roles and involved themselves in the politics of the nation. During the 19th century, many African-Americans were Abolitionists fighting against the injustices of slavery. Some examples of these great abolitionists included Frederick Douglass, a former slave and established writer, and Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, who helped organize the Underground railroad as well as their fight for the rights of women.

After the success of the Civil War, African Americans such as W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington fought to bring the lingering discrimination to its de facto conclusion. They wrote and spoke out against the Jim Crow laws of the south. Their intentions were furthered towards the latter half of the 20th century by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, both of whom fought for racial equality in a country that still had not reached its potential. Because of these accomplishments, there have been many African-American men and women serving in the United States Congress. We have had in our Supreme Court and still have African-American Justices, beginning with Justice Marshall and currently with Justice Thomas. And with the new administration that we have just ushered in, we have Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State, and Condoleezza Rice as our National Security Adviser.

African-American men and women have contributed greatly to other facets of our society, constantly improving it for future generations. They have been artists, musicians, athletes, educators and scientists. Jackie Robinson was the first African-American to play for a major league baseball team and will be memorialized as the man who broke the color barrier. Today, there are African-American athletic heroes like NBA star Michael Jordan and Marion Jones, member of the U.S. Olympic team. With the onset of the Harlem Renaissance musicians like Scott Joplin and Ella Fitzgerald flourished, leading the way for other African-American musicians. Writers like Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes led the way for contemporary writers such as Toni Morrison. Many African-Americans have taken great strides in science and medicine. Dr. Charles Richard Drew organized the concept of blood banks and ran the first full time blood bank during World War II. Several African-American men and women have worked with our Space Program including Dr. Mae C. Jamison, the first African-American female astronaut.

In my home in Orange County, NY, a recently published book entitled "Genealogical History of Black Families of Orange County" by local author Robert W. Brennan, traces the history of our local African-American families. It underscores the bittersweet truth that the crime of slavery was NOT, as many lead us to believe, an unpopular crime against humanity confined to certain southern states. In fact, the book makes clear that while slavery was abolished in New York State on July 4, 1827, the lingering residue of racial bigotry continued for many, many years afterwards—and, in some ways, right up to the present.

Black History Month is an appropriate time to look forward as well as to the past. We must continue to fight against inequalities. We

must continue to push all of our children to reach their potential and to achieve their goals.

Our society's strength rests within all its inhabitants. Today, and throughout this month we rightfully honor the African-Americans who have added to the strengths of our great nation as well as all of humanity. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to express their appreciation for the contributions African-Americans have made to our nation.

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NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER  
SAFETY

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation that I believe is vital to the safety of our children as they make their way to and from school. The introduction of this legislation is especially timely as we observe National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 12th–16th.

Each day, parents in this country send their children off to school believing their young ones will arrive safely. However, since 1985, close to 1,500 people have died in school bus related accidents. These numbers reveal the need for action to make school buses safer. Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians gave their support and endorsement to identical legislation in the last session of Congress.

The basic design of the large yellow school bus has not been changed since 1977. While the design of high-back padded seats known as "compartmentalization" provides protection in head-on collisions, it does nothing to secure passengers during rear-end, side-impact and rollover collisions. In these situations, children can be thrown from their seats, into one another or into aisles, blocking quick evacuation.

My legislation would require seat belts on school buses by prohibiting the manufacture, sale, delivery, or importation of school buses without seat belts. In addition, the measure would impose civil penalties for those that do not comply.

Daily, 23.5 million children are taken to and from schools and school-related activities by roughly 440,000 public school buses. Since these buses travel nearly 4.3 billion miles each year with young people on board, it is imperative that every precaution be taken to ensure their safety.

Since I last introduced this legislation, the states of Florida, Louisiana, and California have joined the states of New Jersey and New York to require seat belts on school buses. I commend the action of these states, and I urge my fellow colleagues to support the legislation to help make the trip to and from school safer for all of our nation's school children.

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MR. AMIGO 2000

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to commend the 2000 "Mr. Amigo," Jorge Muñiz,

chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our two countries. Their selection honors a man or woman who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" presides over the annual Charro Days Festival.

The Charro Days Festival is a pre-Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, held in Brownsville and Matamoros. Charro Days festivities last for several days; this year they will be February 23–27 and will include parades and appearances by Mr. Muñiz. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area. As Mr. Amigo 2000, Muñiz will head the international parade of Brownsville Charro Days and Matamoros Fiestas Mexicanas festivities.

During Charro Days, South Texans celebrate the food, music, dances, and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The United States-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace; we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future. The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen.

The 2000 Mr. Amigo, Mr. Muñiz, is a singer and TV host. The selection of Jorge Muñiz, cohost of the weekly music TV show "Al fin de semana," comes almost 10 years after his father, another Mexican singer, Marco Antonio Muñiz, also served as Mr. Amigo. The realization that he followed his father with this honor was quite emotional for him.

He has recorded 12 albums over a 20-year span in the music and entertainment industry. Affectionately known as "Coque," Mr. Muñiz is one of the most liked and recognized personalities not only in Mexico but the rest of the continent. During his career he has shared the stage with well-known personalities such as: Marco Antonio Muñiz (his father), Cecilia Gallardo, and Alberto Vasquez. His theater credits also include projects with legends like Lucha Villa, Maria Victoria, and the late Paco Stanley.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Jorge Muñiz, the 2000 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

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HONORING MAYOR GARTH G.  
GARDNER

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor a truly remarkable public servant in my

Congressional district. Mayor Garth G. Gardner is retiring as mayor of Pico Rivera, Calif., capping off a public career that expands nearly 50 years.

Mr. Gardner was born on September 25, 1922 in Carbon County, Utah, graduating from Carbon County High School in 1940. After attending Carbon County Junior College for two years, Mr. Gardner enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Based in New Guinea in the South Pacific, he flew 29 missions against the enemy in a B-24 liberator, with a crew of 10 servicemen. For his acts of bravery and honor during World War II, I presented Mayor Gardner with the Purple Heart Medal on Veterans Day, November 11, 2000.

Following his return to the United States, Mr. Gardner married Mary Ponti on December 30, 1945. Six days after his marriage, Garth was discharged from the U.S. Air Force and soon began pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California, graduating in 1948. Following his graduation, Mr. Gardner settled in Pico Rivera, where he raised his three sons.

Mayor Gardner began his career working for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for 25 years and retired from the County in 1976. Elected to the Pico Rivera City Council in 1972, Mayor Gardner has been re-elected every four years and will serve until his retirement next month. Also, during his tenure on the City Council, Mr. Gardner served as Mayor in 1974, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1998 and 2000. Mayor Gardner has also served on numerous commissions and coalitions throughout his public career.

I am truly honored to know and have worked with Mayor Gardner during his illustrious career and wish him and his family much happiness in the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. HAROLD NOVOG

### HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Dr. Harold Novog who will celebrate his 70th birthday on February 17, 2001. Dr. Novog is an outstanding member of the New York health community and a dedicated, caring physician.

A native of New York City, Dr. Novog attended this country's premier science high school, Stuyvesant High School, graduating with honors in 1948. He entered Queens College where he studied until he was called to active duty in the U.S. Air Force. He served in a medical unit at Fort Ethan Allen in Vermont and later at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. After completing his military service, Dr. Novog returned to civilian life to finish his education. Graduating from Queens College in 1953, he went on to attend Downstate Medical Center where he received his medical degree in 1957. He completed a 1-year internship at Meadowbrook Hospital in Hempstead, NY, and a 3-year residency in Internal Medicine at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. He was board certified in internal medicine in 1962.

Dr. Novog maintained a private practice while serving on the staff at Jamaica and

Booth Memorial Hospitals and at the Chapin Nursing Home in Queens, NY. During his tenure at Booth Memorial, he served on the staff of the hospital's first detoxification unit. As a result of his outstanding work at Booth Memorial, Dr. Novog, in 1984, was appointed the medical director of "Alive and Well," a private treatment center for alcoholics.

Dr. Novog left private practice to join the staff of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in 1987 remaining there until his retirement in July 2000. While at Columbia Presbyterian he became, in the truest sense, a "doctor's doctor," responsible for the health care of the hospital's staff.

Dr. Novog's exemplary service to the New York community is greatly appreciated. His dedication to medicine, his professional integrity and his commitment to the highest standards of patient care have earned him the acclaim and respect of staff and patients alike. As he commemorates this significant milestone, it is indeed an honor for me to join with Dr. Novog's family, friends and colleagues in conveying my warmest birthday wishes. Dr. Novog has my heartiest personal congratulations. I ask you to join me in honoring Dr. Novog for his distinguished career in serving others.

#### RECOGNITION OF EXEMPLARY STUDENT VOLUNTEER

### HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Illinois student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Allison Harms of Bloomington has just been named one of my state's top honorees in the 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Harms is being recognized for her creation of "Sew On and Sew Forth," an organization that provides hand-sewn items such as quilts, teddy bears, pillows, and clothing to the sick and needy in her community.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Harms are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by the Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 6 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth

recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 100,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Harms should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Allison Harms for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

#### MEDICARE MENTAL ILLNESS NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

### HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Medicare Mental Illness Non-Discrimination Act, legislation to end the historic discrimination against Medicare beneficiaries seeking outpatient treatment for mental illness. I first introduced this bill in the 106th Congress, and I am pleased to again sponsor anti-discrimination legislation in the 107th Congress.

Medicare law now requires patients to pay a 20 percent copayment for Part B services. However, the 20 percent copayment is not the standard for outpatient psychotherapy services. For these services, Section 1833(c) of the Social Security Act requires patients to pay an effective discriminatory copayment of 50 percent.

Let me explain this another way: If a Medicare patient has an office visit to an endocrinologist for treatment for diabetes, or an oncologist for cancer treatment, or a cardiologist for heart disease, or an internist for the flu, the copayment is 20 percent. But if a Medicare patient has an office visit to a psychiatrist or other physician for treatment for major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, or any other illness diagnosed as a mental illness, the copayment for the outpatient visit for treatment of the mental illness is 50 percent. The same discriminatory copayment is applied to qualified services by a clinical psychologist or clinical social worker. This is quite simply discrimination. It is time for Congress to say "enough."

U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D. recently released a landmark study on mental illness. The Surgeon General's report is an extraordinary document that details the depth and breadth of mental illness in this country. According to Dr. Satcher, "mental disorders collectively account for more than 15 percent of the overall burden of disease from all causes and slightly more than the burden associated with all forms of cancer." The burden of mental illness on patients and their families is considerable. The World Health Organization reports that mental illness including suicide ranks second only to heart disease in the burden of disease measured by "disability adjusted life year."

The impact of mental illness on older adults is considerable. Prevalence in this population of mental disorders of all types is substantial. Eight to 20 percent of older adults in the community and up to 37 percent in primary care settings experience symptoms of depression, while as many as one in two new residents of nursing facilities are at risk of depression. Older people have the highest rate of suicide in the country, and the risk of suicide increases with age. Americans age 85 years and up have a suicide rate of 65 per 100,000. Older white males, for example, are six times more likely to commit suicide than the rest of the population. There is a clear correlation of major depression and suicide: 60 to 75 percent of suicides of patients 75 and older have diagnosable depression. Put another way, untreated depression among the elderly substantially increases the risk of death by suicide.

Mental disorders of the aging are not, of course, limited to major depression with risk of suicide. The elderly suffer from a wide range of disorders including declines in cognitive functioning, Alzheimer's disease (affecting 8 to 15 percent of those over 65) and other dementias, anxiety disorders (affecting 11.4 percent of adults over 55), schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and alcohol and substance use disorders. Some 3 to 9 percent of older adults can be characterized as heavy drinkers (12 to 21 drinks per week). While illicit drug use among this population is relatively low, there is substantial increased risk of improper use of prescription medication and side effects from polypharmacy.

While we tend to think of Medicare as a "senior citizen's health insurance program," there are substantial numbers of disabled individuals who qualify for Medicare by virtue of their long-term disability. Of those, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill reports that some 400,000 non-elderly disabled Medicare beneficiaries become eligible by virtue of mental disorders. These are typically individuals with the severe and persistent mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia.

Regardless of the age of the patient and the specific mental disorder diagnosed, it is absolutely clear that mental illness in the Medicare population causes substantial hardships, both economically and in terms of the consequences of the illness itself. As Dr. Satcher puts it, "mental illnesses exact a staggering toll on millions of individuals, as well as on their families and communities and our Nation as a whole."

Yet there is abundant good news in our ability to effectively and accurately diagnose and treat mental illnesses. The majority of people with mental illness can return to productive lives if their mental illness is treated. That is the good news: Mental illness treatment works. Unfortunately, today, a majority of those who need treatment for mental illness do not seek it. Much of this is due to stigma, rooted in fear and ignorance, and an outmoded view that mental illnesses are character flaws, or a sign of individual weakness, or the result of indulgent parenting. This is most emphatically not true. Left untreated, mental illnesses are as real and as substantial in their impact as any other illnesses we can now identify and treat.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare's elderly and disabled mentally ill population faces a double burden. Not only must they overcome stigma against their illness, but once they seek treat-

ment the Federal Government via the Medicare program forces them to pay half the cost of their care out of their own pockets. Congress would be outraged and rightly so if we compelled a Medicare cancer patient to pay half the cost of his or her outpatient treatment, or a diabetic 50 cents of every dollar charged by his or her endocrinologist. So why is it reasonable to tell the 75-year-old that she must pay half the cost of treatment for major depression? Why should the chronic schizophrenic incur a 20 percent copayment for visiting his internist, but be forced to pay a 50 percent copayment for visiting a psychiatrist for the treatment of his schizophrenia?

It is most emphatically not reasonable. It is blatant discrimination, plain and simple, and we should not tolerate it any longer. That is why I am introducing the Medicare Mental Illness Non-Discrimination Act. It is time we acknowledged what Dr. Satcher and millions of patients and physicians and other health professionals and researchers have been telling us: Mental illnesses are real, they can be accurately diagnosed, and they can be just as effectively treated as any other illnesses affecting the Medicare population. We can best do that by eliminating the statutory 50 percent copayment discrimination against Medicare beneficiaries who, through no fault of their own, suffer from mental illness.

My legislation is extremely simple. It repeals Section 1833(c) of the Social Security Act, thereby eliminating the discriminatory 50 percent copayment requirement. Once enacted, patients seeking outpatient treatment for mental illness would pay the same 20 percent copayment we require of Medicare patients seeking treatment for any other illnesses. My bill is a straightforward solution to this last bastion of Federal health care discrimination.

Last year, via Executive Order we at last initiated parity coverage of treatment for mental illness for our federal employees and their families. Members of Congress and their staff, who are covered under FEHPB, have parity for treatment of mental illnesses. If parity is good enough for federal employees and for Members of Congress and their staff, can we now do any less for our Medicare beneficiaries? I urge my colleagues to join with me in righting this wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that a letter in support of this legislation from Dr. Daniel B. Borenstein, President of the American Psychiatric Association, be included in the Record.

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, January 5, 2001.  
Hon. MARGE ROUKEMA,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN ROUKEMA: The American Psychiatric Association (APA) a medical specialty society representing over 40,000 psychiatric physician nationwide, is deeply concerned about the crisis surrounding children's mental health. We welcome the opportunity to work with the 107th Congress as it presents America with the opportunity to dedicate itself to the well being of our children and families.

According to the "National Action Agenda on Children's Mental Health" released by the Surgeon General earlier this week; the United States is facing a disastrous state of health care for children. In the U.S., 1 in 10 children and adolescents suffer from mental illness severe enough to cause impairment. Yet, in any given year, it is estimated that fewer than 1 in 5 of these children receives

needed treatment. The long-term consequences of untreated childhood disorders are costly, both in human and fiscal terms.

It is a national crisis that millions of Americans continue to struggle with mental illness. Children and families are suffering because of missed opportunities for prevention and early identification, low priorities for research and resources and fragmented services. Overriding all of this is the issue of stigma, which continues to surround mental illness.

The American Psychiatric Association and our members are pleased to offer our medical expertise and experience expertise to you and your staff on the critical issues outlined in the Surgeon General's Report. We place particular emphasis on the Report's call for the need to: develop and disseminate scientifically-proven prevention, diagnostic and treatment services in the field of children's mental health; eliminating the ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in access to mental health care; and increasing access to and coordination of quality mental health care services. If the APA can be of further assistance, have your staff contact our Division of Government Relations at 202/682-6060.

Sincerely,

DANIEL B. BORENSTEIN, M.D.,  
President.

HONORING MARY VIRGINIA  
BURRUS

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, today I express my gratitude and appreciation for the work of Mary Virginia "Ginny" Burrus.

Ginny joined my staff on January 16, 1985, providing constituent service in my Burlington, Iowa, office. She and her late husband David owned their own business in Burlington and she had long been active in promoting tourism, the arts as well as the economy of southeastern Iowa.

After redistricting, Ginny helped open my Iowa City office in 1992, continuing to provide outstanding service to the residents of Iowa's First Congressional District.

All of my colleagues know how essential to the functioning of government is the ombudsman role in Congressional offices, and particularly caseworkers within them, play. For constituents with problems, be it with veterans benefits, Social Security, Medicare or student loans, the federal bureaucracy can be a bewildering maze, the applicable laws and regulations often seemingly irrational. An experienced, knowledgeable and sympathetic caseworker can be indispensable in getting the answers needed and problems resolved.

In the 16 years she worked with me, Ginny epitomized the consummate professional and her file is fat with letters from Iowans thanking her for the help she provided. In recent years, as immigration casework increased, her knowledge of immigration law, regulations, processes and paperwork has become legendary. Equally well known has been her patience, both with harried staffers at INS and with newcomers to this country, unfamiliar with both its language and its ways.

Ginny has provided me and the citizens of Iowa a model of what public service is all about. She will now have more time to enjoy

her daughters, Alicia, Alexandra and Anita, and her grandson Kerr and granddaughter Hannah, as well as the opportunity to play more bridge.

It is with profound gratitude that I wish Ginny all the best in a well-earned retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent for all legislative business during the week of February 5, 2001 through February 10, 2001, due to a medical condition. As a result, I missed the following votes: On Tuesday, February 6, 2001—question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass” (roll No. 9) for issue H.J. Res. 7—Recognizing the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan—question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree” (roll No. 10) for issue H. Res. 28—Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools. On Wednesday, February 7, 2001—question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass” (roll No. 11) for issue H.R. 132—To designate the Goro Hokama Post Office Building in Lanai City, Hawaii.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” for question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass” for issue H.J. Res. 7 (roll No. 9), “yea” for question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree” for issue H. Res. 28 (roll No. 10), and “yea” for question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass” for issue H.R. 132 (roll No. 11).

#### PRESCRIBING ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT METHODS UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM

### HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would allow retired members of the military to pay their TRICARE enrollment fees on a monthly basis.

Currently, TRICARE enrollees must pay their annual enrollment fees all at once or on a quarterly basis. Enrollment fees are \$230/year for individual enrollment, and \$460/year for family enrollment.

My bill establishes alternative payment mechanisms to provide for payment of such fees through: a deduction from military retired or retainer pay; a deduction from monthly Social Security benefits; and an electronic funds transfer from a checking or savings account.

Last year we passed legislation that enables the Department of Defense to provide TRICARE benefits to Medicare-eligible beneficiaries. As we honor our military retirees with access to a wonderful health care program, we should remember that many retirees are living on a fixed income. A one-time enrollment payment can severely limit their resources. My bill is designed to help individuals with a limited income spread out the payment of the yearly enrollment fee over 12 months.

I urge all members to cosponsor this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to twenty-two exceptional students at Claflin University, who are participating in the “Call Me Mister” program.

“Call Me Mister” was developed to address the looming shortage of teachers, especially black male teachers. The program strives to place black males in front of elementary school classrooms in order to provide positive role models for our children.

Each of the twenty-two participants in “Call Me Mister” at Claflin underwent a rigorous application process and are required to maintain a minimum grade point average. The students will complete 300 hours of community service before they graduate.

Black youths in South Carolina have the highest dropout rate of any group and twenty percent are held back in the first grade. These children are in desperate need of African American men to model their lives after, who can show them that the American dream can come true for all Americans.

“Call Me Mister” promises to provide the State of South Carolina with a new breed of teachers. Less than one percent of the state’s teachers are African American males despite the fact that the state is one-third black. Claflin University and the wonderful participants in the “Call Me Mister” program are working to make South Carolina’s elementary school classrooms more representative of the state itself.

Mr. Speaker, the “Call Me Mister” program is working to improve South Carolina schools along with the mentality of African American men. Please join me in paying tribute to these wonderful students and this long overdue program as they work to better the educational system in my state.

#### CONGRATULATING THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE ON POPE JOHN PAUL II’S UPCOMING VISIT

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Ukrainian people on His Holiness Pope John Paul II’s upcoming visit in June. The Pope recently accepted an invitation from Ukraine’s President to visit the country, undoubtedly answering the prayers of many Catholic Ukrainians.

Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents would also like to see His Holiness Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople visit Ukraine. Ukraine has a large Orthodox population, and a visit by the Patriarch to the country would be a blessing to them and would promote harmony between Catholic and Orthodox worshippers throughout Ukraine.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ON MODIFYING THE FTC’S ORIGIN RULES FOR WATCHES

### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN THE ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would modify the Federal Trade Commission’s practices for determining the country of origin of domestic watches, including those watches manufactured in the United States Virgin Islands.

The watch industry is the largest light manufacturing industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands and remains one of the most important direct and indirect sources of private sector employment in the Territory. The insular watch production industry is also highly import-sensitive and faces continued threats from multinational watch producers, who have continued to move their watch production to lower wage countries. The legislation that I am introducing today will help assure that domestic watch producers can compete on a level playing field with foreign producers with respect to the labeling and advertising of the origin of watches sold in the U.S. marketplace.

Currently, the FTC’s test for determining whether a watch is made in the United States differs from the FTC’s origin test for foreign-made watches, the Customs Service origin test for imported watches and longstanding international practice. The legislation that I am introducing today would rationalize these various tests by requiring that the FTC employ a common and well-established standard for determining the origin of all watches. This modification to the FTC’s practice would help ensure that consumers have a uniform basis on which to judge the country of origin of watches. It would also help promote the operations of U.S. watch producers, particularly those in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The production of watch movements by these producers (and their subsequent production of finished watches) involve highly labor intensive operations which add considerable value to the finished watch and to the U.S. and Virgin Islands economies.

The country of origin of a watch is, by longstanding international trade practice, generally considered to be the country in which the watch movement is produced. The movement is the “guts” of a watch. The production of a watch movement involves numerous, labor-intensive operations involving inspection, quality control, reworking and testing of some 35 to 45 individual parts prior to, during and after assembly. These operations require substantial investment in diversified precision equipment and employee training and add considerable value to the finished watch.

In determining the country of origin of imported products, the U.S. Customs Service generally employs the well-established concept of “substantial transformation.” The substantial transformation test—which is supported by almost 100 years of judicial and administrative precedent—recognizes that some functional changes and processes involved in the production of an imported product are so

significant as to create an entirely new article. I am informed that, in applying this concept to imported watches, the Customs Service has followed international practice and has determined that the production of a watch movement results in a substantial transformation and thereby determines the country of origin of the finished watch. Additionally, under the "tariff shift" origin rules adopted under NAFTA, the country of origin of the watch is the country where the movement was produced.

In evaluating product labels or advertising that state a foreign country of origin for watches and other imported products, the Federal Trade Commission has generally permitted foreign claims that are based on substantial transformation. For example, based on the FTCs practice under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, a watch whose movement was produced in a foreign country from parts sourced worldwide could be labeled and/or advertised as made in that foreign country.

The Federal Trade Commission applies a different and much more strict origin test to watches produced in the United States and the U.S. territories. Under this test, a watch whose movement is produced in the United States or the U.S. territories cannot be labeled or advertised as "Made in the USA" unless all or virtually all of the parts and labor employed in producing the movement and finished watch are of domestic origin. Thus, the FTC applies substantially different tests for determining the foreign and domestic origin of watches. These tests lead to different results in situations in which the only difference between two watches is the country where the movement was assembled.

The FTC's current origin tests for watches discriminate against domestic producers, including those in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Given the globalization of the international watch components industry, it is virtually impossible, as a practical matter, for a domestic producer to source all of its watch components from U.S. sources. Thus, watches produced in the United States from U.S. assembled movements cannot be marked "Made in the USA" even though their production involves highly labor intensive operations which add considerable value to the watch. In contrast, under the FTC's current test, a watch made from a movement assembled in Japan from imported parts could be labeled as "Made in Japan." These conflicting tests put U.S. producers at a considerable disadvantage in the marketplace and are confusing to U.S. consumers.

My legislation would correct this unfair and confusing situation by requiring that the FTC apply the same substantial transformation test for determining the origin of all watches, including those watches that are labeled or advertised as "Made in the USA." This common test will assure that origin rules for domestic watches conform with well-established international and Customs Service practice and the FTC's own practice for imported watches. It will enable U.S. producers, including those in the Virgin Islands, to employ country of origin labels or claims in the same circumstances in which their foreign competitors could label or advertise that their watches are made in a foreign country. Finally, the legislation would provide U.S. consumers with a clear and consistent test for determining where watches are made.

## FAIRNESS TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS ACT

### HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fairness to Local Contractors Act to help local contractors compete for military construction projects. The purpose of the bill is to address concerns raised by various unions, contractors, and the State of Hawaii, that local companies are not getting a fair shot at competing for military construction contracts.

The ability of out-of-state contractors to ignore state tax and employment laws have allowed them to avoid costs that local companies have to meet and thereby outbid our local companies.

The problem of out of state contractors dodging state tax and employment laws was documented at the Congressional hearing I held on August 5, 1995, in Hawaii. The bill incorporates many of the suggestions and proposals made at this hearing on ways to make the bidding process more equitable for local companies.

The bill requires contractors to obtain a state tax clearance in order to be an eligible bidder on military construction projects; it requires them to obtain a state tax clearance and certify compliance with state employment laws in order to receive the final project payment; allows a military agency to withhold payment in order to meet state tax obligations; and it requires a contractor that has won a bid to obtain a state license in the state in which the work is to be performed, if that state requires such a license.

Military construction work is an important part of Hawaii's economy. Not only will Hawaii's local companies benefit from this legislation, but all local companies across the nation will have a fair chance to compete for these projects that are worth millions of dollars.

By joining me in supporting the Fairness to Local Contractors Act we can provide the enforcement needed to make sure all bidders play by the same rules. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this legislation.

## TRIBUTE TO LOUIS WELDON HAMMOND

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Attorney Louis Weldon Hammond who, for over 37 years, tirelessly served our veterans and was a trailblazer in his field.

Attorney Hanimond was born in Ridge Spring, SC on January 5, 1939. He attended Morehouse College and obtained his bachelor and law degrees from South Carolina State College. For more than 35 years, he has been married to the former Loretta Thomas. They have two children, Kartika Loretta Hammond and Louis Weldon Hammond II.

After graduating law school as the top Administrative Law student, the Veterans Admin-

istration Regional Office in Columbia, South Carolina, recognized his talent and hired Mr. Hammond. His success on the job cast him into the role of trailblazer. Mr. Hammond was the first African American to hold each position as he rose through the ranks. The positions he held included Legal Claims Examiner, Veterans Claims Rating Board, Veterans Claims Examiner Authorizer, Section Chief, Assistant Adjudication Officer and Veterans Service Center Manager. He also served as an Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor and National Equal Employment Investigator.

His career successes led to his appointment to a number of positions of distinction including Chairman of National Adjudication Officer's Advisory Committee, Southern Area Adjudication Officers Advisory Committee, and the V.A.'s top Leadership award. Mr. Hammond's distinguished career also led him to receive the award of first runner-up for Federal Employee of the Year for 1977.

Perhaps his dedicated service to the Veterans Administration stemmed from his distinction as a veteran himself. He rose to the rank of SGT E-6 (Staff Sergeant) and received numerous honors including; Good Conduct Medal, Army Expeditionary Medal, Army Commendation Letter, Outstanding Soldier of Encampment, Outstanding Soldier of Reserve Unit, Court Martial Coordinator—Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Outside his legal and military career, Mr. Hammond was, and continues to be, very active in his community. Mr. Hammond founded a neighborhood organization called New Castle Concerned Citizens, and serves as a poll manager in his Midway precinct. He has also participated in a number of other organizations. He served on the Board of Directors at Providence Home and the Advisory Board of Richland Northeast High School and as former Chairman and Treasurer of the Kitani Foundation, Past President of the South Carolina State College's Columbia Alumni Association, and past president of the Dent Middle School PTO.

Mr. Hammond is a Life Member of the NAACP and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He is a member of First Calvary Baptist Church, where he has served as Deacon, Chairman of a \$2.5 million building project, as the Minister's Administrative Assistant, and is a member of two choirs. His dedication to South Carolina veterans and to the community was recognized on December 19, 2000 when Governor Jim Hodges awarded Mr. Hammond the Silver Crescent.

Mr. Speaker, we seldom meet people who give so tirelessly of their time and efforts as Louis Weldon Hammond, Sr. Please join me in paying tribute to this wonderful South Carolinian, a personal friend, and a trailblazer who earned the reputation of being a dedicated, just, equitable, fair and caring professional during his long and distinguished career.

## UKRAINE'S CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I voice support for Ukraine's continued independence

and its efforts at cultivating a strong relationship with the West.

Mr. Speaker, Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, and since then has embarked on a long march towards democracy. Along the way, it has gradually oriented itself towards the West and embraced Western institutions. Ukraine was the first post-Soviet state to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program. It has since become party to a NATO-Ukraine Commission, which meets at various times throughout the year, and is a member of the Council of Europe. Ukraine has stated that its strategic goal is integration into Western political and security structures, including, potentially, NATO itself.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express support for Ukraine's Prime Minister, Viktor Yushchenko, and his wife Katherine, who is American. Prime Minister Yushchenko has worked tirelessly to end corruption and carry out democratic reforms in Ukraine, recently under turmoil because of the undemocratic actions of others in power. His continued leadership will be critical to the success of this progressing nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
ON REVISIONS TO THE PIC PROGRAM

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill which would make a series of technical and/or noncontroversial adjustments to the Production Incentive Certificate ("PIC") program for watch and jewelry produced in the U.S. insular possessions. In the near term, this legislation would improve the operation of the PIC program for both watch and jewelry manufacturers in the U.S. Virgin Islands—producers that provide a critical source of employment for the Territory. Over the longer term, this legislation would protect the PIC program and related duty incentives from the effects of any future reduction or elimination of watch tariffs.

The watch industry is the largest light manufacturing industry in the USVI and remains one of the most important direct and indirect sources of private sector employment in the Territory. The insular watch production industry is also highly import-sensitive and faces continued threats from multinational watch producers, who have continued to move their watch production to lower wage countries.

Congress and successive Administrations have recognized the importance of the watch industry to the USVI—and the import sensitivity of watches—through a series of significant enactments and decisions. The General Note 3(a) program, which Congress has incorporated in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, grants duty-free treatment for qualifying insular possession watches and thereby provides a relative duty advantage vis-à-vis foreign watch producers. Through the PIC program, insular possession watch producers can obtain duty refunds based on creditable wages paid for watch production in the insular possessions. Additionally, in recognition of the relative advantage that duty-free treatment of watches provides to insular possession watch pro-

ducers, Congress and successive Administrations have resisted efforts to eliminate watch duties on a worldwide basis.

In 1999, Congress extended the General Note 3(a) program and PIC program benefits to jewelry produced in the insular possessions. In doing so, Congress sought to promote vital employment in the insular possessions by extending existing watch industry incentives to jewelry production—an industry which utilizes many of the same skills and facilities as watch production. Since enactment of this important change, four mainland jewelry manufacturing companies have established operations in the USVI and are participating in the PIC program.

Watch and jewelry producers in the Virgin Islands have consulted with the American Watch Association and U.S. watch firms that import substantial quantities of foreign made watches regarding proposals to preserve and protect benefits for insular possession watches and jewelry, while also mitigating the impact of any future reduction of duties on imported watches. These discussions have resulted in the parties' unified support for the legislation that I am introducing today.

The various technical adjustments set forth in this legislation would enhance the ability of insular watch and jewelry producers to utilize the PIC program while, at the same time, retaining overall PIC program unit and dollar value limits. Additionally, the legislation would establish a standby mechanism to mitigate the impact of any possible future reduction or elimination of watch duties on a worldwide basis through trade negotiations and congressional action. This mechanism—which has broad support among the insular and domestic watch manufacturing and distribution sectors—would ensure that any future reduction in watch duties does not disturb the relative value of current duty incentives and PIC program benefits for the insular watch industry. Importantly, this standby mechanism would have no effect on current watch duties or PIC program limits.

Under the PIC program, producers of watches and jewelry in the U.S. insular possessions are issued certificates by the Department of Commerce for specified percentages of the producer's verified creditable wages for production in the insular possessions. Based on these certificates, the producers are entitled to apply to the U.S. Customs Service for refunds on duties paid on watches. Certain technical provisions of the PIC program, however, impose unnecessary burdens on producers. These include unclear definitions, unduly complex PIC refund provisions and special issues relating to the extension of PIC benefits to jewelry. The legislation that I am introducing today includes technical adjustments to the PIC program to eliminate these burdens, while retaining overall PIC program limits on units and benefits.

Currently, a producer receives a single PIC certificate of entitlement for each calendar year, which is issued by March 1 of the following year. This certificate serves as the basis for the producer's application for duty refunds to U.S. Customs, a process which can take as long as six months. As a result, there can be delays of as long as 18 months between the time a producer incurs a creditable wage payment and the time the producer receives the related duty refund. The proposed legislation would reduce these unnecessary delays by providing for the issuance of PIC certificates of entitlement on a quarterly basis.

Currently, producers must assemble often voluminous import entry information and apply to U.S. Customs for wage-based refunds. If a producer has not paid sufficient import duties, the producer must sell the PIC certificate to another firm, which then applies for the duty refund. In either event, the PIC program assures that an insular producer is compensated for a specified percentage of its verified production wages, regardless of whether it has paid the corresponding amount of import duties. The bill would simplify this refund process by providing producers with the option of applying directly to the Treasury Department for the full amount of their verified PIC program certificates.

For watches, the PIC program establishes a 750,000 unit limitation on the number of watches used to calculate an individual producer's PIC benefits. When the PIC program was extended by Congress to jewelry, this upper limit was also extended to each individual jewelry producer's qualifying jewelry production. While this limit may be appropriate for watches, which are technically sophisticated and relatively expensive, I am informed that it is likely to unduly limit jewelry production in the insular possessions, which relies on large quantities of relatively lower-priced units. My proposed legislation would address this issue by eliminating the 750,000 unit per producer limit for jewelry, while retaining the overall unit and dollar value limits for the PIC program as a whole.

When Congress extended the PIC program to jewelry in 1999, it sought to encourage the phased establishment of new jewelry production in the insular possessions through a transition rule. Under this rule, jewelry items which are assembled (but not substantially transformed) in the insular possessions before August 9, 2001 would be eligible for PIC program and duty-free benefits. Although this new provision has helped attract new jewelry production to the USVI, I am informed that some potential producers are facing administrative, technical and business delays which may severely erode the benefits of the transition rule. The bill would address this issue by extending the transition rule for jewelry for an additional 18 months.

The bill would help to facilitate long term planning by existing insular producers and attract new producers to the insular possessions by extending the authorized term of the PIC program until 2015. The bill would also clarify current law by stating explicitly that verified wages include the amount of any fringe benefits.

For many years, multinational companies that import substantial quantities of foreign-made watches into the United States have sought to reduce or eliminate U.S. watch duties, either through multiple petitions for duty-free treatment for watches from certain GSP-eligible countries or through worldwide elimination of watch duties in trade negotiations. Insular possession watch producers have repeatedly opposed these efforts on the ground that the elimination of duties on foreign watches would eliminate the relative benefit that insular possession producers receive through duty-free treatment under the General Note 3 (a) program and, in turn, lead to the eventual demise of the insular watch industry. Successive Congresses and Administrations have agreed with these arguments and refused to erode the benefits which insular possession

producers receive under General Note 3(a) and the PIC program.

These continued battles over watch duties and the insular possession watch program have imposed significant resource burdens on Virgin Islands watch producers and the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, diverting resources and energy that could better be spent in enhancing growth and employment in the insular watch and jewelry industries. Virgin Islands watch producers, the AWA and representatives of U.S. firms that import foreign-made watches are seeking to address this longstanding issue by reconciling existing insular possession watch benefits with any worldwide reduction or elimination of watch duties. The legislation that I am introducing contains two mechanisms to help mitigate against the impact of any future reduction or elimination of watch duties, while also preserving existing watch benefits.

The bill would put in place a standby mechanism that would preserve the benefits of duty-free treatment under General Note 3(a) in the event that Congress and a future Administration were to agree at some future point to eliminate or reduce duties on watches. This mechanism would preserve the relative tariff advantage that insular producers currently enjoy over foreign-made watches by incorporating a "hold harmless" provision in the PIC program. Under this standby mechanism, if watch duties were reduced or eliminated in the future, PIC payments to insular producers would also include an amount which reflects the value to the insular producers of the current General Note 3(a) benefit. This mechanism would facilitate the eventual reduction or elimination of watch duties on a worldwide basis while helping to assure that any such duty reduction does not lead to the demise of the insular industry.

Currently, payments under the PIC program are funded from watch duties. An alternative funding source would be required if watch duties were reduced or eliminated on a worldwide basis. The legislation that I am introducing provides that PIC benefits can be funded from jewelry duties or duties on other appropriate products.

It is important to bear in mind that these two mechanisms would only be activated in the event that watch duties are, in fact, reduced or eliminated in the future—decisions that would require considerable deliberation and consultation by the President and Congress. By assuring the continuation of current benefits for insular producers, however, these mechanisms would greatly mitigate the impact of any eventual decision by Congress to reduce or eliminate watch duties.

Congress has long recognized that the current watch industry incentives are critical to the health and survival of the watch industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands. By adopting this legislation, Congress can improve the operation of the PIC program for insular watch and jewelry producers and establish a mechanism to facilitate the eventual reduction or elimination of watch duties on a worldwide basis.

## FULL FUNDING FOR PELL GRANTS

### HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Pell Grant Full Funding Act.

It is time we live up to our promise of providing students from low-income families access to higher education.

Although we promise eligible students a maximum Pell Grant award of \$5,100 for the 2001 school year, we only appropriated funding for a \$3,750 maximum award.

How can we renege on a promise to help fund a student's education? We must not impose artificial limits. If we really mean what we say about all students having access to a higher education, we should interpret the Pell Grant Program as an obligation which Congress is according based on strict eligibility standards. We do this with Medicare. We determine if a person is eligible and then we provide that individual with resources for hospitalization, for doctors care, and so forth. We do not tell the person they are eligible and then deny them the medical care when they show up at the hospital. We must not deny students funding for education when they show up at colleges. Obligating ourselves to fund what students are entitled to is the only way we are going to meet our fundamental responsibility to provide access to higher education for all students.

The Pell Grant Full Funding Act that does just that. It will create a contractual obligation on the United States to reimburse institutions that award Pell Grants to its eligible students in the full amount they are entitled to. Simply put, my bill guarantees that eligible students will receive the amount they are entitled to, making it easier to get a higher education.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this important legislation.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE AMENDMENT

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to reintroduce the English Language Amendment to the Constitution in the 107th Congress. I remain convinced that this nation of immigrants must once again be united under a common tongue.

The notion that our nation's government must function in multiple tongues may appear to be compassionate. Yet recent events once again demonstrate that this apparently compassionate solution is simply not helping the people it may have been intended to help.

The New York Times carried an urgent editorial on January 1st of this year, entitled "Bungled Ballots in Chinatown." The Times noted that "Chinese-language ballots were translated incorrectly. The 'Democratic' label was translated as 'Republican' and 'Republican' was rendered 'Democratic' for state races." In addition, the Chinese instructions for choosing State Supreme Court justices were also flawed. The English instruction read

"Vote for any THREE" candidates while the Chinese version asked voters to "Vote for any FIVE."

How could mistakes like this happen? A quick overview of a manual for prospective professional translators, *The Translator's Handbook* by Moffey Sofer, suggests that correctly interpreting between two languages is more difficult than some may suppose. There is variation within every language, as anyone who has compared American English with British English knows all too well.

In the case of Chinese, the language is presently written in both traditional and simplified characters and varies between the mainland and Taiwan. Sofer also notes that there are more problems translating between Spanish and English than between other languages and English because:

[T]here is no single variety of Spanish. There are major differences between the Spanish of Mexico, Central America, northern South America and [s]outhern South America, not to mention such places as Puerto Rico and . . . Spain.

Cuban Spanish, Puerto Rican Spanish, Chicanos Spanish and additional forms of Spanish all exist within the borders of the United States, creating vast potential for cross-cultural confusion. Thus, the English word "eyeglasses" must be translated as *anteojos* for one Hispanic community in the U.S., for another as *gafas*, while a third group prefers *espejuelos* and still another group refers to eyeglasses as *lentes*.

Spanish and Chinese aren't the only languages which create translation challenges. *The Translators Handbook* also notes that "there are several spoken Arabic dialects which are not always mutually intelligible, such as Syrian and Egyptian and . . . even the official written Arabic has different terms and uses in different Arab countries."

In fact, translation difficulties are part of the dispute in the Middle East. A July 24, 1999 letter to the New York Times notes that UN Resolution 242 reads in English that Israel is to return unspecified "territory" while the French version refers to "the territory" (*le territoire*).

These difficulties of translation underscore the practical problems inherent to multilingual government. Millions of official documents multiplied by a multitude of language translations mean a potential for massive errors.

Without an official language, there would be no legal standard to decide among competing translations of a government document in which the English version said one thing while the translation said something altogether different. My colleagues and I can spend hours negotiating over the exact wording of one phrase in one piece of legislation. We are all aware that wording matters.

Mr. Speaker, these practical problems are about to multiply exponentially, thanks to President Clinton's Executive Order 13166.

Executive Order 13166 received little media coverage when it was signed on August 11th, the last Friday before the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles. Executive Order 13166 will soon be major news with incalculable financial impact on every state, city and town.

Executive Order 13166 is based on belief that to provide services solely in English could "discriminate on the basis of national origin." Thus Clinton Executive Order 13166, as interpreted by the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Justice, requires every recipient of

federal funds, including "a federally assisted zoo or theater . . . to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful opportunities for access" by Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals.

How will Executive Order 13166 be enforced? The Maine Medical Center, based in Portland, now has nine official tongues and counting, thanks to a settlement with the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights.

The Maine Medical Center is now required to post a "Interpreter Availability Sign" to be "printed at least in English, Farsi, Khmer, Russian, Serbo-Croatian (Cyrillic and Roman alphabets), Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese."

In addition, hospital personnel must be "inform[ed] that MMC's policy of providing in-person and telephone interpreter services to LEP (Limited English Proficient) persons is not limited to languages in which [the Interpreter Availability Sign] and other documents are printed." In other words, anyone who arrives at the front desk of the Maine Medical Center now has the right to insist on a translation into any language in the world.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to turn next to the question of bilingual education, which the voters of my state abolished in June of 1998.

Thanks to the passage of Proposition 227, more California children are learning English and getting ready to take their rightful place in American society.

On August 20, 2000 the New York Times carried a story in its front page entitled: "Increase in Test Scores Counters Dire Forecasts for Bilingual Ban." The story began:

Two years after Californians voted to end bilingual education and force a million Spanish-speaking students to immerse themselves in English . . . those students are improving in reading and other subjects at often striking rates, according to standardized test scores released this week. . . . The results are remarkable given predictions that scores of Spanish-speaking students would plummet.

Consider the experience of Ken Noonan, who . . . founded the California Association of Bilingual Educators 30 years ago . . . [he] warned in 1998 that children newly arrived from Mexico and Central America would stop coming to school if they were not gradually weaned off Spanish in traditional bilingual classes.

Now, he says he was wrong. "I thought it would hurt kids," Mr. Noonan said of the ballot initiative, which was called Proposition 227. "The exact reverse occurred, totally unexpected by me. The kids began to learn—not pick up, but learn—formal English, oral and written, far more quickly than I ever thought they would."

There was more good news. While 29% of the state's limited English proficient students were enrolled in bilingual education programs prior to the passage of Prop. 227, the percentage dropped to 12% after the proposition was implemented. "Even in the classrooms that had been designated as bilingual . . . teachers reveled that . . . their students were receiving much less literacy instruction in their primary language."

All this means that more California children of immigrants are being taught English. And test scores show they are learning it. Especially in the lower elementary grades, students who arrived at school speaking little or no English have made dramatic improvement in reading and mathematics.

Mr. Speaker, these facts support making English America's official language. Let me now turn to the underlying message of this legislation. Opponents of official English claim legislation of this sort sends the wrong message to Hispanic Americans. They are wrong, as Hispanic Americans from all walks of life are quick to reply.

The real message underlying this legislation was well-expressed by Everett Alvarez, Jr., who led the Republican Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance earlier this year.

Everett Alvarez was the first American pilot shot down in Vietnam. Everett Alvarez is also a proud American of Hispanic descent. In his book, *Code of Conduct*, Alvarez said, "I didn't spend eight-and-one-half years of my life as a prisoner of war because I was Hispanic. I didn't get beat up because I was Hispanic. I was an American fighting man." Alvarez also had this to say about bilingual education:

I am proud of being living proof that America is a country in which a person can overcome economic disadvantages and ethnic stereotypes. . . . I believe that education is the key to a successful and happy life in an open society. With that in mind, I oppose the movement to make Spanish (or any other foreign tongue) a second coequal language in American schools. This is a hindrance rather than a help to the young people who will eventually have to make their way in an English-speaking society.

Ernesto Ortiz, a South Texas ranch hand echoed this view. As quoted by John Silber, in his book *Straight Shooting*: "My children learn in Spanish in school so they can grow up to be busboys and waiters. I teach them in English at home so they can grow up to be doctors and lawyers."

Alvarez and Ortiz are joined by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., who so eloquently spoke in his book, *The Disuniting of America*, of how: "a common language is a necessary bond of national cohesion in so heterogeneous a nation as America. . . . [I]nstitutionalized bilingualism remains another source of the fragmentation of America, another threat to the dream of 'one people.'"

The vision which underlies my English Language Amendment is the uniquely American vision of a nation of immigrants united by a common tongue. This is not only the popular position—official English has won handily in my home state of California—is also the right position.

If passed by the Congress and ratified by the states, my English Language Amendment will provide permanent protection from the divisions and dangers of mandatory multilingualism. It is for this reason that I hope Congress will choose this particular approach, though it is a longer and harder road than simple legislation. This nation of immigrants needs a common tongue.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the English Language Amendment.

COALITION FOR AUTISM RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (C.A.R.E.) CAUCUS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I joined with Rep. MIKE DOYLE of Penn-

sylvania and over 60 other Members of the House to introduce a new congressional caucus concerning autism called C.A.R.E., which stands for the Coalition for Autism Research and Education.

As I have said many times before, the parents of children with autism are truly the voices of the voiceless. They are the protectors of those who cannot fend for themselves. For some years now, we have been working to provide help to the parents. But today we have reinforcements. Today we launch a new vehicle through which we can all work towards our common goals.

The Coalition for Autism Research and Education (C.A.R.E.) is a bipartisan Congressional Member Organization (CMO) dedicated to improving research, education, and support services for persons with autism spectrum disorders. I am very proud to be a Co-Chairman of this new organization, and pleased to be working alongside my good friend, and Democrat colleague, MIKE DOYLE of Pennsylvania (PA-18).

At today's press conference we were also honored to have a special guest, Mr. B.J. Surhoff, a professional baseball player who plays left field for the Atlanta Braves. Many of us know B.J. for his skill and grace on the baseball field. But few of us know that of all the challenges and accomplishments he has faced in his life, probably none are more near and dear to his heart than his son, Mason, who is autistic.

I have always believed that the true value of any society can be seen in how it treats its most vulnerable members. And few are as vulnerable and dependent on others as the autistic child.

A key mission of C.A.R.E. is to expand federal research for autism. The caucus will be working hard to build upon a proven record of accomplishments in the area of autism research during the previous 106th Congress.

During the 106th Congress, we passed landmark legislation which established "Centers of Excellence" to track cases of autism, increased funding at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) from \$1.1 million in Fiscal Year 2000 to \$6.7 million in FY 2001 and boosted funding at the National Institute of Health (NIH) from \$40 million in FY 1999 to \$45 million in 2000. Another significant increase in autism funding is expected at NIH for FY 2001. Congress also held hearings on autism, which have led to a better understanding of the disorder.

Many of my colleagues who I worked with last year on these issues are enthusiastic members of C.A.R.E., including, Dr. DAVE WELDON of Florida, Chairman DAN BURTON of Indiana, and Congressman JIM GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania.

I am extremely proud of the work we did last Congress. The enactment of Title I of the Children's Health Act (P.L. 106-310) on October 17, which incorporated provisions of two bills JIM GREENWOOD and I introduced—HR 274 and HR 997—were a major feat for autism research.

Title I of this legislation, among other things, authorized the creation of 3 "Centers of Excellence" in autism epidemiology to conduct prevalence and incidence data on autism. In this way, scientists can get a better understanding of the scope of CDC and would specialize in a specific aspect of autism research. In addition, the centers would provide education on the best methods of diagnosis and

treatment of autism to educators and physicians.

In December, we worked hard to win appropriations of \$3 million for Fiscal Year 2001 to fund the Centers of Excellence for CDC and begin larger-scale autism prevalence and incidence studies.

CDC expects to issue program announcements and requests for proposals in the early summer of 2001 to implement P.L. 106-310. Grants would be awarded to successfully completed applications to CDC for the "Centers of Excellence" sometime in the early fall of 2001.

Another provision in the Children's Health Act directs the Director of the NIH to establish not less than 5 Centers of Excellence to conduct basic and clinical research including developmental neurobiology, genetics and psychopharmacology.

The Members of C.A.R.E. will work to further advance the process of establishing these Centers of Excellence, which will lead to a better understanding of autism and related disorders.

The 106th Congress also significantly boosted total federal funding for autism. We want to take a page out of that playbook and repeat that success this year as well. CDC funding for autism increased from \$1.1 million in FY 2000 to \$6.7 million in FY 2001. Since FY 1998, when autism funding at CDC was a mere \$287,000, funding has increased by a net total of 2,246 percent! That's 23.5 times what CDC spent just four years ago.

At NIH, Congress won increases in funding for autism from \$40 million in FY 1999 to \$45 million in 2000. Funding for 2001 is also expected to increase. Since FY 1998, autism research has been increased by 66 percent at NIH. Maybe this year we can make yet another installment on our plan to double autism research at NIH.

Finally, at the request of interested Members of Congress and with grass roots support, the House has held two separate hearings on the problem of autism—one by the Commerce Committee and another by the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Additional hearings are likely if Member interest stays strong. I know Chairman DAN BURTON at the Government Reform and Oversight Committee remains deeply interested in further hearings. And Chairman MIKE BILIRAKIS is another strong supporter of autism research and oversight.

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE  
INSURANCE COVERAGE OF  
CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS ACT  
OF 2001

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, vaccines have made dramatic improvements in the lives of children and adults in the last century. Scourges such as polio and small pox have been eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccine research.

Childhood vaccinations prevent nine serious infectious diseases. Thanks to immunizations, children no longer have to suffer from the dangers of polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German

measles), tetanus, hepatitis-B, and Hib (the most common cause of meningitis).

Immunizations are not only sound medicine, they're sound public health policy. Over \$21 are saved for every dollar spent on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. Almost \$30 are saved for every dollar spent on diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to these life-saving vaccines. In fact, one third of two-year-old children are under-immunized, and in some cities and urban areas, more than 50 percent of children are not fully immunized.

Part of the problem is that nearly one in five employer-sponsored health plans do not cover immunizations for infants and children. Nearly one in four children in Preferred Provider Organizations and indemnity plans do not have coverage for immunizations.

The Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2001 would address this problem by requiring ERISA governed health plans to cover vaccines for children under 18 years. Vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule must be covered.

The federal government provides this benefit for its own workers, and twenty-four states have enacted laws to require state-regulated plans to cover vaccines. Unfortunately, ERISA plans do not have to comply with state laws. This legislation will ensure that all children, regardless of the type of insurance they have, will receive life-saving vaccines. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting immunization coverage for all children.

THE WORK FOR REAL WAGES ACT

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that helps correct a portion of the Welfare Reform Law of 1996.

Under the 1996 welfare reform law, states were allowed to enact workfare programs in which welfare recipients are forced to work off their welfare benefit, rather than receive real wages.

The Work for Real Wages Act requires that welfare recipients who perform unpaid work as a condition of receiving welfare benefits be credited with wages for the purposes of calculating the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

It is unfair to require unpaid work, yet credit nothing toward Social Security, unemployment compensation, and other wage-based benefits programs.

My bill credits the hours worked without direct compensation as though minimum wage were paid for the purpose of claiming earned income tax credits.

I urge all Members to cosponsor this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR.  
THOMAS J. DEMPSEY

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor one of the founders of the community of Mammoth Lakes, in my district in California, Mr. Thomas J. Dempsey. After a lifetime of hard work and dedication, my good friend Tom Dempsey passed away on February 1, 2001. He was 66 years old.

Tom was a very private man who quietly made possible the growth and development of Mammoth Lakes. While most people are unaware of his contributions to the community, he played a vital role in forming what it has become.

From the time he arrived in the early 1950's with dreams of becoming a professional ski racer, Mammoth Lakes was always near and dear to Tom's heart. In 1955, he helped build Chair I at Mammoth Mountain. After working as a carpenter for several summers, in 1961, he constructed his first home in Mammoth. That was but the beginning of great things to come. As the sole owner of Dempsey Construction Corporation, Tom became one of the foremost developers of mountain resorts and planned communities in the western United States. However, despite many successful developments elsewhere, the Snowcreek Resort in Mammoth Lakes has remained the corporation's flagship project.

In a very literal way, the town of Mammoth Lakes is what it is because of Tom Dempsey's vision and sense of civic duty. When he purchased the 355-acre Snowcreek Resort property in 1977, the town was under a building moratorium due to insufficient water supplies. That moratorium was lifted after Tom transferred significant surface and ground water rights from his property to the Mammoth County Water District and permitted the district to drill five major water supply wells.

It was also Tom Dempsey who provided a solution to the town's chronic lack of land for community facilities. In 1980, he completed a complicated land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service that involved 80 acres of government land. Of that land, Tom donated 21 acres for the Mammoth High School site, 20 acres for a future school site in Crowley Lake, and 9.5 acres to the town of Mammoth Lakes. Furthermore, Tom made Snowcreek lands available for a fire station, church, and a water treatment plant.

In addition to these efforts, Tom voluntarily contributed to many other community development projects. These include the landscaping of Main Street, improvements to the Whitmore baseball fields, landscaping and lighting improvements at the Mammoth/June Lake Airport, and restoration of the Mammoth Creek meadow.

While it was his passion for skiing that brought him to the beautiful Eastern Sierra, Tom also enjoyed many other athletic and outdoors endeavors. He was an avid windsurfer, bicyclist, tennis player, and hiker. The same deep love of the environment that drew him to outdoor activities is reflected in all of his development projects.

More importantly than his numerous professional and civic accomplishments, Tom

Dempsey was also a devoted family man. He is survived by his lovely wife, Linda, and his daughter Nikki.

Mr. Speaker, Mammoth Lakes has experienced many great changes over the decades that Tom Dempsey lived there. In fact, he seemed to be at the heart of them all. He truly was one of Mammoth Lakes' founding fathers. I join with his family, friends, and community in noting that he will be sorely missed.

May you rest in peace, Tom.

GENETIC NONDISCRIMINATION IN  
HEALTH INSURANCE AND EM-  
PLOYMENT ACT

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise to announce the reintroduction of the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act.

Yesterday, scientific and scholarly articles were published that explored the implications of the mapping of the human genome. Their conclusions were nothing short of awe-inspiring. The human genome map is going to allow us to explore and better understand not only human health and disease, but the very development of our species. It has tremendous promise to allow us to conquer some of the most feared diseases known to humanity and perhaps to manipulate our very destiny. It is a story of our present, past, and future.

The Romans had a famous saying: *Scientia est potentia*. Knowledge is power. From *scientia* we derive the English word *science*. Like any kind of power, however, the scientific knowledge we are gaining about our genetic composition can be used for both positive and negative ends. If used wisely, it could be a tool for health and healing that shapes the very future of our race. If used foolishly, however, it could become a weapon to undermine individuals' futures, create further divisions among groups of people, and tear at the very fabric of our nation.

Over five years ago, I introduced the first legislation in Congress to ban genetic discrimination in health insurance. Since that time, science has rocketed ahead at a speed no one predicted, even within the genetics community. Social policy, however, has not kept pace. Congress addressed the use of genetic information in passing through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, but this law covered only some cases of health insurance discrimination. A comprehensive law is needed to protect Americans against the misuse of their genetic information.

For that reason, I am introducing the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act of 2001. I am pleased to be joined by my distinguished colleague, Representative CONSTANCE MORELLA, who represents the National Institutes of Health and has a long record of achievement and advocacy in the health care arena, and 150 bipartisan cosponsors. In the Senate, identical legislation is being introduced by Minority Leader TOM DASCHLE and Senators EDWARD KENNEDY, CHRISTOPHER DODD, and TOM HARKIN, as well as a long list of other distinguished Senators.

The events of the past few days have illustrated the urgent need for this legislation all too well. In addition to the events concerning the mapping of the human genome, we have learned that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway performed genetic tests on employees without their knowledge or consent. The tests were conducted with the goal of identifying a predisposition for carpal tunnel syndrome and thereby undermining those employees' claims of job-related injuries. Unfortunately, this was not the first case of such genetic testing and potential discrimination. From the 1960s until 1993, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory secretly tested black employees for sickle cell anemia, until workers filed a lawsuit that resulted in a 1998 decision by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that this practice was unconstitutional. During the late 1990s, a study conducted by Northwestern National Life Insurance found that, by the year 2000, 15 percent of employers planned to check the genetic status of prospective employees and dependents before making employment offers. Last year, the American Management Association's survey of medical testing in the workplace found that 3% of responding employers admitted they tested employees for breast and/or colon cancer, 1% tested for sickle cell anemia, and a handful tested for Huntington's Disease. Moreover, 18% collected family medical histories, and about 5% stated that they use this information in making decisions about hiring, firing, and reassignment.

This legislation would prevent employers from using predictive genetic information to make employment decisions. It would further prevent employers from requesting or requiring that workers disclose genetic information or take a genetic test. Finally, employers are barred from disclosing genetic information without prior written informed consent.

The Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act would also address discrimination in health coverage based on genetic information. Too many Americans are deciding not to take a genetic test because they are afraid the information could be used by their insurer to deny them coverage or raise their rates to unaffordable levels. Vital medical decisions like these should be made based on solid science and personal reflection, not the fear of insurance discrimination. This legislation would prohibit insurers from requesting or requiring that an individual disclose genetic information. It would prevent health insurance companies from using this information to deny, cancel, refuse to renew, or change the terms or conditions of coverage. Finally, it would protect the privacy of genetic information by forbidding insurers from disclosing it to outside parties without prior written informed consent.

Simply having a given gene almost never means that a person will definitely develop a condition. Furthermore, every human being has between 5 and 50 genetic mutations that predispose him or her to disease. No one should lose their insurance coverage or their job based on the fact that she might develop cancer or some other disorder in 10, 20, or 30 years.

Genetic science has the potential to transform human health and open entirely new frontiers. We must safeguard the future of this research by ensuring that genetic information cannot be abused. Americans will not continue to support genetic science if they believe the knowledge gained will be used against them.

We can protect the future of genetic research and secure the rights of all Americans by passing the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that Congress passes this responsible, comprehensive genetic nondiscrimination and privacy law.

ON PRIME MINISTER CHRÉTIEN'S  
SPEECH TO THE OAS

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the address delivered recently by Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien before a special session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. The speech outlined his vision for the upcoming Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, specifically how the nations of the hemisphere can "move ahead on an agenda of human progress and shared prosperity" to create "La Gran Familia of the Americas." These ideas are likely to serve as the guideposts for the bilateral and multilateral relationships evolving throughout the Americas, and I urge all of my colleagues to take the time to read the following speech.

ADDRESS TO A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES—FEBRUARY 5, 2001

The first address by a Canadian Prime Minister to the Organization of American States is an important milestone in the embrace by Canada of our hemispheric identity.

A path marked by our decision to join the OAS in 1990. By our presence at the first two Summits of the Americas in Miami and Santiago. By my leading two trade missions to Latin America in 1995 and 1998. By our hosting the OAS General Assembly in Windsor last June. By the meetings of hemispheric ministers of finance, environment and labour that will take place in Canada in the coming months. And by the inaugural meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas in Ottawa in just a few weeks.

In a couple of months, we will take the most important step on our journey, as we welcome the democratically elected leaders of the Americas to Quebec City for the Third Summit of the Americas.

The steps we have taken on our journey have run in parallel with the growing sense that there is more to the Americas than geography. A sense that we are more than just neighbours and friends. We are "Una Gran Familia." Each a proud individual nation to be sure. Secure in our unique identity and sovereignty. But at a higher level, a family. Who share aspirations and values. Who have embraced democracy, free markets and social justice. Who have taken enhancing the quality of life of all of our people as our common cause.

Recently I have spoken to many of your leaders about how we can move ahead on an agenda of human progress and shared prosperity. I will talk to President Bush about it later today. For those listening in Washington and beyond, I would like to outline how Canada sees our agenda unfolding for the Quebec City summit.

Let me begin by acknowledging the serious problems and challenges that stand between us and our goal. But I have unshakeable confidence in our collective resolve to meet

them head on. That is, after all, what brought us together in Miami and Santiago, and will sustain us as we move ahead.

The gap between our rich and poor remains too large. And in the new economy, we face the added challenge of preventing a digital divide. Our emerging democracies lack strong institutions. Our social policies have room for improvement.

Many look upon the powerful forces of economic globalization and technological change as the source of these profound problems. But Canada looks upon them as the key to solving them. To creating untold opportunities and shared prosperity from Tierra Del Fuego to Baffin Island.

We should neither fear the challenge of globalization, nor become blinded by its allure. Rather, we must develop the tools so that all of La Gran Familia can reap its full potential. We must, in short, adopt an agenda that puts people first. That recognizes that our citizens can reach their full potential only when their safety is guaranteed, their rights are respected and their access to economic and social opportunities is assured.

In Quebec City, we will do just that. We have taken as our themes three complementary areas: strengthening democracy, creating prosperity and realizing human potential. And we want to harness the information highway to support this agenda. To foster "connectivity" throughout La Gran Familia.

Democracy and the effective rule of law are the guardians of human security. But such security is unlikely to be sustained in conditions of poverty and unequal opportunity. Realizing human potential through effective social policies is the guarantee that will allow democracy and prosperity to flourish.

Democracy has clearly been on the rise in the Americas over the past decade. But its progress has been neither constant nor equal. And in many countries it remains fragile. Canada wishes to see a clear and forceful commitment to strengthening democracy and fostering social inclusion in Quebec City. Which extends to our democratic institutions, our electoral machinery, and the impartiality of justice. To protecting human rights and freedom of expression. To fighting drug trafficking and corruption.

It will mean empowering local governments and safeguarding the rights of minorities, indigenous peoples, migrants and the disabled. And making the strongest possible pledge to promoting the legal, economic and social equality of women and men.

In Santiago, we formally launched negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas. And we challenged ourselves to achieve it by 2005.

The goal of achieving an FTAA by 2005 is one to which Canada is deeply committed—by temperament and history. We understand the connection between freer trade, prosperity and social progress. And we see an FTAA—with increased transparency and clearer rules—as the best way of forging that same connection throughout the hemisphere. For big nations and for small.

By the same token, we understand that it cannot be about trade alone. It is not just a contract among corporations and governments. First and foremost, it is an agreement among—and about—people. It must be holistic in nature. It must include improving the efficiency of financial markets, protecting labour rights and the environment, and having better development cooperation. It must include engaging the private sector, international financial institutions and civil society in a dialogue directed at encouraging greater corporate social responsibility.

These are the sorts of challenges we will be addressing in Quebec.

Canada also believes that progress in strengthening democratic institutions and increasing prosperity in the new economy must go hand in hand with actions to enhance social and economic inclusion. That will increase access to education and skills development. Promote life-long learning. And broaden access to quality health care and effective disease-prevention programs.

And we must achieve this in a way that respects the value of the diverse ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious strands that, woven together, make up the fabric of La Gran Familia.

Canada is also very much focused on bridging the digital divide in the Americas. As the information revolution continues, governments have a pivotal role to play in determining how these new technologies evolve. And in ensuring that their ability to bridge vast distances, expand access to knowledge and increase economic productivity is shared equitably.

In Canada we have taken great strides in this area by forming creative partnerships that have allowed us to connect all of our public schools and communities at relatively low cost.

In many ways, our meeting in Quebec City will be about coming to terms with an increasingly engaged civil society and its concerns over the powerful forces that are shaping our modern world.

Canada believes that openness and transparency are vital to building public acceptance and legitimacy for our undertakings. In preparing for the Summit, Canada has engaged civil society organizations at the national level. We have also promoted regional consultations with committed and serious organizations, including meetings here at the OAS, and establishing web-sites for the sharing of information.

Canada worked hard to make the OAS General Assembly in Windsor a more open event, allowing our citizens to see an historic discussion on the nature of democracy and its status among our membership. We must commit ourselves to working with patience, persistence and reason to build a hemispheric future full of promise. A future that takes account of the concerns expressed by our peoples and the impact that the new forces at work in the global economy are having on our citizens. As host of the first Summit of the Americas in the new millennium, Canada will do its utmost to promote openness and transparency, while ensuring productive discourse among governments.

I wish to conclude today on a note of strong support for the OAS. We can all be proud of its accomplishments. The leadership of Secretary General Gárriga has been inspired and responsive to the wishes of our membership.

The past year has illustrated the relevance of the OAS. From helping to shore up democracy to resolving complicated border disputes. From ensuring electoral fairness to promoting technical cooperation.

More than any other single institution, the OAS will be charged with acting upon the mandates we endorse at Quebec City. To do this it will require a tangible expression of our political will and a commitment to its fiscal health. Our foreign ministers should actively address this issue at this year's OAS General Assembly in Costa Rica.

My friends, working with you to make our vision of La Gran Familia of the Americas a reality is a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy. For many years, the Maple Leaf flag did not hang in this historic room. Cana-

dians felt that our national journey was taking a different path than that of the Americas. Those days are gone . . . forever.

Let us now journey together into the new millennium. With shared conviction, strength and purpose.

Obrigado.

Muchas gracias y hasta pronto en Quebec.

#### HONORING JOHN BURNS

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of John Burns, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Santa Clara County. I would like to recognize Mr. Burns' extraordinary and tireless service to the people of Santa Clara County and thank him for his 32 years as the Housing Authority's Executive Director.

John Burns started as the Santa Clara County Housing Authority's first employee in 1968; the Agency now employs a staff of 275. The Housing Authority currently assists over 13,000 families, seniors and disabled in the Section 8 Program and over 2,000 seniors and disabled in the Property Management Program. In addition, the Agency manages 50 duplexes at the Arturo Ochoa Migrant Housing Center in Gilroy, California, which houses 100 families during the harvest season. In the winter months, the center is used for housing homeless families.

Under John Burns' dedicated leadership, the Housing Authority diversified its many services to the community to include leasing of housing on the open market, new housing construction, and the management of housing for low income families, disabled and the elderly. The Housing Authority also ensures, through sales of bonds, that new construction in the area includes affordable rental units. The successful effort to pass Measure A in the November 1999 election allowed the Housing Authority greater opportunities to provide affordable housing in areas where it is needed and where the agency had previously not been able to build.

Among Housing Authorities, the Santa Clara County Housing Authority has one of the highest profiles in the country and is considered a leader when it comes to creating innovative, affordable housing.

A leader in the field as well as in the community, Mr. Burns has served on the Board of Directors for the National Leased Housing Association as well as the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition. He is a member and former President of the Northern California Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies, and a member and former President of the Executive Directors Association of Northern California and Nevada.

John Burns was once quoted in a news article that "I would rather achieve public visibility through results of our programs . . . not public relations." This "low profile leader" is one of the most respected Housing Authority Directors in the County, a visionary public servant, and a valued friend.

DOUBLING THE BUDGET OF THE  
NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would double the budget of the National Eye Institute (NEI) within three years.

Blinding eye and vision disorders pose a tremendous challenge to our health care system. The numbers are staggering. By the year 2030, 66 million Americans will be at risk for blinding-eye disorders. Cataracts affects 29 percent of Americans between the ages of 65–74. Glaucoma, the leading cause of blindness in African Americans, affects three million Americans. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a disease which alters central vision, affects an estimated 1.7 million Americans.

Since its establishment in 1968, NEI has conducted and supported research that helps prevent and treat eye diseases. A few of its research achievements include: New medical therapies to treat glaucoma; introducing drugs to treat uveitis, a potentially blinding inflammation of the inside of the eye; and contributing to the development of medical lasers to treat patients with glaucoma, AMD, and other eye disorders.

The National Eye Institute has many exciting research projects on the horizon. They cannot complete those projects without adequate funding. In FY 2000, NEI's funding was \$452,706,000. This year, NEI is funded at \$510,611,000. By FY 2004, we should commit \$791,714,000 to the NEI budget.

We have an obligation to make our commitment to eye and vision research at the NEI as strong as our commitment to the biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health.

I urge my colleagues to support increasing the research efforts at the National Eye Institute by cosponsoring this legislation.

CARR, O'KEEFE, KAHLO: PLACES  
OF THEIR OWN**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and announce that an exhibition entitled "Carr, O'Keefe, Kahlo: Places of Their Own" has been organized by Dr. Sharyn Udall of my home town, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Each artist in this exhibition represents one of the three great countries of North America: Canada, the United States and Mexico.

This exhibition, therefore, celebrates the cultural bond of the North American continent which transcends national borders. We may well find that this cultural bond will also prove to be a benefit to our mutual economic interests.

In the Congress, we often talk about the need for opening our borders for trade, commerce, importation and exportation. Rarely do we reflect on the need for the international exchange of art. This exhibition gives us an opportunity to do so.

This exhibition also celebrates the contribution of women to the arts. Each of the three artists, Emily Carr of Canada, Georgia O'Keefe of the United States, and Frida Kahlo of Mexico, became one of her country's pre-eminent twentieth century painters. Each is recognized as a legend. Viewed together, their work takes us beyond all borders and the only passport needed is the eyes and the heart.

"Carr, O'Keefe, Kahlo: Places of Their Own" can be seen in Toronto, Canada, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico and, a year from now, at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC. It is a tribute to these artists and to the spirit of cultural cooperation in North America.

## RECOGNIZING JOHN CUSEY

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bid farewell to my Legislative Director, John Cusey.

I first met John in March of 1996. Immediately, I was struck by his keen sense of political intuitiveness. Although he had only worked on a few local campaigns, I could tell that his future in government would be bright.

As an employee, John has excelled in many areas. As a result, he rose quickly through the ranks of legislative positions, and for the next week, he will continue to serve as my Legislative Director. John has staffed numerous bills in the California State Legislature and here in Congress. His assistance in the area of unsolicited e-mail, commonly known as Spam, has been crucial, and led to the passage of California's first law to protect e-mail users.

John has also served as my Spokesman and Communications Director. His outstanding communication skills were especially important during my bid for U.S. Congress. On every occasion, he greeted challenging questions with honesty and tact.

Over the last five years, I have come to consider John's family as my friends. His wife, Becky, has tolerated the long hours that legislative and campaign work often entail. Moreover, I have seen John grow as a father, welcoming two healthy, beautiful children, Ethan and Ava, into his life.

Next week, John will be leaving my office to become the Director of the House Pro-Life Caucus. While I wish him the best of luck in this new endeavor, it is with much sadness. John's absence will create both a professional and personal void in my office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this 107th Congress to join me in recognizing and thanking John Cusey for his hard work and dedication to serving the constituents of California's 41st District and wishing him the best of luck as the Director of the House Pro-Life Caucus.

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY DONOR  
IDENTITY DISCLOSURE**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced legislation that would require organizers

of presidential libraries to disclose the identity of donors and the amounts they give.

I introduced this legislation in the 106th Congress as well because I felt the public should be made aware of possible conflicts of interest that sitting presidents can have while raising funds for their libraries.

Mr. Speaker, we do not know who these donors are or what interests they may have on any pending policy decisions that are to be made. I think that our government needs to operate in the open—not behind closed doors.

Recent news reports surrounding the pardon of billionaire fugitive Marc Rich have brought to light additional justification for this legislation. The Washington Post recently reported that Denise Rich, the former wife of financier Marc Rich, lobbied President Clinton to pardon her former husband by donating \$450,000 to Clinton's presidential library fund starting in 1998.

The Post also reported that, "Clinton foundation attorney David Kendall said he would fight a subpoena for the library donor list." Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of one good reason why the organizers of any future presidential libraries would not be willing to release this information to the public. Even Richard Cohen, the very liberal columnist for the Washington Post said, "But surely it would be anything from interesting to illustrative to just plain damning to see what names are on that list and for what amounts."

Our citizens have the right to know the details of these fundraising activities. The bill I have introduced will ensure this happens. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important foreign policy and defense issues the 107th Congress will consider is National Missile Defense. Our nation is indeed vulnerable to ballistic missile attack, and it is imperative that we take steps to protect ourselves from this threat.

As we address this threat, however, it is critical that we adopt a cautious and comprehensive approach. In an article in today's Washington Post, our former National Security Advisor, the Honorable Samuel R. Berger, makes a compelling case for such an approach. As he asserts, we must be careful not to overlook the danger of attack by less conventional means, such as a terrorist strike or a weapon of mass destruction smuggled across our borders. We must also be careful not to undermine our defensive alliances, such as NATO, or needlessly provoke a new arms race with our former Cold War adversaries. As we move forward on these important issues, Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we not allow ourselves as a nation to be lulled into a false sense of security or let our guard down in other areas of our national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the entire text of the insightful article by Mr. Berger entitled "Is This Shield Necessary?" be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I urge my colleagues to review this article and to join me in engaging

all aspects of the National Missile Defense debate in the coming months to ensure that whatever course we choose truly strengthen our national security and advance our national interests.

IS THIS SHIELD NECESSARY?

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 13, 2001]

(Samuel R. Berger)

In the first weeks of the Bush administration, national missile defense has risen to the top of the national security agenda. Having wrestled with this issue over the last years of the Clinton administration, I believe it would be a mistake to proceed pell-mell with missile defense deployment as though all legitimate questions about the system had been answered. They have not.

While the United States maintains strength unmatched in the world, the vulnerability of the American people to attack here at home by weapons of mass destruction is greater than ever. Dealing with our vulnerability to chemical, biological and nuclear weapons requires an ambitious, robust, comprehensive strategy.

But 20 years and tens of billions of dollars later, national missile defense is still a question-ridden response to the least likely of the threats posed by these weapons: a long-range ballistic missile launched by an outlaw nation.

President Clinton last year decided to continue research and development of national missile defense, but deferred a decision on deployment. In part, this was based on a judgment that we do not yet know whether it will work reliably. The Bush administration should reject arbitrary deadlines and, as part of Secretary Rumsfeld's laudable defense review, take a fresh look at the overall threat we face.

Without question we need to broaden America's defenses against weapons of mass destruction. But plunging ahead with missile defense deployment before critical questions are answered is looking through the telescope from the wrong end: from the perspective of bureaucratically driven technology rather than that of the greatest vulnerabilities of the American people.

President Reagan's global shield (SDI) has evolved into a more limited system aimed at defeating long-range missiles launched not by a major nuclear rival but by an irrational leader of a hostile nation, particularly North Korea, Iraq or Iran. Its premise is that an aggressive tyrant such as Saddam Hussein is less likely to be deterred than were the leaders of the Soviet Union by the prospect that an attack on us or our friends would provoke devastating retaliation.

It is further suggested that lack of a defense could intimidate U.S. leadership: We might have hesitated to liberate Kuwait if we knew Saddam could have delivered a chemical, biological or nuclear weapon to the United States with a long-range ballistic missile.

But why do we believe Saddam or his malevolent counterparts would be less susceptible to deterrence than Stalin or his successors? Indeed, dictators such as Saddam tend to stay in power so long because of their obsession with self-protection. And is it likely we would not use every means at our disposal to respond to a vital threat to our economic lifeline, even if it meant preemptively taking out any long-range missiles the other side might have?

The fact is that a far greater threat to the American people is the delivery of weapons of mass destruction by means far less sophisticated than an ICBM: a ship, plane or suitcase. The tragedies of the USS Cole and sarin gas in the Tokyo subway show that lethal power does not need to ride on a long-range missile.

We know that we increasingly are the target of a widespread network of anti-American terrorists. We know they are seeking to obtain weapons of mass destruction. If deterrence arguably doesn't work against hostile nations, it is even less so for fanatical terrorists with no clear home address.

The real issue is what is the most cost-effective way to spend an additional 100 billion or more defense dollars to protect this country from the greatest WMD threats. In that broader context, is national missile defense our first priority?

Is it wiser to continue research and development and explore alternative technologies while we invest in substantially intensifying the broad-scale, long-term effort against terrorist enemies? (Such an effort would include increased intelligence resources, heightened border security, even training of local police and public health officials to recognize a deadly biological agent.)

The ultimate question is whether Americans will be more secure with or without a national missile defense. The answer is not self-evident. We can't build the system that is farthest along in development—a land-based one—without cooperation from our allies.

Their misgivings derive in significant part from the prospect of abrogating the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia; that could unravel the global arms control and nonproliferation system.

It has been suggested that we could address Europeans' concerns by including them in our missile defense system or helping them build their own. But such an amalgamation would be more capable against Russia and thus more likely to stiffen its resistance to change in the ABM; it could also increase the chance Russia would respond in ways that would reduce strategic stability—for example by retaining multiple-warhead ICBMs it has agreed to eliminate.

Of course no other country can ever have a veto over decisions we must take to protect our national security. But in making that judgment, we must understand that the basic logic of the ABM has not been repealed—that if either side has a defensive system the other believes can neutralize its offensive capabilities, mutual deterrence is undermined and the world is a less safe place.

Then there is China. It is suggested that we can work this out with China by at least implicitly giving it a "green light" to build up its ICBM arsenal to levels that would not be threatened by our national missile defense.

This strategy fails to take into account the dynamic it could unleash in Asia: Would China's missile buildup stimulate advocates of nuclear weapons in Japan? How would India view this "separate peace" between the United States and China? What effect would that have on Pakistan and the Koreans?

Will we be more secure as Americans with a missile defense system or less secure? It is not a question that answers itself. But it is a question that requires answers.

JERUSALEM EMBASSY  
RELOCATION ACT OF 1995

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to relocating the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. In

1995, Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act of 1995, which states that as recognition of an undivided Israel, the U.S. Embassy should be moved to Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999. The bill, which President Clinton signed, also contains waiver authority that the president may exercise if he feels the embassy move should be delayed for national security reasons. Each year since the bill was passed, the President has issued a national security waiver, and the Embassy has still not been moved.

The recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital enjoys the broad support of the American public. Further, it would be consistent with the United States' practice of accepting the host nation's decision as to where its capital is, and where the U.S. Embassy is located. Currently, Israel is the only nation in which the U.S. Embassy is not located in a city recognized internationally as the capital.

In short, moving the Embassy to Jerusalem is consistent with U.S. policy, and does not infringe on the remaining issues of conflict over East Jerusalem. I call my colleagues to support this resolution and I am hopeful that the House International Relations Committee will consider it in the coming weeks. Finally Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following essay, written by one of my constituents, which makes the case for an embassy move most eloquently:

RELOCATION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO  
JERUSALEM: A PROPOSITION WHOSE TIME  
HAS COME

(By Cheston David Mizel)

ENGLEWOOD, CO.—On May 22, 2000 President George W. Bush, speaking in front of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, promised that he would begin to move the U.S. Ambassador from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as soon as he was inaugurated. Now that he has been elected and the inauguration has passed, the time to move the U.S. Embassy has come. Moving the embassy, at this time, is not only morally and politically apropos, but would augment vital American interests by sending a clear and unequivocal message, to the region, reaffirming the vitality of the American-Israeli relationship.

DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

The recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and relocation of the U.S. Embassy would immediately and significantly bolster the President's standing with key constituencies on both sides of the aisle. Not only would it clearly demonstrate his determination to fulfill his campaign promises, but it would garner enormous favor among Jewish voters who have felt disenfranchised by the recent presidential election. The prompt relocation of the embassy would further the President's goal of uniting

MORAL IMPLICATIONS

An immediate relocation of the American Embassy is a morally appropriate decision. Israel is the only true western style democracy in a region dominated by ruthless dictatorships. Israel and the United States enjoy a relationship that is unparalleled in the region. Israel is clearly the most loyal pro-American state in the Middle East. Moreover, since biblical times, Jerusalem has always been considered the capital of the people of Israel, whether residing in their land

or in exile. The modern State of Israel is no exception. Jerusalem is the seat of Israel's government: the site of parliament and its Supreme Court. Despite Palestinian claims to the contrary, Jerusalem has never been the capital of any other nation during the more than 3,000 years of its existence. The official recognition of this reality by Israel's closest ally is long overdue. It is not appropriate for the United States to choose the location of the capital of any nation nor is it the practice of the United States to do so anywhere else in the world.

#### SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

In 1995, The United States Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act requiring the embassy to be moved to Jerusalem. This act was passed in the senate by a vote of 93 to 5 and the House of Representatives by a vote of 347 to 37. Since that time, President Clinton refused to move the embassy, using the excuse that it would harm America's National Security. Nevertheless, it must be noted that Americans vital security interests in the region are closely tied to the security of Israel and its Capital. These interests would be strengthened, not weakened, as a result of an embassy move. In stark contrast to the paternalistic approach of the Clinton Administration, George W. Bush, in December of 1999, speaking before the Republican Jewish Coalition, acknowledged that "A lasting peace will not happen if our government tries to make Israel conform to our vision of national security."

In *Navigating Through Turbulence: America and The Middle East in A New Century*, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy's Presidential Study Group concluded that "[t]he top Middle East priority for the new President is to prevent a descent into regional war." The Report cites multiple scenarios for the current situation deteriorating into a wide scale conflict. While the scenarios differ in regard to course of events, they are all connected to the same general instability in the region, which has been greatly contributed to by the United States' failure to demonstrate the strength of its allegiance to Israel. Indeed, the Presidential Study Group's initial recommendation in averting a war is that:

The United States needs to ensure that Middle Easterners have no doubt about the strength, vitality and durability of the U.S.-Israeli strategic partnership, about America's willingness to strengthen Israel's deterrent, and about the U.S. commitment to provide political, diplomatic and material support to Israel. These objectives can be achieved through presidential statements, meetings with senior Israeli officials and acts that signal U.S. resolve and support.

The rationale behind the Report's suggestion is that such a course would silence those extreme Anti-Israel elements which view Israel's willingness to compromise as a sign of weakness; and America's "evenhandedness" as evidence that Israel can be defeated while America stays uninvolved to preserve its "evenhanded" diplomatic role. The Presidential Study Group concludes, however, that a showing of stronger American commitment to Israel would actually "strengthen the U.S. role as mediator in negotiations, which flows from—and is not antithetical to—the U.S. role as Israel's ally." Where equivocal support has served to embolden Israel's enemies, a showing of strength and absolute support for Israel will command respect and force a recognition that Israel cannot be defeated and that compromise is the only viable Arab option.

In light of the Clinton plan for Jerusalem, which President Clinton himself acknowledged would not bind the Bush administra-

tion, Israel's position on Jerusalem has been significantly weakened and is in much need of rehabilitation. The Clinton proposal, which calls for division of Jerusalem's Old City, and transfer the Temple Mount to Palestinian control, is opposed by the majority of the Israeli people and has been ruled completely unacceptable by Israel's Chief Rabbinate. It should be noted that other elements of the Clinton proposal, such as transfer of the Jordan Valley, have drawn severe criticism from members of the Israeli security establishment as posing a severe danger to Israeli security and regional stability. What is worse is that the Clinton proposal has given the Palestinians an unrealistic expectation that they will receive even more than what has already been offered.

Moreover, this unrealistic expectation is exacerbated by the perception, in the Arab world, that the Bush administration will be even more sympathetic to Palestinian positions. This misconception could lead to dangerous miscalculations, with potentially dangerous consequences, and should be remedied.

So long as America encourages Israel to engage in a policy of appeasement, there can never be long-term stability in the Middle East. Each Israeli concession merely increases the appetite of its enemies. This process will inevitably lead to a scenario where Israel is unable to give any further and its foes will respond with escalated violence. In a world of Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferation, America can not afford to re-learn the lessons of World War II concerning appeasement of hostile regimes.

U.S. Recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and immediate movement of the American Embassy to the western part of the city, will force the Palestinians to revise their expectations. Nevertheless, it will still leave room for a Palestinian presence in the Eastern part of the city, if an agreement can be reached which is not opposed by the Israeli people and does not jeopardize Israel's security or national interests.

This policy is entirely consistent with President Bush's statement that "[his] support for Israel is not conditional on the outcome of the peace process. \* \* \* And Israel's adversaries should know that in [his] administration, the special relationship will continue even if they cannot bring themselves to make true peace with the Jewish State."

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

With negotiations deadlocked and a new administration taking root in Washington, the appropriate time to officially recognize Jerusalem and move the U.S. Embassy has come. The fragility of the Oslo process is no longer a deterrent to such a move in that many of the remaining issues have revealed themselves to be intractable.

Opponents of the immediate recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the relocation of the American Embassy generally argue that the appropriate time for the move would be within the context of a final status agreement. While this thinking may have been tenable before the outbreak of the current violence, when peace seemed an imminent possibility, it has little credibility in the current situation.

Initially, this argument relies on the premise that there will be an agreement in the near future. Given the fact that the Palestinians are unwilling to compromise on key issues, shamelessly fabricate blood-lies before the international community, and continue to inculcate anti-Israel sentiment in the media and schools, a final settlement could be generations away. Moreover, leaders throughout the Arab world have made very clear statements that there never will be peace without full Israeli recognition of the

Palestinian "Right of Return." (The "right" for the four million descendants of Arabs, who fled Israel in 1948 to make way for advancing Arab armies, to resettle within Israel proper, despite the creation of a neighboring Palestinian homeland.) Given the fact that such a recognition would mean demographic suicide for Israel, as a Jewish state, the perpetual call for Israel to accede to such a recognition, is little more than a politically correct euphemism for the old refrain of "Death to Israel."

In the current environment, any further delay in recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the embassy would simply reward Arafat for his intransigence. If the U.S. allows Arafat to set the American timetable and agenda, America's esteem is greatly diminished and its strategic interests are harmed.

Secondly, many argue that the relocation should only occur upon reaching a final agreement in order to avoid offending Arab sentiment. It is true that the Palestinians and neighboring Arab states will likely respond negatively. Such is the natural consequence of having faulty expectations shattered. Given the fact that the far-reaching concessions asked of Israel, in the Clinton proposal, were viewed by the Arab world as decidedly pro-Israel, any action which the United States takes in furtherance of its strategic relationship with Israel will always be condemned by the Arab world. They simply have not accepted Israel's right to exist. Moving the embassy will demonstrate the U.S. determination to support Israel's existence in the face of regional hostility. Failure to relocate the embassy only perpetuates unachievable expectations that make violent conflict all the more likely.

The Presidential Study Group recently concluded that America's ties with Arab states should not be dependent on avoiding pro-Israel positions, but rather;

America is the country with which the large majority of regional states will still wish to have close political, economic, and military ties. Maintaining a strong alliance with Israel has not stopped Arab Gulf states from welcoming the United States as their defender against potential subregional hegemony. Similarly, it has not prevented every state on Israel's border, except Syria, from accepting America as a major, if not the principal source of military aid and material. Indeed, the very closeness and solidity of U.S.-Arab ties is a reason why some Arab leaders and spokespersons can afford to use license in their rhetoric.

Finally, many of those who argue that a relocation of the embassy should not occur at this time subscribe to the notion that America should use its political capital with Israel to nurture Israel's willingness to engage in further negotiations and concessions. Not only does this directly contradict the approach suggested by the Presidential Study Group, but it also directly opposes President Bush's own statements that his support would not be conditional on the peace process.

#### CONCLUSION

We are at a critical time of transition for America, Israel, and the entire region. The Middle East, and perhaps the entire world, may be confronted with a situation with devastating potential. President Bush is just beginning his administration. He possesses the opportunity to make an eventful decision that will not only contribute to the advancement of his political agenda but will reinforce vital American interests in the region by contributing to stability through the promotion of more realistic Arab expectations.

The relocation of the embassy enjoys strong bi-partisan support. It will contribute

to the unifying culture being promoted by the administration. It will finally bring the United States into compliance with its own law and fulfill the weighty moral obligations imposed by the sacred principles of democracy and freedom to our faithful ally which has been ignored for too long.

PROVIDING MEDICARE COVERAGE  
FOR FILIPINO WORLD WAR II  
VETS

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would allow Filipino WWII Veterans to enroll in Medicare even if they do not meet the eligibility requirements.

The time is long overdue that we provide justice to the Filipino Veterans who fought side by side with the United States Army during World War II.

On July 26, 1941, the Philippine military was called on to join forces with the United States under an Executive Order by President Roosevelt. Their efforts were instrumental in the United States' successful final assault in the Pacific.

Despite their outstanding contributions, in 1946 Congress enacted the Rescission Act, which stripped members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army of being recognized as veterans of the United States. As a result, they were excluded from receiving full veterans benefits.

Last Congress, we provided disabled Filipino veterans living in the United States with the same payments for service-related disability compensation as other veterans receive.

Let's go one step further this year.

Under my bill, qualified WWII Filipino Veterans living in the United States would be entitled to Medicare Part A benefits and the option to enroll in Part B.

It is time to recognize the service of our friends and neighbors who fought so valiantly for freedom and democracy.

SECOND AMT BILL INTRODUCED

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a week ago I introduced legislation to allow non-refundable personal credits, like the child credit and education credits, to be used against the alternative minimum tax. I have introduced this legislation in the past two Congresses, and it has been enacted into law twice on a temporary basis.

The legislation I introduce today corrects an additional critical problem with the AMT. In this case, the mere fact that a family has a large number of children forces them to become alternative minimum tax taxpayers, and they lose some of the benefit of their personal exemptions.

For example, my office has been in touch with a family in North Carolina for over a year. This military family has ten children, are home

schoolers, and began to pay the alternative minimum tax in 1998. An extension of the temporary law regarding nonrefundable personal credits will not help this family, and neither will President Bush's tax proposal help them out of the AMT or give them a rate reduction. While it may be true that this family will be "no worse off" than they are now, they will not be any better off either in terms of their current situation. I do not believe relief for this family from the alternative minimum tax should wait until it is more convenient, or until after this year is over.

Mr. Speaker, I think all the members of this body would agree that this family is not the type of family we meant to pay the minimum tax. They do not have large tax preferences with which they are sheltering income. Yet they are paying the minimum tax. Mr. Speaker, I hope all members will not just agree that we should provide families like this one relief, I hope they will act to provide that relief on the first tax bill on which Congress works.

INTRODUCTION OF FY2001 DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

**HON. NORMAN D. DICKS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an emergency supplemental appropriations bill for the Department of Defense and to ask my colleagues here in the House to pass it expeditiously.

This legislation will provide \$6.7 billion in emergency funding for critical readiness needs of the armed forces, and it will cover the cost of shortfalls in the Defense Health Program as identified by the Chiefs of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

This amount is only what is required to cover unexpected cost increases for the most basic needs of our service members through the end of this fiscal year. This is an appropriate and an expected response to the kinds of unavoidable expenses—fuel, power increases, housing and other operations costs—that were not provided for in the regular appropriations bill for the Department of Defense. This is a routine and prudent exercise, Mr. Speaker, we must act expeditiously in order to avoid the cuts in each of the services that would be triggered soon—with nearly half the fiscal year over—if we were not to pass this bill.

There are many causes for this action that is now required. The basic cost of living for our armed forces is substantially higher than DOD's projections from last year. Congress approved the FY 2001 Defense Appropriations bill more than six months ago, and the budget Congress approved had been assembled well over a year ago. In the interim, energy costs have skyrocketed, housing costs have increased substantially because we've been making a conscious effort to improve the living conditions for our military personnel and their families. And Congress and President Bill Clinton have committed the nation to provide higher pay and a more complete

Let me also address the issue of why it is neither necessary nor prudent to wait until the new Defense Secretary completes his Stra-

tegic Review. It is clear to me that none of these costs will be affected in the slightest way by a strategic review of Pentagon systems. In most cases, these bills have already been incurred, and the money is already spent. The need for a supplemental appropriations bill to cover these costs is simply indisputable.

I believe that the current resistance to such a bill by the Bush Administration has more to do with the size and timing of tax cuts than it has to do with military strategy. Not paying these bills now forces the Department of Defense to reduce and delay training and maintenance. And it thus affects the readiness of our armed forces. It is simply too high a price to pay for the questionable goal of quick and massive tax cuts. I can understand why the political strategists may want to conduct a debate over large tax cuts without the annoyance of mentioning the costs of necessary budget increases for the Defense Department. I just do not believe it is responsible to do so, and I am therefore asking my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to approve this urgent supplemental defense spending bill as soon as possible.

Of the \$6.7 billion in this bill, a total of one billion dollars will go toward pay and housing allowances; \$4.3 billion will be for operations and maintenance costs such as training, force protection, aircraft and ship maintenance, base operations, and fuel cost increases. One billion dollars will be allocated for unanticipated health care costs; \$270 million to procure spare parts and force protection equipment, and \$110 million will be provided to offset the impact of energy price increases on military family housing.

I am proud to join with my original cosponsors, Representatives IKE SKELTON, NORM SISISKY, MARTIN FROST, CHET EDWARDS and ELLEN TAUSCHER in introducing this bill. I hope that the Appropriations Committee will move quickly to review and pass this bill. And I hope that President Bush will agree to sign it.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE  
ORANGEBURG MASSACRE

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women who were victimized in the little known civil rights battle which has become known as the Orangeburg Massacre. And to thank South Carolina's Governor Jim Hodges for the remarks he made during last week's thirty-third anniversary of this catastrophic event which took place on February 8, 1968. The Governor's remarks are inserted below.

The Orangeburg Massacre's place in history has been overlooked, and is considered one of the most violent such events in South Carolina's struggle for civil rights. While many people believe the Kent State shootings were the first such event in our nation's history, the Kent State event occurred two years after the unrest at my alma mater, S.C. State. Henry Smith, 20, Samuel Hammond, 19, and Delano Middleton, 17, lost their lives during the bloody clash. Another twenty-seven people were also

injured by the bullets from state law enforcement officers on that ill-fated evening.

Some three hundred students gathered on the campus of South Carolina State after three days of sit-ins and protests at All-Star Bowling Lane. The students were continuing their demonstration against the segregation of Orangeburg's only bowling alley. Four years after passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the establishment remained segregated, despite numerous efforts to persuade the owners to integrate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond and Delano Middleton, the twenty seven students who survived their wounds. Governor James Hovis Hodges along with the hundreds of other students, teachers, administrators and parents who helped and are still helping to bring equality to this nation.

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR JIM HODGES—SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, ORANGEBURG, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001

I am truly honored and humbled to be here with you today.

Nearly 170 years ago, when our country was still newly-formed a Frenchman named Alexis de Tocqueville came to our shores to explore this fledgling experiment in democracy. He recorded his thoughts in a landmark treatise called *Democracy in America*. He told his readers that he "sought the image of democracy itself, with its inclinations, its character, its prejudices, and its passions, in order to learn what we have to fear or hope from its progress."

Had Tocqueville visited America in 1968, he would have seen our fears and not our hopes. We were a country in turmoil. Thousands of American soldiers died in Vietnam. Assassins struck down Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Neighbors feared and distrusted one another. We were a state and a nation deeply divided by race, age and politics.

This was especially evident on our college campuses. On these campuses, the passions of the time spawned protests and confrontation. Some of these protests are known to all Americans. One of the most famous images of the era is that of a young girl weeping over her fallen friend at Kent State in Ohio.

But when we look in the pages of history, the Orangeburg Massacre is often missing. Most Americans know about the four students killed at Kent State in 1970, but not the three students killed at S.C. State two years before. What happened here thirty-three years ago was the first tragedy of its kind on an American college campus. Yet few Americans have ever heard the names of Samuel Hammond, Delano Middleton and Henry Smith. Most Americans do not know them as we know them.

Henry Smith was a sophomore from Marion. His mother was secretary of his high school PTA. Henry's mother taught him the importance of a good education. She told her children, "I always figured if I couldn't get it, I was going to have it for my kids. Get them to college and get them what they needed." Henry kept his promise to his mother. And he wrote her every week to let her know how he was doing in school.

Delano Middleton was a student at Wilkinson High School here in Orangeburg. He would often lead his teammates in prayer after football practice. His mother worked at the college, and Delano often spent time on the campus making friends with the other students.

Samuel Hammond was born in Barnwell, and grew up in Florida. He returned to his home state with dreams of becoming a teacher. On a college questionnaire, Samuel was

asked "What was the one big thing he wanted in life?" Samuel responded that the thing he wanted most was an education.

Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond and Delano Middleton each wanted to enjoy the unlimited potential offered in America . . . in a time and place where skin color provided limited opportunity. It was that effort to claim equal rights and equal opportunity, that pursuit of human dignity . . . that led students to protest segregation at a local bowling alley.

And after three days of fear and uncertainty . . . these three young men were killed . . . and twenty-seven others wounded . . . on the grounds of this campus.

We deeply regret what happened here on the night of February 8, 1968. The Orangeburg Massacre was a great tragedy for our state. Even today, the State of South Carolina bows its head, bends its knee and begins the search for reconciliation.

The families of Samuel Hammond, Henry Smith and Delano Middleton are gathered here today. We thank you for coming. As a parent, I can only imagine the sorrow you must have felt to lose a loved one. We wish we had the opportunity to know them as you did. We regret that they were taken from us at such a young age.

Many of the survivors of that night have gathered here. We thank you for coming, and we welcome you back to Orangeburg today. We take comfort from the fact that Orangeburg is a better place, South Carolina is a better place, and America is a better place than it was thirty-three years ago.

I also want to thank the students of S.C. State for being here today. If these three young men were alive today, their sons and daughters would be college students just like you. They were here because their parents believed in the power of education. And you are here because of the sacrifices they made. These sacrifices must never be forgotten, and these opportunities must never be taken for granted.

Thirty-three years ago, a group of students gathered around a bonfire on this campus after being denied their basic right to patronize a local business. And on that cold February night, that bonfire was extinguished, along with the lives of three brave young men.

But that bonfire still glows brightly today. Because we—the living—are now the keepers of that flame.

We must carry the flame with understanding . . . and compassion . . . and education. Opportunity comes from education. Ignorance and prejudice are turned back by education.

The flame of education illuminates the dark corners of our past. The flame of education warms our hearts with reconciliation. And the flame of education can guide us into a future of boundless hope and opportunity.

In America, we still seek the image of democracy itself. And we still must contend with our passions and our prejudices.

But if Alexis de Tocqueville . . . or Samuel Hammond . . . or Henry Smith . . . or Delano Middleton were here today, they would see a city, and a state, and a nation where fear has waned and hope abides. They would witness the progress of our democracy, nod their heads and recognize that there is still much to be done.

And most importantly, they would urge us to continue down the path of reconciliation.

Thank you for granting me the honor of standing here today.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT TO REVISE AND EXTEND SUCH ACT

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative Patsy Mink, to introduce a bill to reauthorize the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act. The purpose of this legislation is to improve the health status of Native Hawaiians through the continuation of comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention. IT is intended to provide health education in Native Hawaiian communities and primary care health care services using traditional Native Hawaiian healers and health care providers trained in Western medicine. In areas where there is an underutilization of existing health care delivery systems that can provide culturally relevant health care services, this bill authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with Native Hawaiian health care systems to provide care referral services to Native Hawaiian patients. This reauthorization is intended to assure the continuity of health care programs for Native Hawaiians under the authority of Public Law 100-579.

As enacted in 1988, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act is premised upon the findings and recommendations of the Native Hawaiian Health Research Consortium report of December 1985 to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The report clearly indicates that the underutilization of existing health care services by Native Hawaiian can be traced to the absence of culturally-relevant services. Additionally, the report reveals a general perception in the Native Hawaiian community that health care services based on concepts of Western medicine will not cure diseases afflicting Native Hawaiian people.

The bill contains extensive findings on the current health status of Native Hawaiians including the incidence and mortality rates associated with various forms of cancer, diabetes, asthma, circulatory diseases, infectious disease and illness, and injuries. It also includes statistics on life expectancy, maternal and child health, births, teen pregnancies, fetal mortality, mental health, and education and training in the health professions.

The Native Hawaiian population living in Hawaii consists of two groups: Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians, which are distinct in both age distributions and mortality rates. Hawaiians comprise less than 5 percent of the total Native Hawaiian population and are much older than the growing part-Hawaiian population.

Overall, the Native Hawaiian death rate is 34 percent higher than the death rate for all races in the United States, but this composite masks great differences that exist between Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians. Hawaiians have a death rate 146 percent higher than the U.S. all-races rate. Part-Hawaiians also have a higher death rate, but only 17 percent greater than the U.S. as a whole. A comparison of age-adjusted death rates for Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians reveals that Hawaiians die at a

rate 110 percent higher than part-Hawaiians, and this pattern is found in all but one of the 13 leading causes of deaths common to both groups.

The health status of Native Hawaiians is far below that of other U.S. population groups. In a number of areas, the evidence is compelling that Native Hawaiians constitute a population group for which the morality rates associated with certain disease exceed that for other U.S. populations in alarming proportions.

Native Hawaiians premise their high morality rates and incidence of disease upon the breakdown of the Hawaiian culture and belief systems, including traditional healing practices. That breakdown resulted from western settlement and the influx of western diseases to which the native people of the Hawaiian Islands lacked immunity. Further, Native Hawaiians perceive the high incidence of mental illness and emotional disorders in the Native Hawaiians population as evidence of the cultural isolation and alienation of the native peoples in a statewide population of which they now constitute only 20 percent. Settlement from both the east and the west brought new diseases which decimated the Native Hawaiian population, and it devalued their customs and traditions to the point of prohibiting their native tongue in schools and other public venues.

The concepts embodied in this bill are the result of extensive work of Native Hawaiian health care professionals and others dedicated to improving the health of Native Hawaiians. Its purpose is to enable Native Hawaiians to achieve the healthful harmony of the self, or *lokahi*, with others and all of nature. For Native Hawaiians to function effectively as citizens and leaders in their own homeland, there must be a restoration of cultural traditions, integration of traditional healing methods in the health care delivery system, and a collective effort to restore to Native Hawaiians a sense of self esteem and self worth. The ultimate goal is to have this Native Hawaiian way of dealing with health eventually become an integral part of the State's health policy for both Native Hawaiian and Non-Hawaiians.

HONORING GENERAL MOTORS  
FLINT TRUCK ASSEMBLY PLANT

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I speak on behalf of a group of men and women who proudly represent the best of working America. On Tuesday, February 13, business and community leaders in my hometown of Flint, MI, will gather to honor the 3,051 auto workers of the Flint Truck Assembly Plant. On that day they will celebrate the Chevy Silverado HD, selected by Motor Trend Magazine as 2001's "Truck of the Year."

The Flint Truck Assembly Plant which is located on Van Slyke Road has been assembling automobiles since 1947. In addition to producing the Silverado 1500, 2500, 3500 HD, the plant also produces GMC Sierra 1500, 2500, and 3500.

General Motors continues to support the plant by investing \$500 million in new equipment, and there are plans to add a new line.

With continued support not only from General Motors but also from the community, the plant will no doubt see many more successes and accolades in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the Chevy Silverado HD was built with quality labor and parts. The employees of the Flint Truck Assembly Plant have worked diligently to improve their facility's productivity and quality. This group is one example of what hard work, determination and a passionate desire to be No. 1 can accomplish. I am grateful for the men and women who day-in and day-out work to provide safe quality vehicles for our Nation and the world. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to join me in recognizing their achievement.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY ROCCIANO

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Ms. DeGETTE Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the notable accomplishments and the extraordinary life of a woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this community leader for her exceptional record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Ms. Judy Rocciano.

Judy Rocciano is a remarkable woman who has touched the lives of many people and made a tremendous impact on our community. Her indomitable spirit has sustained her through many challenges and molded a life of notable accomplishment. Those who know Judy understand her passion for fairness, community service and political activism. She is well known in the Denver area for being outspoken and for her immeasurable contribution to the life of our community.

Judy Rocciano began her life in Findlay, Ohio and in 1971, she came to Colorado on vacation and subsequently moved to Denver three months later. Judy is a paralegal and has been a successful businesswoman. She has distinguished herself in the non-profit sector as the Southwest Director of the Concord Coalition where she worked on revisions to Social Security and Medicare in six states. She also served as a powerful advocate for Choice as Executive Director of Colorado NARAL. It comes as no surprise that she was honored by Colorado NARAL as a "Local Hero."

Judy also found the time to serve in numerous community service capacities as a board member of the Washington Park Community Center, as a founding board member of the Neighborhood Resource Center, and as President of Colorado NARAL, the Aurora League of Women Voters, the West Washington Park Neighborhood Association and the Theatre Associates Group. She has also been very active in the Colorado Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

I have had the great privilege of working with Judy Rocciano in a political organizing capacity. She is well known in Democratic political circles for her leadership and years of service to the Democratic Party and its candidates. When people need some advice or need to get something done, they go to Judy Rocciano. She has managed numerous cam-

paigns including those of State Senator Deanna Hanna, State Senator Doug Linkhart, State Representative Wayne Knox, State Board of Education Member Gully Stanford, and Councilman Dave Doering. She was instrumental in passing the bonding authority to build Denver International Airport and she also managed campaigns for the Science and Cultural Facilities District to bring needed resources to sustain the arts and cultural amenities in Denver. She headed up the Get-Out-The-Vote effort for my first campaign, for the campaign of Councilwoman Cathleen MacKenzie and for the Democratic Coordinated Campaign.

Judy Rocciano's contribution to the life and character of our community is one that is rich in consequence. It is the character and deeds of Judy Rocciano, and all Americans like her, which distinguishes us as a nation and ennobles us as a people.

Please join me in paying tribute to Judy Rocciano. It is the values, leadership and commitment she exhibits on a daily basis that serves to build a better future for all Americans. Her life serves as an example to which we should all aspire.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO  
HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, in 1978 the Department of Veterans Affairs designated the week of February 14 as "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans," calling upon the nation to focus on hospitalized veterans by making personal visits, hosting programs, and sending valentine cards to veterans from an appreciative country. Twelve years ago columnist Ann Landers called up Americans to participate by sending a valentine to hospitalized veterans on February 14. The response has been tremendous as school children, clubs, churches, and individuals sent notes of affection to those who gave the greatest gift of love through their patriotic service.

"National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" was originally known as "No Greater Love Day" in tribute to those who sacrificed to protect the future of the United States and the freedom each of us enjoys today. Those who choose to serve know that "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13.) In recognition of an injury sustained during times of conflict a soldier receives a heart, the Purple Heart, the greatest honor and a symbol of admiration. In tribute we are reminded to send a valentine message from the heart to veterans wounded in action and to all who served.

As we salute our veterans, we must also recognize the medical care provided by VA medical centers, clinics, and nursing home facilities. I applaud the efforts of the hundreds of compassionate men and women who have dedicated themselves professionally to our veterans. Our veterans are receiving the best of care from people who care. This includes volunteers, many of them veterans, who provide countless hours of medical and customer service. Collectively they help provide that personal contact which means so much. As we

extend our heartfelt thanks to our veterans, it is the appropriate time to also acknowledge the dedication of those who provide professional and voluntary care.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting our veterans who served in times of peace and war and those who care for our veterans. Happy Valentines Day, a day that symbolizes true love and appreciation.

THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
JEAN CARPENTER

HON. HILDA SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, Jean Carpenter opened the doors of opportunity for the children of Baldwin Park through her "learning to read" programs. She served as a positive role model to the residents of the 31st Congressional District. She is an example of how one person's perseverance can make tremendous changes to improve our educational system.

Sadly, Jean Carpenter passed away this Monday, February 12, 2001 at the age of 58. She was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987 which later resurfaced in 1996.

An active school board member since 1995, she helped establish reading programs as a way to help children obtain a brighter future. These innovative reading programs that were implemented by the school board significantly improved student test scores in Baldwin Park.

Jean believed that by setting high expectations for each student, this would consequently lead to higher school retention, less drop-out rates, and better preparation to enter the workforce.

She was ahead of her time, advocating reduction in class sizes, initiating a drive to obtain \$4.3 million for computer and technology equipment for local schools, and helping to pass a \$15 million school bond to remodel and improve old school buildings.

She also began the "Mother and Daughter Program" to involve parents in their children's education. Jean believed that parent participation would motivate students to excel academically so that they could attain a college education.

She was bestowed with many awards, including: the 1998 57th Assembly District Woman of the Year and the 1999 Baldwin Park Citizen of the Year. In the year 2000, she was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

Jean was honored with these awards due to her leadership and commitment to improving the educational system in Baldwin Park. To her friends and family, she was a fighter. Even during her struggle with cancer, she continued to serve on the school board and participated in many community activities.

Jean Carpenter obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Thomas Aquinas College and a Masters in Education from City College of New York. Carpenter is survived by her husband Leroy, her son Michael, and two grandchildren.

We must continue to share the legacy that Jean Carpenter left for us to admire and to replicate in order to improve the educational system nationwide.

IDENTITY THEFT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend the attached article "Know Your Customer" by Christopher Whalen, which recently appeared in Barron's, to my colleagues. This article examines the horrors faced by victims of America's fastest-growing crime: identity theft. As the article points out, millions of Americans have suffered deep financial losses and the destruction of their credit history because of identity theft. Victims of identity theft often discover that the process of reestablishing one's good reputation resembles something out of a Kafka novel. Identity fraud also affects numerous businesses which provide credit to unscrupulous individuals based on a stolen credit history. Just last year, American businesses and consumers lost 25 billion dollars to identity thieves!

Mr. Whalen properly identifies the Social Security number and its use as a universal identifier as the root cause of identity theft. Unfortunately, thanks to Congress, today no American can get a job, open a bank account, or even go fishing without showing their Social Security number. Following the lead of the federal government, many private industries now use the Social Security number as an identifier. After all, if a bank needs to see their customers' Social Security number to comply with IRS regulations, why shouldn't the bank use the Social Security number as a general customer identifier?

In order to end this government-facilitated identity theft, I have introduced the Identity Theft Prevention Act (H.R. 220). This act requires the Social Security Administration to issue new, randomly-generated Social Security numbers to all citizens within five years of enactment. The Social Security Administration would be legally forbidden to give out the new number for any purpose not related to Social Security administration. Numbers issued prior to implementation of this legislation would have no legal value as an identifier—although the Social Security Administration could continue to use the old numbers to cross reference an individual's records to ensure smooth administration of the Social Security system.

This act also forbids the federal government from creating national ID cards or establishing any identifiers for the purpose of investigating, monitoring, overseeing, or regulating private transactions between American citizens, as well as repealing those sections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 that require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a uniform standard health identifier. By putting an end to government-mandated uniform IDs, the Identity Theft Prevention Act will prevent millions of Americans from having their liberty, property and privacy violated by private-and-public sector criminals.

I urge my colleagues to read the attached article and act to repeal government policies which facilitate identity theft by cosponsoring the Identity Theft Prevention Act.

[From Barrons, January 15, 2001]

KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER

LENDERS INCREASINGLY ARE PAYING FOR  
IGNORING THAT MAXIM

(By Christopher Whalen)

High-yield paper is out of favor with Wall Street as an economic slowdown raises concerns about credit quality. One in five issuers have paper trading at distressed levels. Consumer lenders are under particular pressure due to worries about a looming recession. But investors in companies that make consumer loans should worry about more than a slowing economy.

Consumer lenders write off an average of 6% of loans each year. That's a bad enough record, but investors ought to realize that the industry's own sloppy screening practices contribute significantly to the losses.

Identity theft is the fastest-growing crime in America and costs companies \$25 billion last year. Much of the cause lies with one factor completely avoidable by lenders; the use of Social Security numbers as identifiers.

One of my in-laws—I will call her Jean to protect what remains of her privacy—was the victim of identity theft in 1999. Jean is a teacher who lives in Westchester County, New York, and drives a Volvo. She and her husband have perfect credit. About a year ago, Jean called in a panic, saying that her bank had frozen the family checking account because someone had a judgment against her. Being the banker in the family, I agreed to act for Jean. What I discovered during more than a year of investigation was a personal outrage and an investor's nightmare.

Every investor who buys securities back by consumer loans or the equity of companies that are significantly involved in the consumer-loan business should think twice before investing in such paper.

One of the world's biggest nonbank financial firms—we'll call it Megacorp—provided credit to a criminal who used Jean's Social

After the perpetrator defaulted on the loan payments, Megacorp obtained a judgment against the alias. Using the Social Security number, Megacorp's agents found Jean's family checking account at a big New York commercial bank. Even though the name and address were clearly wrong, Jean's bank enforced a garnishment order from Megacorp and froze \$5,000 in the account.

I contacted the police and Secret Service, who were familiar with the Bronx address used to commit the fraud against Megacorp. I then called and wrote to the lawyer for Megacorp, a lowbrow law firm and collection agency that handles hundreds of such claims per month. I explained that Jean was the victim of identity theft and that Megacorp wrongly garnished her bank account.

Lawyers for Megacorp refused to back off and responded with a torrent of verbal abuse, accusing Jean of committing other misdemeanors. The law firm used a similar tone in telephone calls to Jean's mother. We responded by filing with the court a strongly worded show cause motion, as well as a motion seeking sanctions. Megacorp's attorneys subsequently began to back-pedal and eventually withdrew the garnishment. The cost of this exercise was roughly \$1,500 in legal fees, plus the time to draft documents and letters, and two visits to the Bronx Civil Court, a venue too near Yankee Stadium for comfort.

I contacted Megacorp and the three major credit reporting agencies, Experian, TransUnion and Equifax. I asked how a criminal using a dubious Bronx mailing address and a false, oddly spelled name could

obtain credit using the Social Security number and non-existent credit history of a middle-class woman who lives in Westchester. On examining Jean's credit reports, I discovered that it was Megacorp, after extending credit to the Bronx delinquent, that reported the false name and new address to Experian linked to Jean's Social Security number. The alias and new address were automatically added to Jean's credit history without any verification whatsoever.

By making the false report to Experian, Megacorp apparently created a window of opportunity, enabling the Bronx lawbreaker to open accounts with Home Depot, Exxon, and AT&T Wireless, eventually involving over \$10,000 in bad debt. I contacted these vendors to correct their misimpression that Jean was their customer.

Significantly, neither Megacorp nor Experian nor any of the other credit reporting agencies attempted to contact Jean to verify the significant change in name and address reported by Megacorp.

I confronted representatives of Experian and the other credit agencies about the false information placed in Jean's credit report, yet they disclaimed any responsibility for the validity of the information. Representatives of Experian say they aren't responsible for the accuracy of the data provided by financial institutions and that they don't even review the information. "The banks do that," they asserted.

Experian's representatives were courteous, however, and amended the reports after we provided copies of the relevant court documents.

Megacorp continued to send Jean demand letters from various collection agencies for months after my first telephone and written responses. I kept on asking: How could anyone of even minimal competence look at the credit reports from Experian and other agencies and approve credit to the fictions Bronx resident?

Answer: The credit report tied to Jean's Social Security number wasn't reviewed. One Megacorp representative told me unofficially that the Social Security number was simply checked for defaults, judgments, etc., and when it came up clean—the number, not the name and not the application—the credit was approved.

The Secret Service agent in White Plains, New York, who took the report on Jean's experience confirmed that he sees dozens of such cases every month in which Social Security numbers are used to commit fraud. The perpetrators are rarely caught.

Lenders and the providers of credit information have created a system that is inadequate to its purpose if a valid Social Security number and a couple of other pieces of information are sufficient to defeat most credit controls. Lenders may complain that it would be too costly to manually screen applicants and verify identities, but how much more costly would it be if they had to bear the costs they now push off onto Jean and other victims of fraud?

Financial author Martin Mayer rightly says that there are no economies of scale in banking, but the loan approval operation of too many consumer lenders suggests there are dis-economies of scale. It seems that the

bigger a bank gets, the sloppier it gets. To maximize revenue growth and control costs, consumer lenders use statistical screening tools and computer models to make credit decisions. In other words, they use the law of large numbers and simply roll the dice. If a criminal finds a Social Security number with a clean history, he's off to the races.

Eliminating the use of Social Security numbers as identifiers by law seems like a logical solution. Texas Rep. Ron Paul has introduced legislation to prohibit the commercial use of Social Security numbers as identifiers, but Congress needs to more thoroughly examine the issue.

Even if Social Security did not exist, the financial system would invent another system of universal identification. Congress should place the blame where it belongs, on the lenders and credit bureaus. It should require credit bureaus to obtain written affirmation from consumers prior to accepting a change in the name, address or other details on a credit history. Lenders should be held liable for reporting false information to credit bureaus, especially in cases where false reports lead to acts of financial fraud.

Additionally, Congress needs to afford consumers greater protection from asset seizures based solely on Social Security numbers.

We are, after all, innocent until proven guilty. A bank or Megacorp that treats us otherwise has committed a gross injustice. And it—not we—should pay.