

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LABOR LEADER CESAR CHAVEZ WITH A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the lasting contributions of a true American hero, Cesar Chavez. On April 23, 1992, Cesar Estrada Chavez ended his 66-year crusade against injustice in much the same way he began it—quietly and peacefully. More than 40,000 people participated in his funeral, honoring a hero who brought dignity to the voiceless men, women, and children laboring in America's crop lands. Now, on the March 31st anniversary of his birth, Congress is slated to consider H. Con. Res. 3, the first step in establishing a permanent federal holiday to honor Cesar Chavez.

President Clinton posthumously awarded Cesar Chavez the Medal of Freedom in recognition of his outstanding contributions to American labor. Chavez was also inducted into the U.S. Labor Department's Hall of Fame, the first Hispanic to be given this honor. This weekend, I will proudly take to the streets of San Antonio, Texas, with thousands of South Texans to honor Cesar Chavez and La Causa during San Antonio's annual March for Justice.

Though awards and commemoration are important, Cesar Chavez did not seek out recognition for himself. Instead, he fought for what he called La Causa. For the millions of exploited and vulnerable farmworkers who, from dawn till dusk, plant, plow, and pick, La Causa was a tireless commitment to improving their plight, a recognition of the injustices they suffer.

His commitment transcended the hot, dusty fields. He was a husband, father, grandfather, labor organizer, community leader, and an icon for the ongoing struggle for equal rights and equal opportunity. Beyond agrarian America, he organized community voter registration drives, pushed for safer working conditions, and stood up to those who would deny his fellow laborers their basic human rights. The migrant schools he worked so hard to establish are a testament to his exhaustive efforts and a rare opportunity for many of America's laboring children to escape poverty.

Chavez rose from a fruit and vegetable picker to the head of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW). From the beginning, he worked to instill in the UFW the principals of non-violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When the UFW began striking in the 1960s to protest the treatment of farm workers, the strikers took a pledge of non-violence. The 25 day fast Chavez conducted reaffirmed the UFW's commitment to this principle.

For those of us who lived through this tumultuous era, we heard of the great odds Chavez faced as he led successful boycotts of

grapes, wine, and lettuce in an attempt to pressure California growers to sign contracts with the UFW. Through his boycott, Chavez was able to forge a national support coalition of unions, church groups, students, minorities, and consumers. By the end of the boycott everyone knew the chant that unified all groups, "Si se puede."—yes we can. It remains a chant of encouragement, pride and dignity.

America has seen few leaders like Chavez. But his battle is not over. Those of us who continue his fight do so in order to give voices to the voiceless laborers no matter where they work or who they are. To honor his memory, Congress should pass H. Con. Res. 3, another step in the ongoing struggle to make his birthday a national day of remembrance.

In his own words, "I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of humanity, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally non-violent struggle for justice . . . to be human is to suffer for others . . . God help us be human." Let us take these words and move forward in our continuous struggle for justice.

IN TRIBUTE TO MIKE ROTKIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant of the highest order, a man who has given over two decades of his life to the community. Mr. Speaker, Mike Rotkin of Santa Cruz, California, has recently celebrated the milestone of twenty-one years of public service, a most commendable celebration.

After living in Santa Cruz since 1969, when he came as a graduate student to the University of California, Mr. Rotkin decided to put his activism into action. He began his civic life in 1977, when he was first elected to the Santa Cruz City Council. Since that time, he has served on various city commissions, including his time as Chairperson for the Metropolitan Transit Commission. Mike was elected Mayor of Santa Cruz in 1981, and has served two other terms as Mayor since then.

Mr. Rotkin's service extends beyond the role of politician. An active voice in the community, he regularly addresses city and national issues in letters to our local newspapers, and by enmeshing himself in a myriad of causes. His commitment to the community is demonstrated by his position as a Lecturer at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he teaches and advises students on taking an active role in both the local and international realms. Indeed, many of his students have interned in my offices.

In a time when a lifelong career in public service is looked down upon, and activism and interest in government is declining, it is refreshing to see individuals like Mike Rotkin. I applaud his efforts over the past twenty-one

years to work with and for the people of Santa Cruz, and I join his colleagues in thanking him for his tireless efforts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPRECIATION CLARIFICATION ACT"

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representative NEAL and Ms. JOHNSON, Ms. DUNN, and Mr. JOHNSON of the Committee on Ways and Means in introducing the "Cellular Telecommunications Depreciation Clarification Act." This legislation will amend the Internal Revenue Code to clarify that cellular telecommunications equipment is "qualified technological equipment" as defined in section 168(i)(2).

When an asset used in a trade or business or for the production of income has a useful life that extends beyond the taxable year, the costs of acquiring or producing the asset generally must be capitalized and recovered through depreciation or amortization deductions over the expected useful life of the property. The cost of most tangible depreciable property placed in service after 1986 is recovered on an accelerated basis using the modified accelerated cost recovery system, or MACRS. Under MACRS, assets are grouped into classes of personal property and real property, and each class is assigned a recovery period and depreciation method.

For MACRS property, the class lives and recovery periods for various assets are prescribed by a table published by the Internal Revenue Service found in Rev. Proc. 87-56, 1987-2 C.B. 674. This table lists various Asset Classes, along with their respective class lives and recovery periods. Rev. Proc. 87-56 does not specifically address the treatment of cellular assets, but rather addresses assets used in traditional wireline telephone communications.

These wireline class lives were created in 1977 and have remained basically unchanged since that time. In 1986, Congress added a category for computer-based telephone switching equipment, but there are no asset classes specifically for cellular communications equipment in Rev. Proc. 87-56. This is largely due to the fact that the commercial cellular industry was in its infancy in 1986 and 1987. Since the cellular industry was not specifically addressed in Rev. Proc. 87-56, the cellular industry has no clear, definitive guidance regarding the class lives and recovery periods of cellular assets. Therefore, the Internal Revenue Service and cellular companies have been left to resolve depreciation treatment on an ad hoc basis for these assets as the industry has rapidly progressed.

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

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

The result is that both cellular telecommunications companies and the Internal Revenue Service are expending significant resources in auditing and settling disputes involving the depreciation of cellular telecommunications equipment. This process is obviously costly and inefficient for taxpayers and the Service, but it also leaves affected companies with a great deal of uncertainty as to the tax treatment, and therefore expected after-tax return, they can expect on their telecommunications investments. A standardized depreciation system for cellular telecommunications equipment would eliminate the excessive costs incurred by both industry and government through the audit and appeals process, and would eliminate an unnecessary degree of uncertainty that is slowing the expansion of our national telecommunications systems.

The Treasury Department's "Report to the Congress on Depreciation Recovery Periods and Methods" tacitly acknowledges this point. In its discussion about how to treat assets used in newly-emerging industries, such as the cellular telecommunications industry, the report states:

[t]he IRS normally will attempt to identify those characteristics of the new activity that most nearly match the characteristics of existing asset classes. However, this practice may eventually become questionable in a system where asset classes are seldom, if ever, reviewed and revised. The cellular phone industry, which did not exist when the current asset classes were defined, is a case in point. This industry's assets differ in many respects from those used by wired telephone service, and may not fit well into the existing definitions for telephony-related classes.

Rather than force cellular telecommunications equipment into wireline telephony "transmission" or "distribution" classes, a better solution would clarify that cellular telecommunications equipment is "qualified technological equipment." The Internal Revenue Code currently defines qualified technological equipment as any computer or peripheral equipment and any high technology telephone station equipment installed on a customer's premises.

The cellular telecommunications industry has been one of the fastest growing industries in the United States since the mid-1980s, as evidenced by the following statistics:

The domestic subscriber population has grown from less than 350,000 in 1985 to 86 million by 1999, and is projected to grow to 175 million by 2007.

The industry directly provided 4,334 jobs in 1986, which grew to over 155,000 directly provided jobs and one million indirectly created jobs by 1999.

Capital expenditures on cellular assets exceeded \$15 billion in 1999.

The rapid technological progress exhibited by the cellular telecommunications industry illustrates how the tax code needs to be flexible to adapt to future technologies and technological changes. Continued rapid advancement is on the horizon, including wireless fax, high-speed data, video capability, and a multitude of wireless Internet services. It is impossible in 2001 to anticipate properly the new equipment that will support this growth even two years hence. I urge my colleagues to support this important clarification to the tax law.

IN HONOR OF MS. JAZMYN SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young Mississippi student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community, Jazmyn Smith of Greenville, Mississippi 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. Smith is being recognized for the creation of a youth service club that gives teens a safe and healthy social outlet while providing valuable volunteer service to the 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 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 neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Smith 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. Smith should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Smith for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he 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.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in saluting a great young role model, Ms. Jazmyn Smith.

RETIRING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
JULIO F. MERCADO

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have often said that one man can make a difference. And I will always hold on to that belief, because it goes to the very core of what America is all about. We are a free nation, fashioned out of the heroic efforts of men and women who never considered that failure was an option. Each one made a difference.

The recent retirement of Julio F. Mercado, the Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, brings to a close a distinguished 28-year career in Law Enforcement. Julio Mercado served his country and he made a difference during the nearly three decades that he wore a badge and carried a gun. Special Agent Mercado is one of those American patriots who has always made a difference. Born in Puerto Rico and growing up in the South Bronx of New York City he knew why law enforcement must be a community-based effort, better than anyone else. The enforcement of the rule of law and community participation has been the hallmark of his career.

His concept of service to his country always transcended his own personal plans and desires; as you could ask his wife, Elizabeth, and his four children. His duty came first initially as a United States Marine, then as a dedicated lawman, and lastly, as a concerned and active citizen of this great nation. The men that served with him in the United States Marine Corps would have followed him anywhere . . . because he is a leader. The Policemen he served with in the 47th Precinct in the New York Police Department considered him a "cop's cop". His fellow D.E.A. agents knew that when Julio Mercado was on a case, everything would turn out alright and everyone would go home in one piece. There is no greater praise for a D.E.A. agent working the streets.

His technical and tactical competence set the standard for the men and women who followed him. His undercover work, in the most dangerous of situations, is the stuff that legends are made of. He rose to the very top of his profession in the D.E.A. by working harder than anyone else while always extending that helping hand to others at each and every opportunity. He risked his life in the line of duty on many occasions. He is alive today because he always made the right choices not the easy ones. Julio Mercado is recognized in the International Law Enforcement Community as a concerned leader, a trusted and respected colleague, and a man that can be counted on, no matter what.

Julio Mercado has been recognized for his service by law enforcement organizations throughout the globe. Perhaps the Colombian Antinarcotics Agents said it best when last January, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross of the Colombian National Police, the highest award presented to an American. The citation described him as a law enforcement official of great courage, dedication and wisdom. These words came from a police

force that has suffered over 5,000 policemen killed in the past decade, fighting the war on drugs. They more than anyone else, captured the essence of what Julio F. Mercado has meant to international law enforcement. His name is spoken with great respect and warmth wherever honest cops gather. He is truly a "cop's cop."

I am proud to stand in the halls of the United States Congress to recognize Julio F. Mercado for his superb service to this great nation. He is a role model for young Americans. He grew up in the D.E.A. and the D.E.A. grew with him. The success of this great law enforcement agency is the culmination of the efforts of men and women like Julio Mercado. His story is an outstanding example of how one man, who came from humble beginnings, can serve his country and his fellow man and can truly make a difference. Our country owes him and his family, a great debt of gratitude.

**JULIO F. MERCADO, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR,
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Julio F. Mercado began his law enforcement career with the New York Police Department, assigned to the 47th Precinct, in 1973. During that period, he worked with DEA as part of the Task Force. Mr. Mercado's employment with DEA commenced in 1979, with his assignment to the New York Field Division. During his tenure, he conducted nearly 700 undercover buys and had a 100% conviction rate. Mr. Mercado, who is fluent in the Spanish language, remained in New York until his assignment to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1984. He was promoted to Group Supervisor in 1987 and was transferred to the McAllen District Office, McAllen, Texas. In 1990, Mr. Mercado received his first Headquarters assignment and served as Staff Coordinator of the Heroin Investigations Section until 1992. Next, he was assigned to the Special Operations Division, where he served as the Deputy Chief. In 1995, Mr. Mercado was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Caribbean Division, San Juan, Puerto Rico. During this assignment he became involved in many high-profile cases, as well as community drug education and prevention programs in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Mercado was selected as Special Agent in charge, Dallas Field Division, Dallas, Texas, on February 21, 1997, and reported on May 25, 1997. On November 2, 1999, Mr. Mercado was named Acting Deputy Administrator of the DEA and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Deputy Administrator on June 29, 2000. He was sworn in on September 12, 2000.

Mr. Mercado is a member of the Greater Dallas Crime Commission; the Texas Police Chiefs Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Texas Narcotics Officers Association. He attended John Jay College in New York, with a major in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Mercado and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children and four grandchildren.

**HONORING MR. JOHN YOUNGER OF
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Younger of Nashville, Ten-

nessee, on the occasion of his retirement. John Younger's thirty-year career in education has fittingly culminated in his most recent position as headmaster at Franklin Road Academy (FRA). Younger has risen to the top of his profession both in the public and private school systems.

John Younger is well respected by his peers and former students as a master educator. In fact, Mr. Younger taught me as a student at Hillsboro High School. We've been privileged to work together over the years in many capacities. I consider him a good friend and mentor.

Younger earned a B.S. degree from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and a Master's of Mathematics and Educational Administration from George Peabody College. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Tennessee Teachers Credit Union and also chairs the Personnel Committee at Christ Episcopal Church.

Mr. Younger is a familiar face to students in Nashville. Beginning at the teaching level, he spent a number of years as an educator in the Davidson County Metropolitan School System teaching mathematics at both Hillsboro and Issac Litton High Schools, as well as coaching football, basketball and track.

His move to the administrative level came in 1965, when he was named assistant principal for Highland Heights Junior High School. In 1967 he became principal at Bellevue High School overseeing more than 750 seventh through twelfth grade students.

Due to his outstanding performances, Younger was recruited for the "central office" at Metro Schools, where he initially served as Supervisor of Mathematics. In this position, he developed the math curriculum, selected textbooks, assigned teachers, and coordinated staff development for the entire Metro School System.

Continuing with Metro Schools, Younger was named Director of Employer Relations, where he negotiated for all employees in the school system, developed personnel policies, and resolved grievances. In 1978, Younger became the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services where he was responsible for all business and financial activities of Metro Schools. Again climbing in Metro Schools, he was named Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, accountable for school programs involving 67,000 students before retiring from the public school system.

However, Younger returned to education when approached by the Board of Trustees at FRA in 1994 to become the Director of Business and Finance. Soon after making the transition to Franklin Road Academy (FRA) he was asked to spearhead an effort to construct a new middle school and fine arts center. His time at FRA has proven extremely fruitful and produced much growth.

Further, he has been active in civic and community organizations, serving on the boards of the PENCIL Foundation, the American Heart Association, the East Nashville YMCA, and the Old Hickory Country Club. Additionally, he is past president of the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials.

John Younger has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the educational field numerous times by his peers. These awards include: Tennessee's Outstanding Achievement Award from Governor Ned Ray

McWherter in 1992; Educational Administrator of the Year for Metropolitan Nashville Schools; Distinguished Service Award and Life Membership Award from the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials; and Distinguished Member Award from the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials.

Younger's wife Jessica is a teacher with experience in both public and private schools throughout Middle Tennessee. They have one daughter, Mary Clare, of Knoxville.

Although John Younger is a man of stature in the community, he is never too busy to stop and listen to students or serve those around him. His life is a true success story—one of joy, humility, faith, friendship, and truth. I wish him the best in his retirement and all of his future endeavors.

**BLUE COLLAR GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES DESERVE BETTER**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 225,000 blue-collar employees who work for the federal government. These trade, craft, and labor employees are essential to our federal government's daily operation, yet we are not treating them with respect and dignity by paying them fairly under the Federal Wage System. Today I am introducing legislation, the Federal Wage Worker Pay Fairness Act of 2001, which addresses the fundamental problems with our federal wage system.

Blue-collar federal employees, a majority of whom work for the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), are key to the security and defense of our nation. They perform a range of duties critical to the success of military missions and the safety of our soldiers. They maintain our tanks and fighter planes, they repair ships and they handle munitions. It is by their sweat and hard work that we show our commitment to and support of our armed forces.

Wage grade employees in the VA are the men and women who work to fulfill America's promise to our veterans. Many of these workers are veterans themselves. They are the food service employees who prepare and deliver the nourishment veterans need to heal and recover from illness. They are the housekeepers who do the dirty and often hazardous work of maintaining a safe and clean hospital. They are the carpenters, mechanics, and electricians who keep the VA hospitals operating 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week.

The pay for wage grade employees is supposed to be set according to local prevailing rates—rates which compare to the same types of jobs performed by their non-federal counterparts. But for too long, federal employees have not been compensated at prevailing rates. They are not making a living wage. Many of the wage grade workers at the lower grades cannot afford the premiums on their federal health insurance plans. Some are even eligible for food stamps and hover just above the poverty level.

The Federal Wage System for these dedicated and hardworking employees is a failure. It is time to do the right thing for these workers.

The American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, the largest federal employee union, has been vigilant in urging Congress to provide the needed redress to the injustices in the Federal Wage System. My legislation, the Federal Wage Worker Pay Fairness Act of 2001, does so and is supported by AFGE.

First, the bill would guarantee wage grade workers an annual pay raise.

Unlike their white-collar co-workers, wage grade employees are not guaranteed any annual pay raise. The nationwide General Schedule (GS) and locality pay raise we in Congress approve every year are not given to federal employees in blue-collar occupations.

It is unfair for the federal government to single out one segment of its workforce for impoverishment. A basic across the board pay adjustment each year is necessary to offset increases in their federal health care premiums as well as general increases in the cost of living. No employee of the U.S. government should see steady decreases in purchasing power from persistent wage stagnation.

Wage grade workers have seen their paychecks purchase less and less. For example, from 1984 to 1999, the pay of a General Schedule-11, step 4, employee at Warner Robins Air Force Base, in Georgia, kept pace with inflation. The pay of a Wage Grade-10, step 2, employee fell by about half. In other words, the wage grade employee's wage increases only made up for half of the increase in prices measured by the Consumer Price Index. And this loss of purchasing power doesn't even reflect the skyrocketing costs of federal health care premiums, which rose by 30 percent in the past few years.

Providing all federal blue collar workers with a minimum annual wage adjustment equal to General Schedule increases is budget neutral because of the federal government's budget assumes that wage grade workers would be awarded the GS pay raise.

Second, the legislation would lift the caps on blue-collar pay increases.

On top of not being guaranteed an annual GS pay raise, any raise blue collar workers can receive is capped at the average nationwide GS pay raise. This is unfair and wrong. If federal agencies are to remain competitive we must stop imposing an artificial and arbitrary cap on blue-collar pay raises.

Third, my legislation would end the discriminatory practice of paying Department of Defense wage grade employees less than their counterparts in VA by restoring Monroney requirements to DoD.

The "Monroney amendment" to the Federal Wage Schedule requires the government to look outside the relevant wage survey area if there is an insufficient number of analogous private sector jobs to calculate blue-collar pay. This requirement is logically necessary to ensure that the prevailing wages are based on comparable work.

In 1985, the law was amended to exclude DoD from the Monroney amendment's requirement. As a result, in San Antonio, a Wage Grade-11, step 5 blue-collar worker in the VA or other federal departments earn \$18.26 an hour but his or her counterpart in DoD earns \$.69 less an hour, or \$17.57. On overtime, that 69 cent differential becomes \$1.04 an hour in lost pay. While 69 cents an hour or \$1.04 an hour more may not seem much, it adds up for individual employees who are trying to support their families.

Fourth, the legislation would simplify the data collection and administration of the Federal Wage Schedule.

The bill would consolidate the areas surveyed for wage rates from the current 133 localities in the Federal Wage Schedule to the 32 localities drawn by the federal salary council used to set the pay for virtually every other federal employee under the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act (FEPCA). These 32 regions are a more modern and accurate reflection of contemporary labor markets and commuting patterns. Simplifying the areas of data collection used to calculate wage schedules from 32 localities rather than 133 would yield considerable savings.

The legislation would also transfer responsibility for data collection from the lead agency, the Department of Defense, to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This federal agency collects data used for other federal pay systems, most notably the GS white collar system. It already conducts data collection in the relevant localities, matching federal and non-federal jobs. While this change would impose new costs on the BLS, the consolidation of localities means that the cost of data collection to the government will go down overall.

Mr. Speaker, the single most important measure of a pay-setting system—for either white or blue-collar workers—is whether it allows workers to earn sufficient income to support a family in a decent fashion. Does it produce at least a stable standard of living? Does it hold out the hope that in good economic times, improvements in the standard of living are possible? Our current system does not.

The Federal Wage Worker Pay Fairness Act of 2001 would correct the fundamental errors in the current pay-setting system for federal blue-collar workers to ensure that they have a chance at a decent and stable standard of living. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation on behalf of our nation's federal workforce.

IN TRIBUTE TO JADE MANSFIELD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jade Allison Mansfield, a woman who lived a rich and service-filled life before suddenly passing away at the age of forty-one. Uniformly described as a pillar of the community, Jade's drowning on February 19 is a very unfortunate loss to south Monterey County. Jade personified the best in civic spirit and was well-known throughout south Monterey County for the many diverse causes she undertook in order to better her community.

Jade, a lifelong resident of Monterey County, was born in Salinas on December 9, 1959. She served for four years in the United States Air Force as a crew chief and aircraft mechanic for the F4 fighting jet. While managing a successful bakery in Palo Alto, Jade earned a degree in Political Science from California State University San Francisco and a Doctor of Jurisprudence Law from Monterey College of Law.

Upon completion of her law degree, Jade embarked on an impressive career of commu-

nity service, volunteering her services to low-income senior citizens at a local non-profit legal services office. She eventually became Legal Service's for Seniors' full time attorney, assisting dozens of clients a year in her work to protect seniors against elder abuse and financial scams.

In addition to her work on behalf of the elderly, Jade ran a law practice assisting low-income clients in south Monterey County, providing much-needed legal assistance to those least able to obtain it. Prior to earning her law degree, she worked in the Monterey County government, helping those who needed aid.

Her generosity of spirit and her commitment to her community are further demonstrated by the active role she undertook in her neighborhood, and the answering support she showed towards her grandmother. Jade worked hard in her role as President of her rural homeowners association, and was tireless in ensuring that her neighbors had clean water and in providing other small services. She happily took on the responsibility of managing her grandmother's affairs when her grandmother was no longer able to care for herself; in this service she donated many hours each week to visiting and caring for her grandmother.

Jade deeply touched the lives of those around her; her intelligence, wit, and absolute joy in life were truly remarkable. Her commitment to assisting others was manifest in all aspects of her life. Jade's passing is a terrible loss throughout Monterey County, but especially to her friends and family, the legal community, the elderly, and the countless others who knew or were assisted by her. Her energy, tenacity, and kindness will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT"

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the International Competitiveness Act, along with my colleagues Congresswoman JENNIFER DUNN, Congressman ADAM SMITH, and Congressman RICHARD HASTINGS. This legislation would eliminate an irrational provision in our tax code that reduces the amount of foreign capital flowing into the United States, and redirects some of the capital that flows in away from U.S.-based mutual funds toward foreign-based mutual funds.

Under present law, most kinds of interest income and short-term capital gains received directly by a foreign investor or received through a foreign mutual fund are not subject to the 30 percent withholding tax on investment income. However, interest income and short-term capital gains earned by a U.S. mutual fund on its holdings are recharacterized as dividend income when distributed to a foreign investor and is therefore subject to the withholding tax.

Mutual funds are very popular tools for investors. Many foreign investors, like U.S. investors, prefer to rely on professional managers of mutual funds in choosing an appropriate portfolio, rather than having to do the research themselves. However, a foreign investor looking to invest in the U.S. currently

has two options. The first option is to pay a steep withholding tax on all income and short-term capital gains earnings from a U.S. mutual fund, or invest through a foreign mutual fund. Few foreign investors are willing to bear a 30 percent withholding tax, and so they either invest through the foreign mutual fund or forego investing in the United States. Either way, the real loser is the United States.

As Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on International Trade, I also look at this issue from a trade policy perspective lens. And this lens shows me that we have in this tax provision an artificial barrier to the free flow of trade in the form of financial services and to the free flow of capital. In this respect the current income tax clearly gives foreign mutual funds as competitive advantage with no compensatory advantage gained by any American interest whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation makes good sense as tax policy, trade policy, and economic policy, and I urge my colleagues to lend it their support.

IN HONOR OF MS. QUEENEICE GANISON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young Mississippi student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Queeneice Ganison of Greenville, Mississippi 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. Ganison is being recognized for coordinating a project to combat underage drinking, which included developing and presenting workshops and slide shows to area middle school and high school students.

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 neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Ganison 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 young recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 100,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Ganison should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large

group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Ganison 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.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in saluting a great young role model, Ms. Queeneice Ganison.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION SEEKING TO RESTORE THE UNITED STATES ASSAY COMMISSION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce my introduction of a House Resolution designed to re-authorize the creation of the United States Assay Commission, an American institution that was initiated in 1792. The Assay Commission was authorized by the original Mint Act of April 2, 1792 and continued to meet each year (with the exception of 1815) until about 20 years ago, when it was finally abolished in 1980. During that time, it was the oldest continually operating committee in the federal government and brought in outside people to maintain oversight over the operations of the U.S. Mint.

Originally authorized as part of the nation's first Mint Act of April 2, 1792, the purpose of the Assay Commission was to examine the nation's coins on an annual basis and certify to the President, Congress, and the American people that gold and silver coins had the necessary purity, the proper weight, and necessarily, value.

Among the earliest members, statutorily, were Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Alexander Hamilton, and even the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Starting about 140 years ago, some members of the general public were invited to participate, and at the time that the Coinage Act of 1873 was passed, it was codified that the President had the right to appoint members of the Assay Commission from the general public at large. That practice continued for more than a century, though after 1970 there were no longer silver coins to review.

By the time that the Assay Commission was abolished in the Carter Administration as part of the President's re-organization project, it no longer served any valid function because the U.S. Mint was no longer producing gold or silver coinage—whether of a circulating or of a commemorative nature.

Starting in 1982, the Mint began anew producing contemporary commemorative coinage from .900 fine silver. By 1984, gold commemorative coins for the Olympic games were added, and since then the U.S. Mint has produced hundreds of millions of dollars worth of retail sales of gold, and silver commemorative coinage. Since 1986, the Mint began pro-

ducing gold, silver and platinum bullion coins which are now widely traded all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that in the mid-1980's, lacking outside oversight, a problem was discovered in one of the Mint's bullion products. It appears, from the official Mint records, that some fractional gold eagle coins (those weighing less than an ounce) did not have the proper fineness or weight in gold. Because of this, there was a serious marketing problem in the Far East, as confidence in this uniquely American product diminished.

Today, the United States Mint is a business that, were it in privately controlled hands, would constitute a Fortune-500 corporation.

It has come to my attention that an informal, ad hoc group of former Presidential appointees, all former Assay Commissioners, have suggested that it is time for the Mint to have the oversight of the Annual Assay commission. In fact, this distinguished group reiterated their concern this past summer at a reunion meeting held in the Assay Room of the Philadelphia Mint in conjunction with the American Numismatic Association's anniversary convention.

Service on the commission is essentially an honorary task, as the members of the committee have historically paid for all of their own expenses, including their transportation costs and overnight stay at Philadelphia's Mint when necessary.

There are obviously minor costs associated with it, but each of these is quite capable of being covered by the Mint's rotating Enterprise fund.

Mr. Speaker, an article advocating the restoration of the annual Assay Commission written by Fair Lawn, New Jersey Mayor, David L. Ganz, appeared in Numismatic News, a weekly coin hobby periodical. I would ask that this article be reprinted, in full, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In the course of two centuries of existence, more than a thousand individuals served on the annual Assay Commission. During the era when the Mint was active in promoting commemorative coinage, they constituted a group who not only participated in their government first hand, but also thereafter served as goodwill ambassadors for the products of the United States Mint.

The Mint has dozens of products that it offers to collectors, and since the 50 state quarter program began, the ranks of those collecting coins has grown from three to five million Americans to more than 125 million people collecting state quarters. Some of those state quarters are made of coin silver, and having citizens retain some oversight over these coins not only keeps consumer confidence in the Mint's operations high, but affords the rare opportunity for citizens to regularly, and actively, participate in their government.

I urge my colleagues to help me re-authorize the Assay Commission by cosponsoring the legislation that I have introduced today.

[From the Numismatic News, Oct. 5, 1999]

TIME TO CONSIDER REVIVING THE ASSAY COMMISSION

(By David L. Ganz)

Let me set the stage. A quarter century ago this past February, Richard Nixon was in the final throes of his star-crossed Presidency, though no one yet suspected that Watergate was about to become his ultimate

downfall and lead to probable impeachment. American coinage of 1974 was devoid of silver, and private gold ownership had been illegal since 1933, except for rare and unusual gold coin of that era or earlier, unless the Office of Domestic Gold & Silver Operations gave a rarely sought, seldom-granted license to acquire the particular specimen. As Washington hunkered down for a difficult winter storm, the White House press office was readying a press release that would surprise many for the number of Democrats and other non-supporters of President Nixon that were to be listed—not the so-called Enemy's List, but actually a designation to public service.

The weeks before had been trying for the applicants, many of whom had written letters, sent resumes, asked political contacts for a personal boost, responded to background checks that were initiated by government staff, followed up by security agencies interested in potential skeletons that could prove embarrassing to the White House if found in a presidential appointee. First inklings of what was to transpire probably came to most individuals in the form of a telephone call on Friday, Feb. 8 from Washington, asking if the prospect could be available for official travel the following week on Tuesday. Arrangements were strictly on your own, as were virtually all of the associated expenses in traveling to Philadelphia. What this preparation was for was the Trial of the Pyx, the annual Assay Commission, a tradition stretching back to 1792, and at that time, the oldest continually operating commission in the United States government.

First of the commissions, which were mandated by the original Coinage Act of April 2, 1792 were deemed so essential to the confidence of the public in the national money that section 18 of the legislation directed that the original inspectors were to include the chief Justice of the United States, the Secretary and Comptroller of the Currency, the Secretary of the Department of State, and the Attorney General of the United States. This was neither a casual request nor one that was considered so unimportant an aide could attend. The statute is explicit: this who's who "are hereby required to attend for that purpose", meaning that in July of 1795, chief justice John Jay, Secretary of State Edmund Randolph, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, Attorney General William Bradford may have gathered.

In the Jefferson Administration, consider this remarkable group: Chief Justice John Marshall; Secretary of State (and future president) James Madison; Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin, Attorney General Caesar Rodney might all have been there. By 1801, the statute had been amended to add the United States District Judge for Pennsylvania as an officer at the Annual Assay, and by the time that the Act of January 18, 1837 was approved, the cabinet officials and the Chief Justice were omitted in favor of the U.S. District Court Judge from the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (the state having been divided in half for judicial purposes), other governmental officials, and "such other persons as the President shall, from time to time, designate for that purpose, who shall meet as commissioners, for the performance of this duty, on the second Monday in February, annually. . . ." Flash forward to 1974. The call comes from Washington. A trek begins to Philadelphia, where it has begun to snow. Dozens of people from all across the country come to serve on the Assay Commission, all traveling at their own expense.

Starting in the midst of the Truman Administration, a serious numismatist or two had begun to be appointed. Some who assisted the government in some numismatic or related matter were similarly given the

honor. Among the early appointees: Max Schwartz (1945), the New York attorney who later became ANA's legal counsel; Ted Hammer (1947), John Jay Pittman (1947), Adm. Oscar Dodson (1948), and Hans M.F. Schulman (1952). Some came by air (from California); others drove. I came by train, on Amtrak's Metroliner, leaving from New York's Penn Station and arriving an hour and a half later at Philadelphia's station by the same name. Those who came in February, 1974, gathered on Tuesday evening, Feb. 12, at the Holiday Inn off Independence Mall, and unlike years when there were only one or two hobbyists, this was a banner year. (I almost did not attend; having started law school just three or four weeks before, I had to petition the Dean of the School to permit the attendance lapse and honor the presidential appointment).

My classmates, as we have referred to ourselves over the succeeding quarter century, included some then and future hobby luminaries: Don Bailey (former officer of Arizona Numismatic Association), John Barrett (member of several local clubs), Dr. Harold Bushey, Sam Butland (Washington Numismatic Society V.P.), Charles Colver (CSNA Secretary), David Cooper (CSNS v.p.), George Crocker (S.C.N.A. president), Joe Frantz (OIN Secretary), Maurice Gould (ANA governor), Ken Hallenbeck (past president, Indiana State Numismatic Assn.). Also: Dr. Robert Harris, Jerry Hildebrand (organizer World Coin Club of Missouri), Richard Heer, Barbara Hyde (TAMS Board member, sculptor), Philip Keller (past president of the American Society for the Study of French Numismatics), Reva Kline (member of several upstate New York coin clubs), Stewart Koppel (past president, Aurora, Ill. Coin Club), Charles M. Leusner (Delaware Co. Coin Club). Rounding out the Commission: Capt. Gary Lewis (past president of Colorado-Wyoming Numismatic Association), Fred Mantei (past president Flushing Coin Club), Lt. Col. Melvin Mueller (member of many local and regional clubs), James L. Miller (COINage Magazine publisher), John Muroff (Philadelphia Coin Club member), and Harris Rusitzky (Rochester Numismatic Association member). I was also a member (law student and former assistant editor, Numismatic news).

This rather remarkable group of men and women, the White House and Mint joint announcement announced, were appointed by the President "from across the nation . . . the 25 Commissioners, working in such varied fields as medicine, dentistry, law, engineering, forestry research and the military, share a common interest in coins and the science of numismatics." Early in its history, and indeed, into the first half of the 20th century, the appointees were either political themselves, or politically connected. Ellen (Mrs. Irving) Berlin, Commissioner 1941, was one example; Mrs. Norweb (1955) was another. So was Sen. H. Willis Robertson (1962), chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and father of television evangelist and presidential hopeful Pat Robertson. William Ashbrook, a member of Congress from Ohio who sponsored the legislation chartering the ANA in Congress, served six times between 1908 and 1920. Albert Vestal, a member of Congress from Indiana, served consecutively from 1920-1925. There were many other Congressmen and Senators through the years, as well. I recall meeting in the lounge of the Holiday Inn and suggesting my old friend Maury Gould to be the chairman of the commission. The fix was already in: the California delegation had already agreed, and lobbied other members, to elect Barbara Hyde to that honor. The work that we did was largely honorific, but there was a brief moment when some of us thought that the

actual results of an assay were underweight—which mint officials regarded as calamitous, and of sufficient importance to reweigh the parcel in question. (It passed the test, and as was the case in most years, pro forma resolutions prepared by mint staff were signed by all of the commissioners).

But that does not say that the description of the work done by the Assay Commission remains irrelevant. To the contrary, unlike 1974 which examined the non-precious metal coinage of 1973, today there are silver, gold and platinum bullion coins, and numerous commemorative coins, and related items that circulate the world-over. There is accountability within the Mint, but at present, the Mint's primary accountability is to Congress, and to the coinage subcommittee in the House, and the larger Senate Banking Committee on the other side of Capitol Hill. If there is a problem, it remains largely unknown to the public at large, except in case of acute embarrassment.

In April, 1987 for example, the U.S. mint was accused of having grossly underweight fractional gold coins—a move that nearly scuttled the entire effort of the program to market into the Far East. The Assay Commission having been abolished in 1980, there was no voice of authoritative reassurance, for the Mint denied that there was even a problem—when it was clear that the fractionals had not been properly assayed and were lightweight in their gold content.

Abolition of the Assay Commission came in two stages. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter declined to name any public members to the Commission, ending a practice of more than 117 years duration. Then, F.T. Davis, director of the General Government Division of the President's Reorganization Project, got into the act. "We are conducting an organizational study of the Annual Assay Commission," he wrote me on Sept. 6, 1977. "The study will focus on possible alternative methods of carrying out the functions of the Commission." I prepared a memorandum for Davis at his request, answering several specific questions, careful to take no position on its continued validity. Earlier in the year, in a major law review article proposing a "Revision of the Minting & Coinage Laws of the United States" which was published in the Cleveland Law Review, I had essentially concluded that it was a political choice to decide whether or not to continue the two-century old commission. Davis asked if the mission of the Assay Commission was essential. I replied "More aptly, the question is whether or not assaying of coins is essential. The answer is an unqualified yes to that." Indeed, that Mint regularly conducts assays of its coin product as a means of assuring quality. (The 1987 foul-up was an administrative problem; the gold coins were assayed and came up short, but a decision was made to circulate them, anyway). Davis also asked what the function of the Commission should be in the succeeding two years if it was continued. I suggested that the law be "rewritten to provide for compositional analysis of all subsidiary coinage plus the dollar coin".

The die was already cast, however, and the Carter Administration (having already declined to name public members) simply let the Assay Commission whither away until, in 1980, it expired with the passage of Public Law 96-209 (March 14, 1980). The irony is that only a short time later, the Mint was once again producing precious metal coinage. As the new millennium is on the verge of commencement, a movement initiated by former commissioners (most of whom are members of the Old Time Assay Commissioner's Society, OTACS for short), has talked about proposing revitalization of this old commission. There are reasons why it could succeed, and some why it should. There are a number of

reasons why the Assay Commission ought to be reconstituted, and any proposal to do so will require a legislative initiative in Congress. Toward that goal, I was asked by an ad hoc advocacy group to try my hand at it. If you've got an interest in the Assay Commission, perhaps you'd care to send a note to your Congressman or Senator (U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. zip for the House 20515, Senate 20510) with a copy of this article, and the draft legislation. You can encourage them to do the rest.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN ROMIG OF
ROYAL OAK, MI

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Kathleen Romig of Royal Oak, Michigan who has been selected as one of the 12 George J. Mitchell Scholars for 2001. Kathleen was identified in a nationwide competition organized by the United States-Ireland Alliance, a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Washington, DC.

The scholarship is named in honor of Senator Mitchell's contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process. Scholarships are awarded to individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 who have demonstrated intellectual distinction, leadership potential and commitment to community service.

I first met Kathleen in 1996 in my congressional office where she was introduced to public service and social action. She was one of our youngest interns, an eager learner, a fine writer, and a compassionate young woman.

Kathleen is a Michigan State University senior and the University's first recipient of the George J. Mitchell Scholarship. During the one-year program, she will pursue a master's degree in social policy at the University College in Cork. She will have formal courses of study, seminars and independent research in her thesis area of social policy.

In her application essay, Kathleen wrote,

There are alternative ways of viewing the problems of juvenile justice and alternative methods of solving it. Some of the most compelling are being discussed and tested in Ireland and Northern Ireland right now. One such alternative is restorative justice, a fascinating approach that seeks to balance the needs of offenders, victims and communities.

After graduation, Kathleen hopes to work in Washington, DC, and continue her interest in juvenile justice dealing with the plight of disadvantaged children.

Kathleen is also the recipient of the 2000-2001 Jeffrey Cole Excellence Award, the Walter and Pauline Adams Scholarship, the Gordon and Norma Guyer Public Policy Internship, and the Royal Oak Rotary Club and Oakland County MSU Alumni Association Scholarships. She is a member of the MSU Honors College, Phi Beta Kappa and a National Merit Scholar.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathleen Romig, an exceptional young woman who has a passion for learning and a commitment to social justice. I wish her good health, happiness, and success as she embarks on new challenges as a George J. Mitchell Scholar.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
BALDWIN

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin on St. Luke's Place will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Sunday, May 20, 2001. The church's history and the congregation's contributions to Baldwin and the Long Island community are remarkable and noteworthy.

A new church became a necessity in November 1923. A development of nearly 300 homes had been built north of the railroad, but the five churches in Baldwin were located south of the railroad. The expanding community recognized the need for a new church, and they began to use the Fire Department on Baldwin Avenue for Sunday School and church worship services. On May 14th, the church was recognized by the Brooklyn-Nassau Presbytery with a charter membership of fifty-nine people.

The congregation and church building went through many changes over the years. In 1926, the congregation held its first worship service in its own portable "building," which had been moved from Queens to Baldwin. This became too crowded for the growing membership, and the cornerstone for a new church building was laid on November 30, 1930. The St. Luke's Place building was completed in 1931. Although badly damaged by a fire in 1940, it remains the central structure of the church to this day.

By 1960, membership was nearing 900. An education building had been built 10 years earlier to accommodate the growing Sunday School. Many organized groups were founded for both adults and children, and church facilities were being used by community groups. A new sanctuary was added in 1961, and considerable renovations to the original building were made. A church member opened a full-time state licensed nursery school, now in the thirty-seventh year of operation.

Today, the First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin at 717 Luke's Place is a mini-complex of buildings that serves the community not only as a Christian congregation, but as a meeting place for many non-religious groups such as the Girl and Boy Scouts, and Alcoholics and Gamblers Anonymous. The nursery school provides pre-school education for seventy-five three and four year olds.

I congratulate the entire congregation, past and present, on their remarkable achievement and contribution to Long Island.

TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN "BUSTER"
AND DELORES WORKING

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity today to recognize Austin "Buster" Working and his wife Delores for their hard work and dedication on behalf of Minnesota's veterans.

Buster and Delores were recently chosen to lead Pup Tent 11, the Honor Degree of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Their long years of proudly serving Minnesota's veterans make them uniquely qualified to hold the important positions of Commander and President. They have continuously served our veterans with dedication and commitment. For example, during the past 20 years, Buster has organized over 18,000 hospital visits to Minnesota veterans. Delores has baked and delivered over 31,000 cookies to Minnesota Veterans homes. These tireless efforts, paired with enthusiastic selfless service and a willingness to invest personnel time and energy, serve as an outstanding example of the spirit of volunteerism that we should foster today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of my constituents. Buster and Delores are serving those who served our country. I can think of no better way to show our gratitude to those who risked their lives for our freedom. I thank them for their service.

THE BIKE COMMUTER BILL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman MARK FOLEY and I are introducing legislation to extend commuter benefits to bicyclists. This important legislation includes bicycles in the definition of transportation covered by the qualified transportation fringe benefit.

Currently, employers may offer a Transportation Fringe Benefit to their employees for commuting to work. Employees who take advantage of this benefit may receive a tax exemption benefit totaling \$175 for participating in qualified parking plans or \$65 for transit or car-pool expenses. Employees may also opt to take cash compensation instead, which is subject to employment taxes. The Bike Commuter Bill would extend these same Transportation Fringe Benefits to employees who choose to commute by bicycle.

It's time to level the playing field for bicycle commuters. At a time when communities across the country are seeking to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and increase the safety of their neighborhoods, bicycles offer a wonderful alternative to driving for the more than 50% of the working population who commute 5 miles or less to work. The Federal Government should do its part to support these goals by providing transportation benefits to people who choose to commute in a healthy, environmental, and neighborhood-friendly fashion.

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, bicycles are second only to cars as a preferred mode of transportation, demonstrating their potential for commuter use. Many Americans own one or more bicycles, but limit their use to recreational purposes.

This legislation is an important step in making the Federal Government a better partner for more livable communities.

RECOGNIZING 75 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY THE ST. HELENA ROTARY CLUB

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Helena Rotary Club and its members as they celebrate the 75th Anniversary of this honorable organization.

Throughout its 75-year history, the St. Helena Rotary Club has served our community with distinction. Over the last decade, the Club has raised over one million dollars for philanthropic purposes in the Napa Valley.

As a native of St. Helena, I have seen firsthand the positive contributions the Club has made, especially to the youth of our community. Their annual Winter Ball has always been a fabulous event that is indispensable in benefiting local organizations like the St. Helena Boys and Girls Club and the St. Helena Public Schools' Foundation.

Along with 29,000 clubs in 161 countries, the St. Helena Rotary Club and its members have honored the Rotary promise to develop the opportunity for service, maintain high ethical standards, apply stewardship in personal, business and community life, and to advance understanding, goodwill and peace through fellowship and the ideal of service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 75 years of immeasurable contributions the St. Helena Rotary Club has made to our community.

ROY E. DISNEY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, Disney is a name that promises a special kind of magic—real magic—to the children of every generation and every age around the world. Today, the Disney Magic is finding a special home in New Mexico . . . the land of enchantment.

"It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are," Roy Disney says, and he put his values to work with his decision to provide substantial financial support to the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held last week for the Roy E. Disney Center for the Performing Arts. The center will include a 700-seat proscenium theater, a 300-seat film and video theater, and a 150-seat black box theater. Edward Lujan, chairman of the National Hispanic Cultural Center, said Mr. Disney is being saluted not only for his personal financial support of the facility but for the assistance he gave in raising other funds.

With his generosity, Mr. Disney proves himself a worthy heir to the name made famous by his uncle, Walt Disney, and his father, Roy O. Disney. They would be proud to see their name on the marquee of this facility which celebrates the genius and dreams of Hispanic culture. The mission of the facility is not only

to educate all Americans about the unique contributions of Hispanics to the American story, but to nurture the wide ranging talents emerging in the Hispanic community.

I'm proud, too, to stand with Mr. Disney in making this dream come alive. Several months ago, the House approved my request for \$1.5 million in federal funds for the Center.

Mr. Disney began his career working as an assistant film editor on the "Dragnet" TV series, and later was assistant film editor of two classic and Oscar-winning Disney films, "The Living Desert" and "The Vanishing Prairie."

As chairman of Disney's Feature Animation Division, Mr. Disney personally produced a new golden age of Disney features, including *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*. But it was with *Fantasia 2000* that Mr. Disney fulfilled the long-deferred dream of his Uncle Walt and immortalized his own creative talent.

Mr. Disney's gift to the National Hispanic Cultural Center is truly a gift to the diverse community of New Mexico and a gift to the nation, and we thank him for it.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ELIMINATE TAXES ON TIPS UP TO \$10,000

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will benefit millions of Americans directly, substantially and quickly, including most notably single mothers and students. Furthermore, this legislation will lift some of the heavy burden of government off thousands of small businesses.

My bill is very simple. It calls a tip what it is: a gift. All tips given, not to exceed \$10,000 annually, would be tax free. This puts hundreds of dollars a month back where it belongs, with the individual who earned it.

Those who work in the service sector, who rely principally on tips to supplement their income, work in a system transacted largely in cash. Accounting for small amounts of cash for income tax purposes is not only unworkable, it is unenforceable, even if a paperwork scheme could somehow be conceived. Small amounts of cash, received through hundreds and hundreds of transactions, and almost never while standing behind a cash register, should not be taxable. Washington bureaucrats lack an understanding as to just how impractical the present system is to all those who labor so hard for their tips. The system simply breaks down.

Tips cannot possibly be reported accurately, and law-abiding citizens who work for tips do not wish to be labeled cheaters by people who don't understand the realities of their work. It is time to change that. My bill caps the tax-free earnings of those who make waiting on tables a career in high-end restaurants and resorts, at \$10,000. But for the 95% of those in the service sector who receive tips, it's time to change the tax law covering income from tips.

Under current law, service employees who typically earn tips are assumed to have made at least 8 percent of their gross sales in tips. This tax is applied regardless of the actual level of the tip. Further, if the service personnel earns more than 8 percent in tips they

are expected to report them accordingly. The end result for these employees, many of whose base salaries do not exceed minimum wage, is that they may have to pay taxes on income they didn't receive.

In addition, accounting for tips and gross sales is a burden on every restaurant, bar or other small business whose employees are regularly tipped. They are constantly under threat of an audit, where the IRS will hold their business responsible if the agency determines tip skimming to have occurred.

By putting in place a reasonable annual cap and strictly defining a tip, this tax relief bill is clearly focused on low- to middle-income households. According to the industries involved, most of the employees that will be helped are either students or single mothers. In addition, most of the employees are at the beginning of their careers.

Those in the service sector who rely on tips to supplement their income are a special breed of people. Those who work for tips see a direct relationship between effort and reward like few others. Night after night, day after day, weekend after weekend, the millions of bell hops, valet parking attendants, coat checkers, taxi drivers, hairdressers, bartenders, waiters and waitresses are on the job, working hard and providing vital services to people of every walk of life.

Let us give a break to those who labor so hard for their living. Let's show them for a change that the Federal Government is not so out of touch and understands the special needs of those at the beginning of their career. The time has come for government to get out of the way of our Nation's most prolific entrepreneurs, service personnel and their employers. I hope other Members will join with me in this common sense proposal that will help millions of hard working Americans.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIM FONTENO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at the end of his current term Harris County Commissioner Jim Fonteno will retire. Commissioner Fonteno is currently in his 26th year as Precinct Two Commissioner. He was first elected in 1974 and has won re-election terms in 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994, and 1998. On April 12, 2001, the South Houston Chamber of Commerce will honor him, and I am proud to join them in paying tribute to Commissioner Fonteno for his dedication and commitment to public service.

For most of his life, Commissioner Fonteno has served both his country and the residents of Harris County. He is a veteran, having served in the United States Army and in the Merchant Marine. He also served as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Baytown from 1957 to 1958. Later, he served two terms 1970-1974, as Port Commissioner, Port of Houston Authority, but resigned the position to seek the office of County Commissioner. Jim Fonteno is also a licensed auctioneer and has used his skill to raise over \$4 million for various non-profit charitable events, churches, clubs and organizations.

Commissioner Fonteno is committed to his constituents. Not only does he touch the lives of many underprivileged boys and girls, he has an unwavering commitment to our senior citizens.

He is the founder and developer of various outstanding senior citizen programs in Harris County's Precinct Two, including East Harris County Senior Citizens, a non-profit corporation. The East Harris County Senior Citizens sponsors various activities throughout the year, including, trips to sporting events and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Another popular activity is the Senior Citizen Olympics, which is held annually. These fun-filled events have provided both social and physical interaction among senior citizens. In addition, 280 food baskets are provided to senior citizens during the holiday.

Commissioner Jim Fonteno also spent much time in developing the the well-being of our youth. The East Harris County Youth Program, which he founded, is dedicated to serving, the needs of Harris County Precinct Two youth. The program originated as a pilot program comprised of a summer camp at J.D. Walker Community Center and an after-school program at Cloverleaf Elementary School.

The single most important role of the East Harris County Youth Program is to serve as a vehicle that makes learning fun. Designed to be a resource, not a substitute for school systems, the program is a strong proponent of students staying in school. Although academic achievements receive top priority, the East Harris County Youth Program also puts an emphasis on physical activity.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we will have a tremendous void as the result of Commissioner Fonteno's retirement. I am sure that I speak for many when I say that his tireless work will not soon be forgotten, and we are all thankful to him. I would like to personally wish him and his wife JoAnn well in this new stage of their lives, and hope that he continues to be a strong presence in Harris County.

U.S.-MEXICO POULTRY TRADE

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the House's attention to one of the agricultural success stories of the last decade. I refer to this nation's poultry trade with Mexico, a trade that has benefited both nations tremendously and that today finds itself charting new paths for the future.

Mexico in the late 1980s emerged as an important new market for U.S. poultry products. Mexican meat processors began buying large quantities of turkey and chicken cuts, including mechanically de-boned meat, from the United States. Much of this poultry meat was used to make the sausage, hot dogs, bologna and turkey ham products demanded by Mexican consumers.

There was for a time a concern that NAFTA might slow this progress. The agreement was written in the infancy of the U.S.-Mexican poultry trade, and NAFTA's authors did not foresee the explosion in Mexican demand for U.S. poultry. The agreement set a quota for duty-free poultry exports to Mexico that was

far too small and set the over-quota tariff at a staggering initial rate of 269 percent. In fact, that over-quota tariff does not drop below 49.4 percent until it ultimately is removed in 2002.

Fortunately, the fears raised by NAFTA were not realized. The Mexican government has recognized the demand for poultry and has allowed a much higher level of duty free poultry imports than NAFTA requires. The results of this policy have been spectacular—and the primary beneficiary has been the Mexican economy and the Mexican people.

Mexico's processed meat industry has doubled during the last five years and now creates jobs—directly or indirectly—for 290,000 people. Annual sales of processed meat, including processed poultry products, have reached \$1.3 billion annually and are climbing. The consumption of meat protein products in Mexico has increased significantly, and the cost to Mexican consumers has been kept low.

Obviously, this has made the Mexican market a critical one for the U.S. poultry industry. Mexico now purchases about 10 percent of all U.S. poultry, and is the third largest export market for American poultry. For the turkey industry, the market is even more significant. Mexico is by far the biggest purchaser of U.S. turkey, consuming almost 10 percent of all the turkey produced in the United States and accounting for 55 percent of all our turkey exports.

Mr. Speaker, this success story needs to be continued. Mexico is undergoing historic political changes, and indications so far are that the Fox administration is continuing to maintain a positive policy toward poultry imports. However, there is certain to be continued pressure on the new government from some who want to eliminate competition in the market for processed meat.

Mexico's meat processors cannot meet their consumers' needs or price expectations without continuing waivers on the NAFTA quotas for U.S. poultry products. The Mexican government has understood this for the last seven years, and they are to be commended for putting the broader needs of their nation's consumers and the entire economy ahead of parochial political considerations. Also, our Agriculture Department and the Office of the Trade Representative are to be congratulated for the time and attention they devote to ensuring fair and open trade between our two countries.

The U.S. and Mexican poultry and meat processing industries recognize the importance of continuing this trade relationship. The two industries are signing an agreement pledging to work with their respective governments for a policy of open and unrestricted trade of poultry products.

As we wait for that goal to become a reality, we want to express our appreciation for the hard work of the Mexican government and our own trade officials for the accomplishments to this point in promoting prosperous poultry trade between our two countries.

HONORING VINCENT COSMANO,
BAND DIRECTOR OF O'FALLON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vince Cosmano on his retirement and the 30 years of service he has given to O'Fallon Township High School in O'Fallon, Illinois.

The second of five children, born to James and Jean Cosmano of Chicago, Vince came from a family proud of their Italian heritage. As a youth, Vince was an achiever, performing in the high school band and attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. His passion for teamwork was shaped during his high school years where he excelled in football and swimming. Learning and an education were highly valued traits in the Cosmano household, Vince's brothers Don and Bill chose careers in education and his sister Jean Marie and youngest brother Richard succeeded in their respective fields of work.

In college, Vince followed his passion, studying history at Illinois State University and playing the french horn. Fortunately, for the future high school band students at OTHS, Vince's love for music became his calling. He graduated from ISU with a B.S. in Education in 1965, followed by a Masters in Music Education in 1971. From 1965 to 1971, Vince taught school, first in Wyoming, then Piper City and later Chillocothe. O'Fallon, Illinois would soon welcome and embrace the dynamic Vince Cosmano to their music department.

In August of 1976, the music department at OTHS was poised for change. The newly established Panther football program was open for competition and Edward A. Fulton was moving from the High School music program to his roots in the junior high music program. The Marching Panthers Band of OTHS was just 10 years old. The Panthers first were served by John Albert, then Ed Fulton and then it came to Vince Cosmano. At that time, the band consisted of 130 members with a total of 4 buses and no equipment trucks. Vince debuted with the Panthers at the 1977 U of I field show competition, winning second place in field, third in parade and a drum major caption award.

The OTHS Marching Panthers have since garnered grand championships, national parades (including appearances at the Macy's and the Tournament of Roses parades), television appearances and hundreds of other awards. Through all of the trophies, awards and citations, the OTHS Marching Panthers have gained national renown and an even stronger program under Vince's direction. Currently, the music program is comprised of 250 students, six buses, three equipment trucks, legions of OTHS alumni with support from parents, colleagues, fans and friends.

Vince always credited the students of the Marching Panthers for their diligence and hard work—only with great reluctance did he ever accept individual recognition. He was previously named "O'Fallon's Man of the Year" and served as the President of the Illinois Music Educators Association, District 6. In

1999, the Illinois High School Association honored him as the state's Outstanding Music Educator. A national honor quickly followed as Vince was chosen as the Outstanding Music Educator for a seven state area by the National High School Association. Vince exemplifies the philosophy that hard work equals good things.

As Vince retires, he will enjoy time with his fiancée Sue and his three sons, Tim, Jeff and Patrick. His favorite teaching activities—concert band, music theory and private lessons—will be replaced by fishing, swimming and gardening. Vince will always be remembered as a man of presence and a man of action. Whether getting the students up at 4 a.m. to be ready to march in the Macy's parade or helping to take tickets at a Panther Football game, Vince was there.

It has been through his direct efforts that he has instilled the qualities of music and respect into the hearts of the many students he has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vince Cosmano and to recognize his commitment to community service.

TRIBUTE TO DAMON SZYMANSKI

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say a few words today about one of my constituents, Damon Szymanski. Damon recently finished his 50th assignment as an ACDI/VOCA volunteer, a truly extraordinary achievement.

During Damon's missions, he has played a crucial role in helping improve agricultural development around the globe, particularly in central and eastern Europe. He has contributed dramatically to our national goal of opening global markets through an infusion of our values of democracy and economic freedom. Damon has served as a strong bridge between the United States and the rest of the world.

He is here in Washington this week to receive an award from ACDI/VOCA for his record of outstanding service. On behalf of all of us, I'd like to say "thank you" to Damon—for everything he's done to improve U.S. foreign relations and for everything he's done to improve the quality of life of people in other nations.

DR. THOMAS E. STARZL

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Thomas E. Starzl for his leadership in the field of clinical medicine and his lifelong commitment to advancing the promise of organ transplantation.

Known as the "father of transplantation," Dr. Starzl performed the world's first liver transplant in 1963 at the University of Colorado. Almost 20 years later, he would join the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and lead

a surgical team at Presbyterian University Hospital (now UPMC Presbyterian) in performing the area's first liver transplant on February 26, 1981. That was the beginning of a transplant program and research institute led by Dr. Starzl that would pave the way for organ transplantation to become an accepted practice in the medical community. The internationally renowned program has performed over 11,000 lifesaving transplants, by far the most of any single program in the world, and influenced the careers of countless surgeons and physicians. Retired from clinical and surgical service since 1991, Dr. Starzl remains active in transplant research as director emeritus of the institute that was renamed in his honor in 1996.

On April 27 and 28, 2001, the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute and the University of Pittsburgh will hold a tribute event for Dr. Starzl. This tribute is called a "Festschrift," which is a presentation of a collection of articles by colleagues, former students and others published in honor of a noted scholar. The event celebrates Dr. Starzl's 75th birthday and also marks the 20th anniversary of the first liver transplant performed in Pittsburgh. In addition to oral and visual presentations, the Festschrift will officially inaugurate the Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology and unveil a portrait of Dr. Starzl that will be displayed in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Such an event is fitting for a man whose résumé includes more than 1,200 presentations; 22 editorial boards; membership in no less than 58 professional organizations; the authoring or co-authoring of more than 2,000 scientific articles and four books; 21 honorary doctorates and more than 175 awards and honors. Dr. Starzl has been a champion in advancing the science of organ transplantation, and in improving and saving the lives of countless people.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, a true national hero.

TRIBUTE TO THE DELTA SIGMA
THETA SORORITY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter on their decade of public service.

In 1913, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded at Howard University by twenty-two African American Women. Since then, over 200,000 women have joined chapters all over the world. The Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter in my district was founded on February 10, 1991 by 27 civic-minded women who saw the need for public service in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

The Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter has been active in a number of areas such as economic and educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health and political/international awareness. Through their efforts, they have successfully produced many community programs and projects. One such program, "Pa-

trioti of African Descent," commissions artists in memory of African Americans who fought for our nation's independence.

I am pleased and honored to celebrate this outstanding occasion with the alumnae. They have played an important role in our community and for this they should be commended.

WOMEN'S CENTER OF MONMOUTH
COUNTY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS
OF SERVICE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Women's Center of Monmouth County's 25th Anniversary. Over the last quarter of a century, the Women's Center of Monmouth County (WCMC) has made a tremendous difference in the lives of women and their families throughout Monmouth County.

The WCMC is a New Jersey-based private, non-profit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault. Since its inception in 1976, the Center has helped more than 100,000 women, children and men gain control of their lives and stop the violence. Through the help of individuals, government agencies, small businesses and corporate partners, the WCMC has had an open door to a safe shelter and critical services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

According to the 1999 New Jersey Crime Clock, a rape occurs every six hours in New Jersey. In Monmouth County, 70 rapes and 12 sexual assaults were reported in 1999. In fiscal Year 2000, the WCMC Rape Care program received 1,201 calls, e-mails or walk-ins from women seeking assistance. A total of 298 survivors and their family members were accompanied to medical, legal and law enforcement agencies.

Services offered by the WCMC include a hotline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, crisis intervention, advocacy, education and prevention that help end the cycle of domestic violence and abuse. The Center works to mobilize concerned individuals, organizations, and civic and religious groups to end violence and abuse against women and children through public education, public policy reforms, and training of allied professionals. The Center also provides a liaison program to family and municipal courts and an art therapy program for children and non-offending parents.

The WCMC has received three national awards: 1998 United States Crime Victim's Rights Service Award for Karen Wengret; the 1998 United States Sunshine Peace Award for Domestic Violence Administration and the 1999 American Art Therapy Award for Outstanding Programming for their Amanda's Easel program. The Center has also received numerous accolades from New Jersey and local organizations for community service and leadership.

For the past 25 years, the Women's Center of Monmouth County has provided a much-needed service for families affected by domestic violence or sexual assault. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing WCMC's dedication to ending domestic violence and sexual assault.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE HEARING ON H.R. 1, "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND"

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit my testimony regarding H.R. 1 the No Child Left Behind Act. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 1, the "No Child Left Behind" bill.

The President has made this legislation a priority because Americans are concerned about the quality of their children's education. They are also troubled about the decline in our nation's values and its effect on our children. Polls consistently reveal that virtue and ethics are issues of top concern. Parents should be the primary developers of character but educators play an increasingly important role.

Unfortunately, too many of our children are bombarded daily by negative influences. Society pays the price when we mock values. To reap the rewards of a virtuous society, we must sow the seeds of character when we educate children.

Communities across the nation recognize that character education is an integral part of a well-rounded curriculum. Our Nation's teachers are aware that character education helps to establish a set of standards for behavior, provide role models, and create caring environments. For instance, many students in Texas participate in character education programs and the lessons they learn now will serve them well in the future.

President Bush has made character education an important component of his education reform bill. By allocating \$25 million to character education, States, local education agencies, parents and students will have an opportunity to promote character and values.

However, there are additional steps to be taken if we are to be successful. For that reason, I urge the Committee to look at H.R. 613, the Character Learning & Student Success Act (CLASS Act of 2001), which I introduced in February.

This legislation provides a grant to develop initiatives and disseminate up-to-date information about character education and also funds a study that will examine whether or not character education programs are successful and sustainable.

H.R. 1 calls for states to base their character education efforts on the findings of scientific research, yet educational experts have not been given the opportunity to develop those sound scientific conclusions. It is not even known where and how character education has found its greatest success. To support character education in its entirety, we must include research and the dissemination of useful information.

In our changing and challenging world, children need affirmation that society respects men and women of character. It is imperative that we teach our children the values that strengthen their character and make our country strong.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the violent terrorist attacks that have wracked Israel and to extend my sympathy to the victims and their families. I would like to especially extend my condolences to Yitzhak Pas, who just two days ago lost his 10-month-old daughter and was himself shot in the legs by a Palestinian sniper.

The next day, Islamic Jihad executed two terrorist bombings that rocked Jerusalem, with the clear intention of taking more innocent Israeli lives. During Jerusalem's morning commute, a booby-trapped car was detonated at the side of a busy road, injuring five Israelis. Later in the afternoon, a suicide bomber boarded a bus loaded with students on their way to Hebrew University and detonated his nail-laden bag of explosives, injuring over thirty passengers.

Only PA Chairman Yasir Arafat can stop the violence, and of this he clearly has no intention. He has organized and instigated the violence since his rejection of peace at Camp David. I urge my colleagues to sign the Hyde/Lantos letter to President Bush, which calls for a reassessment of the U.S. relations with the Palestinian Authority, and reaffirms the United States' enduring support of Israel in this time of crisis.

IDAHO GIRL SCOUT HONOREES

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize five outstanding Idaho women who are positive role models for young girls in the Gem State. Maria Berain, Sandra Bruce, Susan Eastlake, Marjorie Findlay, and Sam Sandmire portray a lifestyle to which young girls can look for inspiration. In a time of constant change and difficulties for our youth today, statistical evidence and observations show girls have a lack of everyday role models to look to. These women are leaders that all young people can look to and learn from.

They were recently recognized by the Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council as Women of Today and Tomorrow. Each of them excels in their individual careers and positively impacts their communities.

Maria Berain is a mentor with the Boise State University College Assistance Migrant Program. She supports Hispanic women to pursue their college education by counseling them on study habits and course selection.

Sandra Bruce is president and CEO of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center. In addition to guiding the hospital in growth and success she engages in civic organizations including Boise Public Schools Education Foundation and Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Susan Eastlake is the founder of the Southeast Neighborhood Association and an Ada

County highway District commissioner. She also has worked on the Simplot Sports Complex and on behalf of the Les Bois Soccer Tournament.

Marjorie Findlay was chosen to be the first woman senior warden of St. Michael's Cathedral. She is a two-term president of the Idaho Botanical Garden. Her many cultural and educational contributions include fund-raising for the Discovery Center and chairing UNICEF drives.

Sam Sandmire is the head gymnastics coach at Boise State University and part-owner of the Bronco Elite Arts and Athletics Club. She was voted conference Coach of the Year of 2000 and is recognized as an advocate for women in competitive sports.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, these women have accomplished great things and are examples of hard work, character, and leadership. I congratulate them and am delighted to have them reaching out to share their values with today's youth. They are true assets to Idaho and the nation.

WEEMS GALLERY AND FRAMING

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention a woman in my home town of Albuquerque, New Mexico who has contributed much to our community. On March 20, 2001 Mary Ann Weems along with friends and family celebrated the 20th anniversary of Weems Galleries and Framing.

Inspired by her vision of a gallery that would warmly welcome anyone who found joy in art as an expression of life, Mary Ann began this journey toward excellence in the visual arts twenty years ago. Her first gallery was in a little-noticed shopping center, opened with borrowed money and lack of business experience. She won the confidence and trust of New Mexico artists and aficionados who joined in supporting her vision of making more art accessible to more people.

That vision led 10 years ago to the first Weems Artfest, now the nationally ranked annual event which attracts thousands of families and children to see and experience New Mexico art. The Artfest also provides an affordable venue for all kinds of artists to gain exposure for their talents. The Artfest benefits the whole community of artists by increasing awareness of their work, and by expanding the community of admirers who will pay a fair price for art that touches their spirit. Additionally, the Artfest hosts a charity event to raise funds for healthcare needs in our community, particularly for children.

By making art more accessible for children, Mary Ann gives every child who participates the chance to discover something wonderful in themselves. For children who face challenges, it's a discovery gives them powerful hope for their future. Mary Ann serves as my Chairperson for the Congressional Art Competition.

Mary Ann Weems earned her success in the visual arts the hard way, by trial and error and sheer grit. She achieved excellence in the visual arts by setting new standards for what a gallery can be, and what an art show can become, and making her vision real for the whole of New Mexico's art community.

Please join me in recognizing the achievements of this business woman, Mary Ann Weems.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF LYNN SELMSER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize today Ms. Lynn Selmsler for over 27 years of service to Members of the House of Representatives. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Education Reform of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I have worked with Lynn only a few years, but I can say that her reputation as a talented and knowledgeable member of the Committee staff is well deserved.

Lynn began her Capitol Hill career in the personal office of Illinois Rep. Robert McClory in 1974. She stayed with Rep. McClory for over seven years.

Next, Lynn worked in the personal office of Pennsylvania Rep. Bill Goodling, her hometown representative. She stayed in Rep. Goodling's personal office until January 1989, when she moved to the Committee on Education and Labor staff, which is now the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

During her time with the Committee, Lynn has educated me and many other Members of Congress on the intricacies of quite complex issues. She has covered issues and programs such as Child Nutrition, Impact Aid, Juvenile Justice, and child and adult literacy. I know all of the Members of the Committee will be at a disadvantage without her institutional knowledge and advice on these issues.

I believe that Lynn is most proud of her work on family literacy issues. Lynn worked on this issue on behalf of Rep. Goodling from 1988, when he originally sponsored what became the Even Start Act. She cares deeply about improving the literacy of adults as a way to improve literacy in children, and I understand that she plans to continue to promote adult literacy following her retirement from the Committee staff.

I know many Members of Congress and staffers, along with her friend and former boss, Rep. Goodling, join me in thanking Lynn for her many years of service and wishing her a relaxing and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING FAYETTEVILLE FIRE
CHIEF DUKE "PETE" PINER

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fayetteville Fire Chief Duke J. "Pete" Piner, who will retire on April 1, 2001, after more than 37 years of service.

Chief Piner, 63, joined the Fayetteville Fire Department in 1964, following his father into the firefighting profession after a stint in the United States Navy and working briefly as an electrician.

Almost 25 years to the day, on March 22, 1989, Piner became chief of the department.

In the words of Fayetteville City Manager Roger Stancil, Chief Piner quickly established himself as a team player among city management. "His leadership extended throughout the city," said Stancil. "He was someone you could call on to accomplish a mission anywhere within the city government."

Chief Piner's vision led to many innovations for the fire department. During his tenure, the Fayetteville Fire Department built new stations to expand its service area, successfully merged with volunteer fire departments in neighborhoods annexed by the city, developed a state-of-the-art hazardous materials response team, and began to utilize more modern technology. In fact, Chief Piner played a key role in modernizing the city's communications capabilities so that various city departments, state, and county agencies could communicate with one another during a crisis or disaster situation.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring Chief Duke J. "Pete" Piner for 37 years of remarkable public service to the people of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

A TRIBUTE TO JORGE MAS
SANTOS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate Jorge Mas Santos on being honored for receiving the National Community Service Award by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

As the son of a Cuban immigrant, Jorge Mas Santos learned to appreciate the freedoms and opportunities in our country, and realized that the dreams of liberty and democracy that his father had for his native land of Cuba would never be possible under the tyrannical regime of Fidel Castro. His ambition to fulfill his father's aspirations to help the thousands of Cubans migrating from the island seeking freedom has resulted in countless programs and activities that have benefited not only Cuban-Americans but also every citizen in South Florida.

Among his illustrious accomplishments, Jorge is the founder and chairman of Neff Rental; Chairman of the Board of the Cuban American National Foundation; Chairman of MasTec Inc.; and Executive Director of the Mas Family Foundation. Through this Foundation, the Mas Family Scholarships has awarded over \$500,000 to students who had little hope of obtaining higher education. He is deeply involved in community and civic activities as a member of the University of Miami President's Council and of Nova Southeastern University's Board of Trustees. Jorge's current multi-million dollar restoration project is to fulfill his late father's dream of turning The Freedom Tower, which is included in the National Registry of Historic Places, into an educational center and museum, scheduled for completion in late 2001.

Jorge has achieved a multitude of honors. His love and dedication to the cause of freedom has touched the lives of so many and has won him respect and admiration. I want to join with his family, friends and colleagues in celebration of this wonderful award and I wish him every future success.

RE-OPENING OF SPAG'S OF
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts in celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of Spag's—a store that has become one of the biggest tourist attractions in New England.

Founded in September 1934, Anthony "Spag" Borgatti set-up shop, on a 35 dollar loan from his mother, in a garage at 193 Boston Turnpike, using empty wooden crates as tables and display cases. Since that time, Spag's has become a retailing phenomenon that turned into a multi-million dollar enterprise. Spag believed in the words he spoke so often, "Business is not just about dollars and cents, it's about people. Customers are people, employees are people, suppliers are people; and we all need each other."

Spag's has stayed true to its founding basic principal of serving the working man by providing "quality goods at rock bottom prices". Today we celebrate the achievement that this retailing enterprise has accomplished and wish them well as they continue to serve their community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I recognize the employees of Spag's and the Borgatti Family for their past success and to thank them for the role they play, not only as a retail shopping enterprise, but also as a good neighbor always willing to help those in need. I congratulate them on their accomplishments and wish them well.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL
HEALTH ACT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation to address an issue that is receiving much needed attention by the international community and the U.S. government. That issue is global health. Men, women and children all over the world are struggling with the impact of an HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa that threatens to engulf parts of Asia over the next few years and destabilize regional security on each of these continents. The former Soviet Union has one of the most rapidly growing number of HIV/AIDS cases in the world and has already overwhelmed its already faltering health care infrastructure.

The people of these and those in other developing countries are struggling with the fact that more than ten million children die before their 5th birthday each year from preventable diseases in developing countries. They are struggling with the continued impact of global infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, other infections that threaten their lives, the lives of their children, the viability of their villages, their economies, their national security.

Epic threats to the health of people all over the world continue to challenge governments, domestic infrastructures and societies on a

rapidly growing scale. Their crisis is our crisis. The stability of the region is at risk and with that, our interests in the stability of governments in Africa.

Despite these daunting facts, there is something we can do. Unprecedented opportunities exist today to improve health around the world and the U.S. must maintain its leadership role on these issues. It is in our interest to do so. Our borders are not impervious to these global health threats. To address these global health threats, I am introducing the Global Health Act of 2001.

During the 106th Congress, over 75 members of Congress and 152 organizations joined me in support of the Global Health Act of 2000 and we are reintroducing this legislation this year to reaffirm our commitment to improve the health of men, women and children around the world.

Today, I am joined by 52 of my colleagues in introducing bipartisan legislation to increase the U.S. commitment to global health by \$1 billion dollars over FY 2001 appropriated levels. With these additional funds, our commitment to global health will be authorized at \$2.55 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the fifty-two cosponsors of the Global Health Act of 2001. These cosponsors represent a broad cross section of the House; Democrats and Republicans, members of the Women's Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, the Black Caucus, Appropriators and Authorizers, who recognize the need and importance of an increased commitment to global health.

I ask that a copy of the Global Health Act be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

We are joined in this effort by over 70 international organizations and two coalitions committed to global health, such as the Global Health Council, Save the Children, the Christian Children's Fund, and the American Foundation for AIDS Research, and the list is growing every day.

I have included that list of the global health organizations, faith-based organizations and development NGOs that support this legislation and ask that it be entered into the RECORD.

What does the Global Health Act do?

The Global Health Act of 2001 provides an additional \$1 billion to the global health programs of the Federal Government. This includes a \$275 million increase for HIV/AIDS, a \$100 million increase for maternal health, a \$200 million increase for family planning, a \$225 million increase for child survival, and a \$200 million increase for infectious diseases.

While other legislation will seek to target specific diseases, the Global Health Act understands the interconnectedness of health and seeks an increase for all of the global health programs that play an important role in improving the health of men, women and children around the world.

It also calls for increased coordination between the different government agencies administering health programs.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is the greatest public health disaster to face mankind since the bubonic plague. Already, 58 million people have been infected or died as a result of HIV/AIDS and more than 95 percent of new infections occur in developing countries. Sub-Saharan Africa has been the hardest hit and in South Africa it is estimated that 10 percent of

its 45 million people are infected with the virus.

But, the pandemic is not limited to Africa: Asia will soon have more new HIV infections than any other region and Russia is the new "hot spot" for the disease. The disease is ravaging families and communities and young people have been particularly devastated. Every minute, five young people contract HIV/AIDS somewhere in the world and in Southern Africa it is projected that more than half of today's teenagers will become infected and die of AIDS.

UNAIDS has estimated that it would take \$3 billion to address HIV/AIDS in Africa alone (excluding access to drugs) and at this time the international community is providing less than \$1 billion a year for HIV/AIDS programs in the developing world.

The world looks to the United States to be a leader and now is the time for the United States to significantly expand its support for global HIV/AIDS programs. The creation of new drugs and vaccines cannot stand alone and we must also invest in the development of public health infrastructure.

This infrastructure will be important as we continue to expand investment in treatment and care programs. In addition, 42 million children will be orphaned by HIV/AIDS by 2010 and we must be prepared to provide good health care to these children across the health spectrum.

All children of the world need our support. As we approach the 10-year anniversary of the World Summit for Children, we must make a strong commitment in their future by investing in the world's children. Ten million children die before their 5th birthday each year in developing countries from preventable diseases, such as pneumonia, diarrhea and measles. Yet, funding for the core child survival program remained fairly stable in the FY 2001 budget. Without additional funding, the successful child survival programs will not continue to provide needed services for young girls and boys in developing countries. Through its research and development programs, the United States has developed interventions that work. Clean water and sanitation prevent infections, and oral rehydration therapy (a simple salt sugar mixture taken by mouth, which costs only pennies) has been proven to be among the most effective public health interventions ever developed.

Immunization programs have also proven to be successful and almost 75 percent of children are immunized today in developing countries.

Annually, immunizations avert two million childhood deaths from measles, neonatal tetanus, and whooping cough. The success of these programs is striking and the U.S. should reaffirm its commitment to children as we meet with other world leaders at the UN Special Session for Children in September, 2001.

Another equally compelling problem that has not yet been given the recognition it deserves is the death of 600,000 women each year during pregnancy and childbirth—one woman every minute.

Over 80 percent of these deaths are due to complications that are routinely prevented in the developed world, such as obstructed labor, infections and unsafe births. 99 percent of these 600,000 deaths could be averted.

Of all the health statistics monitored by the World Health Organization, the figures on

maternal mortality reveal the largest discrepancy between developed and developing countries.

Women in developing countries are 18 times more likely to die during childbirth than women in developed countries. This disparity does not need to continue. The WHO has identified a package of health interventions that for a cost of \$1–3 per mother, could save the lives of countless mothers and their children.

This small investment in mothers will have an enormous impact on the families of tomorrow.

Other interventions, such as family planning, also play a large role in protecting the integrity of a family.

One third of the world's population is between the ages of 10 and 24. As these young people begin to raise families, the demand for safe voluntary family planning services will increase dramatically.

Many women will choose to have children and over 200 million will become pregnant in the coming year.

But, following the birth of a healthy child, many couples prefer to delay or cease child-bearing. About a quarter of a billion couples around the world find themselves in this situation and they do not have access to voluntary contraceptive methods. As a result, many pregnancies are unplanned or unwanted.

The World Bank has found family planning to be one of the best ways to improve maternal and child health and it is time for the U.S. to significantly expand funding and support for the international family planning programs at the U.S. Agency for International Development and increase the U.S. allocation to the United Nations Population Fund.

The final important piece of the Global Health Act is the increased funding for programs that address infectious diseases.

My own district was surprised and concerned when West Nile Encephalitis entered our community during the Summer of 1999. This incident reminded us that infectious diseases know no geographic boundaries, and are crossing U.S. borders with greater frequency.

Tuberculosis has re-emerged on the world stage in deadlier and more drug resistant forms.

With the appearance of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, and its spread to Europe and the U.S., we face the possibility that this could again become a leading killer. But, through effective collaborative projects, the United States has been able to leverage its support for infectious disease programs and rates of malaria and polio are decreasing.

In just the past ten years, the number of polio cases worldwide has fallen by almost 50 percent and the death toll from malaria has been reduced by 97 percent. These partnerships have proven to be very fruitful and are a model for future U.S. action on infectious diseases.

With the resources provided under the Global Health Act and the coordination and assistance of other nations, we can make a profound difference in the health and wellbeing of millions of the world's poorest citizens.

Without good health, a nation will be unable to support a healthy and strong economy.

It is in our national and economic interests that the U.S. support increased funding for global health so that today's healthy children can be tomorrow's healthy world partners.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING THE GLOBAL HEALTH ACT OF 2001

1. Adventist Development and Relief Agency.
2. Advocates for Youth.
3. Africa Faith & Justice Network.
4. African Services Committee, Inc.
5. Alan Guttmacher Institute.
6. Alliance Lanka.
7. American Association for World Health.
8. American Association of University Women.
9. American Foundation for AIDS Research.
10. American International Health Alliance Organization.
11. American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.
12. AmeriCares.
13. Andean Rural Health Care.
14. Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center.
15. Association of Public Health Laboratories.
16. Association of Reproductive Health Professionals.
17. Association of Schools of Public Health.
18. Baertracks.
19. The Centre for Development and Population Activities—CEDPA.
20. Catholics for a Free Choice.
21. Center for Reproductive Law and Policy.
22. Center for Women Policy Studies.
23. Christian Children's Fund.
24. Concern Worldwide U.S., Inc.
25. CONRAD Program.
26. Cross-Cultural Solutions.
27. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation Organization.
28. Family Care International.
29. Female Health Company.
30. FOCAS.
31. Global AIDS Action Network.
32. Global AIDS Alliance.
33. Global Health Council.
34. Infectious Diseases Society of America.
35. InterAction.
36. International Trachoma Initiative.
37. International Women's Health Coalition.
38. Institute for Global Health.
39. John Snow, Inc.
40. Journalists Against AIDS Nigeria.
41. Management Sciences for Health.
42. National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.
43. National Association of People with AIDS.
44. National Audubon Society.
45. National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.
46. National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Organization.
47. Programs for Appropriate Technology in Health.
48. Pathfinder International.
49. Physicians for Social Responsibility.
50. PLAN International.
51. Population Action International.
52. Population Institute.
53. Population Leadership Program.
54. Project Hope.
55. Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.
56. San Francisco AIDS Foundation.
57. Save the Children.
58. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society.
59. U.S. Coalition for Child Survival (see members list below).
60. U.S. Committee for UNFPA.
61. U.S. Fund For UNICEF.
62. Uganda Youth Anti-AIDS Association.
63. Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

64. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

65. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

66. White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (see members list below).

67. Women's EDGE.

68. World Neighbors.

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. COALITION FOR CHILD SURVIVAL

Academy for Educational Development, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Aga Khan Foundation USA, Bread for the World, CARE Tajikistan, Children's Global Health and Education Network, Christian Children's Fund, CORE Group, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Environmental Health Project, Freedom from Hunger, Global Health Council, Grantmakers in Health, Johns Hopkins University/School of Public Health; KRA Corp., Health Program, March of Dimes, Merck, PLAN International, Save the Children, US Fund for UNICEF, Voice of America, as of 3/28/01, World Health Organization, and World Neighbors.

MEMBERS OF THE WHITE RIBBON ALLIANCE FOR SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Academy for Nursing Studies, Advance Africa, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Aisyiyah, Indonesia, AIWC, American Association of World Health, American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM), American Women's Association, Indonesia, APIK, Arthik Samata Mandal, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, & Neonatal Nurses, Association for Maternal and Child Health Concern in Nigeria, AusAID WHFW Project/OPCV.

Biodun Mat/Eye Clinic, North Tougu, The Ghana Registered Midwives Assoc., BKKBN (National Family Planning Coordinating Board), BKOW (Coordinating Body of Women's Organizations, West Java), Cambodian Midwives Association, Canadian Women's Association, Indonesia, CARE, CARE—India, CASP, Catholics for Contraception, Center for Development Control, Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), Centre For Human Survival, Nigeria, Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP), CHETNA, Child Survival Collaborations and Resources (CORE) Group, Christian Association of Nigeria, CMAI, Christian Children's Fund, Community Based Health Care Women's Group, Kimilili, Kenya, CRS.

DFID, EEC, Engender Health, Equilibres et Populations, France, Family Care International, Federal Women's Association of Muslim, FK—PKMI (Collaborative Forum—for the Promotion of Community Health, Indonesia), Ford Foundation, Indonesia, Forum for Executive Women, Indonesia, Geeyes Trust-India, General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church, George Washington University, School of Public Health, Global Health Council, Hairdressers Associations, Nigeria, IBI (Association of Midwives, Indonesia), Indonesian American Medical Alliance, Indonesian Women's Coalition for Justice and Democracy, International Community Activity Center, International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), IPAS.

Jakarta International School, JHPIEGO, Indonesia, Johns Hopkins University—PCS, Johns Hopkins University—School of Public Health, JHU/CCP, Kalyanamitra, La Leche League International, Linkages Project/Academy for Educational Development, Local Government Service Commission, Nigeria, Loma Linda School of Public Health, Mamta Health Institute for Mother and Child—India, Market Women's Association, Nigeria, Matrika, MILES Production, Indonesia, Mitra Perempuan (Wone in Sisterhood), MNH Program Indonesia, MotherCare/

John Snow International (JSI), Indonesia, National Union of Teachers, Nigeria, NGO Networks for Health, NGO Networks for Health, Armenia, Nurses Association, Nigeria, Organization For Student Health Care Services, Monrovia, Liberia.

Pacific Institute for Women's Health, PATH, Indonesia, Pathfinder International, PFI, Pita Putih-Indonesia, PLAN International, POGI (Association of Specialists in OB/GYN, Indonesia), Population Council, Population Reference Bureau, Population Services International, Prerana, PRIME/Intrah, Project Hope, PSS, Pusat Komunikaski Jender dan Kesehatan (Center for Communications in Health and Gender Issues, Indonesia), RSB, Boedi Kemuliaan (Boedi Kemuliaan Maternity Hospital).

Safe Motherhood Initiative (SMI)—USA, Safe Motherhood Action Group—Nigeria, San Bernardino Coalition for Safe Motherhood, Save the Children, Shell Nigeria (Women's Programme, Community Development Department), SIDA, Soroptimist International of Indonesia, State Ministry of Women's Empowerment, Indonesia, TNAI, U.S. Pharmacopeia, White Ribbon Alliance—India, Women's Empowerment in Politics, Indonesia, World Vision, Yayasan Melati, YMCA, Zambian Enrolled Nurses/Midwives working at the University Teaching Hospital, Zambia White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood.

LEGISLATION CLARIFYING THE INCOME FORECAST METHOD

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, Congressman BECERRA and I introduced legislation today to clarify the income forecast method.

As Chairman of the House Entertainment Industry Task Force, I have understood that changes made in the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 that modified depreciation under the income forecast method have had unintended consequences for the movie industry. Our legislation corrects those consequences.

The "income forecast" method is a method for calculating depreciation under section 167 for certain property, including films. Under the income forecast method, the depreciation deduction for a taxable year for a property is determined by multiplying the cost of the property by a fraction, the numerator of which is the income generated by the property during the year and the denominator of which is the total forecasted or estimated income to be derived by the property during its useful life. The total forecasted income to be derived from a property is based on conditions known to exist at the end of a period for which depreciation is claimed and these could be revised upward or downward at the end of a subsequent taxable year based on additional information that becomes available since the last estimate. In the case of films, income to be taken into account means income from the film less the expense of distributing the film, including estimated income from foreign distribution or other exploitation of the film including future television exhibition.

The Small Business Job Protection Act addressed the income forecast method in order to make the formula a more appropriate method for matching the capitalized costs of certain

property with the income produced by such property. While the new law modified the method by including all estimated income generated by the property, however, it made no changes to the treatment of participations.

Projected participations—such as percentages of the gross receipts due an actor—have been included as part of the total cost of a film ever since studios have been forced to forecast the total revenues of a film under the income forecast method. But the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has indicated that it will disallow participations as part of a film. Participations were not an issue addressed by modification to the income forecast method. Studios have negotiated their complex transactions based on the clear and well-established principle that the cost of a film includes participations.

The legislation that we have introduced today will ensure that participations are a part of the total cost of a film. First, the legislation would guarantee that income-contingent costs are includable in basis, thereby accepting the conclusion of *Transameric Corp. v. U.S.* The legislation provides that the depreciation allowance, as so determined, will apply notwithstanding section 404 or section 419. There would be “no inference” clause with regard to films placed in service after the effective date to the 1996 amendments to section 167 (that is, films placed in service after September 13, 1995).

Second, the look-back regime is tightened in two ways: (i) a third recomputation year is added; and (ii) the 10 percent de-minimis rule is applied on an annual basis not on a cumulative basis in the recomputation year. Thus, if the taxpayer initially estimates that the film's ultimate income will be \$1,000X and the estimated ultimate income in year two is increased or decreased by more than 10 percent, then the look-back computation is required for that last year. The 10 percent threshold then applies to the new estimated ultimate income.

This legislation was the result of consultations with the staff of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Joint Committee on Taxation. An analysis was done of the legislation for films in the following three situations: (1) where the film takes off late; (2) where the film falls short of expectations; and (3) where the film exceeds expectations. For each scenario, calculations were done using escalating income-contingent costs, and provided calculations on both an annual basis and a cumulative basis of accounting for adjustments to forecasted revenues. The conclusion confirmed that the legislative changes would not create distortion under the income forecast method.

We look forward to working with the Committee on Ways and Means to find the appropriate legislative vehicle to address this technical correction that will reiterate Congressional intent on changes made to the income forecast method in the Small Business Job Protection Act.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to discuss the importance of community health centers.

Since 1965, America's health centers have delivered comprehensive health and social support services to people who otherwise would face major financial, social, cultural and language barriers to obtaining quality, affordable health care.

Health centers serve those who are hardest to reach. They are located in America's inner cities, isolated rural areas, and migrant farmworker communities—areas with few or no physicians and other health and social services. Community health centers are not-for-profit health care providers and are required by law to make their services accessible to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

There are more than 1,000 community health centers located in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Collectively, these centers serve as a health care safety net for more than 11 million patients, over 4 million of whom are uninsured.

Health centers foster growth and development in their communities. Over \$14 billion in annual economic activity is generated by health centers in many of America's most economically depressed communities, and they employ over 50,000 people and train thousands of health professionals and volunteers.

Community health centers offer a wide range of preventative and primary medical and dental care, as well as health education, community outreach, transportation, and support programs. Health centers focus on wellness and early prevention—the keys to cost savings in health care. Through innovative programs in outreach, education and prevention, health centers reach out and energize communities to meet urgent health needs and promote greater personal responsibility for good health.

For less than one dollar per day for each person served (less than \$350 annually), health centers provide quality primary and preventative care to low-income, uninsured and under-insured individuals and families. Through reductions in hospital admissions and less frequent use of costly emergency room visits for routine services, health centers save the American health care system almost billions each year.

Health centers provide quality care to millions of Americans who lack health coverage. However, they cannot continue to expand care to the growing number of uninsured patients who seek assistance without a significant increase in their appropriations.

President Bush recognized the importance of health centers with his recent proposal to double the number of patients health centers serve over the next five years. I strongly support this proposal, and an increase in funding this year is the first step needed to reach this goal.

Today, America's health centers are the family doctor and health care provider for over 10 million people. Expanding the role of community health centers is a proven, viable, and

cost effective way to bring quality health care to uninsured patients and medically underserved communities.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS PEARSALL

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lois Pearsall upon the occasion of her retirement as a rural development specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture in Caro, Michigan. Lois has given 35 years of dedicated service to her country through her employment with various governmental agencies since 1965.

Lois began her government career as a clerk stenographer with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Department of the Army at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. before relocating to Michigan in 1970. Since then, her unparalleled devotion to addressing the needs of Michigan residents has earned her many awards for both the quality and effectiveness of her work.

Over the years, Lois has set the standard in her service to the residents of mid-Michigan, consistently going well above and beyond the basic requirements of her job to aid those faced with financial hardship. In her role in the Rural Housing Program and Farmer Loan programs, she played an integral part in providing shelter and economic stability to some of the more vulnerable citizens of our communities. She has been a vital and tireless leader in securing decent, safe and affordable housing in rural Michigan.

Most recently, Lois has worked as a loan specialist for the Multi-Family Housing Program. Overseeing the management of more than 250 apartment projects in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, Lois has spent countless hours and expended considerable energy in guiding innumerable communities, borrowers, tenants and management companies into housing partnerships to put roofs over the heads of a considerable number of families throughout the state.

All those who have benefitted from Lois' efforts no doubt also owe a debt of gratitude to her husband, Al, and son, Albert, for their willingness to share Lois' time and talents for the benefit of the commonwealth. Lois will be the first to acknowledge that Al's and Albert's work on the family farm gave her the time and freedom to help other farm families, friends, neighbors and strangers achieve their dreams.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deep appreciation to Lois and her family for outstanding service and wishing them well in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SAL TORRES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Gonzalo “Sal” Torres, an extraordinary city councilman and community leader from Daly City, California. Sal, who also served as

Mayor of Daly City, was recently re-elected to the city council and has been honored as "one of the top 20 lawyers under 40" by the newspaper California Law Business.

Sal has demonstrated his commitment to excellence and his civic concern since he was a student of psychology at UCLA. He received the Chancellor's Marshall Honors for his academic accomplishment as well as his participation in various community service projects, including the Amigos Del Barrio Tutorial program. Sal was the Director of this excellent program which matched over 200 under privileged elementary school students with college students who offered various types of academic support. Sal's civic concern with the Hispanic community continued following his graduation from UCLA in 1983 in his work with Hispanic Consumer Advocates, the first consumer affairs radio show in Los Angeles to be broadcast entirely in Spanish.

Mr. Speaker, Sal earned awards for scholarship and advocacy on many occasions during his legal education at the University of San Francisco School of Law. These awards included the Judge Harold J. Haley Award and the Student Bar Association Award. Today Sal puts his legal education to good use as Assistant General Counsel to Tomen Agro Inc., where he handles international commerce, anti-trust and trademark matters, and public relations.

The heavy demands of his profession have in no way limited Sal's commitment to community service. If anything, the list of community activities in which Sal has been involved has grown since the beginning of his professional career. Sal has been an active participant in the State Bar Association's Human Rights Committee and the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the San Francisco Bar. He has volunteered to take San Mateo youths on probation to clean up graffiti as part of Daly City's anti-graffiti program. He is also the mentor for Unity 2000, an organization that aspires to change negative stereotypes about local teenagers.

Sal has also been the General Counsel to San Mateo County's Latino Leadership Council, a remarkable organization that strives to educate the general public on social, political, and economic issues that affect the Latino community. He worked as the Newsletter Editor and as one of the Directors of the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association. Sal also managed to find time to host a weekly public affairs television show that focuses on issues of concern to the Latino community. This already extensive list only begins to describe Sal's endeavors to improve the community and the lives of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, Sal's service and dedication to Daly City deserves special commendation. He was first elected to the City Council in 1996. The economic prosperity which the city has enjoyed has given him and his fellow council members an opportunity to make an important contribution to the health and vitality of the city. Daly City has been able to implement a \$40 million capital improvement program that is creating new community centers, libraries, and improved parks and playgrounds.

Sal has also demonstrated the capacity to handle crisis situations. He worked to secure funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which helped to evacuate and reimburse the residents of 30 seaside homes that were dangerously close to

slipping off a cliff following severe winter storms. The residents of Daly City are truly fortunate to have Sal's energy and intelligence to advocate their interests.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Sal Torres. He has been an outstanding leader whose civic concern and whose dedication to public service should be an inspiration for all of us. I think the advice that Sal gives to the teenagers whom he mentors best describes this spirit: "Never give up. Follow your heart. If you are persistent and believe in your heart that you can do it, nothing can ever stop you."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed on Roll Call vote 50. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call vote 50.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2001, I regrettably missed a recorded vote on Roll Call 60. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

LET'S SUPPORT COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in stressing the importance of funding community health centers at a level of at least \$175 million for FY 2002. In my home State of New York, we provide over 164,000 residents who are uninsured or Medicaid recipients with health care services. Low-income New Yorkers are dependent on these centers for important services like, immunizations, breast and cervical cancer exams as well as treatment for asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

Communities served by community health centers make a real difference in the quality of life for that community. For example, infant mortality rates have been shown to be 10 to 40 percent lower than communities not served by health centers. Health center patients have lower hospital admission rates and shorter hospital stays, and make more appropriate use of emergency room services. Moreover, centers have significantly increased the use of preventive health services like pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screening services among the populations they serve. The centers have also made significant strides in preventing anemia and lead poisoning. And finally, centers have been reported to make the

benefits of public insurance programs available to more eligible children and adults. The HHS inspector general recently commended health centers for their successful efforts in finding thousands of children and adults who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, the Medicaid and S-Chip program and assisting them to enroll in these programs.

In addition, we need to ensure that the reauthorization of the health centers program under section 330 of the Public Health Act occurs early during the 107th Congress. I especially want to stress the need to restore authority for facility construction and renovation as well as an appropriate allocation among the community, migrant, homeless and public housing health center programs.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health to fully support community health centers and I urge my colleagues to actively support this critical health care program which provides so much in the way of services to low-income Americans.

IN MEMORY OF EL PASO CITIZEN
AND WWII VETERAN FRANCISCO
TORRES

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a proud and distinguished individual from my district of El Paso, Texas who passed away earlier this month. Mr. Francisco Camargo Torres was a longtime resident of El Paso and was a devoted member of the Catholic Church. When the time came for our young men and women to answer the call of duty during World War II, Mr. Torres proudly offered service to his country as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Mr. Torres returned home a hero with several decorations including the American Defense Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and four Overseas Bars. Mr. Torres leaves a proud and honorable legacy for his family, friends, and for his nation to admire. The service he offered to his country is one that we, as a nation, recognize as the greatest sacrifice for the survival of freedom and liberty. Mr. Torres fought against the enemies of the United States and did so with distinction.

Upon his return home, Mr. Torres worked for and retired from the Southern Pacific Railroad. He returned to his community and worked to ensure its growth and prosperity. Mr. Torres is survived by his wife Roselia V. Torres, his sons Jose Francisco, Victor, Rosendo, Armando, and Jaime, daughter Lilia Maria Carter, 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, individuals such as Mr. Torres chose to fight for the freedom of their country and returned to help build its future. The Torres family can rest assured that posterity is well served by Mr. Torres' accomplished life. Mr. Torres was laid to rest in Fort Bliss National Cemetery and his legacy and blessings to the city of El Paso and the family survived by him will never be forgotten. I honor this veteran and citizen of my district and offer my most sincere condolences to his family.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1261, ENCOURAGING ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Congress passed the Reclamation Recycling and Water Conservation Act to help western communities conserve precious water supplies by encouraging water reuse. The Act authorized a number of new projects, including a water desalinization project proposed by the city of Long Beach and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The Act limited the federal cost share requirements to 50 percent of total project costs.

At the time of the Act's passage, the projected costs for the Long Beach desalinization project were estimated to be \$27 million. The expectation at the time was that the desalinization project would process roughly 5 million gallons of water each day. Given the limitations in the Act, the federal government's responsibility was limited to \$13.5 million.

Since the original authorization, the project's sponsors have increased the scope of the project. Today, the plans call for processing 40 million gallons of water per day, an eight-fold increase over the original projections. In turn, this has dramatically increased the total project cost, to well over \$100 million.

Private resources have been identified to cover the increase in costs. However, there is concern that the federal cost share provision may be overly broad, imposing responsibility for up to \$50 million on the Federal Bureau of Reclamation.

The legislation that I have introduced today would clarify and emphasize that the contribution of the federal government today is exactly the same as it was five years ago: not more than \$13.5 million. It is, quite simply, a technical correction or clarification of the original authorization. And, in this day of fiscal restraint, is the type of restraining legislation that my colleagues should be eager to support. I look forward to working with my colleagues, particularly those in water-scarce communities, to enact this legislation and, ultimately, to develop alternative water resources.

H.R. 1261 is below:

H.R. 1261

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

SECTION 1. LIMIT ON FEDERAL COST OF THE LONG BEACH DESALINIZATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

Section 1605(b)(2) of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 390h-3(b)(2)) is amended by striking "50 percent of the total" and inserting "the lesser of 50 percent of the total or \$13,500,000".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall nos. 62, 63 and 64 I was detained to speak to the

"World Sports Clinic" for the Disabled Veterans of America.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on all three.

STANLEY B. GREENBERG HIGH-LIGHTS HAIDER'S CONTINUING RACISM, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND XENOPHOBIC IN AUSTRIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress we voted to adopt a resolution which expressed the serious concern of this house for the inclusion of the FPO political party in the government of Austria. At that time, the House expressed "its opposition to the anti-democratic, racist and xenophobic views that have been expressed by Jeorg Haider and other leaders of the FPO, and, because of these publicly expressed views, to state its opposition to the party's participation in the Austrian Government."

It was my hope in introducing that resolution and in bringing about the debate it in this house that the leaders of the FPO and the people of Austria would move away from the racist, anti-Semitic, and xenophobic rhetoric that has so tarnished and tainted the image of Austria. I regret, Mr. Speaker, that our efforts have not had their fully desired effect, but there has been some indication of progress—not with the FPO and its leader Jeorg Haider, but perhaps with the people of Vienna.

In yesterday's issue of *The New York Times*, American pollster and political analyst Stanley B. Greenberg—the husband of our distinguished colleague from Connecticut, ROSA DELAURO—wrote a particularly insightful piece about his own personal experiences in the last few weeks in Austria. His report indicates that the venomous anti-Semitism, anti-foreign rhetoric continues to pollute the speeches of Jeorg Haider and other leaders of the FPO. At the same time the people of Vienna in last Sunday's mayoral election gave the FPO 8 percent fewer votes than the party received in the previous election. I welcome that trend, but I also wish to note the one fifth—20 percent—of the voters in Vienna, a sophisticated and cosmopolitan city of international reputation, cast their ballots for the FPO and its racist and xenophobic platform.

Mr. Speaker, I submit Stan Greenberg's excellent personal essay from the March 27th issue of *The New York Times* to be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give thoughtful consideration to his excellent article.

[From *The New York Times*, March 27, 2001]

A STRANGE WALTZ IN VIENNA

(By Stanley B. Greenberg)

VIENNA.—I am an American Jew, yet found myself in Vienna under attack by Jörg Haider, one of Europe's more notorious anti-Semitic politicians. I was in Vienna doing what I normally do, conducting polls and providing advice to political leaders and their campaigns—this time for the Social Democratic candidate for mayor, the incumbent, Michael Häupl. I had provided similar services for Bill Clinton and Al Gore, Tony Blair, Nelson Mandela and Ehud Barak. As a rule, I keep to the background, offering my ideas privately and far away from the TV cameras. Vienna was to be different.

Mr. Haider led the Freedom Party to prominence by attacking foreigners and Jews, expressing admiration for some of Hitler's policies and championing some populist ideas of his own. His party got 27.9 percent of the vote here in the local election in 1996.

Speaking before his party convention, Mr. Haider declared, "Häupl has a strategist called Greenberg," eliciting giggles in the room. "He specially flew him in from the East Coast." For Mr. Haider, "East Coast" means New York City and powerful Jews, the people who brought down Austrian president Kurt Waldheim and have tried to extract reparations for the Jewish victims of Nazi aggression. Mr. Haider spoke more about the foreigner, then intoned: "Dear friends, you have the choice on 25 March between spin-doctor Greenberg from the East Coast or the Viennese hearts." This was greeted by massive applause.

I was not alone in the line of fire; Haider had singled out Ariel Muzicant, leader of the Jewish community in Vienna, for derision. He scoffed at his given name, which is also the name of a popular washing powder. And Mr. Haider wondered mockingly how "anyone with such a name can have such dirty hands," economically summoning up the "pollution" fears and class-struggle stereotypes of 1930's anti-Semitism.

Mr. Haider's candidate in Vienna, Helene Partik-Pablé, spoke of foreigners who "won't integrate." "They carry on with their own life-style," she said. "That leads to tensions involving noise, dirt and so on." She further declared, "We need to introduce zero immigration."

My first reaction was a certain pride in being attacked by Mr. Haider. But that was bravado, on the whole. The refrain of "East Coast" was unnerving.

One Saturday, after touring the city, I went to the Naschmarkt. The air carried many inviting scents—Austrian sausages on the grill, and Chinese stir-fry, the fruity tang of olives pickling in open tubs, Turkish döner rotating on a vertical skewer. So many aromas, most of which Mr. Haider would wish away. I accidentally bumped into Mayor Häupl, who was campaigning there. A few of the TV cameras turned to film me, and I did my best to disappear without seeming to pull a trench coat across my face. I was determined to avoid becoming a TV image two weeks before the election.

The notion entered my mind of other Jews hiding, seeking anonymity, in an earlier age. But I soon realized I was in a different time. I have been given the chance—denied my relatives in Eastern Europe, decades ago—to fight. With polls and focus groups, I helped develop issues and themes to deny Mr. Haider what he thrives on, namely voters frustrated and alienated and looking for foreigners to blame. The Social Democrats made a new effort to harness social changes that many Austrians find frightening—by encouraging high-technology employment, investing more in schools and public transport and enhancing retirement security.

I also came to realize that I was not alone in Austria. Mr. Haider closed his campaign with a flurry of neighborhood rallies continuing the refrain about the "East Coast." The Social Democrats finished with a rally of some 2000 supporters jammed into the Museumsquartier, the Hapsburgs' former stables. Mayor Häupl concluded his last campaign address with a warning about Mr. Haider: "His attacks against the East Coast and against our consultant Greenberg, against the president of the Jewish community" make him "personally responsible" for "anti-Semitism." "This policy is against all of us," Mayor Häupl said.

On Sunday Vienna voters made their choices. Mr. Haider's Freedom Party lost almost one-third of its support, plummeting

eight percentage points from the previous high. The Social Democrats made historic gains, taking up those eight points and winning an absolute majority on the city council.

I could focus on the fact that, last Sunday, one in five people in one of Europe's most tolerant and progressive cities voted for the anti-Semite. But I prefer to dwell on the fact that I had the opportunity to help drive back one of the dark forces of our time and I did not fight alone.

IN RECOGNITION OF PRESTOLITE
WIRE CORPORATION RECEIVING
THE GEORGIA OGLETHORPE
AWARD FOR PERFORMANCE EX-
CELLENCE

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Prestolite Wire Corporation, the year 2000 recipient of the Georgia Oglethorpe award for performance excellence. Prestolite

is the first manufacturing and small industry applicant to receive the state's highest honor.

The Georgia Oglethorpe award is open to business, industry, government, education, healthcare, and non-profit organizations and is awarded for performance excellence.

I would like to commend all the people of Prestolite Wire Corporation on their outstanding performance and operation that makes them the sole recipient of the award for the manufacturing, small industry category. This award should make everyone involved with Prestolite proud to be a part of a corporation to earn such a prestigious award.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 29, 2001 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 3

9:30 a.m. Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine issues surrounding Alzheimer's Disease. SH-216

Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine national energy policy with respect to impediments to development of domestic oil and natural gas resources. SD-628

10 a.m. Judiciary To hold hearings to examine online entertainment and related copyright law. SD-226

Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold oversight hearings to examine issues surrounding nuclear power. SD-124

Finance To hold hearings to examine the process of finding successful solutions relative to Medicare and Managed Care. SD-215

10:30 a.m. Foreign Relations Business meeting to consider proposed legislation to amend U.S. anti-drug certification procedures; S.Res.27, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the 1944 deportation of the Chechen people to central Asia; S.Res.60, urging the immediate release of Kosovar Albanians wrongfully imprisoned in Serbia; S.Con.Res.7, expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should establish an international education policy to enhance national security and significantly further United States foreign policy and global competitiveness; S.Con.Res.23, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the involvement of the Government in Libya in the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103; and the nomination of William Howard Taft, IV, of Virginia, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. SD-419

2 p.m. Judiciary Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the Hart-Rudman Report, with respect to homeland defense. SD-226

APRIL 4

9:30 a.m. Armed Services SeaPower Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of Defense and the Future Years Defense Program, focusing on shipbuilding industrial base issues and initiatives. SR-222

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions To hold hearings to examine the constitutionality of employment laws, focusing on states rights and federal remedies. SD-430

10 a.m. Finance To hold hearings to examine certain issues with respect to international trade and the American economy. SD-215

Judiciary Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine competitive choices concerning cable and video. SD-226

2 p.m. Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee To hold hearings to review certain issues with respect to immigration policy. SD-226

APRIL 5

10 a.m. Judiciary To hold hearings to examine Department of Justice nominations. SD-226

APRIL 24

10 a.m. Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Bureau of Reclamation, of the Department of the Interior, and Army Corps of Engineers. SD-124

Appropriations Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of the Interior. SD-138

APRIL 25

10 a.m. Judiciary To hold hearings to examine the legal issues surrounding faith based solutions. SD-226

Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of the Army. SD-192

Appropriations VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Corporation for National and Community Service. SD-138

1:30 p.m. Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of Agriculture. SD-138

APRIL 26

2 p.m. Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy. SD-124

MAY 1

10 a.m. Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for certain Department of Energy programs relating to Energy Efficiency Renewable Energy, science, and nuclear issues. SD-124

Appropriations Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. SD-138

Judiciary To hold hearings to examine high technology patents, relating to business methods and the internet. SD-226

MAY 2

10 a.m. Appropriations VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of Veterans Affairs. SD-138

MAY 3

10 a.m. Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of Agriculture, focusing on assistance to producers and the farm economy. SD-138

2 p.m. Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for Department of Energy environmental management and the Office of Civilian Radio Active Waste Management. SD-124

MAY 8
 10 a.m.
 Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine high technology patents, relating to genetics and biotechnology.
 SD-226
 Appropriations
 Interior Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of Energy.
 SD-124

MAY 9
 10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
 SD-138

MAY 10
 10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.
 SD-138

MAY 16
 10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
 SD-138

JUNE 6
 10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Na-

tional Science Foundation and the Office of Science Technology Policy.
 SD-138

JUNE 13
 10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council of Environmental Quality.
 SD-138

JUNE 20
 10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
 SD-138