

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BACK TO HEALTH MONTH

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday was the first day of "Back to Health Month," a national campaign created to increase awareness of back pain as well as possible causes and prevention. Sponsored by the North American Spine Society, this month is designed to educate Americans about their spine and how they can prevent common back injuries.

The facts of back pain speak for themselves. Did you know that at some point in their lives, more than 80 percent of American adults will experience back pain? Or, that 1 out of 14 adults will visit a physician this year due to back or neck pain, and that back pain is the second most common reason people visit a physician? These statistics demonstrate how important it is to raise awareness about this health problem that affects too many Americans.

One famous American who suffers from back pain is 1993 Major League Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, Reggie Jackson. Jackson was a two-time World Series MVP and Major League Player of the Year in 1973. During his legendary career, Jackson was named to the Major League All-Star team fourteen times. However, last July, like so many other Americans, following a spine injury, Jackson underwent emergency spine surgery and has been undergoing spine rehabilitation ever since.

Another highlight of "Back to Health Month" is an event to distribute information about back pain. "Back to Health Day" on Capitol Hill will be held on April 24th, in the Rayburn Gold Room. "Back to Health Day" will provide an array of educational materials, including guidelines to a healthy back, exercises to strengthen your back, and how to prevent back pain. In addition, representatives from the North American Spine Society will be on hand to discuss commonly asked questions about back pain, causes and prevention. I encourage my colleagues to join us for "Back to Health Day" as we learn the most effective ways to prevent and alleviate back pain.

I commend the North American Spine Society for organizing "Back to Health Month" and for their commitment to ensuring that Americans learn to keep their backs healthy.

TAX TREATMENT OF BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS ISSUED BY THE AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

HON. ENI F.H. FALOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. FALOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to clarify the tax

treatment of bonds and other obligations issued by the American Samoa Government.

Under current federal law, the territories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have the authority to issue municipal bonds to foster a broad range of economic activity. These bonds are exempt from income taxation by the federal government, state governments, territorial governments, municipal governments, and the government of the District of Columbia. This is known as triple tax exemption. In American Samoa, on the other hand, only industrial development bonds receive triple tax exempt status. The income from all other bonds is subject to taxation by federal, state and municipal governments.

The legislation I am introducing today will give to American Samoa the same authority already held by all other states and territories.

The legislation deletes the current reference to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code which excludes interest on qualifying bonds from income, as that cross reference is not necessary. It is the intent of the legislation, however, that interest on qualifying bonds issued by the Government of American Samoa or any of its agencies be exempt from taxation. As with other jurisdictions, the bonds would not be exempt from federal, state or local gift, estate, inheritance, legacy, succession or other wealth transfer taxes which may at any time be in effect.

The legislation uses new language in describing the bonds to reflect changes made to the Internal Revenue Code in 1986.

Finally, this bill repeals current law on this subject—Section 202 of Public Law 98-454 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1670). Any bonds issued after enactment of the new provision would be subject to the new law; any bonds issued before that date would remain valid and be subject to the current Section 1670 of Title 48.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 3, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and missed Rollcall votes numbered 76 and 77. Rollcall vote 76 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 768, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act. Rollcall vote 77 was on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 91, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the human rights situation in Cuba.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on both H.R. 768 and H. Res. 91.

TRIBUTE TO TOM KRIEGISH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Kriegish upon the occasion of his retirement as Chief of the Electrical Division of the state of Michigan's Bureau of Construction Codes. Tom has spent 35 years to working in the electrical industry and for the past 15 years he has used his vast array of knowledge and training to ensure public confidence in the safety of buildings and structures throughout the state.

Such work is critical to the well-being of citizens all over Michigan and Tom has always approached his job with extraordinary dedication and energy. Tom's work ethic and positive attitude in dealing with management, co-workers and customers have served as a shining example for others to follow. Tom has proved in his years of service that it is possible to exhibit character and professionalism in a job, while simultaneously earning the friendship of those with whom and for whom you work.

Tom's successful efforts in ensuring the electrical safety of Michigan homes and buildings often took him on the road. His time away from home certainly was a sacrifice for his wife, Vicki, and three daughters, Leslie, Sandy and Jill. Michigan residents owe a debt of gratitude both to Tom and his family for an unflinching devotion to duty.

As an electrical inspector, Tom became a legend for his ability to quickly react to a problem and solve it satisfactorily. His responsiveness came in handy during his frequent travels in northern Michigan. Once, Tom, who was known to miss a curve or two on slippery winter roads, found his vehicle heading straight for a dump truck hauling a backhoe. Showing his acumen for swift reaction, Tom regained enough control of his vehicle to bury it in a snowbank. Always faithful to the mission at hand, Tom had plenty of time to reflect on electrical inspections protocol while waiting for a wrecker to arrive.

On a more serious note, Tom has always displayed a willingness to give back to the industry to which he dedicated his life. His active role in the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, including terms as President and Executive Board Chairman, have contributed greatly to the industry and to the general public by developing professionalism and expertise among his peers.

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

• 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.

RECOGNIZING DR. STARZL, A
PIONEER IN ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a great man, one who is truly a living legend. Transplant pioneer Thomas E. Starzl not only performed the world's first liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful series of kidney transplants between nonidentical twins between 1963, and 1964, he has for forty decades continued to make equally extraordinary advancements.

For instance, in 1980, just before coming to the University of Pittsburgh, he developed a combination of drugs that transformed transplantation of the liver and heart from an experimental procedure to an accepted form of treatment for patients with end-stage organ failure and opened the door to pancreas and lung transplantation. In 1989, his development of another drug markedly improved survival rates for all kinds of transplants and made possible for the first time successful transplantation of the small intestine.

The entire field of transplantation has advanced because of his courage, his genius, and his compassion for his patients.

When Pittsburgh welcomed him just 20 years ago, no one had any idea the incredible contributions this man would make to medicine and mankind. Indeed, the city has enjoyed an enhanced reputation because he chose to make the University of Pittsburgh his academic home. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the first liver transplant he performed in Pittsburgh. Since then, surgeons at the University of Pittsburgh and the UPMC Health System have performed nearly 6,000 liver transplants and more than 11,300 transplants of all organs. No other center in the world comes close.

But the impact of Dr. Starzl's work goes far beyond Pittsburgh. Patients throughout the world, even those who have not been under his skillful care, have benefited from his contributions. He has trained numerous surgeons and research scientists. In fact, many, if not most of the world's transplant surgeons and physicians have been trained by Dr. Starzl or by those trained by him. Later this month, many of these former students and colleagues will honor Dr. Starzl at a scientific symposium in his honor, and the University of Pittsburgh will unveil his portrait, which will hang in the School of Medicine with the likes of other great pioneers, including Jonas Salk.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring and thanking one of history's great surgeons, Dr. Thomas Starzl.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOHN
LITTLE

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander John D. Little who served

with distinction and dedication for three years for the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (FM&C) as the Deputy Director in the Appropriations Matters Office.

It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation as a whole.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in April of 1998, Commander Little has provided members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and associate staffs with timely and accurate support regarding Navy plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped naval forces attainable for the defense of this nation.

Mr. Speaker, John Little and his wife Marianne have made many sacrifices during his naval career. His distinguished service has exemplified honor, courage and commitment. John's first love is to return to the sea as the Commander of a United States Navy Ship. His dream comes true as later this Spring he assumes command of the U.S.S. *Thorn* (DD-988) and her crew of 330 officers and sailors.

As this great Navy couple and their two daughters Mollie and Frances and their new born son John, Jr. depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another Navy adventure in the service of a grateful nation, I call upon my colleagues to wish them both every success and the traditional Navy send-off "fair winds and following seas."

PLUMBING STANDARDS
IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Plumbing Standards Improvement Act of 2001. This bill would begin to restore common sense to our government by repealing the ridiculous Congressional mandates on toilet size and showerhead flow, 1.6 gallons per flush and 2.5 gallons per minute, respectively.

With the help of the U.S. Department of Energy, environmental activist and plumbing manufacturers claimed it was essential to restrict water consumption in toilets and showerheads. Instead of allowing individuals to make their own choices, this group claimed the federal government should choose the types of plumbing fixtures Americans can use in their private and public bathrooms. As a result, this group was able to include an obscure rider at the eleventh hour to the Energy Policy Act (EPA), which Congress passed in 1992.

Since passage of the 1992 EPA, the voices in opposition to this policy have become loud and clear. I have heard the cries from across the country and they want the federal government out of their bathrooms. While support for ending these mandates has steadily grown, the importance of this issue has grown even

further. Last year the Department of Energy introduced new regulations on washing machines, air conditioners, and heating pumps. The federal government has become too intrusive; regulating people's private lives.

The Plumbing Standards Improvement Act of 2001 does not implement any new restrictions or standards. It simply allows each individual consumer to make choices that best fits their needs. Washington has no business dictating to American consumers on the size of their toilet or the flow of their shower. One-size-fits-all mandates are unfair and a draconian measure to regulate resources. It assumes that every American faces the same situations in their daily lives.

Our failed policy on plumbing fixtures has strangled the market, created innumerable headaches, and put us at risk of suffering further one-size-fits-all mandates. Now is the time to heed the call of suffering Americans, pass the Plumbing Standards Improvement Act of 2001 and restore wisdom to our federal government.

GREAT BASKETBALL IN THE 6TH
DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Durham, North Carolina, is the center of the basketball universe these days as Duke University celebrates its NCAA national men's basketball championship. The Sixth District of North Carolina, however, can also claim to be a basketball hotbed as we celebrate the arrival of two high school basketball champions—and they both reside in the same city. High Point, North Carolina, is the new home of the Girls 2-A state champion High Point Central Bison as well as the Boys 3-A state champion T. Wingate Andrews Red Raiders.

On March 9, the High Point Central girls completed a remarkable basketball season by defeating Eastern Alamance 92-62 to capture the Girls 2-A state title. While the overwhelming victory in the championship game was impressive in itself, it only capped what will be long remembered as one of the greatest high school basketball seasons ever. The Bison completed the season with a perfect record of 30-0. This was High Point Central's first undefeated season since 1993 when the Bison went 31-0 en route to the state 3-A title. Can you mention the word dynasty when you talk about the Bison? Central's championship this year was its second in the last three years and fourth in the last nine years. That's a better record than the Duke Blue Devils!

As the championship game Most Valuable Player Velinda Vuncannon told the High Point Enterprise, "We just played with a lot of heart tonight," she said. "We played as one, as a unit. We came out with a fire. It's great to have another ring on my finger. It's a wonderful way to go out." Vuncannon earned MVP honors with a performance that included 17 points, 13 assists, and four steals. The win, however, was a total team effort. Leslie Cook led the way with 23 points, while Rachel Stockdale added 19 points, and Nikki Warren chimed in with 13.

Congratulations are in order for Head Coach Kenny Carter and his outstanding staff in leading the Bison to their undefeated season. Joining Coach Carter on the bench were Associate Coach Jetanna McClain and Assistant Coaches Chris Martin, Dwain Waddell, Chris Shafer, and Twila Filipiak. Supporting the team effort were Managers Chastity Brown and Shauntae Pratt. Aply assisting were Video Managers Alan Byerly and David Gallemore, along with Scorekeeper Jessica Allen.

Of course, as Coach Carter would be the first to say, the praise must begin with the players. Members of this year's championship squad included Leslie Cook, Kathryn Fulp, Mary Gheen, Erica Green, Brittany Hendley, Laura Kirby, Shameka Leach, Jillian Martin, Krystion Obie, Rachel Stockdale, Velinda Vuncannon, and Nikki Warren. So, we congratulate the players, coaches and staff, along with Athletic Director Gary Whitman and Principal Helen Lankford, and everyone associated with High Point Central High School for winning the Girls 2-A state basketball championship.

Meanwhile, across town, the Red Raiders of T. Wingate Andrews High School are celebrating their own championship. On March 10, Andrews captured the Boys 3-A state basketball championship with a 63-60 victory over Kinston High School. The Raiders proved the old adage that it is good to peak late in the season. Andrews had lost four of its first 10 games to open the season but was riding a 12-game winning streak going into the title contest with the Vikings of Kinston. The Raiders, who finished with a record of 26-6, knew it was their night. "We wanted this more than anybody," Will Price told the High Point Enterprise. "We won 13 games in a row (counting the title game) and proved we're one of the best teams in the state right now." Price, a sophomore point guard, had a game-high 28 points, including hitting 5-of-6 free throws in the final 40 seconds of the contest, to capture Most Valuable Player honors.

This was the second state basketball championship in the school's history. The Red Raiders had last won the state title in 1995. Leading the way this year was Head Coach Frank Hairston. Assistant Coaches David Kirkland and Jim Pierson, Head Athletic Trainer Laura Blacksten and Assistant Athletic Trainer Summer Green, along with Managers Julian Weathers and Aaron Ollis ably assisted him.

The members of the championship squad included Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay, Tim Bowden, Jeff Collie, Lester Dunn, Steve Gillespie, Corey Hill, James Ledbetter, Rod McCollum, Will Price, Brandel Shouse, and Gary Thomas. Everyone at T. Wingate Andrews High School can be justifiably proud of the Red Raiders basketball team. We congratulate Athletic Director David Mizell and Principal Jerry Hairston and everyone at Andrews for winning the state Boys 3-A basketball championship.

While they may still be celebrating in Durham, we know the real home of champions is in High Point, North Carolina. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we congratulate High Point Central High School and T. Wingate Andrews High School for winning state basketball championships.

A TRIBUTE TO THE STEWART FAMILY AND THE STEWART FUNERAL HOME 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, last December 2, 2000 in Washington, DC, members of the Stewart Family celebrated the 100th year Anniversary of Stewart Funeral Home.

John Thomas Stewart, Sr., a young African-American Christian man traveled along dirt roads and trolley tracks to Washington, DC, holding tight to a big dream. He was determined to serve his community and to provide dignified funeral services for Washingtonians. He borrowed money from his brothers and sisters to purchase a casket and a gravesite, and then walked to a Northeast Washington home and arranged for the burial of a child. Mr. Stewart founded the Stewart Funeral Home at 62 H Street NW, Washington, DC, marking the beginning of a rich heritage and tradition of professionalism and community service in the Washington, DC metropolitan community, referred to by the Stewart family as "The Tradition of Stewartship."

To meet the needs of rapid growth, John T. Stewart, Sr. and his family expanded the business and twice moved the funeral home to new locations on H Street NE. During this first half-century, the elder John Stewart became well-known throughout the local community for his Christian charity, kindness and benevolence. The Federation of Civic Associations in 1957 dedicated a booklet in commemoration to him that stated, ". . . John Stewart did not aspire to be famous or great. Rather, he was a plain, God-fearing man who sought only to live a full and useful life, devoted to his family, his business, his church and the community. He was dedicated to helping others and lending a helping hand to the less fortunate. He carved out a niche in the hearts of his neighbors through his kindness, tolerance and generosity. His unselfish willingness to help others, without thought of credit or reward, looms large in the rich spiritual legacy he left, transcending fame and greatness." John T. Stewart, Sr. had the wisdom and forethought to share his knowledge and philosophy with his eventual successor, John T. Stewart, Jr.

John T. Stewart, Jr. was indoctrinated with the proud Tradition of Stewartship and continued his father's legacy. He and his wife, Margaret Stewart, who gave up her career as a teacher in Prince George's County, continued the tradition of sympathy and service to the community, serving in both leadership and advisory roles in numerous civic, religious and public service organizations.

In 1964, with continued growth of the business and inherited dedication to providing top quality care and sympathy, John T. Stewart, Jr. built a first rate facility at 4001 Benning Road, NE, which today stands as a landmark institution in Washington, DC. This new and modern facility was built as a memorial to John, Sr., the founder of Stewart Funeral Home. And like his father, John Stewart, Jr. provided guidance to his sons in funeral service and in the importance of community responsibility.

In 2001, Margaret Stewart, her sons, John T. Stewart III and Carlin O. Stewart, and her

granddaughter, Stacey, vigilantly continue the Tradition of Stewartship. Stacey, now under the tutelage of her father, John III, represents the fourth generation of the Stewart Funeral Home family. While their business has changed locations a few times over the last hundred years, the Stewart family has held steadfast to the legacy and landmark principles of quality, integrity, and dignified professional services and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to the Stewart family for their outstanding contributions to our community.

JOSEPH BATTISTO HONORED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN LEGISLATURE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my very good friend Joseph W. Battisto, who represented Monroe County with distinction in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1983 to 2000.

Since Joe and I had a shared constituency, I had the privilege of working with him on numerous occasions, and I am pleased to join with his many friends, who will hold a dinner in his honor April 19, to thank him for his exceptional service to the people of Monroe County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Joe, who was born in 1931 in Mount Pocono, is a lifelong resident of the Poconos. He graduated from Stroudsburg High School in 1949, earned a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University in 1956 and graduated with a master's degree from the University of Scranton in 1966. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955.

Joe's dedication to education stems from his 23 years as an English teacher. At the end of his teaching career, he was the head of his department at Pocono Mountain High School.

Before serving the people of Monroe County in Harrisburg, he served as a councilman in Mount Pocono Borough from 1970 to 1973 and as mayor from 1974 to 1981.

Mr. Speaker, Joe's accomplishments in the Legislature are too numerous to list them all here, but a few examples will serve to illustrate his dedication to serving the people. Joe worked with Senator Frank O'Connell to preserve a rail line through the county that a company wanted to dismantle. He also worked to obtain funds to promote tourism in Monroe County, so that the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau consistently receives among the highest amounts of state dollars of the more than 50 agencies in Pennsylvania each year. He was a leader in establishing the Pocono Mountain Industrial Park, started the Monroe County Litter Control Program and a signage control committee to preserve the natural beauty of the Poconos.

Joe's legislative accomplishments included authoring the Human Relations Act of 1991 that prevents discrimination in areas such as housing, employment and education, authoring a law to allow people 30 days to return defective hearing aids for a full refund, and a law to allow 14- and 15-year-olds to work at ski facilities, which was of great importance to the

Poconos. In addition, he started the influential House Bipartisan Anti-Gambling Coalition.

As chairman and leading Democrat on the House Transportation Committee, he worked to ensure the safety of all Pennsylvanians, writing a law that regulates the transportation of solid waste, with a ban on "back hauling" of garbage in trucks that transport food, and the teen driver licensing law that provides for increased instruction for young drivers.

Working for Monroe County, Joe initiated the Route 209 project that is now beginning final design and right-of-way acquisition, obtained funding for all traffic control devices on Route 611 from Stroud Township to Mount Pocono for 15 years, and personally pushed PennDOT to have a church at the intersection of Shafer Schoolhouse Road and Business Route 209 moved and preserved to correct the dangerous intersection.

And from his post on the Education Committee, he initiated School Performance Grants to reward schools that improve in areas such as the graduation rate and percentage of students who go on to higher education. He also helped to develop charter schools and the Early Intervention Education Program.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Battisto was a devoted and enthusiastic legislator. He cared deeply about the impact that the actions of state government have on the lives of ordinary people, and he carefully studied every issue. I could always count on Joe to give me a thoughtful analysis of any issue affecting the people of Monroe County, and I knew that their interests were always uppermost in his mind.

Unlike some politicians who try to justify their positions with one-sided spin, Joe Battisto took the time to explain the pros and cons of every issue to demonstrate his reasoning. Students and senior citizens alike left a discussion with Joe Battisto with a deeper appreciation for the complexity of state issues.

Joe and his wife, Virginia, have four children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the long history of Joe Battisto's service to the people of Monroe County and all of Pennsylvania, and I join his friends and neighbors in wishing him and his wife all the best.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF OF POLICE
STEPHEN W. OTT

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief of Police Stephen W. Ott upon his retirement after forty-eight years of service with the Cheltenham Township Police Department of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His long and dedicated service to the citizens of Cheltenham Township has served as an example to all.

Chief Ott was appointed to the Cheltenham Township Police Department on May 11, 1953 and is the longest serving police officer in the history of the Township. He began as a patrol officer and then was quickly promoted to Sergeant. He was promoted to Lieutenant and later was named Chief of Police on February 29, 1980. His tenure as Chief lasted twenty-one years. He has been awarded the Bravery

Commendation, which is the department's second highest official commendation that can be awarded.

During his distinguished career, Chief Ott guided the police department as it became the third largest municipal law enforcement agency in Montgomery County. He has been instrumental in adding many special operations units such as the Canine, Highway Safety, Community Relations and Crime Prevention.

Although Chief Ott's tenure began before the information technology age, he embraced technology by adding computers to the Investigative Division, police department operations and record keeping and dispatching. The structure of the department was also overhauled due to Chief Ott's foresight.

It is a privilege to honor the contributions of Chief Stephen W. Ott to the citizens of Cheltenham Township. Chief Ott has my sincere best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

THE NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK
RIDE SAFETY ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act, to restore safety oversight to an largely unregulated industry. I am joined in this effort by Representatives CONNIE MORELLA, JOHN TIERNEY, CAROLYN MALONEY, BARNEY FRANK, PETER DEFAZIO, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, TOM LANTOS, and JULIA CARSON.

It is shocking to realize that one-third of all roller coasters in this country are never inspected by any public safety official at all. These and other rides are large machines used to carry children at high speeds. Industry trends have been to increase the speed and the force of these machines to levels that exceed the forces experienced by shuttle astronauts. Although many of these rides are operated safely and without incident, nevertheless every day riders are hurt, often seriously, requiring hospitalization, visits to emergency rooms. And occasionally, someone who went to the park for a thrill actually is killed by the operation of these machines.

To me, it is inexcusable that when someone dies or is seriously injured on these rides, there is no system in place to ensure that the ride is investigated, the causes determined, and the flaws fixed, not just on that ride, but on every similar ride in every other state.

The reason there is no national clearinghouse to prevent ride injuries is clear—since 1981, the industry has escaped routine product safety regulation through a loophole in the law. The industry carved out an exemption that says that while the Consumer Product Safety Commission can regulate every other consumer product, and while it can regulate small carnival rides that travel from town to town, it cannot step foot in an amusement park for the purpose of regulating a ride that is fixed to the site, such as a roller coaster.

This is the so-called "Roller Coaster Loop-hole", and it needs to be closed. The bill eliminates the restriction on CPSC safety jurisdiction adopted in 1981. It will allow the CPSC the same scope of authority to protect against

unreasonable risks of harm on "fixed-site" rides that it currently retains for carnival rides that are moved from site to site ("mobile rides.") This would include the authority to investigate accidents, to develop and enforce action plans to correct defects, to require reports to the CPSC whenever a substantial hazard is identified, and to act as a national clearinghouse for accident and defect data.

The bill would also authorize appropriations of \$500 thousand annually to enable the CPSC to carry out the purposes of the Act.

BACKGROUND

The Consumer Product Safety Act provided the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) with the same consumer protections authority it has for other consumer products. However, in 1981, following a series of legal challenges by several owners of large theme parks, Congress stepped in and limited CPSC authority only to those rides "not permanently fixed to a site." Thus, the CPSC currently is prohibited from investigating accidents or developing or enforcing safety plans, and manufacturers, owners and operators of rides are not required to disclose to the CPSC defects which would create a substantial hazard of consumer injury. Since it cannot gather the information, the CPSC is also effectively prevented from sharing the information with others so that accidents in one state can be prevented in another.

RISE IN RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY

The CPSC estimates the number of serious injuries on fixed and mobile amusement park rides using the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). This data includes only injuries severe enough to have led the injured party to go to an emergency room. According to its July 2000 summary, emergency-room injuries on fixed rides increased 95 percent over the previous four years, and they rose most rapidly on the rides that are exempt from CPSC oversight.

When one compares the safety record of this industry to other activities that involve traveling—as a passenger at high speed, such as passenger trains, buses and planes, the amusement park industry's fatality rate is actually worse.

Some states try to step in where the CPSC cannot, but states with inspection programs are very uneven depending on which agency has the responsibility and whether its expertise is design, operator training, manufacturing, etc. No state, and no industry organization, provides the national clearinghouse function that the CPSC currently provides for mobile rides and could provide for fixed-site rides.

FATALITIES

Although the overall risk of death on an amusement park ride is very small, it is not zero. In the course of one week in August 1999, for example, 4 deaths occurred on roller coasters, which U.S. News & World Report termed "one of the most calamitous weeks in the history of America's amusement parks":

August 22—a 12-year-old boy fell to his death after slipping through a harness on the Drop Zone ride at Paramount's Great America Theme Park in Santa Clara, California;

August 23—a 20-year-old man died on the Shockwave roller coaster at Paramount King's Dominion theme park near Richmond, Virginia;

August 28—a 39-year-old woman and her 8-year-old daughter were killed when their

car slid backward down a 30-foot ascent and crashed into another car, injuring two others on the Wild Wonder roller coaster at Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City, New Jersey.

Each of these tragedies is an opportunity for the CPSC to search for causes and share its insights with the operators of other similar rides. Unless the law is changed, however, it cannot perform this role.

One final point—the industry has the unfortunate habit of belittling the risk of loved ones getting mangled or killed on these machines by suggesting that the risk of getting hurt is lower than for “bowling” or “watering your garden.” In fact, the fatality rate on roller coasters approximates the risk of dying on passenger trains, buses and airplanes. None of those industries claims any exemption from federal oversight, and investigations by federal safety experts of train accidents, bus accidents or plane crashes is central to minimizing the recurrence of serious or fatal accidents in America.

Yet this common sense eludes the amusement park industry, to the detriment of the safety of children and adult riders alike.

As the spring and summer riding season begins, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this modest restoration of safety to all parkgoers. Thank you.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT
NATIONAL CONSUMER GROUPS

- Consumer Federation of America
- Consumers Union
- U.S. Public Interest Research Group
- National SAFE KIDS Campaign
- STATE & LOCAL CONSUMER GROUPS
- American Council on Consumer Awareness
- Arizona Consumers Council
- Center for Public Representation (WI)
- Chicago Consumer Coalition
- Columbia Consumer Education Council (SC)
- The Consumer Alliance (midwest regional alliance)
- Consumer Law Center of the South
- Democratic Processes Center (AZ)
- Empire State Consumer Association (NY)
- Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group
- Mercer County Community Action Agency (PA)
- North Carolina Consumers Council
- Oregon Consumer League

THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2001

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join my friend from Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, me, and 114 of our colleagues to support the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001. I am proud of this bipartisan effort to aid our firefighters and police in this common sense effort to increase fairness.

This bill is supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, International Union of Police Organizations, National Association of Police Organizations, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Firefighters and police men and women protect the public everyday. These men and women are true public servants who put themselves in harm's way for others. Is it too much to ask that they be allowed to bargain for wages, hours, and safer working conditions? No. This bill helps workers, management, and the general public, because better employer-employee cooperation leads to cost savings and better delivery of services.

Congress has long recognized the importance of assuring and protecting the right of workers to collectively bargain. Federal laws have been extended to guarantee collective bargaining to different sectors and now the only sizeable group of workers without the right to collectively bargain are employees of State and local government.

Fire fighters and police officers take seriously their oath to protect the public and as a result they do not engage in worker slowdowns or stoppages. This bill would not allow for strikes or slowdowns, only the right to bargain collectively. The absence of this collective bargaining denies them opportunity to influence decisions that affect their livelihoods and families.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Act establishes basic minimum standards that state laws must meet and provides a process to resolve impasses in States without such laws. States that already have collective bargaining laws would be exempt from the Federal statute. Furthermore, this bill prohibits strikes and does not call for mandatory binding arbitration.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the bipartisan Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2001

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join my friend from Ohio, Mr. Ney, myself, and over 100 of their colleagues, to support the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001.

Congress has long recognized the importance of assuring and protecting the right of workers to collectively bargain. Over the years, federal laws have been extended to guarantee collective bargaining to different sectors and now the only sizeable group of workers without the rights to collectively bargain are employees of state and local government.

Fire fighters and police officers take seriously their oath to protect the public and as a result they do not engage in worker slowdowns or stoppages. The absence of the right to collectively bargain denies them the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their livelihoods and families.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Act establishes basic minimum standards that state laws must meet and provides a process to resolve impasses in states without such laws. States that already have collective bargaining laws would be exempt from the federal statute. Furthermore, this bill prohibits strikes

and does not call for mandatory binding arbitration.

Firefighters and police men and women risk their lives every day to protect the public. At the very least, they should be allowed to bargain for wages, hours, and safe working conditions. This bill helps workers, management, and the general public, because employer-employee cooperation leads to cost savings and better delivery of services.

This bill is supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, International Union of Police Organizations, National Association of Police Organizations, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001.

HONORING DEB BUSWELL OF LACROSSE, WI

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, and a very special teacher, Debra Buswell. Debra Buswell was recently named Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year. Debra, a teacher at Longfellow Middle School from my home town of La Crosse, Wisconsin, is currently the team leader for the School on the River program, housed within Longfellow. This program allows students to work on a variety of environmental projects, including stocking fish with Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources and compiling river information for the U.S. Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center.

It is also with great pleasure that I recognize the School on the River program itself as one of eight recipients to receive a Seaworld/Busch Gardens 2001 Environmental Excellence Award. This award recognizes the efforts of students to protect and preserve the environment at a local level. In addition to national recognition for its outstanding achievements, the School on the River will receive \$15,000 for specialized equipment, 100 T-shirts, trophies and certificates, and all-expense-paid trips for three students and one teacher to attend ceremonies in Florida and Missouri.

All of us in the La Crosse area applaud the efforts of Debra Buswell and Principal Glen Jenkins for their outstanding efforts to raise environmental consciousness among Longfellow students, and at the same time, to engage students in non-traditional learning environments. This exposure to critical thinking and higher mathematical skills, management techniques, and team building exercises will benefit them for years to come. With the dedication and support of the school, Principal Jenkins, and Debra Buswell, this ten-year old program is now beginning to receive the national recognition it deserves. I congratulate Principal Jenkins, Debra Buswell, and the students who participate in the program for their hard work and dedication to improving the local environment in their home community.

With the continued awareness of the importance to having a healthy environment, I am

grateful that students and residents from western Wisconsin remain committed to improving the local environment for the benefit of this generation and the many generations to follow. It is my sincere hope that we can here in Congress take this example back to our own communities to strengthen our own constituents' efforts to raise awareness regarding local environmental issues.

Obviously, the teaching going on at Longfellow Middle School is near and dear to my heart. Growing up, I spent a lot of time along the Mississippi River. Now I live right on the Mississippi, and take my two sons down to the River to fish, or just explore, whenever possible. The important role the Mississippi River plays in the lives of my constituents is, in fact, why I helped form the bipartisan Mississippi River Caucus as one of the first things I did when joining Congress. I also continually support initiatives to benefit the river such as the EMP program and the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge. And this year, I will reintroduce my Upper Mississippi River Basin Conservation Act.

On behalf of the residents of western Wisconsin, I proudly commend Debra Buswell on her recognition as an Outstanding Environmental Educator. I also commend the School on the River for being recognized for its efforts to improve the local environment in western Wisconsin. The La Crosse School District and local community are better places to live thanks to the efforts of these middle-school students and their dedicated teacher.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD
KWASNESKI, MAYOR OF LEMONT,
IL

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Kwasneski, who in just a few weeks will be retiring as Mayor of Lemont, Illinois, which is located in my congressional district.

Our local governments could not work if it were not for people like Rick—they serve their hometowns for no other reason than because they love where they live.

Rick Kwasneski surely loves Lemont. For the past 16 years, Rick has served the people of Lemont with dedication and honor, first as a Village Trustee for eight years and then as Mayor for the past eight.

As Mayor, Rick led the economic and physical revitalization of Lemont's historic downtown area, created a Historic District in the downtown area to promote and preserve the rich history of Lemont, and reconstructed the town's aging infrastructure and roadways. He also lowered the Village's property tax rate to its lowest level in 25 years.

Rick is a tireless champion for Lemont, always working to improve the Village wherever there is a need. The residents of Lemont were lucky to have him as Mayor and I know he will be missed.

I am going to miss Rick as well. Since I came to Congress a little over two years ago, Rick has been a valuable partner on issues important to Lemont, such as the southern extension of I-355 and extra train service on the Heritage Corridor rail line that serves Lemont.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying that we need more excellent individuals like Rick Kwasneski to go into public service. His selfless hard work and advocacy for Lemont are a model for all of us.

And even though he will no longer serve as Mayor of Lemont, I know that he will continue to have a strong presence in the community, lending a hand whenever and wherever it is needed.

FEBRUARY 22 FOREST ROUNDTABLE IN MISSOULA

HON. DENNIS REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, on February 22 I sponsored a roundtable discussion in Missoula, Montana on forest health issues. This discussion included presentations from a wide array of interests.

Representing the conservation community were Tom France of the National Wildlife Federation, Cesar Hernandez of the Montana Wilderness Association and Steve Thompson of the Montana Conservation Voters. Forest products industry witnesses were Kim Liles of the Pulp and Paperworkers Resource Council, Jim Hurst of Owens and Hurst Lumber, Sherm Anderson of the Montana Logging Association and Roger Johnson of Pyramid Mountain Lumber. County governments were represented by Commissioners Barbara Evans of Missoula County, Alan Thompson of Ravalli County, Dale Williams of Flathead County and Rita Windham of Lincoln County. Providing creative ideas practiced on non-federal lands were Garry Orr of the Salish-Kootenai Tribes and Tom Schultz with the Montana Department of State Lands. Finally, the scientific and academic communities were represented by Drs. Chuck Keegan and Carl Fiedler of the University of Montana and U.S. Forest Service fire ecologist Steve Arno.

This roundtable, and one scheduled for April 18 in Hamilton, will provide me with firsthand accounts of what is working and not working regarding management of Montana's forests. As a member of both the House Committees on Agriculture and Resources, that have jurisdiction over forest management, I am seeking "made in Montana" solutions to our current challenges in forest management.

I encourage my colleagues to read the following article by Sherry Devlin on the Missoula roundtable that appeared in the February 23 Missoulian. I also highly recommend reading the testimony of Kim Liles who is a papermaker for Smurfit-Stone Container in Frenchtown, Montana and a member of Hellgate Local 8-0885 PACE International Union.

[From the Missoulian (MT), Feb. 23, 2001]

REHBERG GETS EARFUL ON FORESTS
INDUSTRY OFFICIALS SAY CONTROL SHOULD
STAY WITH LOCAL EXPERTS

(By Sherry Devlin)

The rest of the country should just "butt out" and let Montanans manage the national forests in their back yards, a Eureka sawmill owner told U.S. Rep. Dennis Rehberg's forest-management roundtable Thursday.

"I'm not going to tell the people of New York City how to manage Central Park,"

said Jim Hurst, owner of Owens and Hurst Lumber Co. "So why should they be telling us how to manage the Kootenai National Forest? I say they should butt out."

Montanans, Hurst said, can work their way through even the thorniest forest-management issues. It's the national dictates—of presidents, congressmen and bureaucrats—that make people dig in their heels.

So went the conversation during a four-hour, four-panel series of roundtable discussions at the University of Montana, called by Rehberg—he said—to learn more about forest-management issues and to look for common ground. "Is there anything that we can all agree on?" he asked.

"Yes," said paper maker Kim Liles. "I share everyone's concern for the health, conservation and beauty of this great state. I most certainly do not want to destroy the environment."

"Yes," said environmental lawyer Tom France. "If it's not just a rush to get timber off the hill, but a rush to do right by the land."

"Good," said Rehberg, the Republican elected in November to Montana's single seat in the House of Representatives. "People have this preconceived notion that I have a preconceived notion about forest management. And I don't. I am serious about the consensus process."

Collaboration can work; it can yield timber cutting and endangered-species recovery, said France, an attorney for the National Wildlife Federation in Missoula.

Loggers and environmentalists have been able to look at specific pieces of land and agree upon "appropriate timber harvest" that "lays lightly on the land," he said. "It works best when we are discussing specific tracts of land in our own, local area."

"Let's start talking about salvage logging in burned areas and restoration projects in the urban-wildland interface," said Anne Dahl of the Swan Ecosystem Center. "We are very capable of making good decisions as a community."

"We need to start over and practice sustainable forestry on the millions and millions of acres of forest land that we already roaded and developed," said Steve Thompson, a Whitefish consultant, writer and environmental activist.

Don't get distracted, Thompson advised, by focusing your energy on a repeal of President Clinton's roadless initiative—the last administration's controversial ban on road building and logging on 58 million acres of undeveloped national forest land.

"Many of the forest issues that we face are very polarized, very difficult," France said. "They are not easily resolved by even powerful congressmen in Washington, D.C. I encourage you to focus on the places where we can actually make progress on the ground."

Loggers—who sat with Rehberg on another of the roundtable panels—emphasized that there will be no consensus unless the discussion and decisions are local.

"To manage our national forests from an office back East is unacceptable," said Liles, who works at Smurfit-Stone Container Corp.'s Frenchtown linerboard plant. "The national folks don't have to experience the economic devastation their policies cause. They don't know us or our geography. We have very good people right here in Missoula, Montana, in the Forest Service. We need to allow them to do their jobs."

Hurst told Rehberg that federal land management policies have bankrupted his community and broken its spirit. "Eureka, Montana, is going broke," he said. Earlier this month, he laid off 40 percent of his employees.

Local management works, Hurst said. "Look at Alberta, the most prosperous piece

of real estate in North America. Why is that? Why is Alberta so prosperous when Montana is the Appalachian West? The key there is the province has all the control over the natural resources. The local people have control."

Sherm Anderson, who owns Sun Mountain Logging Co., told Rehberg he could help by educating people back East about forests and how they live and grow and die. "If I were king and could change one thing, it would be the perception that our forests—if we don't touch them—will stay the same forever," he said.

"You can't legislate perception," Rehberg said.

"But if people could understand how a forest operates," Anderson said, "maybe we could get some intelligence back into our national forest management."

Forest Service officials were not invited to participate in any of the day's roundtable talks, but several sat in the audience of more than 100 people who crowded around Rehberg and the panelists to listen. And Maggie Pittman, a spokeswoman for the agency's Northern Region office in Missoula, asked Rehberg to include agency officials next time around.

"We are thrilled that Denny Rehberg is holding this forum," Pittman said later. "It's a wonderful way for Denny and his staff to get up to speed fairly quickly. We would have enjoyed a place at that table today. There are some misperceptions that we would like to talk about, but also we consider ourselves a key part of the conversation."

"Public land managers need to be part of the discussion about public land management."

TESTIMONY OF KIM LILES

Representative Rehberg, ladies and gentlemen. I am happy to be here with you today, to have an opportunity to express my concerns and that of my co-workers regarding our ability to continue to earn a living in the natural resource based industries.

I am a member of The Pulp and Paperworkers' Resource Council, a grassroots organization representing over 350,000 workers in the pulp and paper, solid wood manufacturing and related industries. I am also employed by Smurfit-Stone Container and I am a member of Hellgate Local 8-0885 PACE International Union.

First of all let me say that I am an environmentalist like I hope everyone in this room is. I share everyone's concern for the health and conservation of our natural resources, our environment and the beauty of our state. I hope that just because I am employed in the timber industry, people don't assume I want to destroy the environment, or degrade our environmental controls. I most certainly do not and neither do those I work with and for. We all enjoy this great state and most of us are outdoorsmen, Hunters, campers, mountain bikers, snowmobilers and fishermen. We have a vested interest in being good stewards of the land as much as anyone else.

Today, America has 630 wilderness areas encompassing 102 million acres of land under federal control. The National Forest System with 155 national forests, encompassing 200 million acres of land, has in the past been guided by the concept of multiple use for sustained yield—a policy of wise conservation. These uses have always included managed timber harvesting, recreation of all sorts, including skiing, fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling and others. These forests have also at the same time been managed for wildlife and the environment.

I as well as my co-workers and others involved in natural resource based industries are deeply concerned with the management

of our public lands. To manage our National Forests and public lands from an office back east, by the stroke of a pen is unacceptable. These people do not have to live with outcome of their actions. We can be better served by people here locally and on the State level. They are in touch with the needs of the area and have the know how, ability and a vested interest in being good Stewards of the land as well.

Whether we want to admit it or not this is about jobs, it's about economies, families and communities. How many school closures, plant shutdowns, and economically devastated families and communities are we going to have to endure before we come to the realization that in order to sustain an economy, you have to produce a value added product somewhere in the equation. You cannot sustain an economy with service-based jobs, tourism nor education, it doesn't work. You cannot support a family on a \$6.00 an hour job either.

Montana used to be about 7th in the nation in average per capita income. Today we are now 50th in that category. We are however #1 in one area, that being heads of households holding two jobs to support their families, a very sad commentary.

In Montana since 1989, over 17 mills have been shut down, over 2,000 jobs have been eliminated. That is jobs in the timber industry alone, that is not including mining jobs and support industry jobs that have also been eliminated. The cumulative effect of extreme environmental regulations, regulatory rules and a smothering bureaucracy are having and have had a negative impact on our States economy.

I submit to you that we can have both, a vibrant economy utilizing our natural resources, supplying good paying jobs and a healthy and stable environment. We need to find that balance. There is middle ground to be had here. Let common sense be a part of any and all decisions we might make regarding these issues.

I am proud to say I'm a native Montanan and have lived here all of my life. I can only hope my four children can also have that opportunity. I see so many young people leaving our state today to earn a living elsewhere simply because there are no jobs that pay a living wage suitable for raising or sustaining a family. What a sad truth that is.

Again, we need to find the middle ground here. It seems the pendulum has swung too far in one direction, believe me, I do not want to see it go all the way in the other direction. We need to stop it (the pendulum), in the middle. We can do that, and we must do that.

FORTY-THREE BRAVE AMERICAN SOLDIERS

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, history almost forgot forty-three American soldiers who were involved in one of the hottest firefights of the Cold War. The morning after Thanksgiving in 1984, the soldiers monitoring the demilitarized zone on the North Korean border saw their North Korean counterparts race across the border towards them, in hot pursuit after a fleeing Soviet defector. What followed for almost an hour was a gunfight between the forty three American soldiers, their South Korean allies, and dozens of attacking North Koreans. In the exchange of fire, an American soldier

was injured, one South Korean was killed, and at least two North Koreans were killed and another two wounded.

The forty-three American soldiers faced the danger of combat, protecting our liberty and our commitment to democracy. But for years, they were never recognized with the Combat Infantryman's Badge—a mark of honor and distinction reserved for those American soldiers who faced enemy fire and survived.

Finally, after seventeen years, these brave men will receive the recognition they deserve. The reasons for the delay—bureaucratic politics and inconsistent regulations—might just as well be forgotten by history. But we must never let these men, their courage, their sacrifice, and their honor, be relegated to the status of a footnote in the history books.

Our nation has always had its heroes. From the great revolutionaries like Patrick Henry and George Washington to the pioneers like Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett, we have always looked to those who risked themselves for a greater purpose. Some of our heroes left their mark with a flourish, and some carried out their role with only silent dignity, yet we have always respected them with out gratitude and our honor.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge is a simple piece of cloth; a musket bordered by a wreath on a pale blue background. But the risk, sacrifice, and indeed, heroism that it represents is real.

To these forty-three brave American soldiers, we owe a great debt. Decades may have passed since that November morning they stood tall and protected us, but the memory shall not fade. History will never forget their courage.

GETTING OUR GIRLS READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (GO GIRL!)

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, what's wrong with this picture? Females make up slightly more than 50 percent of this country's population, yet, less than 30 percent of America's scientists are women. Even fewer engineers are women—less than 10 percent!

In 1994 there were 209 tenured faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—and 15 of them were women!

Of course, these figures aren't surprising when you learn that in 1985 women earned less than thirty percent of the bachelor degrees in the physical sciences, and, less than ten percent of the bachelor degrees in engineering.

You don't even want to hear the percentage of PhD's in science and math-based fields that are earned by women. Just to give you an example, about eight percent of the PhDs in physics in 1988 were awarded to women.

My colleagues may be asking themselves, "So what . . . is this some national problem?"

Yes—this is a big problem. A big problem for employers; a big problem for women as future wage earners; and a big problem for our nation as we compete in the global marketplace.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that between 1994 and 2005, the number of

women in the labor force will be growing twice as quickly as men.

A recent study of school-to-work projects found ninety percent of the girls clustered in five traditionally female occupations. My colleagues do not need me to tell them that careers in traditionally female occupations pay far less than careers in science, math, and technology. For example, a data analyst can expect to make \$45,000 a year while a licensed practical nurse makes less than \$25,000 a year. And a kindergarten teacher makes only \$18,044 a year.

In addition, the National Science Foundation reports that the jobs facing workers will require higher skill levels in science, math, and technology than ever before.

The NSF report is verified by a letter I recently received from the American Electronics Association. They wrote to tell me that today the hi-tech industry is facing a critical shortage of skilled workers. And, the future looks even worse. A recent AEA report showed that the number of degrees in computer science, engineering, mathematics and physics have actually declined since 1990.

Quite clearly, there is no way that America can have a technically competent workforce if the majority of students—females—continue not to study science, math and technology.

That is why today I am introducing a bill to help school districts encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math, and technology.

Although my bill is formally titled "Getting Our Girls Ready for the 21st Century Act" it will be known as "Go Girl!"

"Go Girl!" will create a bold new workforce of energized young women in science, math and technology.

"Go Girl!" is modeled on the Trio program, which has successfully encouraged two million low income students, whose parents never attended college, to attend and graduate from college. Similarly, the lack of female role models hamper female interest in studying science, math, and technology.

Girls, and their parents, first, must be able to envision a career in these fields for themselves and their daughters. Then, they need practical advice on what to study and how to achieve the necessary academic requirements.

"Go Girl!" follows girls from the fourth grade, the grade in which girls typically begin to fall behind boys in math and science, through high school.

To encourage girls' interest in math, science and technology in the early grades, girls will participate in events and activities that increase their awareness of careers in these fields, and they will meet female role models.

Older girls will visit college campuses and meet with students and professors in these fields.

"Go Girl!" participants benefit from tutoring and mentoring, including programs using the internet, such as the "design your future program" started by Carol Bartz, the president of Autodesk Software Company.

American school girls are close to fifty percent of america's future workforce. If they turn away from careers in science, math, and technology, we will be short changing our employers and our young women.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in sending a new message to our girls in school—a message that says, "you go, girl!" to a career in science, mathematics and technology.

WAGE AND LABOR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE AMERICAN TERRITORIES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the ongoing wage and labor rights violations in factories operating in some of our American territories, and I ask that my colleagues join me in creating reforms that will finally ensure that all workplaces that operate under the American flag do so in compliance with federal law. I have been involved for a number of years in an effort to reduce the well-documented exploitation of temporary foreign workers, particularly Asian women, in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (US/CNMI). In the past few months, I have been troubled to learn that the practice of exploiting temporary workers has now spread to American Samoa.

According to a recent Department of Labor investigation, the Daewoosa factory in the American Samoa employed 251 Vietnamese "guest workers"—more than 90 percent of them women—for nearly two years under conditions of indentured servitude. These workers took on a debt of up to \$8,000 dollars each in order to qualify for what they believed would be good jobs in America, but instead they were constantly paid less than the Samoan minimum wage of only \$2.60 per hour. Sometimes the workers of the Daewoosa factory were not paid at all. Many workers also faced verbal, physical and sexual abuse, including a severe beating that caused one young woman to lose an eye. As a result of these violations, Daewoosa owner Kil Soo Lee now faces charges of forced labor in federal court.

While I applaud the Federal Government for prosecuting this particular violator of labor laws, I believe we must take steps to ensure that these injustices never happen again. I urge my colleagues to read the following article from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and consider whether they would ever tolerate such conditions and exploitation in their own districts. I also invite my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring legislation to bring all of the U.S. territories into compliance with the federal laws that protect workers throughout the United States.

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Mar. 31, 2001]

HAWAII SHOULD LEAD FIGHT TO END ABUSE OF WORKERS IN U.S. TERRITORIES

The issue: Allegations that Asian workers were forced to work at an American Samoan garment sweatshop under inhuman conditions have resulted in federal charges here.

Human rights and labor abuses uncovered on the Northern Marianas island of Saipan three years ago embarrassed U.S. garment manufacturers, resulting in lawsuits and federal legislation targeted for the islands north of Guam. Sweatshop conditions as bad if not worse in American Samoa have prompted criminal charges in federal court.

The two cases suggest that U.S. territories in the Pacific have been vulnerable to such abuses far more than had been assumed. Reform legislation that failed in the last Congress should be rejuvenated and broadened to include all U.S. possessions.

About 14,000 workers, mostly young women, from China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Thailand were lured by promises of good wages to pay fees of up to \$10,000 to enter the labor force in the Northern Marianas. In 1998, federal lawsuits accused 32 contractors on Saipan of beatings, forced abortions and rat-infested quarters in essentially a prison environment surrounded by barbed-wire and armed guards.

Major clothing retailers in the United States that had bought garments sewn on Saipan settled lawsuits by agreeing to establish a \$1.25 million fund to finance monitoring, compensate workers and create a public education program.

Senator Akaka last year won Senate approval of a bill to extend U.S. immigration and minimum-wage laws to the Marianas and allow "Made in the USA" labels only on garments on which more than half the work had been done by American citizens. The measure died in the House.

More recently, a Labor Department investigation has uncovered similar abuses in American Samoa, with work and living conditions so horrid that some garment workers, mostly women from Vietnam, looked like "walking skeletons."

Similar to the situation on Saipan, up to 250 workers had borrowed \$2,000 to \$7,000 each to acquire their jobs and fly from Vietnam or China to Saipan. Investigators found frequent violations of the Samoan minimum wage (\$2.60 an hour) and numerous abuses, including the beating of workers and withholding of meals as a form of punishment.

Daewoosa, a Korean-owned clothing manufacturer that had made apparel for J.C. Penney Co., closed the plant in January. A judge in Samoa placed Daewoosa under receivership after it failed to pay \$600,000 in back wages and fines resulting from the Labor Department investigation.

Penney had canceled contracts with the factory immediately after learning of the abuses. Daewoosa owner Kil Soo Lee now faces charges of involuntary servitude and forced labor in federal court in Honolulu.

While the semiautonomous status of U.S. territories in the Pacific may vary, the conditions that were found on Saipan and Samoa should be condoned on none of them. As leaders of the U.S. community in the Pacific, Hawaii's congressional delegation should promote legislation to end these human-rights abuses.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOHN FRISTACHI

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander John C.P. Fristachi, who served with distinction and dedication for almost three years for the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (FM&C) as a Principle Assistant in the Appropriations Matters Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation as a whole.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in April of 1998, Commander Fristachi has provided members

of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and associate staffs with timely and accurate support regarding Navy plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped naval forces attainable for the defense of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, John Fristachi and his wife Betsy have made many sacrifices during his naval career. His distinguished service has exemplified honor, courage and commitment. As they depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another great Navy adventure in the service of a grateful nation, I call upon my colleagues to wish them both every success and the traditional Navy send-off "fair winds and following seas."

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS
WEEK

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in Honor of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Each year, the second week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators.

Telecommunicators are civilians across this country who provide the vital link between the public and emergency service responders, be they police, fire or EMS. They provide the radio, telephone, computer and other communication services that save lives and keep our communities safe and secure. Too often, the importance of this job and the contribution these individuals make go unnoticed.

Today, I would like to recognize and thank the telecommunicators who serve the 20th District of Illinois. They are: Karen Giese, Lora Furlong, Michelle Tarvin, Teri Roado, Nancy Pohlman, Sarah Richey, DeAnna Fare, Lora C. Furlong, Robert I. Castens, Lillian I. Rutherford, Tammy S. Giacomelli, and Sherri M. Deeder.

Mr. Speaker. I extend my deepest appreciation to these and all telecommunicators for talking distressed callers through CPR, calming hysterical crime victims, and making the difficult decisions using limited information to save lives and reduce property damage on a daily basis.

STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT
PROTECTION ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Structured Settlement Protection Act. This legislation protects the Congressional policy underlying structured settlements and brings a final resolution to the issue known as "factoring" of structured settlement payments.

In introducing this legislation, I am joined by my colleague Mr. STARK and by a broad bipar-

tisan group of our colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee, including Mr. HOUGHTON and Mr. COYNE, the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member respectively of the Oversight Subcommittee which held a hearing on the structured settlement factoring issue in the last Congress. There are a total of 19 Ways and Means co-sponsors of this important legislation.

I am a long-time supporter of the use of structured settlements to compensate victims of physical injuries. Structured settlements constitute a private sector funding alternative to taxpayer-financed programs to meet the ongoing, long-term medical and living needs of seriously-injured victims and their families. Structured settlements enable these injured people to live with dignity, free of reliance on government. For these reasons, Congress adopted special tax rules to encourage the use of structured settlements to provide long-term financial security to injured victims and their families.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act that I am introducing today addresses concerns which have been raised over the "factoring" of structured settlement payments, in which factoring or settlement purchase companies buy up part or all of the structured settlement recipient's future payments for cash. My legislation is part of a single overall package of complementary Federal and State legislation that has been agreed upon by the structured settlement industry and the factoring industry to resolve these concerns.

Under the Structured Settlement Protection Act, the States are given the consumer protection role. The Act relies upon a State court review process to govern a proposed factoring transaction to ensure that the structured settlement serves the purpose Congress intended—providing long-term financial security for the injured victim and the victim's family—while enabling the victim to get access to future payments should the court determine that such access is in the best interests of the victim, taking into account the welfare and support of the victim's dependents, and does not contravene other applicable statutes and existing court orders.

The complementary State model legislation agreed to by the structured settlement and factoring industries specifies the process for State court review. Legislation similar to the State model has now been enacted in 19 States and is being actively considered in some 20 other States during the current State legislative cycle.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act protects the Congressional policy underlying structured settlements by providing the threat of an excise tax sanction to ensure compliance with State regulation in light of the multi-State nature of the factoring business, as well as resolving Federal tax uncertainties which factoring has created for the other parties to the structured settlement.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act is similar to legislation that I introduced in the last Congress along with Mr. STARK and a similarly broad bipartisan group of our colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee.

This legislation has been agreed to by the National Structured Settlements Trade Association (NSSTA) on behalf of the structured settlement industry and the National Association of Settlement Purchasers (NASP) on be-

half of the factoring industry. In light of the joint support of the structured settlement industry and the factoring industry, I believe that this legislation should be non-controversial. In addition, the identical version of the legislation last year was scored by the Joint Tax Committee as being essentially revenue neutral.

The agreement of the two sides to the provisions of the Structured Settlement Protection Act provides us with a critical opportunity to put the structured settlement factoring issue to rest at long last. We should avail ourselves of that opportunity while it is at hand. Accordingly, I strongly urge the enactment of this important legislation as soon as possible.

ARC OF DALLAS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the Arc of Dallas for its efforts in improving the quality of life of persons with mental retardation and related developmental conditions. The Arc of Dallas will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year and deserves to be recognized for its accomplishments in my district.

The Arc of Dallas formed when a small group of concerned parents met in 1951 to discuss their children's educational needs. This small group was the beginning of an organization that grew into the largest mentally handicapped advocacy group in the Dallas area. Today, there are chapters of the Arc across the United States. While the Arc of Dallas remains connected to the national office, it also works independently to reach the goals of the Dallas community.

The Arc of Dallas works diligently to accomplish its goals and has produced impressive results. Presently, one person in every 10 families in the Dallas area, about 60,000 individuals, has some form of mental retardation and thousands more have related conditions. It is no surprise that in 2000, the Arc of Dallas directly helped nearly 26,000 people. This organization truly makes a difference to the lives of many constituents in my district.

An example of the great success of this advocacy group is its day-camp program. Last year was the first year to offer a spring and summer day-camp program for children ages 5 to 21. It made a difference in the lives of 140 children last year. This year, the day-camp program will run for 11 weeks and will offer fun summer activities for nearly 220 children such as field trips, crafts, computer centers and outdoor activities. Programs like these truly demonstrate the success of the Arc of Dallas.

Once again, I am very proud to see the honorable work being accomplished in my district. The Arc of Dallas has made a difference in so many peoples' lives in the 50 years of their existence. The difference they are making is immeasurable. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting the Arc of Dallas and chapters across the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MARK G. LOEB

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, Rabbi Mark G. Loeb, an outstanding religious leader who has served the Beth El Congregation of Baltimore for 25 years. He has led this progressive congregation to its present growth of 1,700 families. Rabbi Loeb is recognized for his scholarship and eloquence. He never fails to enlighten and to challenge an audience.

Rabbi Mark Loeb has made his mark on the national scene as well. His message of tolerance and caring is not confined to his pulpit at Beth El. He has championed any number of social and interfaith causes to improve the common good of people of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds. One of his most prized roles has been that of National Chair of MAZON—A Jewish Response to Hunger. He has also served as a past National Program Chair of the Christian-Jewish Workshop, and he has been a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Christian-Jewish Studies since 1988.

Locally, Rabbi Mark Loeb, has served as Past President of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis and is the current Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore Hebrew University. He has promoted and instituted a comprehensive Jewish education program at Beth El with a defined expectation that a formal course of study will be followed by both the student and his or her parents. The parents and their children together commit to an involvement in Jewish learning. This program for Jewish education has been used as a model in other Jewish congregations around the country.

Rabbi Loeb is recognized not only for his own scholarship but for his efforts to promote learning as an important key to a meaningful life. He is also a recognized authority on opera and has formally critiqued and taught others to more fully enjoy this wonderful art form.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rabbi Mark G. Loeb for his 25 years of service to Beth El Congregation and to many other individuals in the state of Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOE MOAKLEY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on the day all of Washington serves tribute to my friend and mentor Congressman JOE MOAKLEY for his exceptional contribution to our nation, I recognize the apt words of another friend, John Silber, Chancellor of Boston University. John's op-ed appeared in the Boston Herald on February 23 of this year, and I submit it into the RECORD. It expresses what all of us who know JOE know best—he is one of the greatest legislators the House has ever known.

MOAKLEY FOLLOWS ADAMS' LEAD

Although some call the Senate the "upper branch," the Founders entrusted the crucial

power to initiate money bills to the House. As a consequence, for more than two centuries some of our greatest statesmen have understandably had no higher ambition than to serve their fellow citizens in the House of Representatives.

And from the beginning, Massachusetts has been pre-eminent in the quality of those it has sent to the House. A high example was set early when John Quincy Adams, having held a remarkable array of the highest elective and appointive offices, won a seat in the House following his defeat for re-election as president.

In the 18 years that followed, he forged a record of courage, integrity and intellectual distinction that rivaled his achievements on the path to the White House. In 1848, in the midst of a debate in which he was opposing the immensely successful and popular war with Mexico, he suffered a stroke and, too sick to be moved, died in the Capitol building two days later.

Adams set a standard for Massachusetts congressmen that has never been surpassed. But generations of Massachusetts politicians have stretched to reach the benchmark he established.

In our own time, three members of the Massachusetts delegation have won the highest accolade of their colleagues: Joseph W. Martin, John W. McCormack and Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., each in his turn elected speaker.

The present dean of our delegation, J. Joseph Moakley, has worthily continued this great Massachusetts tradition.

For more than a quarter of a century, he has demonstrated that mixture of profoundly local constituent relations and profoundly national and international vision that is not unique to, but utterly typical of, and pioneered by, Massachusetts. His constituents responded to his service with such enduring approval that when he was asked to speculate on the identity of his successor, he replied, "Until two weeks ago, I didn't think my successor had been born yet."

This is not to say that everything went Joe's way. It would be accurate but inadequate to describe Joe Moakley's later years as those of a survivor. He survived the death of his beloved Evelyn, and he survived medical problems that would have driven most people into retirement to snatch a few years or months doing what they had really wanted to do.

But as Joe has told us, for 30 years he's been doing exactly what he wanted to do. To adapt the words of William Faulkner in his Nobel acceptance speech, Joe Moakley has not merely endured, he has prevailed. And it is the courage and stamina of such men as Joe Moakley that ensure democratic government will prevail.

As he has told us, with his usual calm candor, his own prognosis is not encouraging. He has said that he will not seek another term, and that he may not finish this one. But whenever Joe Moakley's term ends, it will be said of him what Thomas Hart Benton said of John Quincy Adams: "Where could death have found him but in the place of duty?"

Joe Moakley has, at least in one respect, been more fortunate than Adams: For Joe, the place of duty is not only an obligation, but a pleasure.

Joe Moakley exemplifies for our time an earlier type of the Irish Democratic politician. Like Al Smith, he is a happy warrior. And we—in Massachusetts and the nation—have been and will be happy in the life and work of this incomparable exemplar of the American dream.

RECOGNIZING ODE LEE MADDOX,
MACK LEE TAYLOR, AND ROBERT C. (BOB) McWILLIAMS III

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the legacy and achievements of three distinguished Arkansans who passed away recently.

For eight years, I had the privilege of serving in the Arkansas General Assembly with a distinct public servant and a champion for our schools, state representative Ode Lee Maddox. Rep. Maddox was a lifelong resident of a small town called Oden, Arkansas, where he represented the people in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1957 through 1998.

While I served across the state capitol building in the Senate, I like so many of my colleagues, held the highest respect and admiration for Rep. Maddox.

Rep. Maddox loved politics and loved serving in the state legislature. More importantly, though, he loved education. He spent 42 years working for the Oden School District, including 31 as superintendent of the school district. He started his career as a bus driver and coached two state champion basketball teams in 1948 and 1954.

In the state legislature, colleagues affectionately referred to Rep. Maddox as "Mr. Education." In fact, one of his former colleagues recently noted, "He supported all of the education bills, if they were good bills." In 1983, Rep. Maddox helped secure funding for the Rich Mountain Community College in nearby Mena, Arkansas, which became one of his proudest accomplishments.

Known for his quiet, easygoing personality, Rep. Maddox gained the respect of his peers through his ability to bring people together on important issues, such as education. Away from work, he loved being outdoors—hunting and fishing—and spending time with his family.

Those of us who knew and loved him will remember Rep. Maddox for his devotion to his family and his community, and to seeing that our young people are provided the best education possible.

Mack Lee Taylor, of Magnolia, Arkansas, was also a leader in his community as well as the banking industry. He, too, was a lifelong resident of Arkansas.

Born in Warren, Arkansas, Mack moved with his family to Magnolia as a teenager. After graduating from Magnolia High School, he earned his bachelor's degree at Southern State College—now Southern Arkansas University—and graduated from the Southwest Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, before starting his career at First National Bank in Magnolia.

During his career, Mack helped organize the Metropolitan National Bank of Little Rock, where he served as executive vice president and director. He later returned to Magnolia to serve as executive vice president and director and, eventually, as president and chief operating officer of Farmers Bank and Trust.

Mack served on the boards of directors for several prominent organizations including the Southern Arkansas University Foundation, Arkansas Children's Hospital Foundation and Arkansas Council on Economic Education. He

was an active member of numerous civic groups such as the Magnolia Rotary Club and the Magnolia Economic Development Corporation and was a leader in organizations like the Arkansas Bankers Association, the Southern Arkansas University Board of Governors, the South Arkansas Development Council, the Chamber of Commerce and others.

In 1994, he was honored as a distinguished alumnus of Southern Arkansas University.

Mack Taylor was a pillar in his community. His death is a great loss not only to his friends and loved ones, but to the people of Magnolia and all of Arkansas.

The people of Arkansas also lost a distinguished veteran and outstanding citizen in Robert C. (Bob) McWilliams III.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Bob was raised and educated in Little Rock and Jonesboro, Arkansas. After graduating from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro with a bachelor's degree in military science, he received his master's degree in human resources from Central Michigan University and attended the Army Command and General Staff College.

Commissioned into the Army in 1964, Bob served two tours in Vietnam, where he flew helicopters as an Army aviator. During his service to our country, he received numerous awards and decorations including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and senior aviator wings.

Bob spent 30 years as a government employee, during which time he served as Provost Marshal and Chief of Security at the Pine Bluff Arsenal in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and president of the local chapter of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

He was also pastor of the Sherill United Methodist Church.

Throughout his life, Bob dedicated himself to serving God and our nation, and to helping his fellow citizens and working families. He will be long remembered by all those whose lives he touched.

Today, I honor these three individuals—Ode Lee Maddox, Mack Lee Taylor, and Robert C. (Bob) McWilliams—for their commitment to giving back to their neighbors, their communities, and their country, and I hope that their lives will serve as an example to future generations.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLINIST LIN CHO-LIANG

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the award-winning violinist Lin Cho-Liang—Jimmy Lin to his English-speaking friends.

Born in Taiwan, Jimmy Lin is an award-winning violinist whose performances bridge cultural and geographical gaps. Shortly after I left for the United States with my family, Jimmy Lin and his family moved into the same house where I lived in Hsinchu, Taiwan and now I am proud to call him a friend.

Jimmy Lin was born in 1960 in Hsinchu. After practicing on a toy violin until he was five

years old, his parents bought him a quarter-size violin and he soon started lessons. His father, a physicist, brought home recordings for him to listen to and to study. At age 12, he left for Australia where he spent three years studying the violin before arriving at the Juilliard School in New York.

Jimmy Lin made his New York debut at age 19 at Avery Fisher Hall playing Mozart's Third Concerto and has had a distinguished music career ever since. Last year he was awarded Musical America's Instrumentalist of the Year and, in 1999 received the Musician of the Year award. Lin has also won Gramophone's Record of the Year and has been nominated for a Grammy award.

Jimmy Lin appears annually with major orchestras and on key recital and chamber music series all over the world. He is also a renowned solo artist who is in demand all over the world. Last year, he celebrated Isaac Stern's 80th birthday in a concert in Tokyo. During a trip to Taiwan to meet with business and government leaders this month, I have the opportunity to see my friend, Jimmy Lin, perform in Taipei and to visit our home in Hsinchu together.

As the Los Angeles Times wrote: "Jimmy Lin . . . has become a beloved icon. . . . He communicates through music to that wider audience that always seems to recognize and reward the rare combination of virtuosity and humanity."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of his accomplishments and pleased to honor him in the United States Congress for his dedication to cultural understanding through music.

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Wetlands Reserve Program Enhancement Act of 2001 in order to extend authority for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) authorized under the Farm Bill of 1996. The WRP is just the kind of non-regulatory, voluntary approach to conservation that works best for environmental protection and wildlife enhancement.

Since its inception in 1996, the Wetlands Reserve Program has restored over one million acres of former wetlands to the benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife species while providing financial relief to struggling farm families. The program has been so successful, in fact, that for every five farmers that wish to enroll in the WRP, only one is accepted. This clearly shows how popular the program is with farmers and wildlife enthusiasts.

In my home state of Mississippi, the WRP has proven to be extremely popular with private landowners, and for good reason. With commodity prices being as low as they are, the program is a great benefit to Mississippi farmers who could not otherwise afford to stay on their land or pass it on to future generations.

Across the country, thousands of landowners have discovered that the WRP is an attractive alternative to farming high-risk and high-cost crop land that is frequently at risk of

flooding. The WRP provides the necessary, voluntary incentives to restore such areas to wetlands. The landowner, in turn, is free to use his or her WRP incentive payment to refinance debt, upgrade machinery, or to buy additional land to make their farming operations more profitable.

This additional land enrolled in the program not only benefits farmers, but also wildlife and wildlife habitat. In the Mississippi Delta states, most WRP land is planted in high-quality hardwood trees that flood in the winter and provide critical habitat for waterfowl and other species. In fact, the WRP has become one of the largest and most successful wetland restoration programs ever attempted on private lands.

The program is also restoring waterfowl breeding habitat in states like South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to name a few. It is restoring migration habitat across the United States including Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, and New York. Most of all, the WRP is restoring wintering habitat in such diverse states as California, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and a lifelong supporter of Ducks Unlimited, I recognize another wonderful benefit of the Wetlands Reserve Program. Like many states, the Great State of Mississippi honors a proud waterfowling tradition. Every day the WRP helps improve waterfowl populations and enhance wetlands habitat to create new opportunities for sportsmen and women to participate in the time-honored tradition of duck hunting. As the father of five young boys, I am blessed with the opportunity to pass the family tradition of waterfowling down to them. I savor the memories of early morning duck hunts that I had with my father and grandfather as a young boy. These opportunities taught me a deep respect for the outdoors and helped me to develop a deep appreciation for nature and wildlife. These are opportunities and values that I am passing down to my own sons, and providing waterfowl habitat through programs like the WRP help make it all possible.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation authorizes up to 250,000 acres of marginal farm land to be enrolled in the WRP through 2005. It is exactly the kind of non-regulatory conservation program that landowners want and wildlife need as we begin our entrance into the next century. I urge my colleagues to join with me and the original cosponsors of the Wetlands Reserve Program Enhancement Act to ensure that this program remains a viable option to farmers, wildlife, and the environment.

UPON INTRODUCTION OF PRISON INMATE ACT OF 2001

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Inmate Work Act of 2001, a bill to help reduce crime by providing federal inmates real-world job skills while in prison. This bill would reform Federal Prison Industries so it can do a better job of rehabilitating our prison population before prisoners are let back out into society. Besides reducing crime through better rehabilitation of our inmate population, this legislation will improve the U.S.

economy. It will create jobs by returning industries now operating offshore back to the U.S. and allowing private companies to compete with FPI for federal contracts.

This legislation reforms Federal Prison Industries in a number of ways. First, it would allow private companies in the United States to use federal inmate labor to produce items that would otherwise be produced by foreign labor. It would phase out the mandatory source requirement for federal agency purchases from Federal Prison Industries and puts them under the same authority and standards that govern state prison employment programs. It allows for increased collection for child support and victim restitution. It reduces the cost of incarceration by increasing collections for rooms and board costs. It requires that FPI establish goals for contracts with small, minority or women-owned businesses as well as with organizations that employ blind or severely disabled workers.

Mr. Speaker, today, there are more than 1.9 million Americans behind bars and the prison population continues to rise at an alarming rate. Approximately a quarter of those prisoners complete their sentences every year and return to society. Most of those former inmates, however, have never had a real job. Within the federal system, there were 145,125 inmates confined at the end of FY 2000. Current projections indicate that the federal inmate population will rise to more than 200,000 by the end of FY 2007.

We just cannot continue to lock up thousands of men and women every year and hope that they will somehow mysteriously rehabilitate themselves in prison without learning a skill. We cannot continue to allow federal prisons to become finishing schools for crime, where criminals are paroled as experts in their craft. If the only thing you know how to do when you leave prison is steal or deal drugs, that is what you will do to survive when you are released.

If the current prison work system is not augmented, prisons will become increasingly overcrowded, violent, and, most alarmingly, Americans will face a higher crime rate as the rate of unrehabilitated inmates are let out into society. Prisons should be turning out inmates ready to reenter mainstream society equipped to productively contribute to their communities. The best way to accomplish this is to put federal prisoners to work. Many convicts can be reformed if given the opportunity to learn skills other than those necessary to be successful in crime.

Mr. Speaker, a 16-year study by the Justice Department of federal inmates, the Post-Release Employment Project, has demonstrated convincingly that participation in prison industries/vocational training programs has a positive effect on post-release employment and recidivism. The study revealed that inmates who worked in prison industries or completed vocational apprenticeship programs were 24 percent less likely to commit crimes than nonprogram participants. The data also revealed that these programs provide even greater benefit to minority and low income groups that are at the greatest risk for potentially returning to a criminal lifestyle upon their release.

Employment, particularly industrial jobs, is the key factor in combating the adverse impact of crowding in a prison setting. Work, education, and vocational training not only reduce the debilitating idleness of a crowded in-

stitution, but offer important security management benefits such as supervised time out of cells.

Idleness, on the other hand, breeds apathy and discontent. Boredom turns to frustration resulting in violent and criminal behavior. The old adage that "idleness is the devil's workshop" reaffirms what can happen when an inmate's time is not productively occupied.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will also be beneficial to the U.S. economy. First this legislation would revamp the Federal Prison Industries program by allowing federal inmates to produce goods that are presently being made offshore. For example, our prison populations could learn to produce items such as televisions and VCRs and other products now provided by non-American sources. This public-private partnership may actually help improve our balance of trade by reducing imports. A panel made up of representatives from the departments of Commerce and Labor, the International Trade Commission, the Small Business Administration, the business community and organized labor would ensure that domestic labor was not threatened by this new authority for FPI.

This also would create ancillary jobs in the domestic economy as a result of bringing back certain industries whose entire economic support structure is located overseas. Bringing back manufacturing jobs that have gone overseas will create other jobs. Raw materials will need to be brought into the prisons and finished products will have to be taken out. This will mean jobs for the local trucking companies. Teachers and craftsmen will need to be hired to teach the inmates the necessary skills. This is more than just giving federal prisoners the necessary skills to become productive members of society, it is about creating jobs for Americans, on American soil.

Finally, the bill also facilitates restitution programs that meet the true meaning of restitution by setting up programs where the inmate directly compensates the victim of that inmate's crime. Programs that merely take money from prisoners and put it into a general fund without earmarking it for their victim are merely fines. Restitution in the true sense, requires that the offender directly compensate the victim and therefore require the offender to acknowledge their responsibility to the victim.

This legislation reforms FPI in a way that will allow us to do a better job of rehabilitating our rising inmate population and reducing the crime rate of released inmates. At the same time, it will help the U.S. economy and will be a better deal for the U.S. taxpayers. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, and support the FPI's mission to rehabilitate our inmates by providing an opportunity for inmates to gain meaningful employment skills and come out of prison as productive members of society.

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF THE U.S. LEASING INDUSTRY

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would eliminate a provision of the tax code which hinders the global competitiveness of the U.S. leasing industry.

The leasing industry is important to the U.S. role in the global economy. Our manufacturers use leasing as a means to finance exports of their goods, and many have leasing subsidiaries that arrange for such financing. Many U.S. financial companies also arrange lease financing as one of their core services. The activities of these companies support U.S. jobs and investment.

Enacted in 1984, the depreciation rules governing tax-exempt use property (referred to as the "Pickle rules") operate to place U.S. companies at a competitive disadvantage in overseas markets. Because of the adverse impact of the Pickle rules on cost recovery, U.S. lessors are unable in many cases to offer U.S.-manufactured equipment to overseas customers on terms that are competitive with those offered by their foreign competitors. Many European countries, for example, provide far more favorable depreciation rules for home-country lessors leasing equipment manufactured in the home country.

There is no compelling tax policy rationale for maintaining the Pickle rules as they apply to export leases. The Pickle rules were enacted in part to address situations where the economic benefit of accelerated depreciation and the investment tax credit were indirectly transferred to foreign entities not subject to U.S. tax through reduced rentals under a lease. That rationale no longer applies. The investment tax credit was repealed in 1986, and property used outside the United States generally is no longer eligible for accelerated depreciation. The present-law requirement that property leased to foreign entities or persons be depreciated over 125 percent of the lease term simply operates as an impediment to U.S. participation in global leasing markets.

The global leasing markets have expanded dramatically since 1984. The competitive pressures on U.S. businesses from their foreign counterparts also have increased dramatically. Repealing the Pickle rules as they apply to U.S. exports will strengthen the competitiveness of the U.S. leasing industry and promote U.S. jobs and investment.

I am pleased my friend and colleague from California, Mr. MATSUI, is introducing similar legislation and look forward to working with him and others to unshackle the leasing industry from these outdated constraints.

WOMEN'S OBSTETRICIAN AND GYNECOLOGIST MEDICAL AC- CESS NOW ACT

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Women's Obstetrician and Gynecologist Medical Access Now Act, the WOMAN Act. This bill will ensure that every woman has direct access to her ob-gyn.

When I served in the California State Assembly, I heard from many women that they were being denied access or had to jump through numerous bureaucratic hoops to see their ob-gyn. Statistics show that if there are too many barriers between a woman and her doctor, she is much less likely to get the medical care she needs. This is simply unacceptable. A woman should not need a permission

slip to see her doctor. Ob-gyns provide basic, critical health care for women. Women have different medical needs than men, and ob-gyns often have the most appropriate medical education and experience to address a woman's health care needs.

It is not hard to see what a difference direct ob-gyn access makes in women's health care. Imagine a working woman in San Diego who has a urgent medical problem that requires an ob-gyn visit. She works forty-five hours a week and has limited sick and vacation time. On Monday she calls from work to make an appointment with her primary care physician. If she is lucky, she gets an appointment for Tuesday morning and takes time off to go see her doctor. Her doctor agrees she should be seen by her ob-gyn and gives her a referral. Tuesday afternoon she returns to work and calls her ob-gyn. The doctor is in surgery on Wednesday, but they offer her an appointment on Friday morning. On Friday she takes another morning off work and finally gets the care she needs. This unnecessary referral process has resulted in her taking an extra morning off work and delayed her proper medical care by 5 days. The patient, employee, primary care physician, and health plan provider would have saved money and time if the patient had been able to go directly to her ob-gyn.

A recent American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists/Princeton survey of ob-gyns showed that 60% of all ob-gyns in managed care reported that their patients are either limited or barred from seeing their ob-gyns without first getting permission from another physician. Nearly 75% also reported that their patients have to return to their primary care physician for permission before they can see their ob-gyn for necessary follow-up care. Equally astounding is that 28% of the ob-gyns surveyed reported that even pregnant women must first receive another physician's permission before seeing an ob-gyn.

After meeting with women, obstetricians and gynecologists, health plans, and providers in the State of California, I wrote a state law that gives women direct access to their ob-gyn. That law was a good first step; however, it still does not cover over 4.3 million Californians enrolled in self-insured, federally regulated health plans. Clearly, this problem is not unique to California. There are still eight states that do not guarantee a woman direct access to her ob-gyn. Equally important to remember is that even if a woman lives in a state with direct access protections, like California, she may not be able to see her ob-gyn without a referral if she is covered by a federally regulated ERISA health plan. This means that one in three insured families are not protected by state direct access to ob-gyn laws. The time has come to make direct access to an ob-gyn a national standard.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation quickly into law.

FAIRNESS AND EQUITY FOR
SPOUSES OF FOREIGN SERVICE
OFFICERS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to correct an inequity that affects a number of spouses of Foreign Service Officers in my district and throughout the nation who served in part-time, intermittent, or temporary positions (PITs) in American embassies and missions from 1989 to 1998.

Although countless Foreign Service spouses have given up their own careers to follow officers overseas, many of them hope to continue government service, whether assigned to an embassy or here in Washington. In fact, hundreds have gone to work for the Department of State as civil service employees while their spouses were serving domestically. When the time has come for Foreign Service family members to check their retirement status, many are shocked to hear that the years they worked overseas will not count for retirement purposes.

PIT employees are excluded from receiving credit in the Federal Employees Retirement System because of the generally non-permanent nature of their employment. However, Foreign Service spouses who worked as PITs had no choice over the type of work they performed. These individuals had to take PIT positions because these jobs were the only ones available to them while living abroad. They had no choice between part-time, temporary government work and full-time, permanent work. Even those who worked full-time were still classified as PITs.

The exceptional nature of their situation is reflected in the Department of State's reclassifying this group of workers in 1998 as falling under the new Family Member Appointment. This position allows them to begin accruing retirement credit. However, these individuals are not allowed to pay back into the FERS for time worked in PIT positions. As a result, many Foreign Service spouses who worked as a PIT between 1989 and 1998 have lost up to nine or ten years of retirement credit.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of grave consequence to many Americans who devoted their most productive years to public service abroad. Foreign Service Officers and their spouses live lives that often put them in physical danger and cause great emotional distress. One constituent recounted being taken hostage with her husband by terrorists in Peru; while she was released early, she did not know if her husband was alive, injured, or dead.

It is simply unfair that these individuals, who have lived and worked under incredibly stressful conditions and who had no choice as to the type of work they performed, are not able to buy back the retirement credit they earned. As I indicated, some of my constituents have lost up to nine years of retirement credit because this provision has not been corrected. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

THE AMERICAN WETLAND
RESTORATION ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the "American Wetland Restoration Act."

This legislation builds upon the wetlands mitigation banking legislation I introduced in the last 3 Congresses and also the 1995 Federal Guidance issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

My Congressional district in eastern North Carolina includes most of the coast and four major river basins. More than 60% of my district could be classified as wetlands. My constituents are directly impacted by wetlands and the countless regulations that protect them. I have been contacted by farmers, business owners, state and local officials, land owners and even the military for advice and guidance in order to reach a balance between protecting these valuable resources while improving water quality but also providing for strong economic development.

On almost a daily basis, we are reminded of the critical role wetlands play in our ecosystems, specifically in maintaining water quality.

Wetlands mitigation banking is a concept readily embraced by regulators, developers and environmentalists. This balanced approach recognizes the need to protect our wetland resources while ensuring property owners their rights to have reasonable use of their properties.

Federal legislation is not only warranted, it is vital. While mitigation banking is occurring, it is limited because the authorizing agencies have little or no statutory guidance. Also, investors and venture capitalists are hesitant to invest the money needed to restore wetlands without legal certainty. One of the great benefits of private mitigation banking is that the monitoring of one large tract of wetland requires fewer resources than monitoring thousands of tiny, unsuccessful mitigation projects.

But, before a single credit is ever issued and before a wetlands mitigation banker can ever earn a dime, they must acquire land, develop a comprehensive restoration plan and establish a cash endowment for the long-term maintenance of the bank. This daunting challenge is magnified when you recall that there is no current statutory authority!

These mitigation banks give economic value to wetlands, potentially providing billions of dollars to restoring wetlands in sensitive watersheds. Unlike other mitigation projects, mitigation banks are complete ecosystems. So instead of only trying to protect the remaining wetlands, mitigation banking will actually increase wetlands acreage!

My legislation sets a simple but lofty goal: No net loss of wetlands. Specifically, the legislation requires

- (1) That mitigation banks meet rigorous financial standards to assure wetlands are restored and preserved over the long term;
- (2) That there is an ample opportunity for meaningful public participation;
- (3) That banks must have a credible long-term operation and maintenance plan;

(4) That the banks be inspected by the same regulatory agencies who have assigned the credits and permitted the banks; and,

(5) That the banks only receive credits if they prove the continuing ecological success of their project, thus allowing regulators to ensure a 100% success rate of the projects they monitor.

Mitigation banking places the responsibility for restoration and preservation of wetlands in the hands of the experts and establishes the financial incentive to make the restoration work. By applying sound environmental engineering to the restoration process, setting up a longterm monitoring and maintenance endowment, and having the regulatory controls in place—these are the assurances my legislation requires of any potential banking project.

This free-market approach to environmental conservation and stewardship is hard for some to swallow. But I ask you, many organizations have profited greatly from stringent environmental regulations, yet where has all the money gone that was allegedly spent on protecting the environment? And are our lands and waterways really in better hands when the Federal government is the owner or administrator?

I do not believe the interests of the economy and the environment have to be at odds. Wetlands mitigation banking makes conservation good business. It provides the financial and ecological incentives to make restoring, preserving and protecting our environment successful.

The end result, protecting and preserving environmentally sensitive lands, is assured with my legislation. The "American Wetland Restoration Act" will give wetlands mitigation banking the statutory authority it needs to flourish, and it will begin restoring the wetlands that many thought were lost forever.

I hope my colleagues will join me supporting this bill.

REFORM DAIRY PRICING REGULATIONS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will reform the method by which fluid milk has been priced in our country for too long. The Federal Milk Marketing Order system is a relic that fixes prices and feebly serves the outdated aims of a bygone era. Created in the 1930's, its original purpose was ostensibly to provide a locally produced supply of fresh milk throughout the country. Over sixty years ago, such a system may have made more economic sense. We didn't have the Interstate highway system, efficient refrigerated trucks, or reconstituted milk, for example. Today, conditions are vastly different, necessitating reform of the federal dairy program.

By basing the price of Class I, fluid milk, on the distance from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the federal government has radically distorted dairy markets and discriminated against the dairy farmers of the Upper Midwest. The resulting inefficient production of milk in areas distant from the Upper Midwest has led to the oversupply of milk and depresses the price of

processed dairy products. Dairy farmers in Wisconsin have paid dearly under this system. Today, my state loses approximately five dairy farmers a day.

Furthermore, by using distance to set the price of fluid milk, the federal order system is inherently anti-consumer. Consumers are stuck paying the set price for milk instead of the price determined by a free marketplace where efficiency is rewarded. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that eliminating this market distorting system would save \$669 million over five years. In an age of "global free trade," this system that effectively puts a tariff on milk from other regions of the country is absurd.

The bill I introduce today reforms the single most discriminatory element of the Federal Milk Marketing Order program by prohibiting the Secretary of Agriculture from basing the price of fluid milk on distance or transportation costs from any location outside the marketing order area unless 50 percent or more of that area's milk comes from a location outside that order area. By eliminating this factor the Secretary of Agriculture will have to consider supply and demand factors when setting milk prices as required by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act. Additionally, the bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to report to Congress on the specific criteria used to set milk prices. This report will include a certification that the criteria used by the Department in no way attempts to circumvent the prohibition on the use of distance or transportation costs as the basis for milk prices.

Reform of the Federal Milk Marketing Order program is long overdue. The discrimination against the dairy farmers of the Upper Midwest must end. Not only will this bill restore fairness to our dairy policy, but consumers of fluid milk across the nation will also benefit from this reform. I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ON LOYALTY DAY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a fine group of men and women who share a profound commitment of patriotism, comradeship and service to our nation's veterans, both in times of war and in times of peace.

These outstanding men and women of every race, creed and ethnic background will celebrate Loyalty Day on May 1, 2001. This day is set aside as a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom. Yet, this day does not belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars alone; it belongs to all Americans. We should all pledge ourselves to maintain a free society in which loyalty is always encouraged and respected. We should let the world know that Americans are behind their country and that, because of this, America is still a strong and vibrant nation.

I would like to specifically recognize the people in my district who have dedicated their

time to support a Loyalty Day celebration. The Third District Commander Walter Liptak and Ladies Auxiliary President Diane M. Pencak, in conjunction with Loyalty Day Chairman James F. Davis, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Barbara Maruszak-Sparr and Anthony S. Maruszak and the local community are gathering on Sunday, April 29, 2001 to commemorate Loyalty Day.

I commend all our Veterans of Foreign Wars on this Loyalty Day, May 1, 2001 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

HELP MORE FULL-TIME WORKERS
BRING HOME A DECENT PAY-
CHECK

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on March 7 I introduced the "Federal Living Wage Responsibility Act of 2001," legislation to mandate a livable wage for employees under Federal contracts and subcontracts. Seventy representatives currently cosponsor this important legislation.

Nearly a third of the members of the U.S. labor force work full-time, year-round and still do not earn enough to sustain a family of four at no less than the poverty threshold of \$17,650 per year for a family of four. Employees who work hard at full-time jobs should be paid a wage that assures they will not live in poverty.

To address this problem, this Act requires that:

Employees of Federal contracts or subcontracts of more than \$10,000 be paid the greater of \$8.49 per hour or the hourly wage necessary to reach the poverty level.

Individuals hired by the United States government also receive a living wage, helping thousands of more workers to stay above the poverty level.

Employees of Federal contracts or subcontracts and individuals hired by the United States government receive benefits such as medical or hospital care, vacation and holiday pay, disability and sickness insurance, life insurance and pensions.

Although Congress passed laws such as the Davis Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act to help ensure that employees of Federal contractors earn a decent wage, thousands of federal workers and federally contracted workers still do not earn enough to support themselves or their families.

This legislation will allow hard-working Americans to earn quality wages and to increase their savings for such essential needs as their retirement and their children's education. We believe the Federal government must take responsible, workable steps to reward working Americans and to help keep them out of poverty. This bill represents a practical step toward that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of this meaningful legislation for the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

H.R. 917

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Living Wage Responsibility Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) According to data from fiscal year 1999, approximately 162,000 Federal contract workers did not earn a wage sufficient to lift a family of four out of poverty. Just under 60 percent of these poorly paid workers work for large firms and 62 percent work on Department of Defense contracts. These workers represent 11 percent of the total 1.4 million Federal contract workers in the United States.

(2) As of September 2000, 14,356 workers employed by the Federal Government earned less than the poverty level for a family of four.

(3) A majority of workers earning less than a living wage are adult females working full-time. A disproportionate number of workers earning less than a living wage are minorities.

(4) The Federal Government provides billions of dollars to businesses each year, through spending programs, grants and Government-favored financing.

(5) In fiscal year 1999, the Federal Government awarded contracts worth over \$208 billion.

(6) Congress must ensure that Federal dollars are used responsibly to improve the economic security and well-being of Americans across the country.

SEC. 3. POVERTY-LEVEL WAGE.

(a) **GENERAL RULE.**—Notwithstanding any other law that does not specifically exempt itself from this Act and except as provided in subsection (b), the Federal Government and any employer under a Federal contract for an amount exceeding \$10,000 (or a subcontract under such a contract) shall pay to each of their respective workers—

(1) an hourly wage (or salary equivalent) sufficient for a worker to earn, while working 40 hours a week on a full-time basis, the amount of the Federal poverty level for a family of four (as published in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)); and

(2) an additional amount, determined by the Secretary based on the locality in which a worker resides, sufficient to cover the costs to such worker to obtain any fringe benefits not provided by the worker's employer.

(b) **EXEMPTIONS.**—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

(1) A small-business concern (as that term is used in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

(2) A nonprofit organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)), if the ratio of the total wages of the chief executive officer of such organization to the wages of the full-time equivalent of the lowest paid worker is not greater than 25 to 1.

(c) **RETALIATION PROHIBITED.**—It shall be unlawful for any employer subject to subsection (a) to terminate or suspend the employment of a worker on the basis of such worker's allegation of a violation of subsection (a).

(d) **CONTRACT REQUIREMENT.**—Any contract subject to subsection (a) shall contain a provision requiring the Federal contractor to ensure that any worker hired under such contract (or a subcontract thereof) shall be paid in accordance with subsection (a).

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT BY SECRETARY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary determines (in a written finding setting forth a

detailed explanation of such determination), after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, that a Federal contractor (or any subcontractor thereof) subject to section 3 has engaged in a pattern or practice of violations of section 3, the following shall apply to such Federal contractor:

(1) **CONTRACT CANCELLATION.**—After final adjudication of a pattern or practice of violations, the United States may cancel any contract (or the remainder thereof) with the Federal contractor that is a part of the pattern or practice of violations.

(2) **RESTITUTION.**—A Federal contractor whose contract is cancelled under paragraph (1) shall be liable to the United States in an amount equal to the costs to the Government in obtaining a replacement contractor to cover the remainder of any contract cancelled under paragraph (1).

(3) **CONTRACT INELIGIBILITY.**—After final adjudication of a pattern or practice of violations, the Federal contractor shall be ineligible to enter into, extend, or renew a contract with the United States for a period of five years after the date of such adjudication.

(4) **PUBLICATION.**—Not later than 90 days after final adjudication of a pattern or practice of violations, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice describing the ineligibility of the Federal contractor under paragraph (3).

(b) **SAFE HARBOR.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply if—

(1) the Federal contractor has entered into a consent agreement with the Secretary with regard to a pattern or practice of violations of section 3 and has paid to any aggrieved workers all wages due them, to the satisfaction of the Secretary; or

(2) the Secretary determines, after consultation with the affected Government entity, that cancellation or debarment under subsection (a) would not be in the best interests of the Nation or of such Government entity.

(c) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—Any Federal contractor aggrieved by an adverse determination of the Secretary under subsection (a) may seek review of such determination in an appropriate court.

SEC. 5. EMERGENCIES.

The President may suspend the provisions of this Act in times of emergency.

SEC. 6. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

(a) **ACTION.**—A worker aggrieved by a violation of section 3 may, in a civil action, recover appropriate relief. A civil action under this section shall be filed not later than 3 years after the commission of such violation. A civil action may not be brought under this section if an employer subject to section 3 has paid or reinstated the worker as a result of an administrative action under section 4.

(b) **RELIEF.**—In this section, the term "appropriate relief" means—

(1) injunction of a violation of section 3;

(2) actual damages or, if the court finds that the employer willfully violated section 3, three times actual damages;

(3) reasonable attorney fees and the costs of the action; and

(4) any other relief the court deems appropriate in the circumstances of the case.

SEC. 7. RULEMAKING.

The Secretary shall make rules to carry out this Act, which shall take effect not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term "employer" means a person who has economic power to set a worker's terms and conditions of employment, regardless of the formality of an employment relationship.

- (2) The term "fringe benefits" means—
 - (A) medical or hospital care or contributions to a health insurance plan;
 - (B) contributions to a retirement plan;
 - (C) life insurance;
 - (D) disability insurance; and
 - (E) vacation and holiday pay.
- (3) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

TRIBUTE TO IRVING M. ROSENBAUM ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to a great man who will shortly celebrate his 80th birthday—Irving M. Rosenbaum. In addition to the commendable accomplishment of attaining the age of 80, Mr. Rosenbaum, has provided extraordinary commitment and leadership on behalf of the Open University of Israel.

The Open University of Israel, modeled after the Open University in Great Britain, welcomed its first students in 1976. With a current enrollment of approximately 29,000 students, the Open University of Israel has a flexible teaching style that allows many working and older students the opportunity to receive a college education. Students hail from all over Israel and from virtually every walk of life. Utilizing the Internet, satellites, cable TV and other methods, the University is able to provide long distance learning to almost any student who desires it.

Mr. Speaker, Irving Rosenbaum has played an active role in the University's history through the American Friends of The Open University of Israel. During the past thirteen years, under his astute leadership, the American Friends of The Open University of Israel has been transformed from a small group to a large organization which contributes significant funding annually to the University.

Irving was born in Dresden, Germany, and with his family, he fled Nazi Germany and came to the United States in 1938. Here, he joined S.E. Nichols and Co., a variety store chain. His service at the store was interrupted when he served in Europe with the U.S. Army. As a member of the Psychological Warfare Branch, Rosenbaum participated in Allied war efforts in Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. After the war, he remained in Germany where he served as a member of the Allied Control Commission for Germany. When he returned to the United States he received a bachelors degree in Economics from the New School for Social Research and later earned a Masters degree, also in economics.

Mr. Speaker, Irving Rosenbaum's commitment to Jewish and Israeli causes is exceptional. In addition to his leadership of the American Friends of the Open University of Israel, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a Member of the Board of Directors of the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York, a Member of the Executive Committee of the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic, and a Member of the Board of the American Friends of Livnot U'Lehibanot.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in recognizing Irving

Rosenbaum's years of commitment and passion for education and public affairs. I also invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him the happiest of birthdays.

GUAM'S EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS MOURN THE PASSING OF DR. MANUEL BARTONICO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Guam's finest educators, Dr. Manuel Bartonico. He was a highly professional administrator in Guam's public schools who was able to generate a sense of community from students and a commitment to excellence from teachers wherever he went. He was an accomplished teacher, a well-respected principal, a highly regarded member of our island community and a proud husband and father.

His accomplishments were numerous. He was a science teacher in the secondary schools, he was a principal in several secondary schools including some which were difficult to administer. He had a calming, professional presence which inspired those around him to do the very best that they could. He provided an environment in which good teachers became better and good students become the best. He received a doctorate in education from the University of Oregon and was regularly consulted by his colleagues and policy makers for his insights.

I am requesting permission to insert into the RECORD a column by Aline Yamashita printed in the April 5, 2001 edition of the Pacific Daily News. Dr. Yamashita is a leader in Guam's educational community who understands well the contributions of Dr. B.

Dr. Bartonico passed away as a relatively young man. He passed away on March 30, 2001 at the age of 43 years old. He was participating in a "fun run" event for Agueda Johnston Middle School. I visited Dr. Bartonico on March 23 at Agueda Johnston for a flag presentation. I complimented him for his leadership in what is clearly an overcrowded school in need of substantial repair. The students and teachers clearly had a high regard for him and I could see that he was a role model for his fellow educators. He was my student many years ago when I was a professor at the University of Guam. He was an excellent student. More importantly, I noticed then that he would be an exemplary leader in our island's schools.

Dr. Bartonico leaves behind Rowena Santos Bartonico, his wife, and two daughters, Valerie and Gabriella. I extend to them and his mother, Mrs. Valeriana Bartonico, my deepest condolences in this trying time. We will all miss him.

[From the Guam Pacific Daily News, Apr. 5, 2001]

WE'LL MISS DR. B'S COMPETENCE,
COMPASSION, CONCERN FOR EDUCATION

(By Aline Yamashita)

He came across as quiet and reserved. If you didn't work with him, you wouldn't know otherwise.

If you worked with Manny Bartonico, you were thankful he was on your team. When a

point needed to be made, he argued and he argued well. When a task needed to be completed, it was done. He was focused and competent. He had a sense of humor that would seem to illuminate from nowhere, always at the right time.

He used to ride a bicycle around Southern High School to get from one point to another. "It's quicker, Aline," he explained to me. At one commencement ceremony, he sang to his graduating seniors.

When he was assigned as the first principal of Southern High School, he knew it was going to be a tough assignment. He had two school communities that did not want to become one. He had a facility that was not completed. He lacked instructional supplies. But the orders to make it work were given. And, considering all of the odds, Manny succeeded.

He had the ability to identify educational leaders. Agnes Pitlik was one such person. Manny recruited her as an assistant principal while they were at Piti Middle School.

"While he worked us hard, he was incredibly compassionate. He had such good people skills," she said. Agnes described how he taught her the need to delegate, to trust others to help get the job done. "His evaluative feedback was useful and meaningful. He made a real difference in my professional growth."

Debra Santos, a teacher at Agueda Johnston Middle School, described Manny as a really good person.

"He worked hard, he expected us to work hard and he LET us work. He empowered us to get the job done. He respected us and trusted us to know what we were doing."

Tom Quinata, Manny's best man at his wedding, described Manny as a caring dad. As I listened to Tom, I remembered the conversations Manny and I had about his growing daughters. Typical adolescent issues faced them. I would listen and smile. He was a dad who was very concerned about what was going on and how to make sure it was going the right direction.

Manny was a school leader at F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School, Piti Middle School, Southern High, Agueda Johnston Middle School. He was a 1975 John F. Kennedy Islander. He was a certified science teacher. He had a M.Ed. in administration supervision. He earned a doctorate from the University of Oregon.

Tony Diaz, spokesman for the Department of Education, referred to Manny as an anchor. "You could depend on Manny to help form opinions on issues." Tony said.

His opinions were meaningful because he had been a teacher, an assistant principal, and a principal in this system. He knew what he was talking about. And he cared.

Manny had a vision for public education. During the field testing of the regional system, he served as a regional leader. He knew the sense of working with schools that articulated into one another. He knew the importance of cohesiveness and connectivity. He knew the significance of stability.

Manny's death symbolizes the fact that time does not sit still. Manny wanted to see the potential of our system. He was frustrated with the changing mandates and resulting consequences.

To those of us who had the honor of working with Manuel Bartonico, we will always appreciate his focus, discipline, competence, humor and passion. We will miss him leading a school. We will miss the grin that grew into a big smile when he shook his head from side to side.

Manny, thank you for your spirit and for your work. As you keep an eye on us, know that we will continue your work. We will try to match your dedication, commitment, drive and care for the kids.

Rowena, Valerie and Gabby—thank you for sharing your dad with us. While he gave up valuable time with you for other children and families, he held you in the highest regard. He cared deeply about you.

Dr. B., thank you. We miss you.

IN HONOR OF SHELLY LIVINGSTON

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement, after many years of service, of a valuable staff member of our International Relations Committee, Shelly Livingston. Shelly's last day in the office was Friday, March 23, 2001.

Shelly has served our Committee since 1974. During that time, she has served six chairmen, including "Doc" Morgan, Clem Zabolocki, and Dante Fascell, Lee Hamilton, HENRY HYDE, and myself. We were all fortunate to have her expertise on budget and personnel matters. Shelly had become an expert on the complexities of benefit plans, payroll, budgets, and the House rules.

Shelly moved to the Washington area after graduating from the University of Texas in 1973, and began her career here on Capitol Hill working as a Capitol tour guide.

Shelly has also served as Treasurer for the U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group for many years, and has ensured that those exchanges were run smoothly. Shelly is an experienced, first-rate staff member with respect to administrative Congressional travel, as many members know from experience.

I know first-hand that Shelly is a hard working and dedicated staff member who could tackle any project thrown her way—it is to her credit that the Committee on International Relations has an audio-visually updated, digital-videoconference capable, internet-ready hearing room.

We will miss Shelly's warmth, humor, and friendship to all. She is a model for her experience and for the manner in which she worked well in a bipartisan manner. I thank Shelly for her outstanding service to me, in my chairmanship and to all who have worked with Shelly in our International Relations Committee. I join with my colleagues, staff, and friends in wishing Shelly and her husband, Gill, the very best of good health and happiness in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO PORTABLE PRACTICAL EDUCATION PREPARATION, INC. FOR BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR RURAL FARMWORKER AND HISPANIC COMMUNITIES.

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP), and its founder, Dr. John David Arnold, for bridging the digital divide in two ways: 1) by bringing information

technologies into under-served rural farmworker and Hispanic communities, and 2) by providing the educational opportunity for at-risk and farmworker students to obtain technology-based skills through PPEP's 13 charter high schools strategically placed in rural areas and inner cities. Through these efforts, PPEP is not only removing barriers of educational and economic inequity by successfully bringing the super information highway infrastructure to rural communities, but also encouraging the use of that highway through education and training.

I applaud PPEP for its dedication to bringing information technologies to rural and small schools in Arizona with the creation of Arizona Educational Network (AzEdNet). This secure network provides an economical link between public and charter school sites and the Arizona Department of Education for the state-required transfer of student data. The unique design of this network saves the taxpayers of Arizona substantial funds while providing fast and secure bandwidth to remote rural areas. This network provides online access to students while protecting them from online predators and unwholesome sites by providing "best efforts" filtering software.

PPEP's educational opportunities are made available through a school system of 13 charter schools. To ensure academic excellence, PPEP has taken a leadership role in creating the Arizona Performance Based Accreditation Program for charter schools. The Arizona Performance Based Accreditation Program has been recognized by the State School Board Association, the Arizona Board of Regents, and the National Office for Charter Schools. With its peer-review system for school accountability, is now a national model for charter school accreditation. In 1998 PPEP was also instrumental in creating the Arizona Regional Resource Center which provides technical support and online consultation for charter schools. These developments have strengthened charter schools as an educational delivery system and have improved the credibility of charter schools. Subsequently, the United States Department of Education selected PPEP to operate the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) for farmworkers through a charter high school. This is the first HEP in the nation funded through a charter school.

Furthermore, PPEP has taken learning beyond the traditional classroom by using emerging technologies to create the migrant farmworker Lap Top Project, "a virtual high school" with self-paced curriculums that have provided the opportunity for some 6,000 rural, at-risk students to obtain technology-based skills since 1996.

I salute this vision to carry rural people forward into the technical diversity of the 21st Century.

A TRIBUTE TO PREBEN MUNCH
NIELSEN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to one of the great heroes of World War II—

Preben Munch Nielsen, a Dane who has received little recognition for his heroism. In many ways, he is a symbol of the gallantry and heroism of the Danish people during the tragedy of that war.

Mr. Speaker, as the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to the Congress, I want to pay special tribute to Mr. Munch Nielsen and also to the courage and strong commitment to basic human decency of the Danish people, who saved virtually the entire Jewish community of Denmark from the horrifying fate that befell six million Jews in the rest of Nazi-occupied Europe. The Danish people took spontaneous action—at great risk to their own lives—to save the lives of Denmark's Jews. That selfless action established that a people deeply committed to basic human decency can prevail against an overwhelmingly powerful evil force.

In many regards, Preben Munch Nielsen's participation in the saving of Danish Jews is typical of what other Danish citizens did during the horrific period of the Nazi occupation of Denmark. Munch Nielsen was born on June 13, 1926, and was raised in Snekkersten, Denmark, a small fishing village some 25 miles north of Copenhagen. Every day he commuted to Copenhagen, where he attended school with a few Jewish students. Munch Nielsen, however, did not think of them as Jews. As he explained, the Jews in Denmark "were considered neighbors, friends, schoolmates and nothing else."

The Nazi-invasion of Denmark on April 9, 1940, initially brought little change to the lives of Danish Jews. The Danish government and the Danish laws remained in effect ensuring, among other things, that no Jew in Denmark ever had to wear the yellow star. Munch Nielsen joined the resistance movement, helping with the distribution of illegal papers.

On August 29, 1943, the Danish Government resigned under strong pressure from the active Danish anti-Nazi resistance. The Nazi's took over the government and declared Martial Law that very same day. Under the military government, the night of October 1, 1943, was set as the date on which all Jews and communists were to be deported and transferred to concentration camps. On September 28, G.F. Duckwitz, a German diplomat with contacts among the Danish Social Democrats, learned about the deportations that were planned for two days later. He informed the leading Danish Social Democrat, Hans Hedtoft, who quickly passed on the warning to the Jewish community.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of Preben Munch Nielsen were typical of the response of Danes to this effort to exterminate the Jews of Denmark. As Mr. Munch Nielsen said, participating in this effort to save the Jews was "the only way to retain self-respect." He helped guide Jews to hiding places while they were waiting to be taken by boat from harbors and beaches along the Danish coast. He also helped transport Jews on the "illegal" boats and fishing vessels which crossed the straights to the freedom and safety of Sweden, and he aided the fishermen by calming frightened passengers during the crossing.

The results of this heroic effort, Mr. Speaker, were remarkable. Of Denmark's 8,000 Jews, only 475 were caught and deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. What began as a spontaneous reaction to human injustice turned into a well-organized under-

ground movement. Upon their return to Denmark, the Jews found their homes and assets in excellent condition. Neighbors and friends cared for their assets and sublet their properties.

As a participant in this remarkable rescue, Preben Munch Nielsen personally was involved in helping to transport nearly 1,400 refugees to Sweden. On a courier mission to Sweden in November 1943 Munch Nielsen was urged by friends of the resistance movement to remain in Sweden because returning to Denmark was too dangerous. In Sweden, he joined the Danish voluntary forces in Sweden ("Den Danske Brigade") and only returned to Denmark in May 1945, when Denmark was liberated from Nazi occupation forces.

After returning to Denmark, Munch Nielsen began working in the import-export business. Only at the age of 59 did he consider a role as a public speaker and educator. After sharing his story with some Jewish travelers to Denmark, he was encouraged by friends to continue to share his personal experience and educate people about the rescue of the Danish Jews in 1943. Now a successful businessman, the head of his own company and the father of three sons, Munch Nielsen tours the world with his wife Sonja, sharing the magnificent story of the rescue of the Danish Jews.

Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest admiration for Preben Munch Nielsen for his courageous participation in helping to save his fellow countrymen at the risk of his own life. I join Munch Nielsen when he says: "That your fellow citizens should be doomed because their human value was considered nothing because of their race is an impossible thought."

A TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES
OF MCCLELLAN AIR FORCE BASE

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, we rise in tribute to the outstanding employees of McClellan Air Base. On April 9 and 10, 2001, McClellan will host two events honoring the men and women who have been part of the McClellan workforce for the past 63 years.

McClellan AFB has always been a leader in supporting the defense of the United States of America. In the 5 years since the base closure was announced, numerous awards have been won, and this has been a testament to the abilities and distinction of the men and women of McClellan. Just in the past 3 years, McClellan has won two of former Vice President Al Gore's "Hammer Awards" for improving the way government and the Air Force does business. Base environmental programs, medical programs, financial management programs, and many more individuals and organizations have also been identified as exceptional.

These awards have been won for good reason. The employees of McClellan have continued to distinguish themselves despite the pressures of a pending base closure. The expected turmoil of large-scale reductions in force, vacating facilities and moving equipment

caused the Air Force to budget for McClellan to lose \$146.6 million over the last 3 fiscal years. Instead, McClellan's workforce managed to turn a profit of \$9.1 million, saving the American taxpayers \$155.7 million. The men and women of McClellan should take great pride in the completion of their mission with the utmost of professionalism and honor.

As important as these accomplishments have been, it is especially important to note the awards and recognition honoring the people of McClellan for their community involvement. This has included efforts to help feed the poor of Sacramento, supporting the Special Olympics, tutoring disadvantaged students, and raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Even as McClellan approached closure, its people worked to make their community a better place. Their selflessness in the face of a difficult situation is inspiring and deserves praise.

Mr. Speaker, as the exceptional people of McClellan Air Force Base are recognized, we are honored to pay tribute to some of our areas most important contributors. McClellan has been an invaluable resource to the Sacramento Area, the State of California, and the United States. We ask all of our colleagues to join with us in thanking the men and women of McClellan Air Force Base for their hard work and dedication over the years.

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH
AWARDEES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Pontiac, Michigan branch of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., who on April 7, will hold their annual Sojourner Truth Scholarship and Awards ceremony and present awards to 12 deserving recipients.

The Sojourner Truth Awards are given each year by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. as a reminder of the endless effort which freedom demands of those who would be free and to recall the fact that slavery comes in many forms: enveloping the spirit as well as the body. In this regard, the Club annually acknowledges those members of the community who have shown to represent these ideals with dignity and distinction.

One such award is the Club's Frederick Douglas Award, which this year will be given to Rev. Douglas P. Jones of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, MI. In addition to his duties as head of the congregation of two thousand, Pastor Jones is one of the area's most influential and respected citizens. He is the founder of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition, former Director of the Pontiac Area Urban League, and has been at the forefront of such projects as the Youth in Government and Business Program, and the Woodward Dream Cruise, among many others.

The next award is Black Woman Achiever Award, presented to those women making significant strides in their professions. This year, there are four such people. The first is a colleague of mine, Oakland County Commis-

sioner Brenda Causey-Mitchell of Pontiac. Prior to serving on the County Commission, she served for many years as a Trustee and ultimately President of the Pontiac School Board. She has also been a well-respected member of the city's executive staff. For many years she has worked diligently toward the improvement of our community. Another such trailblazer is Pontiac Police Captain Pamela Chambers. Captain Chambers is a true trailblazer: In 1989, she became the Department's first Black female Sergeant, and as such, she is the first to achieve the rank of Captain. By focusing on community policing, she has helped foster a stronger relationship between the city and the police. The third award goes to Makeda Newby. It is fitting that Ms. Newby was born the same year American astronauts landed on the moon; at a very early age, she decided that her goal in life was to fly airplanes. While at Tuskegee University, she studied and flew with Chief Alfred Anderson, one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. She graduated from Tuskegee with both a Bachelor's Degree and a private pilot license. She went on to the J. Paul Getty Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, OK, where she became a certified instructor, and the school's first Black female instructor. Last year she was hired by International Freight Leasing, where she will pilot planes filled with automobile parts throughout the United States and Mexico. The fourth honoree is Ms. Margarita Garcia-Boylston. Ms. Boylston decided in 1987 to begin a business with Mary Kay Cosmetics. As she built this business, she worked a full-time job, raised two teenaged girls, graduated with honors from Oakland Community College and Cleary College. As a Mary Kay representative, Ms. Boylston has received many prizes and rewards for her success. Recently she was promoted to the position of Elite Sales Director, and became Senior Sales Director just three months later.

The Club's Community Service Award goes to two individuals, Cheryl Scott and Malkia Geni Maisha. Ms. Scott, known as Shari to her friends, cares very much about giving back to her community. She has tutored academically challenged students throughout Pontiac, and has been an advocate for the Michigan Animal Adoption Network and the recently founded Michigan Animal Protection Agency, where she serves as a Board member. Ms. Maisha works part-time with the Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council in the Pontiac School District, helping teach a curriculum that involves self-esteem, diversity, citizenship, and many other qualities that will help these young ladies grow to be well-rounded members of society. Ms. Maisha also serves as an Executive Board member of the North Oakland NAACP, and is Secretary for the Metropolitan Minority Chamber of Commerce.

Shira Washington, a senior at Pontiac Central High School, will receive this year's Clara Hatchett Musical Scholarship. With a 3.94 GPA, Ms. Washington is a member of the National Honor Society Softball Team, Drama Club, and is President of the A Capella Choir. She has been recognized throughout her high school career for her superior singing ability as well as her literary skills, where she has had her writings published on several occasions.

The Ombudswoman Award is given to the group's most active member, and this year, that person is Irma Johnson. An elementary

school teacher in the Pontiac School District, Ms. Johnson has been a part of the Club for more than 20 years. In addition, she is very active in the community and in her church, where she serves as a member of several ministries and is Sunday School Superintendent. She strives to be aware of all activities and changes, while actively pursuing a Master's Degree in Reading and Language Arts.

Another colleague of mine, Mr. Richard Williams, is being honored with this year's Bridge Builder Award, for his tremendous work in improving communication and interaction between Pontiac and the county administration. As Director of Community and Minority Affairs, reporting directly to the County Executive, Mr. Williams has proven himself invaluable as an advocate for the city. He has worked with numerous groups designed to improve our schools and develop more affordable housing. As an ordained minister, Richard has also been a vital part of the Oakland County Ministerial Alliance.

An award of special recognition is being given to Ms. Tommaleta Hughes. Originally from Detroit, Ms. Hughes joined the Pontiac School District as a teacher, after graduating from Tuskegee University in 1969. She taught elementary school for 15 years, sometimes serving as Head Teacher, operating as building administrator when the Principal was not in attendance. In 1984, she became Principal of Whitmer Human Resources Center, which two years later was recognized as one of the 26 most improved schools in the state. She moved on the School District's administrative level, where she became Director of Personnel and then Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Employee Relations, the position she held until her retirement in June of last year. Wanting to remain a strong advocate for children, she ran for and currently holds a position as a member of the Pontiac School Board. Ms. Hughes is a true community activist. She has worked on several local government boards, and has been a member of the Pontiac Optimists Club and Kiwanis. She is also a Life Member of the North Oakland NAACP.

Last, but certainly not least, the Sojourner Truth Award itself this year will go to Mrs. Sarah Frances Grady. A Michigan native, Mrs. Grady is a retired computer assembly worker from Rochester, MI who selflessly devotes much of her time volunteering in the Pontiac community. A recipient of the Michigan Association for Leadership Development's Outstanding Volunteer Award, she has served at St. Elizabeth Home for 42 years, helping bathe and feed clients, and also worked at the Pontiac Mini Police Station for several years. For 500 nights, she participated in a march against drugs in the city.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club's 35 year commitment to community service, and their mission to seek answers toward critical issues in the areas of health, education, employment, and economic development. These awardees have exemplified the highest of qualities, and I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to please join me in congratulating them all.

STATEMENT ON CHILD LABOR TO
THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 28th, I submitted a statement to the Committee on Education and the Workforce during hearings on H.R. 1, the "No-Child-Left-Behind" education proposal. The purpose of my testimony was to call attention to the negative effects that working long hours at after school jobs is having a serious negative impact on our nation's teens. Recent studies have shown that a correlation exists between working long hours after school and decreased academic performance as well as increased drug and alcohol use by teenagers.

Mr. Speaker, the Young American Workers' Bill of Rights Act (H.R. 961) which I introduced earlier this year sets sensible limits to the number of hours teenagers can work during times when school is in session. H.R. 961 would assist both families and teenagers' struggling with the competing interests of holding a job while gaining an education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share my statement with our colleagues in the House, and I request that my testimony to the Committee be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS, THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, H.R. 1, "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND," MARCH 28, 2001

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member and distinguished members of the Education and Workforce Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to share my views with you today. As you begin to consider the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), I urge you to keep in mind the negative effects that working long hours is having on our children's education.

Working during the school year has become much more commonplace among America's youth over the past decades. Currently, nearly 25 percent of 14-year-olds and 38 percent of 15-year-olds have regular scheduled employment during the school year (as opposed to casual baby-sitting or yard work). A recent National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) indicates that almost two-thirds of high school juniors are employed during the school year and that these students work an average of 18 hours per week. Another study, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in December 1999, reports that the number of working teens has grown by 15 percent in the past five years and that nearly seven million teens age 16-19 were employed in all sectors of the United States economy.

Mr. Chairman, as you and your colleagues know, American students continue to score at or below average on international tests. The Third International Mathematics and Science Study showed that American high school seniors on average spend slightly more than three hours a day working at a paid job—more than their counterparts in any of the other 20 nations studied. Some experts believe that such intense work schedules might explain the poor showing of U.S. students on international tests. In both math and science, even America's best 12th graders scored well below the international average.

Laurence Steinberg, a professor of psychology at Temple University recently con-

ducted a three-year study (1987 to 1990) of 20,000 students at nine high schools in northern California and in Wisconsin. He determined that a work-load of more than 20 hours seems to mark the point at which work is increasingly linked to a drop-off in the amount of time students spend on homework an increase in their feelings of detachment from school. His research is backed up by Wendy Piscitelli, head of the foreign language department at Hatboro-Horsham High School in Horsham, PA. She states, "once they get up into 20 or 25 hours. . . they can't keep up the extracurricular activities, and they don't get enough sleep." These conclusions are shared by a teacher at the Governor Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights, N.J., who discussed a problem she is having with one of her students who regularly works past midnight at a local diner. The student, a senior, has trouble making it to school on time, and when confronted about falling asleep in class responds, "but I am making money, Mrs. Tonto."

These students, who are placing after-school employment above their education aren't getting enough sleep at night and are catching up during the day, in the classrooms. A 1999 National Sleep Foundation survey found that 60 percent of children under the age of 18 complained of being tired during the day, and 15 percent reported sleeping at school during the past year. Mr. Chairman, I ask you, how can we expect our children to learn when they are sleeping through the school day? Another problem that arises when students are working more than 20 hours a week is that they begin to cut corners with their school work to accommodate their job. This accommodation manifests itself in many ways, often in the form of cheating, or taking a less challenging schedule.

Moreover, a number of studies document that long work hours are associated with all sorts of undesirable teenage behavior. According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), working more than 11 hours a week has a strong correlation with the likelihood that teenager will smoke and drink. Working more than 26 hours per week has the same correlation to use of marijuana or cocaine. An earlier CDC study found that students who worked more than 11 hours a week had significantly higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies. There is also ample evidence that when the number of work hours exceeds 15 hours per week during the school year, academic pursuits suffer. On average, grades go down and truancy increases. When work and school obligations conflict, the great majority will give top priority to their jobs.

Mr. Chairman, studies have shown that the majority of children and teenagers who hold jobs in the United States are not working to support their families, but rather are employed to earn extra spending money. I see nothing wrong with minors working to earn extra spending money and I think we all can agree that it is important for children to learn the value of work. I do think, however, that it is a serious problem when teenagers spend almost the same amount of time working at an after school job as they spend in school. We need to set sensible limits on the hours that minors are permitted to work when school is in session so that our children can focus on their primary job—earning a good education.

Mr. Chairman, under current Federal law, minors aged 14- and 15-year-olds may not work for more than three hours a day and a maximum of 18 hours a week, when school is in session. It is also unlawful for 14- and 15-year-olds to work before 7 a.m. and after 7 p.m. so that work will not interfere with

learning. Minors who are 16 and 17, however, face no federal restrictions when it comes to the number of hours they can work, and they often are required to work late into the night.

I recently introduced legislation, H.R. 961, the Young American Workers Bill of Rights, which would set sensible limits to the hours teenagers work in addition to their academic schooling. Mr. Chairman, I urge the Committee to consider including the provisions of this bill in your reauthorization of the ESEA. My legislation would reduce the hours 14- and 15-year-olds would be allowed to work while school is in session, while also setting standards for the number of hours that 16- and 17-year-olds can work while school is in session. My legislation caps the hours of 14- and 15-year-olds at fifteen hours per week. The hours for 16- and 17-year-olds would be limited to 20 hours per week. When one adds these hours onto the average amount of time a teenager spends in school, the student is still putting in close to 40 hours a week. This does not include time spent on homework, extracurricular activities, or time spent just being a teenager. I think we can agree that too many teenagers are working long hours at the very time they should be focusing on their education.

Mr. Chairman, let me state unequivocally that I, and supporters of my legislation, do not oppose children taking on after school employment. We firmly believe that children must be taught the value of work. They need to learn the important lessons of responsibility, and they need to enjoy the rewards of working. Furthermore, it is not our aim to discourage employers from hiring young people. Rather, our goal is to ensure that the employment opportunities available to young people are meaningful, safe, healthy, and do not interfere with their important academic responsibilities. A solid education—not after-school employment—is the key to a successful future.

Mr. Chairman, as you and the rest of your committee began to debate the reauthorization of the ESEA, I strongly urge you to consider the sensible labor standards that my legislation sets forth. These common-sense limits provide American teenagers the ability to have both a valuable academic instruction, while learning the value of work.

TRIBUTE TO BEECH ISLAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, 2001, in Granville South Carolina, the Beech Island Historical Society will host the Fifteenth Annual Beech Island Heritage Day Celebration. As in the past, the theme of Heritage Day is 315 years of Beech Island history. To illustrate that history, the society invites artists and craftsmen to demonstrate ancient skills practiced by Native Americans and early American skills that settlers brought with them to Beech Island. Re-enactors also recreate Beech Island history from Colonial days to the Civil War era.

The theme of this year's 15th Heritage Day is the history of "Silver Bluff—A Celebrated Place." Silver Bluff, located on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River about 10 miles from Beech Island, was visited in the 1500's-1700's by Spanish and English explorers and was the site of Irishman George

Galphin's trading post and plantation and British Fort Dreadnought, which was recaptured by revolutionary forces under Lieutenant Colonel Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee in 1781.

This year's Heritage Day will feature a wide variety of Colonial and Early American craftsmen demonstrating traditional, but almost forgotten skills, such as: molding pewter, gunsmithing, hand sewing, blacksmithing, spinning, quilting, basket weaving and chair caning. Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleagues in congratulating the Beech Island Historical Society for hosting this wonderful event.

HONORING SERGEANT PHILLIP THICK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise and pay tribute to the men and women of the Lapeer County, Michigan, Sheriff's Department. These brave men and women constantly and diligently work to improve and defend the quality of human life. On May 11, the Department will honor one of its own, as friends, family, and colleagues will gather to celebrate the retirement of Sgt. Phillip Thick after more than 30 years of service.

Phillip Thick was born in my hometown of Flint in 1949. His family moved to Lapeer, where he graduated from Lapeer High School in 1967. From there, Phillip went on and graduated from the police academy, and later attended and graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico.

Phillip has enjoyed a tremendous career in Lapeer County. From his beginnings as a police cadet, he became a Detective/Sergeant in 1970, and has maintained this position throughout his career. During this time he became qualified as an expert in fingerprint identification, fire scene investigation, traffic investigation, photography, and drowned body recovery. He became a Deputy Medical Examiner and was state certified as an AFIS Operator last year. In 1995, Sgt. Thick was honored by his peer as Deputy of the Year.

Sgt. Thick's contributions outside the police force are just as significant. In addition to being a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, he is a member of the AFIS Internet Association, and the Lapeer Masonic Lodge. His experience as a photographer has allowed him to become a member of Wedding and Portrait Photographers International.

Mr. Speaker, I am exceptionally proud to have a person in my district like Sergeant Phillip Thick. It takes a special kind of person to patrol our streets and ensure our citizens' safety, and thanks to his dedication and commitment to justice, Lapeer County is a better place. I would also like to recognize Phillip's wife, Christina Lisa, and his children Matthew and Amanda. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to join me in congratulating Phillip and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF CUB SCOUT PACK 180 OF HOLDEN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cub Scouts Pack 180 of Holden, Massachusetts. On this day, April 6, 2001, 6 young men completed one journey and are beginning another. They are Jake Abysahl, Carter Bame-Aldred, Matthew Esposito, Jason O'Connell, Connor Rooke, and Evan Shaughnessy. During a crossover graduation ceremony, they received the Arrow of Light Award, the highest award in Cub Scouts along with their Boy Scout's Badge and Handbook. This ceremony begins their new adventures into Boy Scouts and continues their dedicated work to the community. I congratulate them on their accomplishments and wish them continued success.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE KATYN FOREST MASSACRE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, sixty-one years after the horrible tragedy. Memorial Services will be held on April 7, 2001 at the Katyn Monument site in Jersey City, New Jersey.

In September, 1939, Poland was invaded by Soviet troops, while boldly and courageously fighting the Nazi invasion in the West. The Polish army, which was hopelessly overextended fighting both the Germans and the Soviets, succumbed to those incredible odds.

In April and May, 1940, in an area called the Katyn Forest, over four thousand Polish soldiers, army officers, intellectual leaders, prisoners of war, members of the intelligensia, and Polish civilians were executed by Soviet troops and the Soviet secret police on direct order from Joseph Stalin. An estimated 21,000 Polish citizens died in Katyn, Miednoye, and Kharkiv, as well as other areas. These horrendous crimes are commemorated as the Katyn Forest Massacre.

On September 16, 2000, the Polish American Congress, the Katyn Forest Massacre Memorial Committee, and the Siberian Society of Florida sponsored a memorial service in honor of the victims.

Today, I honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre. I commend their courage and sacrifice. They fought against terrible aggression, and not only fought for their own freedom, for the world's freedom as well.

I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre. And I ask that we honor their sacrifice for freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, due to a cancellation of an airline flight from my district yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and thus absent for three votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for roll call vote number 76, "yea" for vote number 77, and "yea" for vote number 78.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KATSUYA MIYAHIRA & MR. IHA SEIKICHI SENSEI

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Katsuya Miyahira who has had a distinguished career in martial arts. Currently, he is the President of the Okinawa Shorin Ryu Shido-kan and continues to teach children the art of karate. His teachings are in accordance with Master Itosu, whom he studied under as a student. The form of karate he was taught was of the Chibana Chosin, of which he is the successor and heir.

Mr. Miyahira has lectured about the value of karate to young people and from the "Seven Virtues of Martial Arts" has said, "Martial arts forbids violence, suppresses an uprising, keeps one from corruption, establishes honor for one, pacifies the public, makes harmony among people, and makes one rich. These are the seven virtues of martial arts." He continues to say that martial arts "can be a helpful tool for one's life: it adds value to one's ability, secures a sure means of living, and even makes one rich." Mr. Katsuya Miyahira lives by these words and teaches his pupils by these words also.

In addition to his teachings, Mr. Katsuya Miyahira has been honored by the Japan Martial Arts Association and is a judan 10th dan as a karate Hanshi (master). Furthermore, as an elder in karate he is in charge of the Okinawa Karate Conference while continuing to teach his art to others.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Iha Seikichi Sensei, who is also an accomplished martial arts expert. He presently runs his own center in Lansing, Michigan called the Original Okinawa Karate Dojo. Furthermore, he is the United States Branch Chief of Okinawa shorin-ryu Karate-do Association.

Iha was taught by the infamous Itosu Ankoh and is an authority of Shuri-te. He was chosen by Miyahira Katsuya in 1963 to teach his Shorin-ryu techniques at the dojo of Latino Gonzales in Manila, a distinguished honor. Furthermore, he continued to teach others in this art including United States Marines stationed in Okinawa.

In addition to his teachings, he is recognized as the first Okinawan Master Instructor of Shorin-ryu to teach in California since 1927. In 1989, he reached rank of Hanshi 9-dan certification, making him the highest certified Okinawan living in the United States.

On July 26th through the 29th, 2001, there will be a celebration honoring the 25th anniversary of Iha bringing Shido-kan Karate to

North America sponsored by the North American Beikoku Shido-kan Association. Iha is one of the top people practicing Shido-kan Karate in the world. The Grand Master, Miyahira Katsuya, who lives in Japan is the highest person participating in this type of karate.

Therefore, I would like to personally congratulate Iha for his accomplishments and for teaching many people the art of Shido-kan Karate for the past 25 years. He has brought another form of martial arts to the Lansing, Michigan area and has made a significant impact on the lives of my constituents.

PROVIDING RESOURCES AND
EDUCATION FOR KIDS ACT (PRE-K)

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduced the Providing Resources and Education for Kids Act (Pre-K). This legislation would provide a financial incentive to schools to devote resources to establish pre-kindergarten programs. This is a critical step in helping states meet the difficult task of providing early learning services.

Pre-kindergarten programs are crucial for preparing young children for the rigors of the classroom as they begin school. The first five years of a child's life are critical for development. Pre-kindergarten programs during those years will contribute to children's long-term success in school achievement, lead to higher earnings as adults, and quite probably decreased involvement with the criminal justice system. Today, however, kindergarten teachers estimate that one in three children are not ready to take on the challenge of classroom learning. Many children simply do not have access to pre-kindergarten programs. It is time for us to assist states in tackling this important issue.

Good quality early education helps children develop, improves their learning skills, and prepares them to enter school ready to succeed. In fact, studies of several state pre-kindergarten initiatives offer convincing evidence of the benefits of early education, particularly for children at risk of school failure. These benefits include higher mathematics and reading achievement, increased creativity, better school attendance, improved health and greater parental involvement.

Furthermore, pre-kindergarten programs have proven cost-effective over time. The Rand Corporation along with a team of researchers at the University of Wisconsin estimates that the most effective pre-kindergarten programs create savings to the government of \$13,000 to \$19,000 per child. This savings is realized in higher school achievement, less retention in a grade, a reduced need for special education, and less crime.

The Providing Resources and Education for Kids Act will help states meet the challenge of providing quality pre-kindergarten programs. This legislation provides grants to state education agencies to help establish or strengthen pre-kindergarten early learning programs for children age five and under. To encourage states to participate and ensure their long-term investment, the bill creates a sliding scale over five years for the federal-state match. Because

of inadequate resources in many states, they cannot offer a pre-kindergarten program for young children.

While many states do not have extensive pre-kindergarten initiatives, I have been fortunate that in my own hometown La Crosse, Wisconsin there is an impressive pre-kindergarten program at the Red Balloon Child Care Center. In fact, my two sons are enrolled in this program. Every day my wife Tawni and I see tremendous growth in our sons and we are pleased that we have the opportunity to send our sons to such a wonderful place. Our wish is that every child is able to receive the quality education that this pre-kindergarten program provides for our sons.

Rarely have we had such a unique opportunity to push American education to a higher level. As a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am committed to making the contributions necessary to advance our nation's education. Nationwide, families are demanding more from their schools, and educators, and elected leaders, are responding. That is why I introduced my Pre-K Act. Investing in our young children before they enter kindergarten is the first step in helping students meet their highest potential. We should not deny students this opportunity by denying them a good quality early education.

Mr. Speaker, educational preparation is crucial for all young children. I would encourage my colleagues to support the Providing Resources and Education for Kids Act (Pre-K).

ESTATE TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Estate Tax Relief Act.

The death tax is punitive in nature for all individuals, but it is particularly burdensome for closely-held, family-owned businesses that are the leading job creators in this country. The death tax rate of as much as 60% often means the difference between selling or keeping a family business intact. At a minimum, the death tax should be reduced. No targeted tax should force small businesses to sell or file bankruptcy.

While the House of Representatives has passed the Death Tax Repeal Act (H.R. 8), the measure simply does not provide enough relief soon enough. First, the measure provides no relief for next year, and provides very little for taxpayers until well into the second half of the next decade. We have no assurances that relief will ever be made available in successive Congresses.

The Estate Tax Relief Act ensures that we provide relief right away by converting the current structure to an exemption and ensuring that the first \$10 million of an estate (per person) are exempted from the tax. Additionally, it lowers the top rate to 45%. In addition, the bill maintains the current-law step up in basis. With regard to the gift tax, the legislation puts in place a \$50,000 per year, per taxpayer exemption.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about reducing this onerous tax, my legislation is the right way to do it. Please join me in cosponsoring

this measure so that we can ensure we reduce the difficulties this tax imposes on the transfer of assets.

FIGHTING AGAINST LEUKEMIA

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as the past chair of the House Science Committee's Technology Subcommittee, I am well aware that technology is improving our lives in immeasurable ways—including health care. I rise to bring to the attention of the House a recent development in the fight against leukemia, a matter of great concern to many of us.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), located in my district, is engaged in a race to find a drug that may stop the development of leukemia. I am pleased to report today on some innovative research efforts that are now underway with the help of Intel Corporation, which is working in partnership with NCI to advance the search for a cure.

Leukemia is the number one cause of cancer-related death for children. In 1999 alone, over 30,000 new cases were diagnosed in the United States. Scientists have already discovered several proteins important to the growth of leukemia but they must evaluate millions of molecules to see which ones can fight this form of cancer.

A major problem faced by leukemia researchers is the lack of processing abilities. To combat this problem, just yesterday, Craig Barrett, President and CEO of Intel and Dr. John Seffrin, CEO of the American Cancer Society, announced the launch of Intel.com/cure. This website hosts a program which utilizes peer-to-peer technology to assist scientists in their search for a cure. By simply downloading a screensaver, anyone around the world can join this endeavor.

Peer-to-peer technology provides unused computing power of individual machines to be utilized. A screensaver downloaded from Intel.com/cure allows a program to run in the background without disturbing your normal computer usage. The program performs a few of the millions of calculations that can assist researchers in determining which molecules have the greatest cancer-fighting potential.

This program can be of great assistance to researchers to find a cure. The manner and speed of scientific discoveries could be fundamentally enhanced. All our otherwise unused processing power could create the world's fastest computing platform for great causes. Estimates show that this project would be operating at speeds of magnitudes faster than the world's fastest supercomputers at a fraction of the cost.

This program could be expanded to include other qualified projects. Universities and researchers could post their philanthropic projects on the website. PC owners could become part of collaborative research efforts. The potential of this project is potentially significant.

Intel Corporation would like this web site to become a focal point for people who want to help launch a new era of PC philanthropy, where computer owners lend their PC's "Idle time" to a great cause. As a leader and innovator in peer-to-peer computing, Intel believes

that this method will accelerate scientific advancements. This leukemia project, developed by United Devices Incorporated, is endorsed by the American Cancer Society, the National Foundation for Cancer Research, and Oxford University.

April is Cancer Control Month, a time when we recognize our nation's long commitment to fighting cancer. Peer-to-peer technology can be a new frontier in how medical research is performed. I commend the efforts of this joint research partnership and hope this can be a substantial step that will lead to the cure for leukemia.

TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING
NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEERS OF
THE YEAR AWARD NOMINEES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nominees for the South Carolina Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteers of the Year. Many of these volunteers nominated for the award are from my district and well deserving of the honor.

The Burton Heights-Standish Acres Neighborhood Association in Columbia, South Carolina is an organization devoted to the safety and cleanliness of their neighborhood; this association has four members who were nominated for the award. Mr. and Mrs. John Watson are dedicated volunteers who have been catalysts for a united, safe, and friendly community. Sylvester Jenkins, a charter member of the Burton Heights-Standish Acres Neighborhood Association, is a model citizen who also serves as President of the Retired Mail Handlers Organization. Venis J. Livingston is noted throughout the neighborhood for her rapport with the youth, a characteristic she utilizes in her role as a Parent educator.

"The Drama Team," a subunit of the Eau Claire Community Council Youth Organization, uses theatrical plays and artistic endeavors to educate community youth about issues ranging from HIV/AIDS to violence and drugs. "The Drama Team" has three fine women who have been nominated for the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteers of the Year Award. Angela Cooper is a schoolteacher who provides mentoring to the students on the team, teaching self-esteem and reading skills. Community Advocate Angeline Morris ensures support from the business community to the ECCC so the operations of the team are properly financed. Rubye Finch is a team mentor who excels in the teaching of conflict resolution.

Neighborhood promotion, preservation, and improvement are the goals of the Bradley Community Council; the Council has three outstanding volunteers nominated for the award. Block Captain Sue Finch devotes her time on a regular basis to ensure the success of events such as the annual Hot Dog Night and Crime Out Night. Susan Hamm served as President of the Bradley Community Council from 1995 to 2000 and currently leads a neighborhood bible study. Stacey Shugart leads the Council in the production of a Community Directory and assists in the printing of newsletters and meeting minutes.

The Booker T. Washington High School Foundation nominated one of their founding members, Susan Brown Freeman, as the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year. Mrs. Freeman was the first African American consultant for Special Education teachers in Richland County, SC School District 1. Mary C. Short of the Bethel Bishop Tenant Association is another nominee for the award. Her dedication to the AmeriCorp organization along with her work as an Education Coordinator for Eau Claire Community Council has earned her a nomination. The HOPE volunteer organization nominated Samuel Gadegbeku for his work with the organization and in his community of the Colony Apartments. Mr. Gadegbeku selflessly gives his time to inspire self-esteem and hard work in the youth of his neighborhood.

The members of the Brandon Acres/Cedar Terrace Neighborhood Association are committed to preserving and improving the community in which they reside; they have nominated Dr. Ramona Lagos, professor at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Lagos organized the Association's first meeting with important city officials; she also serves as Secretary. The Seminar Ridge Neighborhood Organization organizes activities to provide the best living environment to its residents. Dr. Lois Fries served as President of this Organization for seven years, during which time she greatly increased its impact in the community. The Read Street/Edgewood Community Improvement Cooperative Council nominated Georgia Davenport for the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year Award. Mrs. Davenport worked extensively in the Read Street clean up, which led to a reduction in drug traffic and violence in the area.

The Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Organization is dedicated to the improvement of the community of Columbia, South Carolina and has nominated three individuals. Johnnie Edmonds serves as Treasurer and is very active in this organization despite the fact that he moved out of the neighborhood years ago. The late Beverly Hampton left a legacy of community involvement and dedication to her neighbors when she departed this life on May 21, 2000. Kevin Speaks has worked to improve a poor section of the Booker Washington Heights neighborhood by giving his time and showing pride in his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring each and every one of these wonderful volunteers. They show all of us what can be done if we give back to the neighborhoods and towns we call home. Every one of the nominees for the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteers of the Year Award deserves the honor along with our appreciation.

HONORING GARY LEE TIMMER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the loyal men and women of the Lapeer County, Michigan, Sheriff's Department. On May 11, the Department will honor one of its own, as friends, family, and colleagues will gather to celebrate the retirement

of Officer Gary Lee Timmer, after nearly 30 years of outstanding service.

Born in Almont, MI, in 1946, Gary Timmer's family moved to Imlay City, where he graduated from Imlay City High School in 1965. He entered the Police Academy in 1969 and joined the Imlay City Police Department soon after. He remained there until 1972, where he then became a member of the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department.

During his time with the Department, Gary has excelled in the proper use of firearms. In 1980, he was certified by the Detroit Firearms School as a gun range expert. The Washtenaw Firearms School bestowed the same certification upon him in 1991, along with an expert certification in semiautomatic weapon use. He has taken the responsibility to use these skills to instruct others. As a long time instructor at local gun clubs, as well as a member of the National Rifle Association, Gary teaches and promotes weapon safety and teaches a hunter's safety course.

Mr. Speaker, many people in the Lapeer area have greatly benefitted from Gary Lee Timmer's insight, experience, and commitment to preserving peace and order. He has helped make the streets safe for all its citizens, especially its children. I would also like to recognize his wife Amy, his children Curt and Shelley, and his six grandchildren. He has obviously been as strong a role model for them as he has for the people he protected for three decades. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to join me in congratulating him for his dedication to justice.

HONORING THE HOPKINTON HIGH
SCHOOL GIRL'S INDOOR TRACK
TEAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Hopkinton, Massachusetts in celebrating the achievements and accomplishments of the Hopkinton High School Girl's Indoor Track Team. On Saturday, February 24, 2001 at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston, the Hillers won their second consecutive state championship.

This accomplishment is impressive in and of itself, but when one considers the obstacles that these outstanding young female athletes had to overcome in their season-long pursuit of the title, their victory is all the more remarkable. Despite construction delays at their practice venue that kept meets from starting until halfway through the season, they remained focused. Despite season-ending injuries to essential runners Vicky Henderson and Melissa Sprachman, they were able to remain positive. And despite illnesses that affected some team members at important meets, they were able to pull together and earn victories.

At the championship, senior co-captain Christine Moschella led the Hillers' charge. She not only won the 300-meter, but set a new state record in the event as well. Freshman Tiana Riel also earned critical points for placing third in the 55-meter high hurdles. Moschella and Riel then joined with senior co-captain Jen McCowan and sophomore Emily Campbell to win the 4x200 meter relay. These

three placements earned the Hillers 26 points—enough to capture the title.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the contributions of the other members of the Hillers team without whose hard work, dedication and support this outstanding season would not have been possible: senior Meghan DiNapoli, juniors Alyssa Corsini, Elena Frank, Margo Pyne and Joanna Wood, sophomores Chelsea Keiller, Jess Curran, freshmen Lauren Craft, Lindsay Ferkler, Katie Henderson, Katelyn Mitsock, Marissa Parrish, Alex Savell, and Katie Hoppe, and eighth-graders Stephanie Camille, Louise Cashman, Emily Daly, Kristen Garvey, Kristen Knox, Liz Morgan, Katie Nicol, Lauren Philbrook, Vanessa Wilson, Danielle Corey, Jess Costantino, Lindsay Flieger, Hailley French, Lauren Helstocky, Sarah Kinney, Laurie Monahan, Kirsten Norby, Joelle Pecci, Marie Rivers, Cassic Seery, and Meghan Stewart. Recognition must also be extended to head coach Mike Scanlon and assistant coaches Chris Shea, Martha Thompson and Eric Lammi who guided this team to the Tri Valley League, Class D and State Championships.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I recognize the exceptional student-athletes of the Hopkinton High School Girl's Indoor Track Team for a remarkable season. I congratulate them on their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck in years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WLADYSLAW
BARTOSZEWSKI THE FOREIGN
MINISTER OF POLAND

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski for his contributions to the political and social freedoms enjoyed by the citizens of Poland today, after enduring decades of Soviet domination.

From September 1940 until April 1941, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski was imprisoned in Auschwitz. During World War II, he was active in the Polish military; secretly founded the Zegota Council for Aid to Jews; participated in the Rebirth of the Poland clandestine movement; and proudly took part in the Warsaw Uprising as a Home Army soldier.

Minister Bartoszewski's activism did not stop at the end of the war. He became involved in the Polish Peasant Party and became the co-editor of *Gazeta Ludowa* (Peasant's Daily). His work with these groups landed him in communist jails twice during that period. After his incarceration, throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Minister Bartoszewski continued to fight for the freedom of Poland by participating in Radio Free Europe and the Polish Independence Alliance. In November of 1980, he founded the Committee for the Defense of Those Harassed for Their Beliefs. Once again, the Minister was arrested for his efforts and placed in the Jaworze Internment Center.

In addition to his dedication to Poland's independence movement, Minister Bartoszewski has spent a great deal of his life in the field of education. He taught at the Catholic University in Lublin, and at universities in Munich, Eichstadt, and Augsburg. In

addition to writing 1,000 papers and 40 books, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski holds many honorary academic titles from universities all over the world.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski reached his position of Minister of Foreign Affairs in December of 1995. During the 1990s, he also served as a Senator and as the Polish Ambassador to Austria.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski for his great struggle to bring freedom to Poland and its people and for his many years of service to his country.

CALLING UPON THE PEOPLE'S RE-
PUBLIC OF CHINA TO END ITS
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
CHINA AND TIBET

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I call upon the government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end its continuing human rights violations in China and Tibet.

I also endorse H. Res. 56, that strongly supports an American resolution at the 57th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, calling upon the government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet. As the leader of the free world, we must always encourage the same basic rights we enjoy, for all people, everywhere.

The State Department recently reported that China's human rights record has worsened. We know that several thousand prisoners are detained today for exercising freedoms of belief and expression, and members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement and Tibetan Buddhists suffer increasing opposition from Beijing for their peaceful practices. We must not tolerate widespread violations of internationally recognized human rights standards, like the persecution and torture of people worshiping outside official churches, that occurs in China to this day.

In addition, the Tibetan people are hardly better off now than they were forty years ago. Since 1950, the communist government of China has actively controlled Tibet and has repressed the Tibetan people. During the 1966 to 1976 Cultural Revolution, most monasteries, palaces, and other aspects of Tibetan Buddhism were damaged and destroyed. The Dalai Lama, the highest and most revered leader within Tibet's former government, has been exiled in India since 1959. Today, Tibet's unique cultural fabric is irreparably being torn by the oppressive practices of old guard communists in Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, China must learn to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of association, belief, and expression. It must change its laws and the decrees that restrict freedom, and it must stop criminalizing groups it arbitrarily labels as cults or heretical organizations.

Chinese authorities must hear a loud and clear message: the United States, the rest of the world, and the Chinese and Tibetan peo-

ple themselves, have waited long enough. China should quit throwing tantrums like an unruly child; it needs to grow up, act its age, and learn to take its place at the table for adults.

BON TON SHOPPE ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stella Wingerter and her family on the 40th anniversary of the Bon Ton Shoppe Inc.

Stella Wingerter founded the company in 1961 with the first store opening in Farmington, Michigan. That first store was only 1200 square feet. Now, however, Stella and her family own and operate four stores, all totaling more than 6,000 square feet, with locations in Farmington, Livonia, Milford and Brighton, Michigan. Forty years of enterprise in southeast Michigan is a strong testament of the Wingerter's dedication to their business, their employees and their community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stella Wingerter and her family on 40 years of success and wish them many more in the future.

TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOOL
TEACHERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation that will provide elementary and secondary school teachers with a \$500 refundable tax credit when they purchase books, supplies, and equipment out of their own pockets.

With limited resources being stretched to the limit in many public schools, teachers have been incurring out-of-pocket expenses averaging \$448 to \$1,000 a year. According to the National School Supply and Equipment Association, more than half the money teachers spend in this manner is on instructional materials such as flashcards and workbooks, while the remainder is spent on supplies such as chalk, paper, and pens.

Although current law allows teachers a tax deduction for the school supplies they purchase but for which are not reimbursed by their schools, this provision can be very complicated and does not serve the majority of teachers.

To receive the tax benefit, teachers need to file a Schedule A for itemized deductions, and they must have incurred expenses that exceed a full 2 percent of their adjusted gross income. For example, let's say a teacher earned \$50,000 in adjusted gross income, and spent \$1,100 on out-of-pocket expenses; with the current formula, the actual deduction would only be \$100.

Under my proposal, teachers who incur out-of-pocket expenses but do not meet the current income stipulations would still receive a tax credit. A tax credit is more beneficial than

the current deduction because it will allow teachers to utilize the benefit, particularly teachers with low salaries and those in disadvantaged schools.

My Congressional district in western Wisconsin is home to no less than 75 public school districts. I find it unconscionable that teachers must supplement school needs with their own hard earned income to ensure every student receives the same quality education. This bill represents much needed short-term relief, but also renews our long-term commitment to maintaining America's excellence in education. By supporting our teachers in their efforts to provide a quality education to all of our children, we support the very future of our country. Without a doubt, education is the cornerstone of a healthy, productive society, and today's investment represents tomorrow's future success. As we continue the federal government's role in guaranteeing affordable educational opportunities, our commitment to our teachers is one step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure and the scores of dedicated teachers across the nation who spend their own money on classroom materials needed to educate our children. Their sacrifices to alleviate a problem in the structure of education funding should not go without some benefit. I would encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and give our nation's teachers the credit they deserve.

ASBESTOS SETTLEMENT FUND
RELIEF LEGISLATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, along with my colleague from Georgia (Rep. JOHN LEWIS) to introduce legislation that would help companies and victims that are struggling with asbestos liability. Distinct and separate from the controversy associated with asbestos liability reform, our tax bill has broad and deep bipartisan support. Approximately 70 of our colleagues have agreed to be original cosponsors of the bill.

The bill provides fairness for victims and defendants alike. Many companies that are paying victims for their injuries cannot deduct these costs because the costs exceed their taxable income and these costs can only be carried back to a limited number of tax years in which their expenses already exceed their income. Many asbestos victims rely on settlement funds for compensation. Those settlement funds are currently taxed at 39.6%, which increases the costs of financing the funds and decreases the amount of money available to victims.

Our bill, would (1) exempt from federal tax settlement funds established for the purpose of paying asbestos victims, and (2) allow companies to carry back deductions for the payment of asbestos claims to the tax years giving rise to the current asbestos liabilities.

Our bill will ensure that all companies that pay asbestos claims are allowed to deduct those costs and that all of the money in asbestos settlement funds will be paid only to asbestos victims.

TRIBUTE TO ANNIE MARTIN
GIBSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Annie Martin Gibson of Summerton, South Carolina, who died at the age of 90 on March 6. Mrs. Gibson and her late husband William were among the principle petitioners in the lawsuit *Briggs v. Elliott*, which became the first of the five lawsuits collectively known as *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. Those cases began the process of breaking down racial barriers in our nation's public schools.

Annie Gibson's place in history has been often overlooked. She, along with 19 of her peers, were the original signers of the document that started legal action leading to the desegregation of America's schools. Mrs. Gibson was the last surviving petitioner who set the landmark desegregation movement into motion. For decades following the lawsuit, the Gibson family suffered through stress and unrest due to their decision. Mrs. Gibson was fired from her job as a housekeeper at a local hotel.

While many of the petitioners left the Clarendon County area, the Gibsons remained with their four children. With the land they owned they managed to earn a meager living. A family friend said the family never succumbed to the hardships facing them. Mrs. Gibson has been described by friends and family as a quiet, gentle person who refused to allow her children to receive a second rate education. She was one of many unsung heroes during the Civil Rights Movement who should be celebrated and remembered for putting her country before herself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Annie Martin Gibson for her great work as a Civil Rights Movement trailblazer. Her sacrifices should be remembered and celebrated by this House. Mrs. Annie Martin Gibson will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO BUTLER
MANUFACTURING COMPANY

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in salute to the Butler Manufacturing Company and its 100 years of service and leadership to Greater Kansas City, the United States, and countries abroad. Throughout the last century, Butler Manufacturing has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing quality products and services worldwide. I am proud to recognize their achievements.

Butler Manufacturing Company, founded in 1901 by innovators Emanuel Norquist and Charles Butler is now one of the world's leading providers of commercial and industrial construction services. Their first Butler building, completed in 1910, stood in use in central Kansas City for over 45 years. With the successful introduction of a sturdy two car version

of the garage, Butler Manufacturing was in the building business to stay because the market demand was so great. With the passing of each decade, Butler Manufacturing has remained on the cutting edge of the nonresidential construction market. The 1920s were devoted to determining customers' needs and satisfying those needs with personal service, concepts that worked successfully for Butler's grain bins. In the 1930s, Butler answered the call from the U.S. Department of Agriculture by mass-producing 14,500 galvanized steel grain bins in under 59 days; one day ahead of schedule. By the 1940s, Butler Manufacturing had a complete line of rigid frame buildings ready to market. The 1950s brought about enormous change and growth within the company with the formation of five product divisions; two of which, commercial, industrial and institutional end users, and rural buildings, continue to be the strength of the company today. Marked as a decade of enhancement and expansion, the 1960s ushered in new technologies and advancements such as construction components which allowed for frames with wider, longer, and lower slopes. In the 1970s, Butler extended the long-term value of buildings by making them virtually weathertight and advanced traditional ideas on pre-engineering buildings through such innovations as Multi-Story, Long Span, and the distinct look of Landmark, which all were pioneering steps in the advancement of building systems. The 1980s were a time of acquisitions for Butler as they sought to grow new markets and increase market share in existing businesses. Throughout the 1980s into the mid-1990s, acquisitions were made to expand Butler's architectural and aluminum market presence. Today, Butler Manufacturing has gained multinational recognition and continues to be a leader in business worldwide, including presence in South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, while remaining dedicated to the core ideals of excellence and teambuilding, on which the company was founded. These ideals are also responsible for Butler's being named the recipient of the prestigious 2000 Paragon Award by the Human Resource Management Association of Greater Kansas City. Noted for their excellent practices in a broad range of human resource issues, the recognition of Butler's mentoring program highlights a continued commitment to the Greater Kansas City community as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me today in celebrating Butler Manufacturing Company's 100 years of innovation, customer service, and quality that founded and continues to sustain this company's place as a leader in manufacturing in America and the global community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PERSONAL
INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation, the Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA), that safeguards consumers' personal privacy by giving them the ability to protect personal information from being bought and sold by third parties.

This bill would restore consumer control over personal information by requiring that a

third party obtain consent from an individual before making commercial use of that person's Social Security number (SSN). In fact, any non-criminal use not explicitly allowed by law would face this restriction, including the growing commercial use of SSNs as personal identifiers by various businesses.

Social Security numbers have become our default identifiers for many businesses, and thereby the key to much of our most personal information. That has to stop. As identity theft and fraud increases, action must be taken to ensure that this personal information remains private.

Under my legislation, refusing to sell services or goods to consumers who choose not to furnish their SSN would be illegal under the Federal Trade Commission Act, and businesses would be liable for up to \$10,000 in fines per violation for committing unfair or deceptive business practices. Credit bureaus would also be prevented from giving out SSNs without a person's consent. PIPA would amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Social Security Act to authorize civil penalties for privacy violations ranging from \$25,000 to \$500,000.

Information on products or services bought by an individual and from where they were purchased—also known as transaction histories—could not be sold or transferred for marketing purposes unless a consumer gives written consent.

We take for granted that our personal information is private. Unfortunately, that's not the case. We must take action to guard access to our personal information because it's not a commodity to be bought or sold. We as consumers should have the final say over how that information can be used, not some marketing firm.

I first introduced PIPA in the 105th Congress, but this version of the bill is slightly different than last session's because two of the bill's components have been enacted into law. As part of the FY 2000 Transportation Appropriations bill, state DMVs are now prohibited from releasing highly restricted personal information without a person's consent. The law now defines SSNs and photographs as "highly personal information" and requires a person's consent for disclosure by DMVs.

This is a great start, but there's a lot more to be done. We must curb the rampant use of SSNs as personal identifiers. This bill is an important step toward more complete personal privacy protection. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**DEATH OF ROBERT M. TALLON,
FATHER OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE ROBIN TALLON**

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House who served with Representative Robin Tallon of South Carolina should know that on January 28, 2001, his father passed away. Robert M. Tallon was 78, and died of a heart attack while doing what he loved, bird hunting in South Carolina.

Bob Tallon was an airborne infantryman in World War II, one of those soldiers of whom

it was said, "uncommon valor was a common virtue." As a staff sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division, Bob Tallon fought his way from Sicily up the boot of Italy. After waging some of the fiercest fighting of the war in Italy, he parachuted with the 82nd into Holland as part of the bloody operation that Cornelius Ryan immortalized in "A Bridge Too Far," and fought his way from Remagen into the Rhineland.

Bob Tallon came home with his chest full of medals, including Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. Though worthy of being called a hero, he never thumped his chest or boasted of his valor. He lived his life with the quiet abiding confidence that he had served his country and done his duty.

Though he distinguished himself as a soldier, Bob Tallon's finest accomplishment in life was in marrying Mary Williamson Tallon, a school teacher and a dear woman loved by all who know her. Indeed, anyone who has met Bob and Mary Tallon understands how Robin Tallon got his affable personality and affinity for politics. In addition to Robin, our former colleague, Bob and Mary Tallon had another son, Terry, and a daughter, Cameron.

Bob Tallon returned home from the war to Dillon County, South Carolina, and became President of Tomlinson Stores. He was a mainstay in the Methodist Church and a pillar of the community, involved in every good cause from the Lions Club to the Hospice Society.

Though Bob Tallon lived most of his life within the radius of Dillon, a small town in South Carolina, he lived the kind of life that made this country great. As President Clinton said at Anzio in his own father who also fought in Italy, "They made possible the world we live in."

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. HEARIN

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of a great man, William J. "Bill" Hearin. Mr. Hearin passed away Monday, February 19, 2001 at the Mobile Infirmary. He was chairman of the boards of the Mobile Register and Energy South, Inc., the parent company of Mobile Gas Service Corp. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Emily, his daughter, Ann Bartlett, and to all of his family at this difficult time.

Bill was very active in the community. He rose through the ranks at the Mobile Register becoming co-publisher, then publisher and president, then chairman. He had one of the longest tenures at the top levels of a metro newspaper, and as a result he had a significant and lasting relationship with Mobile. Hearin was involved professionally in the newspaper industry, where he served as president of the Alabama Press Association, director of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and as a member of the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

Bill Hearin was a leader in Mobile's social circles, where he served on the reception committees for a few of Mobile's oldest mystic organizations. He also served on the committee for the Camellia Ball. He was named

Mobilian of the Year in 1977, and in 1987 he received an award for Outstanding Civic Leader in the state.

After the death of Ralph B. Chandler, Bill took the reigns of the Chandler Foundation, which later became the Hearin-Chandler Foundation. The foundation distributes more than \$10 million among Mobile charities. Mobile can thank Bill Hearin for so many things.

My heart goes out to Mr. Hearin's family and to all those who grieve his passing. He gave unselfishly to the city he loved. William Hearin was a Mobile icon and a true newspaper man in every sense of the word and his contributions to our community will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on April 21–23, 2001, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Wilson High School from my district in Florence will represent the state of South Carolina in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained profound knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The students are: Lakisha Boston, Lynette Carr, Christine Chen, Rebecca Derrick, Ashunti Drummond, Elizabeth Fortnum, Albert Hayward, Anthony Henderson, Benjamin Ingram, Janny Liu, Christina Moss, Jason Owens, Anna Stewart, Tyler Thomas, and Dheepa Varadarajan. I would also like to recognize their teacher, Yvonne Rhodes, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the class.

We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution is one of the most extensive educational programs in the country specifically developed to educate young people about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after congressional hearings and they consist of oral presentations by the high school students before a panel of judges. The student's testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the simulated congressional committee. The judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. The 250th Anniversary of James Madison's birth in 1751 offers an appropriate opportunity to examine this Founder's contribution to American constitutionalism and politics. To this end, the national finals will include questions on Madison and his legacy.

Findings suggest that national finalists are less cynical about politics and public officials and participate in politics at a higher rate than do their peers. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program has provided curriculum materials at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. Members of Congress and our staff enhance

the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities. As a former history teacher, I am pleased to know that this program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of our democratic government.

The class from Wilson High School is currently conducting research and preparing for the upcoming national competition in Washington, D.C. I wish these young scholars the best of luck at the We the People . . . national finals. My staff and I look forward to greeting them when they visit Capitol. Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleagues as we congratulate the young scholars from Wilson High School as they compete in this national civics competition.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO TREAT DISTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLICLY TRADED PARTNERSHIPS AS QUALIFYING INCOME OR REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANIES

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to allow mutual funds to invest without restriction in publicly traded partnerships, or PTPs. PTPs, which are also known as MLPs, are limited partnerships which are traded on public securities exchanges in shares known as "units." Because interests in PTPs are liquid and can be bought in small increments, they can be and often are bought by small investors. Many of those investing in PTPs are older individuals, who buy them for the reliable income stream they receive from quarterly PTP distributions.

Unfortunately, the tax code currently deters mutual funds representing many small investors from investing in PTPs. As safe, liquid securities which generally provide a steady income stream, PTPs could be an excellent investment for mutual funds. However, the tax code requires that mutual funds get 90 percent of their income from specific sources in order to retain their special tax treatment. Distributions from a partnership do not qualify, nor do most types of partnership income which flow through to the fund. The only way a mutual fund can invest in a PTP is to be certain that the income it receives from that investment and other nonqualifying sources will never exceed 10 percent of its total income. Faced with the burden of keeping track of percentages and the drastic consequences of going over the limit, most mutual fund managers turn to other investments.

It makes no sense for publicly traded partnerships to be excluded from the list of qualifying income sources for mutual funds. While traditional partnership interests—the only kind that existed when these rules were written—were illiquid and not always well regulated, PTPs are traded on public exchanges and must file the same information with the Securities and Exchange Commission as publicly traded corporations.

Mutual funds are an increasingly important part of the capital markets, and the inability to

attract them as investors is hindering PTPs in their ability to raise the capital they need to grow and provide new jobs. Many PTPs are in energy-related businesses, the very sector whose growth we wish to encourage right now. Moreover, mutual funds and their investors are being denied an opportunity to earn money through PTP investments.

The legislation I am introducing would rectify this situation by simply adding income received by or allocated to a mutual fund by a PTP to the list of income sources that a mutual fund may use to meet the 90 percent test. This provision has been sponsored by BILL THOMAS, now chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, in the last two Congresses and was approved by Congress as a whole in 1999 as part of the Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act, later vetoed by the President. I am happy to take up the cause in the 107th Congress, and hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
RAYMOND F. CONKLING

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the late Raymond F. Conkling, a popular and well-respected professional who gave many years of outstanding public service to this institution. During his years on Capitol Hill, Ray made many friends on both sides of the aisle and made a significant contribution to the work of the Congress.

Mr. Conkling, who passed away on October 25, 2000, lived in Arlington, was born in Michigan and grew up in Peekskill, NY. He graduated from Columbia University, where he also received a law degree. During World War II and the Korean War, he was a naval aviator and received a Distinguished Flying Cross. Later he was a captain in the Navy Reserve.

He began his legal career in New York with the firm of Millbank, Tweed, Hope and Hadley, then in 1954 moved to Washington. He served in the tax legislative counsel's office in the office of the secretary of the Treasury and later as tax counsel of the House Ways and Means Committee. He was senior tax attorney for Texaco and then legislative counsel to Diamond Shamrock Corp. He returned to government service in 1986 on Representative Guy Vander Jagt's staff, where he handled tax issues. He was a member of the National Democratic Club, the Capitol Hill Club and the Army Navy Country Club.

Survivors include his wife of 28 years Juanita Conkling of Arlington, and a daughter, Tracy Conkling of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Ray Conkling's memory and in expressing our deepest sympathy to his family.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL SPIKER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today as Delaware's lone member of Congress to honor and pay tribute to Carol Spiker, a dear friend and National Winner of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) Heroes Award. Carol Spiker, a resident of Wilmington, Delaware, is being honored as a very special individual who, through her unique commitment and humanitarian spirit, has made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the pursuit of sports excellence. She has shown herself to be a dedicated, compassionate, and driving force behind the creation of the Wilmington Lacrosse Association (WLA). Delaware is fortunate to have her as a resident and I am honored to call her my friend.

In 1989, Carol Spiker's son expressed a desire to play lacrosse. With the help of another mom, she established a lacrosse league. She threw herself into this endeavor, using her time, talent, heart and soul. She spent countless hours doing everything including team registration, scheduling fields, teams and officials, coaching, sewing the practice pinneys and mowing and lining the fields. Carol found ways to cover equipment cost and league fees for children from families unable to afford the costs. Through Carol's enthusiasm and dedication, Delaware's lacrosse program grew from 24 boys in 1990 to eight different organizations in the Delaware league with close to 1,000 players today.

In 1998, Carol Spiker and her family were in a terrible car accident that left her with irreversible spinal cord injuries and confined her to a wheelchair. Carol turned this tragedy into a triumph, battling her way back from this life-threatening injury. As she recovered, the support and encouragement from her family and friends in the lacrosse community gave her the strength and courage to keep going.

Carol Spiker continues to run the league she started over 11 years ago with the same energy and compassion as when she began. She buys equipment and waives fees for children who could not afford to pay otherwise. She promotes the league, encourages the players, supports the families, and has been instrumental in helping students go on to private schools and colleges.

I want to thank her on behalf of the people of Delaware for her leadership and dedication and for her lasting contribution to our state.

INTRODUCTION OF BROWNFIELDS
CLEAN-UP ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would make the tax incentive for cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields permanent. Mr. WELLER, who has a long history of involvement on this issue, has cosponsored this important legislation.

There are half a million "brownfield" sites around the country—old polluted industrial

sites that continue to sit vacant because businesses do not want to deal with the environmental hazards that may exist on those sites.

All across the country, potentially productive pieces of real estate lie vacant because businesses are concerned about the cost of cleaning up after the industries that used to operate mills and factories on those sites.

If we want to bring jobs and tax revenues back to those sites, we have to create an even playing field for businesses making decisions about where to locate their new facilities.

I worked with other Representatives and Senators to provide federal tax support for cleaning up and re-using brownfield sites. In 1997, we succeeded in adding a provision to the federal tax code which allowed taxpayers to expense the costs of environmental remediation of brownfield sites in certain economically distressed areas. Last year, I worked successfully with Congressman WELLER and several colleagues to extend the provision, which was scheduled to sunset at the end of 2000, and to apply it to brownfield sites anywhere in the country.

I believe that one additional change should be made to the brownfields tax provision. I think that Congress should make the brownfields provision a permanent part of the federal tax code. Consequently, I have introduced legislation today to make the brownfields expensing provision permanent. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUILDING,
RENOVATING, IMPROVING, AND
CONSTRUCTING KIDS' SCHOOLS
ACT OF 2000

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, in 1995 and 1996, the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) released reports outlining the deplorable conditions in many of our nation's elementary and secondary schools. A GAO survey showed that America's schools are in need of an estimated \$112 billion in repairs and that \$11 billion alone is required to get schools in compliance with federal mandates requiring the elimination of hazards such as asbestos, lead in water, radon, and to improve accessibility for the disabled.

It's no small wonder these repair bills are mounting—the U.S. Department of Education has found that the average age of a public school building is 42 years. And while our school buildings are aging, student enrollments are expanding—putting even more pressure on a crumbling infrastructure. According to the Projections of Education Statistics to 2010 by the National Center for Education Statistics, total K–12 student enrollment in 2010 will exceed 53 million.

The decline in the condition of our nation's schools is not limited to one particular region. Every state has schools that are in need of repair and modernization, and my home state of Illinois is no exception. The Illinois State Board of Education estimates that over the next five years, Illinois' school districts will need more than \$8.2 billion in infrastructure work.

Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of local control of education, I believe that school con-

struction and renovation are areas best directed by states and local communities. That's why I applaud those states that have passed measures designed to help schools replace and modernize their facilities. Illinois is one of those states that have stepped up to the plate in this regard.

In December 1997, The Illinois General Assembly passed a school construction law to address the shortage of classroom space brought on by population growth and aging buildings. To fund the program, the General Assembly approved the sale of \$1.4 billion in school construction bonds over a five-year period. Illinois Governor George Ryan's "Illinois FIRST" program later added another \$ 1.1 billion to extend the program.

But despite the best efforts of Illinois and other states, the long-term costs of repairing and upgrading our nation's schools are proving more than many state and local governments can bear. In an attempt to assist in their efforts, Congress last year provided over \$1 billion in grants for school modernization purposes. But that amount is like a drop in the bucket, and our schools continue to fall into further disrepair and obsolescence.

That's why I rise today to introduce the "Building, Renovating, Improving, and Constructing Kids' Schools (BRICKS) Act"—legislation addressing our nation's burgeoning demand for elementary and secondary education school repair. This legislation is a slightly modified version of legislation I introduced last year and is the companion bill to S. 119, which was introduced in the Senate by my friend and colleague, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE of Maine.

Here is what the BRICKS Act does. First, it provides \$20 billion in interest-free and low-interest federal loans to support school construction and repair at the local level. These loans can be used in two ways. One, at least 50 percent of the loans are designated to pay the interest owed by states and localities to bondholders on new school construction bonds that are issued through the year 2003. And two, the loans can be used to support State revolving fund programs or other State-administered school modernization programs. These loans will be interest-free for the first five years, with low interest rates to follow.

The BRICKS Act allocates these school construction loans on an annual basis, using the Title I distribution formula. Monies would be distributed to states at the request of each state's governor and without a lengthy application process.

The money provided for under this bill is used to support, not supplant, local school construction efforts. These loans are designed to allow states and localities to issue bonds that would not otherwise be made due to financial limitations.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, these loans will be distributed in a fiscally responsible manner that does take away from the Social Security program or the projected on-budget surpluses. Specifically, my bill will generate funding from the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF)—a fund that was created through the Gold Reserve Act of 1934 and that currently has more than \$40 billion in assets. This is a fund that some—including former Federal Reserve Board Governor Lawrence B. Lindsey—have called for liquidating.

Finally, the school construction and modernization loans are not a government hand-

out. The BRICKS Act requires a State entity or local government that receives funding under this legislation to repay the loan to the Exchange Stabilization Fund. At the same time, this proposal ensures that states and local governments will not be burdened by excessive interest rates—or be forced to repay the loan in an unreasonable amount of time.

After the first five interest-free years, the interest rates on these loans will be no greater than 4.5 percent. Again, no payment will be owed, and no interest will accrue for five years, unless the federal government prior to that time meets its financial commitment to funding 40 percent of the costs borne by local school districts for providing special education services, as is currently required by federal law.

Mr. Speaker, the BRICKS Act is a fiscally responsible answer to a serious national problem. I am proud to offer this legislation for the House's consideration. I also am pleased to note how this legislation will help schools located in the 13th Congressional District of Illinois, which I represent. As my colleagues may know, the 13th District encompasses some of the fastest growing communities in the nation.

School administrators in my district have made it known that school construction and renovation have failed to keep pace with the explosive population growth and increased rates of student enrollment. Time and again, they have told me that the growth in tax revenues from new households has not kept up with the costs of construction needed to serve them. By providing schools and states with more fiscal flexibility and options, the BRICKS Act addresses this problem in my congressional district and in districts across the United States.

I urge my colleagues to support the BRICKS Act. This timely legislation makes responsible use of limited federal resources and effectively meets a commitment to giving every child an opportunity to attend school in an, environment that is physically safe and conducive to learning.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer two resolutions under the Congressional Review Act to rescind two egregious regulations promulgated by the previous administration that affect consumers nationwide.

On October 5, 2000, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued proposed regulations on the energy efficiency of clothes washers, air conditioners and heat pumps. Myself, and many of my House colleagues strongly oppose these new mandates.

At the end of the 106th Congress, I introduced H.R. 5613 along with 31 co-sponsors to extend the insufficient 60-day public comment period on these rulemakings. The former Clinton Administration, in its rush to issue a flurry of midnight regulations, overlooked both Congressional and public displeasure with these mandates and issued the final rule in the Federal Register in January.

I am particularly troubled by the proposed rules as they pertain to household clothes

washers. Nearly 81 million American households have washers and roughly 10 million new units are shipped every year. The impact of this new rule would effectively double the price of purchasing a new washer and eliminate consumer choice through a defacto mandate of side-loading washers. Many have argued that the proposed standards for clothes washers could be met with conventional top-loading designs, but the reality is that a side-loading washer design is the only means of achieving these efficiency standards.

The cost increases associated with these pending regulations are extravagant. DOE estimates the cost to average consumers to be: \$240 more for clothes washers, \$274 more for residential central air conditioners, and \$486 more for residential heat pumps. In fact, these products are available now and people do not buy them. Side-loading washers make up less than 12% of the washers sold in the U.S. today.

Also, the new washing machines required by this regulation will require an additional ten minutes in run time per wash. Moreover, these machines will require a special brand of soap manufactured specially for these washers. In addition, fears exist that these appliances will require more expensive servicing.

I am especially concerned that consumers have not been made aware of these mandates, and believe a 60-day comment period was insufficient to receive proper input. The poor, the elderly and those on fixed incomes cannot afford such a drastic change in price for the purpose of cleaning our clothes. The American public is not aware that this misguided regulation is being foisted upon them. We should trust the American people to make their own choices and have control over their own lives.

Accordingly, I am introducing Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions to rescind these misguided regulations. The American consumers deserve no less.

THE RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 2001

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing along with Messrs. RANGEL, MATSUI, COYNE and ANDREWS, the Retirement Security Act of 2001. This legislation expands and improves pension coverage for low- and moderate-income workers, by providing a direct incentive for these workers to save for their retirement through pension plans offered by their employers or through an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

There are three provisions in this legislation. First, the savings proposal allows eligible low- and moderate-income taxpayers to receive up to a 50 percent tax credit for contributions to an IRA or to an employer sponsored defined contribution pension plan, like a 401(k) plan. The credit is refundable so that workers who have little hope of saving for retirement right now might be encouraged to do so under this bill. It is this group of workers who are most at risk of retiring without adequate retirement savings, and it is this group which has proven to be the most difficult to bring into the pen-

sion system. They need additional incentives to help get them off the ground, which is why a refundable credit is key to any proposal to expand pension coverage to this group.

The 50 percent refundable credit would be available for single taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes up to \$12,500, and up to \$25,000 for joint returns. The credit amount phases down from fifty percent to zero between \$25,000 and \$75,000 on a joint return. The maximum credit amount would be \$1,000. The credit would be claimed on the federal income tax form. While it might be more appealing to workers if the money was given to them up front, a tax credit provides the most efficient form of delivery.

The next two provisions of the bill provide tax credits to small businesses to expand pension coverage and participation. First, a small business tax credit would be given to small employers of 100 or less employees equal to 50 percent of administrative and retirement education expenses for the first three years of a newly established qualified pension plan.

The second small business credit would be for employer contributions to new qualified pension plans, also for up to three years. Under this provision, small employers could take a 50 percent tax credit for employer contributions made to any pension plan on behalf of any non-highly compensated employees covered under the plan. All of these provisions would generally be effective after December 31, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, this is a summary of the provisions contained in this bill. I believe it directly and firmly addresses the issues of pension coverage, participation, and savings for a group of workers who need this help because they are currently excluded from our pension system. This bill would expand the number of employees covered by plans and would provide a strong incentive for many individuals in a plan to save additional amounts for their retirement. In addition, the bill provides needed incentives for small businesses to offer pension coverage to their employees.

I hope the Committee on Ways and Means will consider this approach carefully as an addition to any pension legislation that the Committee adopts this year.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate with my colleagues the 180th anniversary of Greek independence. Greek culture has been a foundation for the world, spreading from the dense forests of India to the shores of the United States. Its contributions pervade the sciences, arts and literature, and political theory and practice.

The most important influence came from the polis (city-state) of Athens. Unlike the city-states of Corinth, whose mastery of trade and commerce gave it prominence, or Sparta, whose discipline and military gave it strength, Athens drew its power from ideas. The leaders of Athens recognized the equality of its citizens; that progress would be made in stressing not the strength, class, or wealth of any individual, but his ability.

Recognizing that ability is a product of each person's character and not an attribute fated in birth, they strove to promote opportunity for each Athenian citizen to live to the best of his abilities. They concluded that in order for its society to be open, free, and just, the optimal type of government was one in which the people could directly participate in their governance. Because of its democracy, Athenian civilization achieved unparalleled influence, not only during its time, but historically as well.

But we are also paying tribute to the re-emergence of Greek independence. After hundreds of years of governance by foreign powers, the people of Greece rose up as gloriously as their mythological heroes to overcome the Ottoman Empire. Greece's triumphant return to independence in 1821 symbolizes that the light of democracy can only be eclipsed, but never extinguished.

Yet we also learn from the Greeks that there can be a negative effect of military, financial, and cultural success: hubris, or arrogant pride. This, as much as anything else we learn from Greek civilization, is crucial for us to understand and learn. Greece, at the height of its power, because of complacency, neglect, and pride became a victim of its own success. And we must learn from this failure as much as from its success. In the spirit of Greek thought and examination, we must ask ourselves: Will we be guilty of inciting our adversaries, of manipulating our neighbors and allies? Will we destroy the rights and life of an individual so the majority will not be bothered by criticism and truth?

The United States owes many of its achievements to what we have learned, or borrowed, from the Greeks. Our two histories are very much intertwined. We now bask in the light of our own Golden Age. But we must realize that what befell the Athenians, the Spartans, and the Corinthians could happen to us. What we do with our Golden Age dictates our future for years to come. The decisions we make, both domestically and internationally, are critical to our future, even at the height of our power. What will be said of us two millenia from now? Will we be judged a success—or a failure?

Today, we celebrate the freedom of those who first gave birth to the very concept. The enduring legacy of Greece lies as much in the triumph of regaining independence as much as in its first establishment. We honor the Greek spirit and celebrate the liberation of a people and culture whose gifts transcend all ages.

AMENDMENTS TO THE TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1997

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would eliminate a trap for the unwary that was inadvertently created with the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. The bill would clarify the treatment for foreign tax credit limitation purposes of the income inclusions that arise upon a transfer of intangible property to a foreign corporation.

Section 367(d) of the Internal Revenue Code provides for income inclusions in the

form of deemed royalties upon the transfer of intangible property by a U.S. person to a foreign corporation. Prior to the 1997 Act, these income inclusions under section 367(d) were deemed to be U.S.-source income and thus were not eligible for foreign tax credits. The international joint venture reforms included in the 1997 Act eliminated this special source rule and provided that deemed royalties under section 367(d) are treated as foreign-source income for foreign tax credit purposes to the same extent as an actual royalty payment.

The amendments made by the 1997 Act were intended to eliminate the penalty that was provided by the prior-law deemed U.S. source rule and that had operated to discourage taxpayers from transferring intangible property in a transaction that would be covered by section 367(d). Prior to the 1997 Act, in order to avoid this penalty, taxpayers licensed intangible property to foreign corporations instead of transferring such property in a transaction that would be subject to section 367(d). The 1997 Act's elimination of the penalty source rule of section 367(d) was intended to allow taxpayers to transfer intangible property to a foreign corporation in a transaction that gives rise to deemed royalty payments under section 367(d) instead of having to structure the transaction with the foreign corporation as a license in exchange for actual royalty payments.

However, the intended goal of the 1997 Act provision is achieved only if the deemed royalty payments under section 367(d) not only are sourced for foreign tax credit purposes in the same manner as actual royalty payments, but also are characterized for foreign tax credit limitation purposes in the same manner as actual royalty payments. Without a clarification that deemed royalty payments are characterized for foreign tax credit limitation purposes in the same manner as an actual royalty payment, there is a risk in many cases that such deemed royalties would be characterized in a manner that leads to a foreign tax credit result that is equally as disadvantageous as the result that arose under the penalty source rule that was intended to be eliminated by the 1997 Act.

The bill I am introducing today provides the needed clarification that deemed royalties under section 367(d) are treated for foreign tax credit limitation purposes in the same manner as an actual royalty, ensuring that the penalty that was intended to be eliminated with the 1997 Act is in fact eliminated. Without this clarification, a taxpayer that transfers intangible property in reliance on the 1997 Act will find that its transfer is in fact effectively subject to the penalty that the taxpayer believed had been eliminated. Without the clarification, those taxpayers that have structured their transactions in reliance on the 1997 Act provision will be worse off than they would have been if the purported repeal of the penalty source rule had never occurred and they had continued to structure their transactions to avoid that penalty. This bill will achieve the intended goals of the 1997 Act and prevent a terrible trap for the unwary that has been inadvertently created.

COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT
OF BULGARIA

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I commend the leadership of the government of Bulgaria for its ongoing interest in and support for modernization of the Maritza III East thermal plant. I urge the sitting Parliament in Sofia to express their support for this project by granting, all necessary government approvals before their scheduled dismissal prior to the upcoming, general elections. This will ensure that this important project can move forward expeditiously and successfully.

The Maritza III East thermal plant project has benefits that are well documented and widely-acknowledged at the local, regional and national levels. When the refurbishment work begins, more than \$75 million in local goods and services will be purchased and more than 600 construction jobs will be created.

Regionally, refurbishment of the Maritza III East power plant will reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by as much as 90 to 95 percent. The refurbished power plant will meet the emissions requirements of the World Bank, European Union, the Bulgarian government, which in turn, will fulfill important criteria for Bulgaria's ultimate entry into the European Union. Also at the regional level, the joint venture (Entergy & NEK) company that will operate the rehabilitated power plant will provide direct and indirect tax revenues to Bulgaria and to the Galabovo municipality in the Stara Zagora region.

On a broader scale, modernization of this power plant will have several positive impacts on Bulgaria's national economy. Long-term, modernization of this power plant will move Bulgaria closer to competitive energy independence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPENSING
TECHNOLOGY REFORM ACT
OF 2001

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative NEAL and I have introduced legislation which will update the existing depreciation schedules for high tech assets. Currently, businesses must depreciate much of their high tech equipment over a 5 year period. This bill would allow businesses to expense these assets.

The 5 year depreciation lifetime for tax purposes is outdated since many companies today must update their computers as quickly as every 14 months in order to stay technologically current. We allow businesses to expense their computers, peripheral equipment, servers, networks, wireless telecommunications equipment, software, high tech medical equipment and copiers in this bill.

This will stimulate the economy! According to a study conducted by the Printing Industries of America, printers would purchase 20 percent more computers if the depreciation

schedules reflected the actual life of the equipment.

It is time to update an outdated tax code to reflect the realities of today's technology-based workplace. A 5 year depreciation schedule for high tech equipment is no longer realistic.

This legislation will allow every company, from the neighborhood real estate office, to the local hospital, to the local bank to fully depreciate, or expense, their high tech equipment during the tax year in which the equipment is purchased. As a result, these companies will no longer be forced to keep their equipment "on the books" for tax purposes long after its useful life has become obsolete.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you and my colleagues to get this important pro-business legislation signed into law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, due to my presence at a funeral in Oregon on Tuesday, April 3, I was not able to participate in any roll call votes that took place on that day. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes #76, #77 and #78.

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF WMUK RADIO

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of one of the finest radio stations in my state of Michigan, and indeed the entire Midwest, WMUK, of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Like many of our country's greatest institutions, WMUK had modest beginnings. In 1951, based on the campus of what was then Western Michigan College, WMUK was founded under the call letters WMCR. WMCR was only on the air for a few hours each day and early programming consisted of music and instructional programs. At the time, WMCR was a pioneer in radio. As such, it was the first FM station in Kalamazoo.

Over the years, WMCR's development mirrored the growth of Kalamazoo. For example, in 1961, WMCR changed their call letters to WMUK to reflect Western Michigan College's name change to Western Michigan University. A few years later, in 1965 WMUK was the first radio station in Kalamazoo to begin broadcasting in stereo. Over the years, as the station's popularity has grown so has their signal strength. From a meager 400 watts in 1951, today, WMUK broadcasts at 50,000 watts.

Today, after 50 years, WMUK is a cornerstone of the Kalamazoo community. I am pleased to say that WMUK is now on the air 21 hours a day offering a wide variety of programming to suit the diverse tastes of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that these remarks be made part of the permanent record of the

Congress so that other public broadcasters can emulate the quality example that WMUK has set across our country.

VETERANS MEMORIAL
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, a Vietnam Veterans memorial in my district was vandalized, and the cost to repair the memorial is estimated to be \$4,000. When I learned of the damage done, I contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs and a number of other federal agencies, and I came to realize there was no federal assistance available for these organizations. While federal veterans memorials are taken care through the National Park Service, local monuments and memorials which are scattered across the nation receive no such assistance. A joint venture with the federal government and veterans is the perfect answer to this unfortunate problem. It requires private organizations to take the initiative as well as provide their own funding to complete the refurbishing.

The bill I am proud to introduce today will do just that. The Veterans Memorial Enhancement Act is a simple and straightforward bill which establishes a grant program for Veterans Service Organizations who need financial assistance in refurbishing or repairing aged or harmed veterans memorials. The grant would provide federal funding for up to fifty percent of the total project cost, thus encouraging local veterans and providing them with the resources necessary to ensure that veterans memorials are treated with the respect they deserve. Even in this time of peace, it is important that we remember and recognize the sacrifices our veterans have made, and I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Veterans Memorial Enhancement Act.

PREVENTIVE SCREENING FOR
COLORECTAL CANCER

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Eliminate Colorectal Cancer Act, a bill that can save the lives of thousands of people who might otherwise succumb to a type of cancer that could be prevented. This legislation seeks to address the lack of coverage for colorectal cancer screening by all health insurers.

I am proud to introduce this bill along with my distinguished colleagues, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY and Representative CONNIE MORELLA, as well as colorectal cancer survivors and groups dedicated to the effort of preventing this disease.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. for men and women combined. An estimated 56,700 people will die from colorectal cancer this year and 1 in 17 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in their lifetime.

This is an unspeakable tragedy because colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and curable when detected at an early stage. When colorectal cancer is detected before it has spread, the five year survival rate is over 91 percent.

Further, colorectal cancer is just about the only cancer we know how to prevent. If polyps are discovered in the colon, they can be removed before they become cancerous and the cancer will never develop.

And yet tens of thousands of Americans continue to die from this disease, mostly because their cancer is detected at a later, less treatable stage.

No one should die of colorectal cancer. This cancer is preventable and detectable. It is slowgrowing and easy to stop in its tracks. The fact that over 56,000 Americans die of this disease is nothing more than a massive failure of our preventive health system.

We need to do more to educate Americans about the ways they can avoid this deadly disease. Too many misconceptions persist about colorectal cancer.

For example, many women consider colorectal cancer a man's disease, but it is an equal opportunity killer. In fact, the American Cancer Society estimates that more women than men will die of colorectal cancer this year.

Federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control, the National Cancer Institute and Department of Health and Human Services have worked together to develop a nationwide colon cancer awareness and education program. Grassroots efforts by individuals like as Kevin Richardson of the Backstreet Boys are also critical to improving public health and awareness.

Today we continue our efforts to combat colorectal cancer. Too many people are failing to have regular colorectal cancer tests because their insurers will not pay for a screening exam in the absence of symptoms.

What makes colorectal cancer so insidious is that there are often no symptoms until the cancer is widespread.

Our legislation will require insurers to cover a regular colorectal cancer screening exam. Doctors and patients will be able to decide together the appropriate screening method and frequency of testing.

For many Americans, denial of insurance coverage equals denial of care. They simply cannot afford to pay for these tests out-of-pocket when they are already paying thousands of dollars per year for insurance. A colonoscopy costs around \$1000 per test.

Our bill makes sense for both consumers and insurance companies. Colorectal cancer screening is cost-effective, considering that treatment for a patient with an advanced form of cancer can easily be \$40,000 or more.

In fact, many insurers do cover colorectal cancer screening. But in order to make a meaningful impact and save lives, all insurers should give their enrollees access to this vital form of screening.

Here in the House of Representatives we have already have the support of 48 original cosponsors. The bill would require all insurance plans to cover colorectal cancer screening in accordance with recognized guidelines, such as those issued by the American Cancer Society.

I am proud to be a part of this effort to ensure that all Americans can get tested for

colorectal cancer. I look forward to working with everyone here to pass our legislation as soon as possible.

APRIL 26, 2001 IS NATIONAL D.O.
DAY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, Thursday, April 26, is National DO Day. We recognize the more than 47,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) across the country for their contributions to the American healthcare system. On National DO Day, more than 500 members of the osteopathic medical profession, including osteopathic physicians and medical students, from 40 states will descend upon Capitol Hill to share their views with Congress.

For more than a century DOs have made a difference in the lives and health of Americans everywhere. They have treated presidents and Olympic athletes. They have contributed to the fight against AIDS and the fight for civil rights. DOs are represented at the highest levels of the medical profession. Indeed, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the chief medical officer for the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army are all osteopathic physicians.

As fully licensed physicians able to prescribe medication and perform surgery, DOs are committed to serving the health needs of rural and underserved communities. They make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less. In addition, 64 percent of DOs practice in the primary care areas of medicine, fulfilling a need for more primary care physicians in an era marked by the growth of managed care.

More than 100 million patient visits are made each year to DOs, making them the physician of choice for many people. That's because DOs approach their patients as "whole people." They don't just treat a specific illness or injury. DOs take into account home and work environments, as well as lifestyle, when assessing overall health. This distinct approach provides Americans with the highest quality of healthcare—patients seen as people, not just illnesses or injuries.

From the state-of-the-art healthcare facility in a major city to a clinic in a rural Michigan community, DOs continue to practice the kind of medicine that Andrew Taylor Still envisioned over 100 years ago when he founded the profession.

I am pleased that on National DO Day more than 30 representatives of the osteopathic medical profession will be visiting our Capitol from Michigan. These representatives are practicing osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. To the nearly 5,000 osteopathic physicians in Michigan, the approximately 520 students at MSUCOM and the 47,000 DOs represented by the American Osteopathic Association—congratulations on your contributions to the good health of the American people. I look forward to working with you to further our mutual goal of continually improving our nation's healthcare.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY CHARACTER ACT OF 2001

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Community Character Act of 2001. This legislation will provide state grants to develop or revise state land use plans and planning legislation that underpin local and state efforts to address public transit, affordable housing, environmental and other livability issues.

States, tribal governments, and native Hawaiian organizations would be eligible for grants of up to \$1,000,000 each upon application approval by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Total appropriations would be limited to \$50 million each year. Applicants that receive grants would be required to provide 10 percent in matching funds. Funds may be used to obtain technical assistance in drafting land use planning legislation; carrying out research and development for planning programs; conducting workshops, educating and consulting for local officials and policy makers; and involving citizens in the planning process.

I submit the following letters of endorsement from the American Planning Association, National Association of Realtors, and the American Society of Landscape Architects to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2001.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. BLUMENAUER: The American Planning Association is pleased to endorse the Community Character Act of 2001. APA is heartened by the introduction of this legislation and the assistance it would provide to the numerous states and communities struggling with the consequences of change, whether it be growth and development or economic decline. This legislation recognizes that the Federal government can, and should, be a constructive partner with those communities seeking innovative solutions to improving local quality of life through better planning and land use. APA, with more than 30,000 members, is the largest private organization working to promote planning for communities that effectively meets the needs of our people, now and in the future.

Planning is the single most effective way to deal with growth issues facing states and communities. Passage of the Community Character Act is among the most important and beneficial things Congress could do to help promote local solutions to such pressing issues as downtown revitalization, traffic congestion, urban sprawl and open space protection.

This legislation responds to widespread citizen interest in—smart growth by providing critical resources to help state and local political leaders, business and environmental interests, and others manage change. In a recent national voter survey, APA found that an overwhelming majority of Americans, regardless of political affiliation, geographic locale, or demographic group, believe Congress should take action to support state and local smart growth initiatives. Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed believe it is important for the 107th Congress to help communities solve problems associated with urban growth. Moreover, three-quarters of

voters also support providing incentives to help promote smart growth and improve planning.

The Community Character Act provides vital assistance to meet the serious challenge of reforming outdated planning statutes and supporting planning as the basis for smart growth. Currently, more than half the states are still operating under planning statutes devised in the 1920s. And, even in those states with updated planning laws, communities are struggling to find and implement tools to grow smarter and in ways consistent with the values and vision of the citizens. Thus far in 2001, twenty-seven governors have initiated some type smart growth proposals and there is pending legislative or executive activity related to planning, growth and land use in twenty-two states. This is happening in states as diverse as Oklahoma and New York, Montana and Massachusetts.

This bipartisan legislation would provide \$50 million to states, multi-state regional programs and tribal governments to assist in revising land use planning legislation and developing comprehensive plans. The bill is intended to support efforts to promote improved quality of life, economic development and community livability through planning reform. Grants could be used to obtain technical assistance and support for a state's review of growth and planning laws. Activities such as researching and drafting state legislation, conducting workshops, holding public forums, promoting regional cooperation and supporting state planning initiatives would qualify for federal assistance.

Under the Community Character Act states are encouraged to create a framework for smart growth planning, but the bill avoids dictating land use policies. In the best sense, it is a 'funded non-mandate.' The Community Character Act specifically acknowledges that land use planning is rightfully a local and state prerogative. The bill seeks to encourage states to provide their cities, towns, counties and regions with innovative and updated tools for managing the many challenges presented by growth. Communities would not be forced to pursue smart growth strategies but the legislation would provide assistance to those states that have chosen to do so. Grant guidelines call for comprehensive planning that coordinates transportation, housing and education with infrastructure investments and conserves historic, scenic and natural resources. The bill also acknowledges that it is the collective vision and values of citizens that should guide planning.

Land use planning should not stop at arbitrary jurisdictional boundaries. This bill seeks to promote a vision of land use planning and resource management that works for regions by allowing multi-state regional project to qualify for funding. The legislation also encourages greater cooperation between local planning and federal land management planning. Additionally, the legislation recognizes and seeks to address the tremendous need for planning and community development by the nation's tribal governments.

This legislation promotes smart growth principles and encourages state to create or update the framework necessary for good planning. It creates a federal partnership with communities through incentives, not mandates. The bill does not mandate that states implement specific changes but rather seeks to support and inform that process once it is underway. This program is a small investment that will bring substantial dividends in improving the livability of cities, towns, and neighborhoods throughout the nation.

The American Planning Association applauds your outstanding leadership and vi-

sion in introducing the Community Character Act and urges the House of Representatives to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE MCCLENDON, FAICP
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2001.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BLUMENAUER: On behalf of its more than 760,000 members, the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR) supports your introduction of the Community Character Act, which would provide grants to assist state governments in developing or updating their land use planning legislation.

NAR supports this bill because it: Recognizes that land use planning is rightfully a State and local government function; provides needed assistance to states and localities to better plan for inevitable growth; requires that planning performed under this Act must provide for housing opportunity and choice and promote affordable housing; promotes improved quality of life, sustainable economic development, and protection of the environment.

In adopting our Smart Growth principles, NAR recognized that property owners, homebuyers, and REALTORS® have a great deal at stake in the debate over livability and growth. REALTORS® are outspoken advocates for policies that preserve housing choice and affordability while protecting and improving the quality of life of our communities.

It is our experience that when communities have not planned for growth, they may overreact to growth pressures by adopting excessive regulations that distort real estate markets and make homeownership less attainable. Planning in advance to accommodate growth and protect the quality of life is the better approach, and the Community Character Act would promote this needed planning.

We commend your efforts in introducing the Community Character Act and we look forward to working with you toward its adoption.

Sincerely,

LEE L. VERSTANDIG,
Senior Vice President,
Government Affairs.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2001.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,
Longworth Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BLUMENAUER: On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and its 14,000 members, I'm writing to convey my strong endorsement of "The Community Character Act" (CCA) you have sponsored. ASLA applauds your leadership in promoting legislation that will support state and tribal efforts to develop and update land use plans.

ASLA supports the Community Character Act as an effective tool to promote more livable communities and stewardship of the natural environment, both of which are important aspects of the landscape architecture profession.

Americans are increasingly aware and concerned about the byproducts of unmanaged growth—loss of open space, congestion, strip malls, and loss of ecological biodiversity—as clearly indicated by surveys and the passage of numerous local ballot initiatives to address growth. CCA responds to these concerns by authorizing funding assistance to

states and tribal governments that request help in implementing their respective visions of sustainability.

In addition to minimizing some of the harmful impacts that unplanned development can have on local and regional ecosystems, good planning and design makes smart business sense. Planning and design help to create communities with character—places where people want to be. As more people are attracted to such places—both residents and tourists—local economies flourish.

CCA has garnered bipartisan support, as well as the endorsement of a broad array of organizations, including planners, conservationists, preservationists, and the National Association of Realtors.

Thank you again for your sponsorship of “The Community Character Act” and your continued commitment to enhancing more livable communities across America. I look forward to working with you to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

NANCY C. SOMERVILLE,
Executive Director.

SMART GROWTH AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2001.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER
Hon. WAYNE GILCREST,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BLUMENAUER AND REPRESENTATIVE GILCREST: Smart Growth America would like to commend you on the introduction of the Community Character Act of 2001. We support both the bill and your efforts to assist states, multi-state regions and tribal governments in their efforts to revise their land use planning legislation and develop comprehensive plans.

Planning for future growth and directing development so that it strengthens existing communities while building upon their physical, cultural historical assets is integral to smart growth. We applaud your foresight and willingness to help states, tribal government and regions in their ongoing efforts to achieve smart growth by coordinating transportation, housing and education infrastructure investments while conserving historic, scenic and natural resources.

The Community Character Act makes the federal government a partner in the ongoing efforts of states, regions and tribal governments that want to plan for future growth. We applaud your efforts and look forward to working with you to pass this timely legislation.

Sincerely,

DON CHEN,
Director,
Smart Growth America.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE
ACCESS ACT TECHNICAL COR-
RECTIONS ACT OF 2001

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the District of Columbia College Access Act Technical Corrections Act of 2001. I am particularly pleased and appreciative to be joined by my colleagues, D.C. Subcommittee Chair CONNIE MORELLA and former Chair TOM DAVIS, who are original cosponsors of this bill and were original cosponsors of the landmark College Access Act that has proved so successful.

This bill is necessary to correct three problems that have arisen in the administration of the District's Tuition Assistance Grant Program, authorized in 1999 with the passage of the District of Columbia College Access Act. The Act allows D.C. residents in-state tuition at public colleges and universities nationwide or a \$2500 stipend at private colleges and universities in the region.

First, the bill amends the College Access Act to remove a provision limiting the benefits of the Act to residents who graduated from high school before January 1, 1998. The bill would allow current college seniors and a smaller group of juniors who are presently excluded from the program, but are otherwise eligible for College Access Act benefits to receive those benefits. The arbitrary cutoff date, which was not included in the bill passed by the House, was put in the bill in the Senate out of concern that there might not be enough money to cover all eligible students. Fortunately, the evidence does not support this assumption, allowing the students eligible in the original House bill to be funded. The District has received over 3500 applications and placed over 1600 students at colleges and universities across the country. The program's \$17 million appropriation was originally derived with the assumption that current college juniors and seniors would indeed qualify, and the program currently has the funds to allow these students to participate. It is inherently unfair for D.C. residents who are college freshmen and sophomores to get the benefit, while students who are juniors and seniors do not.

Second, the bill removes the arbitrary three year deadline for college admission in order to be eligible for the benefits in the College Access Act. The bill as passed in the House never intended to deny in-state tuition to students who had to work after high school or who have decided to get a college degree later in life. The three year deadline language was also placed in the Act by the Senate to control the cost of the program. However, the District has done a study of the data and it is clear that it has the funds to include these students in the program. It is unfair to penalize otherwise eligible students because their life circumstances necessitated that they work before entering college. The Congress should applaud and encourage these students. The Department of Education, for example, does not place a similar constraint on its programs.

Third, the bill closes the loophole that currently allows foreign nationals who live in the District to receive the benefits of the Act. The congressional intent of the bill was to provide state university system-type higher education options to D.C. residents, not foreign nationals who happen to live in the District. Most of these students already have the option to take advantage of their own country's higher educational systems. The bill merely mirrors the Department of Education's own statutory requirements on this matter.

The positive impact of the College Access Act on the District of Columbia has been extraordinary. For the first time, D.C. students have the same higher educational choices available to them as residents of the fifty states. This bill seeks only to include those who were arbitrarily left out of the Act from receiving these benefits.

The end of the current school year is rapidly approaching and current college seniors will begin to graduate in May. Because of the ne-

cessity for swift passage and the non-controversial nature of this bill, I am asking Chairwoman MORELLA to seek to have the bill placed on the suspension calendar as soon as we return from recess.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important, noncontroversial measure.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
COUNSELING IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Elementary and Secondary Counseling Improvement Act, legislation to provide for elementary and secondary school counseling programs. The epidemic of school shootings across the nation exemplifies the urgent need for school-based mental health services for our youth. Many youth who may be headed toward school violence or other tragedies can be helped if we identify their early symptoms.

The lack of mental health interventions can produce devastating results for children, including disrupted social and educational development, academic failure, substance abuse problems, or juvenile justice system involvement. The bottom line is that we need to identify and treat mental illness in youth at its earliest stages.

In January, Dr. David Satcher, the Surgeon General, released a National Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health, in which it was found that the nation is facing a public crisis in mental health for children and adolescents. According to the report, while one in ten children and adolescents suffer from mental illness severe enough to cause some level of impairment, fewer than one in five of these children receive needed treatment. Dr. Satcher urged that “we must educate all persons who are involved in the care of children on how to identify early indicators for potential mental health problems.”

According to Dr. Satcher, “the burden of suffering by children with mental health needs and their families has created a health crisis in this country. Growing numbers of children are suffering needlessly because their emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs are not being met by the very institutions and systems that were created to take care of them.”

We must ensure that children with mental health needs are identified early and provided with the services they so desperately need to help them succeed in school and become healthy and contributing members of society.

Providing mental health services in schools is a wise long-term, cost-effective approach to reducing youth violence, developing a positive school environment, increasing student achievement and improving the overall well-being of our nation's youth. Schools provide a tremendous opportunity to identify potential mental health problems in children. Children spend a high percentage of their time in school, especially during their critical years of learning and development.

Teachers and other school professionals have the chance to identify potential problems and get children the help they need. Schools can provide underserved youth with or at-risk

of emotional or behavioral problems access to the mental health services they need. School-based mental health programs have decreased the number of suspensions and referrals to the principal's office, decreased the use of force, weapons, and threats, and helped students feel safer.

In a March Washington Post article, columnist Abigail Trafford asks, "How many school shootings will it take to focus the nation's attention on unmet mental health needs of children and adolescents?" This is exactly what I have been saying for some time.

The Surgeon General's Report on youth violence cites family connectedness, peer group relationships, and success in school as the three most significant factors influencing the likelihood of young people engaging violent behavior. The Surgeon General describes youth violence as an "epidemic." The report identifies effective programs as those that provide at-risk youngsters with the necessary physical and mental health resources, behavioral interventions, skills development, and academic supports.

Our schools should be equipped to provide early identification, assessment, and direct individual or group counseling services to its students. Teachers should be adequately trained in appropriate identification and intervention techniques. Other solutions being proposed, such as increasing the number of campus security personnel or installing metal detectors in the schools, are indeed important. However, these solutions are merely quick fixes and do not address the needs of the troubled child who contemplates bringing a gun to school. Similarly, I strongly support character education programs for all children. However, it is not enough to teach a child suffering from mental illness right from wrong. It is vital that the child's unmet medical needs also be addressed.

The Elementary School Counseling Demonstration Program (ESCDP) within Title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act directs much-needed federal resources for school-based mental health programs. Research shows school-based mental health services are effective in reducing school disruptions and violence. An evaluation of the program on which the ESCDP is modeled found that the number of referrals to the principal's office decreased by nearly half, the use of force, weapons, and threatening of others also decreased, school suspensions were reduced, and students felt safer.

With the increase of violence in our schools, we must reauthorize and expand the Elementary School Counseling Program. Our schools must be better equipped to identify and help youth possibly headed toward school violence or other tragedies.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important legislation which ensures that the mental health needs of our nation's children are appropriately addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the text of an article by Abigail Trafford, which appeared in the Washington Post on March 7, 2001 concerning the need for school-based mental health services to address the problem of violence in our schools, to be included in the RECORD.

ANSWER THE WAKE-UP CALL FROM OUR CHILDREN

(By Abigail Trafford)

How many school shootings will it take to focus the nation's attention on unmet mental health needs of children and adolescents?

No one knows what drove 15-year-old Andy Williams on Monday to allegedly fire 30 rounds from a .22 caliber longbarrel revolver, killing two students and injuring 13 others in Santee, CA. Or why an eighth-grade girl in Williamsport, Pa., pulled out a gun and wounded her classmate today. But in many instances of juvenile violence, the primary cause is undetected and untreated mental illness. To be sure, there are other factors in this level of violence, such as easy access to guns. And most kids with mental health needs do not become murderers.

But after the headlines fade and the tragedy at Santana High School in Santee becomes another statistic next to Columbine—after the calls from parents and neighbors are met to put in more metal detectors in schools and establish hot lines to report threats and weird behavior—where is the long-term commitment to protecting the mental health and emotional development of children?

"You can make a case that youth mental health is the most neglected area in health care," says clinical psychologist Mark Weist, who directs the Center for School Mental Health Assistance at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "There's a huge gap between their mental health needs and the resources and services that are available to them."

For starters many people still deny that mental illness can occur in children, which increases the stigma. There also aren't enough mental health professionals for young people. Between 12 and 15 million children and adolescents in the United States are in need of mental health services, according to the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health. There are only about 8,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists in the country. One estimate of the need called for at least 30,000 psychiatrists for this population. There is also a shortage of psychologists, social workers and other mental health workers who are trained to address the emotional and developmental needs of the young.

Services in many parts of the country are fragmented and under-funded. Since the Columbine shootings, the demand for mental health care for children has skyrocketed. With heightened concerns about violence, many schools have adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward disruptive students. In some cities, a typical scenario goes like this: A student makes a threat and is sent by ambulance to a hospital emergency room. There he—usually it's a boy—is diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder but there is no space available in the appropriate level of care whether it's a hospital bed or placement in a special school or residential facility. Either the student "boards" at the hospital until a bed in a mental health unit is found, or he is sent home to wait for outpatient services.

With the move toward zero-tolerance policies, many needy kids are also expelled from school for long periods of time. This often exacerbates their problems and jeopardizes their academic development.

Yet, the most effective arena for providing mental health services for children is the school. A decade of research into school-based health centers suggests that children are more likely to have a problem detected at a school center than in a doctor's office or outpatient clinic. Advocates of comprehensive mental health services in schools point out that such programs can help promote

emotional growth as well as detect psychiatric problems early and monitor treatment with medications or therapy.

"There's enough data to suggest that this makes a difference. At the federal level we should look at school-based mental health as routinely as curriculum requirements," says pediatric psychiatrist Richard D'Alli, who directs child and adolescent community programs for the Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

In fact, mental health counseling is the leading reason for visits by students to school-based health centers, according to surveys of users of these centers.

The trouble is that most schools do not have a health center. There are only about 1,400 school-based health centers in a country with more than 110,000 schools. About 40 percent of these centers have no mental health services.

These statistics underscore the general lack of psychiatric help for children. Overall, only about a third of kids with a mental illness get any treatment—and only 10 percent get adequate treatment, according to the Surgeon General's report.

It's time to address these needs and not wait for the next shooting. A national commitment to bolster mental health care for children cannot guarantee that there will never be another tragedy like Santana and Columbine. As D'Alli says: "What sets these kids apart? Why are they murderers? We may not have the answer any time soon."

But detecting and treating mental illness in children is one way to reduce the risks of school violence. Researchers know that psychiatric disorders in children arise from a complex mix of factors—genetic vulnerability, social environment, history of traumatic experiences, level of psychological and cognitive strength. They also know that intervention as early as elementary school can protect at-risk children.

"These are troubled kids," continues D'Alli. "The whole concept is to treat [the problem] early. If you don't, you're not sure where it will lead." So why isn't there a louder outcry from parents and teachers for mental health services in schools? Part of the answer is money. Good mental health services are labor-intensive and costly. The other part is leadership.

President Bush was quick to express his sorrow. "When America teaches their children right from wrong . . . our country will be better off," he said. But this problem is not just a moral problem. It's a medical one. And he can do something about it.

ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST MISSING IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this fall, the Belarusian Government is planning to hold their second presidential elections since independence. Judging by the continuing actions of the repressive regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka, free, fair, and transparent elections—consistent with Belarus' freely undertaken OSCE commitments—will be very difficult to achieve. Democratic elections require an all-encompassing atmosphere of trust and a respect for basic human rights. Unfortunately, recent actions in Belarus do nothing to encourage such trust.

Most recently, on March 25, Belarusian authorities cracked down on participants of the

Independence Day march, arresting and beating several protestors, subsequently fining and jailing some, including Belarusian Popular Front Chairman Vintsuk Vyachorka, who received a 15-day sentence on March 29, Ales Byaletsky, head of the human rights center "Viasna", who received a 10-day sentence, and Yuri Belenky, acting chairman of the Conservative Christian Party, who also received a 10-day sentence. Also detained and beaten was 17-year-old Dmitri Yegorov, a photo-journalist for a Grodno-based, non-state newspaper.

On the day of the march, Belarusian state television accused the opposition of "seeking to draw Belarus into some bloody turmoil", reflecting its increasingly shrill tone of late. Earlier this year, for instance, Belarusian television claimed the CIA was intensifying "subversive activity" as the presidential election draws nearer. On March 24, Belarus' KGB chief pledged on Belarusian television to intensify surveillance of foreigners in order to prevent them from interfering in the country's domestic matters.

On March 12, Lukashenka signed Decree #8, which essentially imposes restrictions from abroad offered to NGOs for democracy building and human rights, including election monitoring. Moreover, the Belarusian Government has claimed that the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group's (AMG) domestic election observation project does not conform with the Belarusian Constitution and Electoral Code, although nowhere does the law address the conduct of election observation, and the government has resisted AMG efforts to convene a working group regarding the administrative dimension of the elections. Lukashenka himself has asserted that he would ban the training of election observers by non-Belarusian bodies, telling reporters: "There will be no guerillas in Belarus." Earlier this year, Lukashenka also accused the AMG for "exceeding their mandate," saying the OSCE was planning to train some "14,000-18,000 fighters" under the guise of election observers.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned about recent assaults on religious communities. Last month, the Council of Ministers restricted visits by foreign clergy for "non-religious" purposes—including contact with religious and other organizations, participation in conferences and other events, or charitable activities. Government officials are also refusing to register some Reform Jewish communities because they do not have "legal" addresses. In February, state-controlled Belarusian television aired a documentary alleging Catholicism as a threat to the very existence of the Belarusian nation. And in January, leaders of Belarus' Protestant community alleged that state newspapers carried biased articles that present Pentecostals as "wild fanatics."

Religious freedom is not the only liberty in peril. Freedom of the press and of self expression are also in jeopardy.

Editors of a variety of newspapers are being fined on fictitious and trumped-up charges for violating the Law on Press and Other Mass Media. Various periodicals are being confiscated and destroyed, and distributors of independent newspapers have been arrested. Youth organizations have been accused of engaging in activities that weaken the Belarusian statehood and undermining socioeconomic stability. Teenagers have been arrested for picketing and protesting, and others have

been detained for distributing newspapers or pasting stickers advocating reform and calling on the authorities to solve the cases of political disappearances. Belarusian Television and Radio (BTR) has also canceled scheduled addresses to be made by potential presidential candidates or opposition leaders. The Deputy Minister of Education has ordered heads of the educational community to ban seminars conducted by the People's University.

Lukashenka has also undertaken repressive acts against the potential presidential candidates and their families in an attempt to thwart their campaign progress.

Family members of former Prime Minister Mikhail Chigir have become the target of persecution. Chigir's wife has been accused of interfering with the work of the police, and his son, Alexander, has been charged with large scale larceny. Chigir is not the only potential candidate whose actions have been thwarted by Lukashenka. Semyon Domash's meeting with potential voters at the Tourist Hotel was canceled on orders from the Mogilev authorities and a director of the clubhouse of the Brest Association of Hearing-Impaired People lost her job after hosting a February 3 voters' meeting with Domash. Vladimir Goncharik, a labor leader, has had to deal with newly state-created "unions" trying to muscle out unions supporting him. Two officials of a manufacturing plant were reprimanded by a Borisov city court for hosting a meeting between Chigir and employees at the plant.

When one looks at these and other recent actions of the Lukashenka regime, the inescapable conclusion is that the regime has created an unhealthy environment in advance of the elections. Mr. Speaker, the regime's behavior is obviously not conducive to the promotion of free and fair elections. A few weeks ago, President Lukashenka stressed the need to establish an atmosphere of trust in bilateral Belarusian-U.S. relations. I strongly encourage Mr. Lukashenka to translate his words into concrete deeds that will encourage this trust and lead to the emergence of Belarus from its self-imposed isolation from the Euro-Atlantic community of democracies.

FHA SHUTDOWN PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative FRANK, I will be introducing a bill I filed last Congress, the "FHA Shutdown Prevention Act."

This legislation provides standby budget authority for HUD to keep a number of FHA loan programs operating even when they run out of credit subsidy, by drawing on the profits from the other FHA specialty loan programs that make a profit for the taxpayer.

As Congress debates the issue of what we might do with the multi-billion dollar annual FHA surplus, I think most people would agree that the first thing we should not do is shut down important existing FHA loan programs merely because of budget technicalities and Congressional and Executive inaction. Yet, that is precisely what looms on the near horizon, for the second time in less than a year.

Last July, HUD was forced to suspend insurance for a number of multi-family and sin-

gle family loans in the General Insurance/Special Risk Insurance (GI/SRI) Funds. These included a number of multi-family loan programs, the FHA reverse mortgage program, the 203(k) purchase-rehab program, and other important loan programs for low- and moderate-income families.

These programs were not suspended because FHA as a whole is unprofitable since all of the FHA loan programs combined make a net profit to the taxpayer of over \$2 billion a year, according to CBO and OMB. These programs were not even suspended because the GI/SRI Funds as a whole are unprofitable, because the profitable specialized FHA loan programs in the GI/SRI Funds make a profit sufficient to pay for the few specialized loan programs that run a small loss.

The reason HUD was forced to suspend these programs is that Congress in effect pockets the profits from FHA programs and uses them to offset other funding or to increase the surplus, while the programs that are projected to run a small loss require an appropriation for a "credit subsidy." This credit subsidy is calculated as the projected percentage loss per loan times the expected loan volume for each applicable program.

When the credit subsidy runs out, HUD has no legal authority to guarantee new loans for the affected loan programs. Last year, when credit subsidies ran out and Congress failed to enact a supplemental credit subsidy appropriation in a timely manner, HUD was forced to suspend the programs. This year, because of favorable interest rates and increasing demand for the construction of affordable rental housing, it seems likely that we will run out of credit subsidy sometime this spring or summer.

At a time when there is increasing bipartisan support to increase our supply of affordable housing, it makes no sense to shut down the government's loan guarantee program for private sector development of affordable housing. At a time when there is increasing Congressional interest in reinvesting the huge FHA surplus in other housing programs, it ought to start by reserving a very tiny portion of that surplus to make sure that basic FHA programs are not shut down.

The FHA Shutdown Prevention Act would do just that. Last year, this legislation was supported by the National Association of Homebuilders, the National Association of Realtors, the Mortgage Bankers Association of America, the National Housing Conference, the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association, the Home Improvement Lenders Association, the National Renovation Lenders Association, and America's Community Bankers.

Their joint support letter noted that last year's suspension "caused delays and disruption affecting the multifamily insurance programs and resulted in delays of construction of needed affordable rental housing and will probably result in the loss of some projects that are no longer feasible due to delays. In addition, the shortfall in the credit subsidy appropriation resulted in the suspension of a number of single family insurance programs. . ."

Don't let this happen again this year. I urge Congress to pass the "FHA Shutdown Prevention Act" immediately.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FLAG DAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague SHELLY BERKLEY to introduce this concurrent resolution supporting National Children's Memorial Flag Day.

This concurrent resolution supports the commemoration of the 4th Friday of each April as National Children's Memorial Flag Day. In addition this resolution encourages national, State, and local agencies and private organizations to fly the Children's Memorial Flag to remember the children lost to violence and to raise public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children.

I support this bill nationally because of its successful observance in my Congressional district. In 1996, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted the Children's Memorial Flag Project, and established a National Children's Memorial Day on the fourth Friday in the month of April to remember children who have died by violence. I want to commend Supervisor Gail Steele of Alameda County for her tireless work and dedication to get this resolution adopted. In addition, the California Assembly formally declared the fourth Friday in April as a statewide annual observance day. The Child Welfare League of America has adopted Alameda County's Children's Memorial Flag and promotes it nationally.

This Congressional resolution is particularly timely in the wake of the two school shootings in California at Granite Hills High School in El Cajon, California and Santana High School in Santee, California. Unfortunately, acts of violence against children happen far too often. According to the Child Welfare League of America, three infants and children die from abuse and neglect in the U.S. each day, and ten children die a day as a result of gun violence. In fact, more children lose their lives to criminal violence in the U.S. than in any of the 26 industrialized nations of the world.

We have lost far too many children in violent, preventable deaths. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to work with renewed resolve to ensure that our children have a full opportunity to become healthy and productive adults. Even one child lost is one child too many.

I urge my fellow members to support the National Children's Memorial Flag Day concurrent resolution.

CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 642, a bill to re-authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Estuarine Resources Office.

This bill, which I am proud to be a co-sponsor of, will undertake two new activities that I think will further improve the condition of the Chesapeake Bay. First, it provides \$6 Million a year through 2006 for a small watershed grant program. This program will make it possible for local governments and environmental organizations, like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to undertake locally led restoration projects. They can use this money for such things as oyster and sea grass restoration projects, the creation of artificial reefs, and the improvement of fish passageways.

Second, it requires NOAA, in cooperation with State resource agencies and the scientific community to undertake a five year study to develop a multi-species management strategy. Let me give you an example of one of things they will investigate. Recently we have seen rockfish population, that was once on the brink of collapse, return. That is good news for the Bay and the watermen who now able to again fish for rockfish. The bad news is that the return of the rockfish may be a contributing factor to the decline of the blue crab stocks in the Chesapeake Bay.

The rockfish is a voracious predator that feeds on blue crab hatchlings. These hatchlings, who often lack sufficient habitat due to a loss of sea grass, are easy prey and are not surviving to breeding age. As we work to restore the Bay we need to develop a strategy that preserve and protect the delicate balance of this ecosystem. This study will give us the baseline information we need to rehabilitate one species without harming another.

The preservation of the Chesapeake Bay is a crucial investment that benefits all Americans. My thanks go to Mr. GILCREST, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. WYNN for their leadership on this issue.

HONORING INDUCTEES INTO MOBILE SPORTS HALL OF FAME
APRIL 4, 2001

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to four outstanding gentlemen who will be inducted into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame on April 12, 2001. I would like to recognize their extraordinary and tireless service to the people of the state of Alabama. These gentlemen's perseverance and commitment have left a lasting imprint on Alabama sports history. Their efforts have cultivated a fine group of young men and women prepared to combat any of life's challenges.

The first inductee is Charles T. Rhodes, who began his illustrious 42 years of service in 1946 as a teacher and assistant football and track coach at Mobile Training School in Plateau, Alabama. Under Mr. Rhodes' direct supervision the team quickly flourished and went on to win two state championships. Rhodes later became the head football coach and athletic director and guided the school to an astonishing record of 117-44-6. Receiving accolades is becoming quite natural to Rhodes who has received honors as "Coach of the Year" three times by the South Alabama Athletic Association and twice by the Mobile County Athletic Association.

In addition to his endeavors in coaching, Rhodes has taught Biology, Economics, American Democracy, American and World History at Mobile County Training School. Furthermore, Mr. Rhodes was a club sponsor, role model and surrogate for many of his students. He was a teacher who excelled above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that all the children received the attention they needed to succeed in school. He brought his expertise to Murphy High School where he served as an assistant principal. While there, Mr. Rhodes provided firm leadership and warm encouragement to both the students and faculty. In the fall of 1973, Rhodes was appointed principal of Toulminville High School.

Another fine individual who will be inducted into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame is Johnny Brown. Mr. Brown is a graduate of the University of South Alabama and is known as the undisputed king of the Mobile Metro Championship, which is an annual golf tournament played at Azalea City Golf Club.

Moreover, in addition to winning this tournament, Mr. Brown has won more than 150 amateur tournaments, including 14 major titles in Mobile alone. His consistent extraordinary showing at this prestigious golf tournament and others around Mobile is a true testament to Mr. Brown's incredible golfing ability.

Johnny Brown has amazed the city of Mobile with his phenomenal swing and his winning character. However Mr. Brown's contributions far surpass the entertainment he has given all of us through his awe inspiring performances. He has given back to our community and our children through spending much of his time giving assistance and expertise to junior golf in Mobile. Mr. Brown has through his endeavors in sports and commitment to our children, shown us what a true athlete really is.

Judge Lionel W. "Red" Noonan is another great man to be inducted into the Mobile Sports hall of fame. Noonan was both an athlete and a probate judge, he has served our country to the fullest of his ability and deserves our sincere praise. He retired from his position as Mobile County's probate judge earlier this year and after 18 years of devout service, he will hang his judge's robe alongside his Alabama football jersey.

Judge Noonan is a native of Mobile as well as a graduate of Murphy High School. He was a four-year letterman on The University of Alabama football team where he was a headstrong fullback. In addition to his accomplishments on the field, Noonan also excelled off the field. His accomplishments and contributions to the university are still felt today.

Red Noonan carried this strong work ethic with him as he left college and moved on to the professional world. He deeply entrenched himself in a number of organizations and groups that share a firm commitment to the betterment of Mobile's communities. Among these are the board of directors of Downtown Mobile Unlimited, Mobile Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Visiting Nurses Association. Judge Noonan is also a member of the Mobile Chapter of the Foreign Policy Association and the Mobile County Recreational Committee.

He has been an instructor at the University of South Alabama and also at Spring Hill College. Mr. Noonan is a WWII veteran and for this reason alone deserves our gracious

thanks. Noonan has made enormous contributions to the citizens of Mobile and will be solely missed. The magnitude of the achievements Mr. Noonan has accomplished speaks for itself. Judge Noonan is a man of character and a true gentleman.

Last, but certainly not least, is a great man named Ray C. "Buddy" Lauten whose name has become synonymous with America's Young Woman of the Year (AYWY formerly America's Junior Miss). He has now retired as head of the program after 35 years of hard work and dedication. In his tenure, he helped develop the program into one of the outstanding events of its kind in the country.

Mr. Lauten is a native of Mobile where he grew up and participated in a number of city sports. He was an outstanding football athlete at University Military School (UMS), where he lettered for five years and was honored as an all-city halfback. In basketball in 1945 and 1946, he was the city's top scorer. While at Spring Hill College, he set an iron man record that still stands today, 109 consecutive games there.

Mr. Lauten has given so much to Mobile and its citizens and like his counterparts deserves heartfelt accolades.

These inductees into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Brown, Mr. Lauten and Mr. Noonan are true champions.

A TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND W.
"JAKE" ENGELHARD ON HIS IN-
DUCTION INTO THE U.P. LABOR
HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the late Raymond W. "Jake" Engelhard, a former resident of my northern Michigan congressional district, who spent decades as a miner, a community servant, a local volunteer. Jake was also a union leader, who devoted many years to the labor movement, helping ensure a good quality of life for working men and women.

Jake was born in Rosco, Minnesota and moved to Ishpeming, Michigan, in 1935. He worked as an iron ore miner for 43 years for the Inland Steel Corporation and was the first miner to join the CIO union in the Lake Superior District.

As president of USWA Local 2099 for many years, Jake's effort helped to improve the quality of life for miners on the Marquette Iron Range. Jake was instrumental in waging a successful strike in 1946 that lasted 108 days. Contract demands were met as a result of that strike.

Jake went through many strikes over the years, and he strived tirelessly to improve the wages and working conditions of his fellow workers. He retired in 1970.

In addition to Jake's union activities, he was active in numerous community service and civic organizations. Jake also played on the Ishpeming city baseball team, later coaching the Ishpeming City and American Legion teams.

Jake Engelhard was also a local businessman, the proprietor of the Coffee Pot in Ishpeming during the 1940s. You can be sure,

Mr. Speaker, that a good deal of solidarity was served up to each patron along with their orders.

There are many of us in Congress, who are concerned about the impact of world trade—and violations of world trade agreements—on our iron ore production back in Michigan. We fight this fight today with the assistance of administration officials and with the cooperation of varied segments of the steel industry. We fight for this industry, because we know it is vital to both the nation's health and the jobs of the men and women who work in the industry back home.

Men like Jake Engelhard fought an earlier fight on behalf of the working men and women of the iron range, a battle that was vital during its time. But Jake's battles were different. It was the workers themselves with their limited resources, fighting with the weapons of belief in the rightness of their cause and the strength of their united effort. I look for encouragement and inspiration in those old struggles; I am reminded that battles may not be won in a week, a month, a year or perhaps many years. Our men and women who stood on the picket line to improve the lives of families have much to teach us about working on behalf of others.

Jake will be honored Saturday, April 7, 2001, with induction into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame at a banquet in Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. It is recognition long due.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL
RIGHTS PROCEDURES PROTEC-
TION ACT OF 2001

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join today with a bipartisan group of colleagues to introduce the Civil Rights Procedures Protection Act of 2001. This bill is designed to reassert workers' rights to have their claims of unlawful employment discrimination.

On March 21, 2001 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that under existing law an employer can require its employees to waive their right to file job-related lawsuits including those involving civil rights, sexual harassment or discrimination. Approximately 10 percent of American workers are covered by similar agreements, which are increasingly used by Wall Street firms, high-tech companies, retailers and other employers seeking to avoid the cost and risks of court cases. This month's Court ruling, encourages more companies to follow this increasingly common practice.

This practice, called "mandatory arbitration", requires employees to sign away their fundamental rights to a court hearing. As a condition of hiring or promotion, employers require workers to agree to submit any future claims of job discrimination to binding arbitration panels. Mandatory arbitration is increasingly relied upon by employers in information technology, health care, engineering and other fields. Such requirements are reducing civil rights protection to the status of the company car: a perk which can be denied at will.

The Constitution guarantees every citizen "equal justice under law". Forcing employees

to choose between their civil rights and their job denies them their right to equal justice. Employees who consent to mandatory arbitration give up their right to due process, trial by jury, the appeals process, and full discovery.

By no means does this legislation ban all use of arbitration. Voluntary arbitration in an impartial setting can be a fair and inexpensive way to resolve a wide range of disputes. But when it is forcibly imposed on one party with inherently less bargaining power, it ceases to be fair and just.

Our legislation would protect the rights of workers to bring claims against their employers in cases of employment discrimination. By amending seven Federal civil rights statutes to make it clear that the powers and procedures provided under those laws are the exclusive ones that apply when a claim arises, the Civil Rights Procedures Protection Act would prevent discrimination claims from being involuntarily sent to binding arbitration. In short, this bill prevents employers in all industries from forcing employees to give up their right to go to court when they are discriminated against on account of race, sex, religion, disability, or other illegal criteria.

By reinforcing the fundamental rights established under various civil rights and fair employment practice laws, our bill restores integrity to employer-employee relationships. No employer should be permitted to ask workers to check their Constitutional and civil rights at the front door.

THE GET ARSENIC OUT OF OUR
DRINKING WATER ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Get Arsenic Out of Our Drinking Water Act." This legislation is necessary in order to prevent the Administration from irresponsibly weakening safe drinking water standards for arsenic.

Without question, safe drinking water is critical to protecting public health. Yet two weeks ago we witnessed an extraordinary reversal in our nation's commitment to safe drinking water. Following extensive lobbying by special interests who contributed millions of dollars in campaign contributions, the Bush Administration revoked the new safe drinking water standard for arsenic. This decision threatens the health of millions of Americans who now drink water with elevated levels of arsenic.

In response to this indefensible action, I—along with one hundred and sixty of my colleagues—are introducing legislation that will codify the standard so that the Bush Administration will not have the authority to revoke it.

In January, the EPA responded to the scientific consensus on the health effects of arsenic and ordered that arsenic levels be reduced to 10 parts per billion. EPA took this action in response to a National Academy of Sciences report that recommended that the 1942 standard of 50 ppb be reduced "as promptly as possible." The Academy determined that arsenic is an extremely potent carcinogen that causes bladder, lung, and skin cancer and may cause kidney and liver cancer, birth defects, and reproductive problems.

By adopting this updated standard, the United States joined the rest of the developed world with an arsenic standard that will protect the public's health.

The "Get Arsenic Out of Our Drinking Water Act" will protect the public health by codifying the new arsenic standard. It will also double the existing State Revolving Fund authorization to \$2 billion annually, so that public water systems will have funds to meet the new arsenic standard.

Since President Bush took office, the Administration has released anti-environmental initiatives at an alarming rate. The Administration's decision to revoke the arsenic standard for safe drinking water is one of the most egregious. American citizens deserve to have safe drinking water. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM H. BRADLEY WARE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Honorable William H. Bradley of Ware, Massachusetts. In 1993, Mr. Bradley was appointed by President Clinton to be State Director for the Farmers' Home Administration. After eight years of dedicated service to the Clinton-Gore administration, Mr. Bradley has retired.

Over the past few years, Mr. Bradley has made a difference in the lives of many residents of Southern New England. In focusing on rural development, Mr. Bradley has made sure that the rural population of our region has access to affordable housing, safe drinking water, hi-technology jobs and modern community facilities.

Mr. Bradley's outstanding leadership has brought much good to the rural population of Southern New England. Increased housing funding for our region has helped over 600 citizens achieve the dream of home ownership. More than \$25 million has been provided to our district to help the workforce compete in the high-technology economy of the twenty-first century. Community facilities programs have brought essential public safety equipment, town halls and libraries to communities in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. And \$21 million in loans and grants have helped make drinking water safe across the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring William Bradley for his work and service. His presence in the Department of Agriculture will be sorely missed and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FINANCIAL
SERVICES ANTIFRAUD NETWORK
ACT OF 2000

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, recently, indicted financier Martin Frankel was

extradited to the United States to face felony charges stemming from financial fraud. Originally a stockbroker, Frankel was permanently barred from the securities industry but migrated to the insurance industry. The Frankel case is illustrative of how bad actors can too easily cross state or industry lines in order to deceive financial regulators.

The Financial Services Antifraud Network Act of 2001 is designed with the Frankel case in mind as it seeks to protect the taxpayers and policyholders who end up paying for these scams and to assist the regulators in preventing them.

There are nearly 200 Federal and State financial regulators in the United States, each with their own separate filing systems and anti-fraud records. Over the past three decades, the agencies have attempted to computerize and coordinate their systems, first internally and then within each industry.

For example, the securities regulators have established the Central Registration Depository run by the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) to keep track of most securities brokers. The insurance regulators have been working through the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to establish several databases on licensing, disciplinary actions, and consumer complaints of agents and companies. The banking regulators have been working through the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to coordinate suspicious activity reports for all banks.

Unfortunately, efforts to coordinate information across industry lines have proven much more difficult. Financial regulators have been developing individual agreements to allow the transfer of information on an ad hoc basis in specific cases. However, the sheer number of regulators, concerns about the confidentiality of shared information, and the technical difficulties with networking computer systems have prevented regulators from being able to share information on an automated basis.

The need to coordinate regulatory anti-fraud efforts is particularly important in light of the recent integration of the financial services industries, such as the implementation of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act.

On March 6, 2001, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit of the House Committee on Financial Services held a hearing featuring the regulators and the regulated entities. Following compelling testimony from all the witnesses, I remarked that it was a rare sight to see the regulators and the regulated actually agreeing on the concept of sharing information about fraudulent actors across financial sectors.

Taking the suggestions of our witnesses, the Financial Services Antifraud Network Act was drafted. This pro-consumer legislation has five primary purposes. One, it safeguards the public from ongoing fraud. Two, the bill streamlines regulators' anti-fraud coordination efforts. Three, it reduces duplicative information requests by regulators. Four, the legislation assists regulators in detecting patterns of fraud. Five, new technology is utilized to modernize fraud fighting.

The organization of the network is based around the creation of a computerized network linking existing anti-fraud databases of Federal and State financial regulators and law enforcement agencies. An Anti-Fraud Subcommittee (AFS) would be established within the Presi-

dent's Working Group on Financial Markets to administer the network. The regulators would be able to network anti-fraud information on entities and key professionals in the financial services industry; information would not be shared that is unrelated to financial or fraudulent activities, and shared information would only be available to financial regulators. Under the legislation, criminal conviction reviews currently required for licensing would be coordinated for greater efficiency, consumer protection, and cost savings. Most importantly, confidentiality and liability protection would be provided for all networked information to allow the regulators to share information without losing existing legal privileges.

In addition to the primary purposes of the Financial Services Antifraud Network Act, the bill does not create any new federal bureaucracy, there are no new regulations, no new collection of information is authorized, and absolutely no information is shared on consumers.

In closing, I would like to thank House Financial Services Chairman MIKE OXLEY and his hardworking committee staff for their guidance and assistance in crafting common-sense legislation that will ensure greater protection for consumers.

HONORING CHARLENE DINDO AND
JUDY REEVES

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor two wonderfully inspirational teachers in my district, Charlene Dindo and Judy Reeves, who have recently been selected as winners of the distinguished National Science Foundation's Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The foundation annually recognizes four teachers per state who have excelled in the fields of Math and Science. Teachers are selected at both the elementary and secondary level and are chosen by the foundation from finalists picked by state education boards. The award recognizes teachers for their exceptional teaching and achieving excellence in the classroom. Each winning teacher is also awarded \$7,500 to use at their discretion in an effort to bolster the science departments even further at their respective schools. Charlene and Judy's hard work and dedication has demonstrated their commitment to ensuring a brighter future for Alabama's children.

Charlene Dindo is an environmental science teacher at the Fairhope K-1 Center, where she runs the science lab. She has been teaching since 1978 where she started her long and successful career at Woodstock Elementary. She is known for her environmental science experiments that use the bay, rivers and estuaries as her classroom. Her unconventional teaching style has successfully captivated her students for quite some years and continues to be an incredibly effective method of motivating them.

This is not the first time Charlene has been recognized for her exceptional teaching abilities, in March 2000, she was named the Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year in a new awards competition sponsored by the

National Teachers Association. Charlene is a true inspiration to her colleagues and her students. Her tireless efforts over the past twenty years have had an enormous impact on the Alabama educational system.

Judy Reeves is an environmental science teacher at Baldwin County High School in Bay Minette. Judy has also been praised for her work, using outdoor activities to inspire her elementary students. In a courageous effort to help children outside her classroom, she successfully instituted a mentor program for younger students in her community. Judy began teaching almost ten years ago at Fairhope High School, and ever since she has been encouraging and inspiring Alabama's children to excel in both Math and Science.

Over the course of the last few years, Judy has become quite accustomed to receiving awards. Numerous agencies and associations including the Alabama Wildlife Federation and the Alabama Science Teachers Association have recognized her for displaying superior teaching and motivational skills. She stands out among her colleagues as an exceptional teacher and her unflagging efforts to better the level of education for Alabama's children must not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, we seldom meet people who give so tirelessly of their time and efforts as Judy Reeves and Charlene Dindo. Sir, please join me in paying tribute to these two wonderful women whose contributions to their community and the children around them are unmatched. May they continue to educate and enlighten Alabama's youth for a number of years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL H. SELDENRIGHT ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE U.P. LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. STUPAK Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Paul H. Seldenright, who has devoted 41 years of his life to the labor movement, working to ensure a good quality of life for working men and women.

Born and raised in Detroit, Paul began his union career in 1960 as a member of United Steelworkers of America, Local 2659, in Trenton, Michigan. His strong interest in politics led to his becoming chairman of his local's Political Action Committee from 1962 to 1968. In 1968 Paul became assistant director for Vice President Hubert Humphrey's Democratic presidential campaign in Michigan, Michigan Citizens for Humphrey.

A number of jobs in state government followed, including Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State, Assistant Secretary of State, and Assistant Director of the Senate Democratic Staff. In 1970, Paul served as Associate manager for the successful G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams for Michigan Supreme Court Campaign.

In 1973 Paul began working for the Michigan AFL-CIO as coordinator for COPE, the AFL-CIO's political arm. He became COPE director in 1982 and, except for a brief stint as the federation's legislative director from 1984 through 1986, he served in that role until his

retirement at the end of 2000. As COPE director, Paul was responsible for organizing and implementing the State AFL-CIO's year-round political program in conjunction with the federation's affiliated unions.

Another important responsibility was serving as liaison between the state AFL-CIO and the Upper Peninsula central labor councils. When Paul first took over this role, there were only four central labor councils in the U.P. He was instrumental in helping form two new councils, the Eastern U.P. Labor Council and the Dickinson-Iron Labor Council.

Paul also served key roles in other U.P. initiatives and activities. Along with former Michigan State AFL-CIO President William C. Marshall, he served on the original planning committee for the Italian Hall project in Calumet. The project, now complete, is considered one of the Northwest U.P. Labor council's most important achievements. Mr. Speaker, the Italian Hall memorial commemorates the deaths of more than 70 people—striking miners, their wives and children—who were killed when fire struck their gathering on Christmas Eve in 1913.

Paul also was a member of the Northern Michigan University Labor Studies Advisory and Planning Committee since its inception in the late 1970s. Since the early 1980s he has coordinated the annual U.P. Labor Conference, considered the U.P.'s most important labor event other than Labor Day.

Although officially retired, Paul maintains an active interest in the labor movement and politics. He and his wife Lesley live in the Lansing suburb of DeWitt.

Paul will be honored Saturday, April 7, 2001, with induction into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame at a banquet in Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. With his years of work on behalf of the labor movement in Michigan, Paul Seldenright has more than earned this recognition.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD BREWER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable South Carolinian who was named "MVP 2001" by the South Carolina State Council of Senior Citizens. Richard Brewer has earned this prestigious honor through his constant dedication to his community.

Mr. Brewer is the first elected president of ILA Local 1422 Retirees, where he continues to serve. He is also on the Executive Board of the South Carolina State Council of Senior Citizens. Family and church have always come first for Mr. Brewer, but he selflessly devotes his time to his Chartered ILA Club. He is active in the politics of South Carolina, leading rallies at the State Capitol dealing with issues ranging from the Confederate Flag to workers rights.

Richard Brewer led the ILA Retiree volunteers in hosting a "Legislative Breakfast" in Charleston, South Carolina last year. He also took it upon himself to ensure the attendance of key elected officials, causing the event to be a complete success. The funding for the breakfast was also secured by Mr. Brewer, whose ILA Retirees paid for the event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in paying tribute to Richard Brewer and the ILA Local 1422 Retirees. Mr. Brewer has demonstrated tireless dedication and loyalty to the citizens of my state of South Carolina and for this he should be honored.

THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID NURSING SERVICES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. POMEROY Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague from Wisconsin, Representative PAUL RYAN, in introducing legislation to allow certain non-certified resident assistants to continue to be employed by nursing facilities in North Dakota, Wisconsin, and up to 8 other states under a 3-year demonstration project.

For several years, nursing facilities in these and other states have relied upon single-task employees, specifically assistants who help their residents dine, to supplement professional nurse staffing levels and increase patient care. Unfortunately, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has given our states' facilities until August 31, 2001 to discontinue the employment of feeding assistants. With the current national shortage in nursing facility employees, the loss of these valuable workers will further strain our nursing homes. Particularly as our elderly population increases in future years, we must ensure that nursing homes do not lose existing staff. Unless Congress acts, significantly fewer trained professionals will be available to ensure that nursing home residents can comfortably and safely enjoy their meals.

In North Dakota alone, 40 percent, or two out of five, of the state's nursing facilities have had to deny new admissions in the past 12 months due to staffing shortages. The state currently has 600 open positions for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). While the North Dakota Long Term Care Association encourages all feeding assistants to become CNAs, many assistants are members of a contingent workforce and are not able to become CNAs due to physical or other limitations.

I understand that certain consumer groups, patient advocates, and labor organizations have concerns regarding the continued employment of feeding assistants in long-term care facilities. I also believe, as do these organizations, that we must act during this Congress to address the nursing shortage in our nation, increase wages for certified and licensed nurse professionals, and improve the work conditions of these individuals. At the same time, I believe that moderate steps can be taken to address the reservations regarding feeding assistants without compromising the ability of nursing facilities to care for our nation's seniors.

Specifically, I support efforts to allow only feeding assistants to continue to be employed by nursing facilities in a few states through a pilot project administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. Under such a program, these assistants augment staffing levels in a facility—they do not supplant professional nurses and are not counted toward any minimum staffing levels. Furthermore,

these feeding assistants would have to complete a state-reviewed training and competency evaluation, and would only complete a limited number of tasks under onsite supervision by a licensed health professional. I believe that these safeguards, among others, would ensure the quality of care without obviating the need for CNAs and other nurse professionals in long-term care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues this year to ensure that our nursing facilities have the staff and resources necessary to care for our families and friends in the years to come.

NATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION
RESOLUTION OF 2001

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. BURTON, to introduce the National Health Promotion Resolution of 2001. This resolution recognizes the importance of health promotion and disease prevention, and expresses the sense of Congress that more should be done to integrate lifestyle improvement programs into national policy, health care workplaces, families and communities.

Modifiable lifestyle factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, unmanaged stress, and obesity account for approximately half of premature deaths in the United States. Spending on chronic diseases related to lifestyle and other preventable diseases accounts for an estimated 70 percent of total health care spending. With the pending retirement of the baby-boom-generation, the financial burden of these preventable diseases will further threaten the solvency of the Medicare program.

Health promotion programs have the potential to improve health, improve quality of life, reduce health care costs, and boost productivity. The Institute of Medicine has recommended that additional research is required to determine the most effective strategies at the individual, organizational, community, and societal level to create lasting health behavior changes, reduce medical utilization and enhance work-place productivity. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of health care spending, is devoted to health promotion.

The National Health Promotion Resolution of 2001 expresses the sense of Congress that more must be done in this area. In light of the pending crisis facing our Medicare system, the federal government stands to benefit greatly from the potential reduction in costs associated with an aggressive health promotion agenda.

This bipartisan legislation has forty original cosponsors, including the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. BURTON, who has worked closely with me and my office to shape this into a meaningful resolution. It is my hope that we will continue to work together to further our commitment to health promotion and disease prevention.

I urge my colleagues to join us on this important resolution.

SNOWMOBILES IN NATIONAL
PARKS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing, with 17 of my colleagues, a bill to protect America's national parks from what is expected to be the next environmental rollback by the Bush Administration—an effort to overturn the National Park Service (NPS) decision to phase out snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

In response to a 1997 lawsuit, the NPS prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the 100,000 snowmobiles entering Yellowstone and Grand Teton each winter. The NPS determined that those snowmobiles produce noise that can be heard by other visitors as much as 95% of the time, produce more air pollution than all other motor vehicles in Yellowstone throughout the year, and disturb bison and wildlife when they already face the stresses of brutal winter conditions. Because of these and other impacts, the NPS adopted a new rule to phase out by the winter of 2003-2004 all snowmobile use in Yellowstone and most of that use in Grand Teton, with expanded service by snowcoaches (multi-passenger vehicles) to provide continued wintertime access to the parks. The rule, the culmination of a 3½ year process, was published in the Federal Register on January 22, 2001.

Three key facts about the Yellowstone-Grand Teton snowmobile rule:

First, it is strongly supported by the public—by most public comments on the EIS, and fully 85% of the public comments on the proposed rule.

Second, the National Park Service determined not only that the snowmobile use in these parks is inappropriate, but also that it is unlawful. The Service determined that it violates the basic NPS mandate, in its Organic Act of 1916, to keep the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife of national parks “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” The Park Service determines that the snowmobile use violates the Clean Air Act. The Service determined that the snowmobile use violates two Executive Orders, one by President Nixon and one by President Carter, setting standards for snowmobile use in national parks. And the Service determined that it violates the NPS's own general regulation on snowmobile use, in effect since 1983, that prohibits snowmobile use in parks that disturbs wildlife or damages other park resources.

Third, this is the first time in the NPS's 84-year history that it has determined that a use it has authorized in parks has gotten so out of control that it has ended up violating the mandate of the Service's Organic Act. In that sense alone, the NPS decision to end all snowmobile use in Yellowstone and most use in Grand Teton is historic.

Still, the Bush Administration has this rule in its sights. It has already delayed its effective date. Now there are published reports that the Administration wants to settle a legal challenge from snowmobile groups, in a backdoor attempt to overturn the rule without going through a new, public process.

Yellowstone and Grand Teton are not the only national parks where inappropriate and unlawful snowmobile use is occurring.

Last year, in response to a petition by 60 environmental organizations, the NPS acknowledged that much of the snowmobile use it has allowed to occur in other national parks violates, in four separate ways, some of the same requirements that are being violated in Yellowstone and Grand Teton. First, in nearly every instance, the Park Service merely allowed areas that were already open to snowmobile use to stay open, without reviewing them to determine if that use is consistent with protection of park resources, as required by President Nixon's Executive Order.

Second, the NPS has allowed snowmobile use to occur in two parks and on some trails without designating them for that use through a public rulemaking process, which is required by the NPS's general regulations.

Third, the NPS has consistently failed to monitor the effects of the snowmobile use it has allowed to occur, as required by President Nixon's Executive Order.

Finally, the NPS concluded that it has allowed snowmobile use to continue that violates the substantive standards of the two applicable Executive Orders and its general regulations. The Park Service concluded that in many instances snowmobiles disrupt the natural wintertime quiet of the parks, disturb the enjoyment of other visitors, adversely affect wildlife, and otherwise harm the resources, values, and management objectives of the parks, all of which is prohibited by the standards of the Executive Orders and the NPS's own regulations. Based on these impacts, the NPS determined that, in general, recreational snowmobile use is not an appropriate use of most national parks.

The NPS developed a plan to end inappropriate snowmobile use and to come into compliance with the standards governing snowmobile use in national parks. That plan would limit snowmobile use in national parks (other than in Alaska and in Voyageurs National Park, where special statutes apply) to short crossing routes providing access to adjacent public lands open to snowmobile use, and to routes providing necessary access to private lands in or adjacent to parks. Under this approach, of the 43 units of the national park system where some snowmobile use is now occurring, that use would be ended in 12 (including Yellowstone), would be allowed to continue but in more limited fashion in 10 (including Grand Teton), and would be allowed to continue without change in 21.

However, in addition to reviewing the Yellowstone-Grand Teton rule, the Bush Administration has halted the rulemaking process to implement this overall NPS approach to snowmobiles in other parks. Because of the Administration's policy, the NPS has not yet been able to finalize a rule proposed last December to restrict snowmobile use in Rocky Mountain National Park, and has not been able to propose other regulatory changes with respect to other parks.

The legislation my colleagues and I are introducing would legislatively adopt the sound approach the National Park Service developed last year to end inappropriate snowmobile use in national parks and come into compliance with the long-established standards of law that are supposed to govern that use. The bill would allow continued snowmobile use in

parks when that use meets the current standards of law and is necessary to provide snowmobile access to adjacent public lands that are open to snowmobile use, or to provide access to private lands within or next to the parks. The bill would continue to allow snowmobile use without change next winter, to provide time for new regulations to be adopted under the bill. And in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, the bill would allow an extra year before it takes effect, to accommodate the phase-out period established by the Park Service in its recent rulemaking. Finally, the bill would affect only a portion of the 670 miles of snowmobile trails in all national parks—or a mere one-half of one percent of all 130,000 miles of trails in the United States.

Let's end inappropriate snowmobile use that shatters the wintertime quiet of the national parks, pollutes their air, disturbs wildlife, and bothers other visitors to the parks. Let's keep our national parks, our most special lands, unimpaired for the enjoyment of today's Americans and future generations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NSF
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill to authorize funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the next four fiscal years. The bill provides for increases of 15% for each year, which together with the 13% appropriations increase for fiscal year 2001, will result in a doubling of NSF's budget by the fourth year of the bill.

The need for this legislative proposal to provide a substantial funding increase for NSF is beyond doubt, and the case supporting this bill can be simply stated:

Federally supported basic research is fundamental to the nation's economic health;

NSF plays a vital role in support of basic research and education across all fields of science and engineering; and

There is ample evidence that the current level of federal research investment is inadequate, particularly for the physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

The connection between research funding and the strength of the economy has been expounded by such diverse sources as former presidential science advisor Allen Bromley, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, former speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, and the Hart-Rudman Commission on National Security.

Dr. Bromley, who was former President Bush's science advisor from 1989–1993, commented on the inadequacy of the research and development portion of the Administration's FY 2002 funding request in a March 9 New York Times op-ed. He pointed out the potential damage of proposed budget cuts for NSF, NASA and the Department of Energy agencies, which he characterized as the three primary sources of ideas and personnel in the high-tech economy. His key point was that the future budget surpluses on which the large proposed tax cut depends are tied to research investments made today. He said:

The proposed cuts to scientific research are a self-defeating policy. Congress must increase the federal investment in science. No science, no surplus. It's that simple.

The importance of research to the economy was stressed by Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan in recent testimony before the House Budget Committee also. In response to a question on the need for government support for research, Greenspan responded,

On the issue of research, there is just no question that if you're going to have technology as the base of your economy, which we do, research is crucial. If we don't [enhance the incentives to do research in this economy], we're going to find that we are in a position where we may have awesome technologies, but if you don't continuously nurture them, they won't continue to exist.

The recent report of the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century, known as the Hart-Rudman Commission, makes a strong case for the importance of funding for basic research and technology development. The Commission found that, "it is from investment in basic science that the most valuable long-run dividends are realized" and "[the federal] role remains not least because our basic and applied research efforts in areas of critical national interest will not be pursued by a civil sector that emphasizes short- to mid-term return on investment." On the basis of its findings, the Commission recommends a doubling of all federal funding for science and technology research and development by 2010.

In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on the Hart-Rudman Commission report, former Speaker Gingrich stated that,

The revolution in science requires larger investments in basic research; we are not getting the money today.

He also pointed out the importance of NSF's support for basic science research.

I agree with Mr. Gingrich on the key role NSF plays in sustaining the nation's research enterprise. NSF-supported researchers have collected 100 Nobel Prizes over the years. They have received recognition for work in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology and medicine, and economics. In nearly every field of science and engineering are examples of NSF-sponsored research that led to important discoveries and applications:

NSF-funded research in atmospheric chemistry identified ozone depletion over the Antarctic, or the "ozone hole" as it has come to be known. In 1986, NSF researchers established chlorofluorocarbons as the probable cause of the Antarctic ozone hole. Since CFCs are used in many commercial applications, this discovery has driven a search for benign substitutes and also led to regulation of CFC emissions.

When most people think of the Internet they mean the World Wide Web and the Web Browsers, like Netscape, that allow them to find the information they seek. The browser made the World Wide Web. The first browser of note was Mosaic, and a student working at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois developed it. This is one of NSF's four original Supercomputing Centers.

In industry, the acronym CAD/CAM brings to mind the best in design and manufacturing techniques. NSF-funded research on solid modeling led to the widespread use of Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Man-

ufacturing. The keys to success were advances in the underlying mathematics and in linking the academic and industrial leaders in the field.

NSF's contributions are also manifest through the accomplishments of scientists and engineers, who were trained under NSF awards. It is well known that the great majority of the seminal work in developing such technologies as cell phones, fiber optics, and computer assisted design was performed by private industry—at labs like Corning, AT&T, and Motorola. A recent NSF sponsored study has shown that many scientists and engineers, who went to graduate school on NSF fellowships and research assistantships, often played important roles in the development of these and other technologies. In a number of cases, they became the entrepreneurs who created new firms and markets. To use the words of the authors of the study—"NSF emerges consistently as a major—often the major, source of support for education and training of the Ph.D. scientists and engineers who went on to make major contributions.

The resources NSF provides for support of research and education are relatively small, but the impact is great. The agency expends only 3.8% of federal R&D funds, but provides 23% of basic research funding at academic institutions. For specific research areas, the NSF role at universities is even larger: it funds 36% of research in the physical sciences, 49% in the environmental sciences, 50% in engineering, 72% in mathematics, and 78% in computer science. NSF research awards and direct research fellowships help train over 24,000 graduate students each year, the future scientists and engineers essential to fuel our high-tech economy.

Furthermore, NSF programs help to improve science education for all students and to prepare them for citizenship in a world increasingly dominated by technology. Today we continue to have manpower shortages in many high technology fields. The ideal way to alleviate the shortages is by ensuring that children of all races and both genders receive the basic grounding in science and mathematics that will prepare them to pursue careers as scientists, engineers and technologists. We cannot allow inadequate funding to cripple NSF's efforts in this area.

There is really no debate on whether support of basic research is an appropriate role of the federal government. The basic economic argument is well understood. Industry will underinvest in basic research because individual companies cannot capture the full benefits of advances in fundamental knowledge that come from funding basic research.

The question, rather, is what ought to be the level of the federal research investment? The bill I am introducing takes the position that it is too low, particularly for basic research in the fields for which NSF is a major funding agency: the physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

The National Research Council's Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy analyzed federal funding data for FY 1993 through FY 1997. They found that support, in constant dollars, for electrical engineering had declined by 13%, electrical engineering by 36%, mechanical engineering by 50%, physics by 29%, chemistry by 9%, and mathematics by 6%. Even including the substantial increases for research for biomedical sciences

during this period, total federal research funding for all fields of science and engineering declined by about 1%.

Inadequacies in the size of NSF's budget are evident from the fact that the agency currently funds less than a third of the research applications it receives and about half of those judged to be of high quality. Even when an applicant receives a NSF award, it is usually suboptimal and perhaps half the amount of a NIH award. The current situation leaves researchers in NSF-funded fields scrambling for funds and spending too much of their time chasing limited funding rather than in the laboratory or mentoring students.

The NSF authorization bill I am introducing will provide increases of 15% per year for fiscal years 2002 through 2004. The bill will result in a NSF budget of \$7.7 billion by the final year. The increases provided will allow NSF to go forward with substantial new research initiatives in the mathematical sciences and the social and behavioral sciences and to continue ongoing initiatives in information technology, biodiversity, and nanotechnology. Moreover, the budget growth will allow NSF to—

Increase average grant size and duration;

Fund national research facilities for the earth and atmospheric sciences, astronomy, and the computational and information sciences; and

Support large scientific instruments at colleges and universities.

Finally, the increases will support expansion of NSF's science education programs. Of particular importance will be increased efforts to improve the skills and content knowledge of K-12 science and math teachers and to increase participation in science and engineering by traditionally underrepresented groups. The increases will also expand education research programs, including quantifying the most effective uses of educational technology and strengthening efforts to assess education programs to determine and disseminate information about what methods and approaches are most effective in improving student performance in science and math.

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), a group of eighty scientific, engineering, and professional societies, universities, and corporations has called for providing no less than \$5.1 billion, a 15% increase, for the NSF in FY 2002 as the next step in doubling the NSF budget. CNSF has stated that:

Our national knowledge base in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering is increasingly important to broad economic and social interests. Doubling the NSF budget by 2006 will fund the crucial investments that the agency makes in key components of this vital knowledge base.

Mr. Speaker, the NSF Authorization Act of 2001 implements the recommendations of CNSF. I hope all my colleagues will join me in ensuring that NSF has the necessary resources to carry out its essential role in support of scientific and engineering research and education by becoming cosponsors and supporters of this authorization bill.

HONORING OUT FRONT COLORADO ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender publication in the Rocky Mountain region, Out Front Colorado, for its tremendous success over the past 25 years. In April 1976, the first edition of Out Front Colorado hit the streets, only seven years after the historic Stonewall Riots in New York City. As a new publication for a growing community, Out Front Colorado began boldly with its first headline "There's No Turning Back." Indeed, in the last 25 years, Out Front Colorado has played an important role in the cultural and community development of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people in Colorado with valuable news coverage, arts and entertainment, community events, and photographs that have documented the vibrant history of Colorado's diverse community. And its impact continues to grow. Today, Out Front Colorado is available across the nation from New York City to Los Angeles.

The success of Out Front Colorado can in large measure be attributed to its extraordinary staff. Out Front Colorado was founded by Phil Price, who sought to create a newspaper specifically tailored toward Colorado's gay and lesbian residents. Out Front Colorado became successful in its reach and influence under his direction. Although Phil Price passed away in 1993, the current staff of Out Front Colorado should be commended for continuing the superb work that Phil pioneered.

I am pleased to support Out Front Colorado as a valuable institution to Colorado's community and history and am pleased to recognize there's still no turning back!

H.R. 1367, THE ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT OF 2001

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1367, the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Conservation Act of 2001. I am pleased to be here today to talk about such an important issue. We stand at an historic crossroads for the conservation of highly migratory species (HMS). The effective management of Atlantic HMS is one of the most complex and difficult challenges facing the National Marine Fisheries Service. These species range widely throughout international waters and the jurisdictions of many coastal nations with diverse political perspectives on how to properly utilize and manage this valuable resource.

The fishing practices and marketing strategies are equally diverse. Unlike most other domestic fisheries, effective multilateral management is the goal of our nation's HMS policy. In fact, Congress placed Atlantic HMS management authority in the hands of the Secretary of Commerce instead of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, in theory, to ensure

that our government maintains an Atlantic-wide perspective and vision.

It is my firm belief that this Congress, together with thousands of concerned fisherman and conservationists, have a unique opportunity to work together to aggressively protect and rebuild stocks of HMS such as billfish, sharks and swordfish.

In August of 1999, I was approached by representatives of the longline industry and three recreation/conservation fishing organizations who suggested I sponsor legislation to: (1) permanently close an area of U.S. waters in the South Atlantic to pelagic longline fishing; (2) establish two time-area closures in the Gulf of Mexico to pelagic longlining; (3) reduce billfish bycatch and the harvesting of juvenile swordfish; and (4) provide affected fishermen a buyout to compensate them for the loss of fishing grounds and fishing opportunities. I remain a strong supporter of this concept.

I first began work on this important issue because I feel very strongly that a balance can be achieved. Prior to and following the introduction of H.R. 3331, my first bill targeting these critical needs, I met with, and spoke to, a number of pelagic longline fisherman, recreational fisherman and their organizations, and a number of conservation and environmental groups.

I introduced H.R. 3331, in the 106th Congress, in part, because the National Marine Fisheries Service established the pelagic longline fishery as a limited-entry fishery through the HMS Fishery Management Plan. As NMFS is well aware, I have been asking them to take this action for many years. The establishment of a limited access system is critical to reduce harvesting capacity through attrition or a buyback program. Hence, once pelagic longline permits for HMS are bought-out as proposed in my bill, there would be no further vessels re-entering the fishery.

I believe in this concept because the current management system whereby NMFS publishes a regulatory rule that is challenged by seemingly endless lawsuits is not an effective way of promoting sound HMS fishery management. This system has to change.

The International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), led by the United States, approved a ten-year rebuilding plan for North Atlantic swordfish. Although the final approved plan did not go as far as I would have liked in reducing the annual quota internationally, it nevertheless set an important tone for conservation. I commend the U.S. ICCAT Commissioners for their tenacity in getting the rebuilding plan approved.

This is the continuation of an arduous process, but I am confident that we can provide a conservation measure that is good for our beleaguered highly migratory species of fish. I look forward to continuing to fight until this measure is passed and becomes law.

INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY REVISITED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on International Roma Day last year, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities released a detailed report on the situation of

Roma in the OSCE region. Unfortunately, in the intervening months, relatively little progress has been made by government authorities in addressing the problems he described.

The Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, receives so many reports on an almost daily basis which demonstrate the magnitude of the problems Roma face. We receive reports of Roma who are denied access to public places, like the three Roma who were turned away from a Warsaw restaurant last September 29, just before the OSCE convened its annual human rights meeting in that city. We receive reports of discrimination in housing, like the January 27 Hungarian television report that local authorities in Rabakoez, Hungary, have called for prohibiting the sale of real estate to Roma. We receive reports of police abuse, such as the repeated cases of unlawful police raids in Hermanovce, Slovakia. We receive reports of violent attacks, such as the assault on a Romani church in Leskovac, Serbia, at the beginning of this year.

Too often, courts are part of the problem, not the solution. Rather than providing a remedy for victims, they compound the abuse. Take a recent case from the Czech Republic. The Czech Supreme Court issued a ruling that a violent attack on a Romani man in 1999 was premeditated and organized, and then remanded the case back to the district court in Jesenik for sentencing in accordance with that finding. But the district court simply ignored the Supreme Court's finding and ordered four of the defendants released. I am hopeful that Slovak courts, which are currently weighing the fate of three of the defendants charged in last year's brutal murder of Anastazia Balazova, will do a better job of bringing her murderers to justice.

In a few places, there are some glimmers of hope. In Viden, Bulgaria, for example, the Romani organization Drom has led a successful effort to bring 400 Romani children, who previously attended segregated schools, into the mainstream school system. In that instance, the cooperation of local and national authorities, governmental and non-governmental bodies, is paying off.

Unfortunately, too few government leaders demonstrate the courage necessary to address these issues. Some pass the buck, looking to the European Union or the Council of Europe to fix problems that must be tackled, first and foremost, through political leadership at home. Moreover, a number of EU countries have little to teach the applicant countries about tolerance towards Roma. Many OSCE countries—not just the former Communist states—are in need of comprehensive anti-discrimination laws, a priority recognized in the 1999 OSCE summit agreement and by the European Commission in the adoption of its "race directive" in June of last year. Regrettably, nearly two years after Bulgaria received praise from many quarters for agreeing to adopt such legislation, the government is not one step closer to fulfilling its commitment. The Slovak Government's human rights office, in contrast, has undertaken a serious study of legislative options and may soon have a draft ready for a vote.

In addition, it is imperative that political and civic leaders condemn anti-Roma manifestations in clear and unequivocal terms.

Mr. Speaker, when the Mayor of Csor, Hungary—a publicly elected official—said "the

Roma of Zamoly have no place among human beings; just as in the animal world, parasites must be expelled," I believe it is the responsibility of Hungary's political leadership to condemn these outrageous slurs. If more leadership was demonstrated, perhaps confidence would have been strengthened and maybe 5,772 Hungarian Roma would not have applied for asylum in Canada over the past three years.

When the Mayor of Usti nad Labem built a wall to segregate Roma from non-Roma, all members of the Czech parliament—not just a paper slim majority of 101 out of 200 MPs—should have voted to condemn it. And when Mayor Sechelariu of Bacau, Romania, announced plans to build a statue of Marshall Antonescu—the World War II dictator who deported 25,000 Roma to Transnistria, where some 19,000 of them perished—Romanian officials, who have pledged to the OSCE community to fight intolerance, should begin at home by ridding their country of every Antonescu statue built on public land.

IN SUPPORT OF LONG BEACH
NAVY CREW MEMBER DETAINED
IN CHINA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow Members of Congress join me in calling for the safe return home of the 24 American servicemen and women currently being detained in China after their surveillance plane made an emergency landing in Chinese territory when they collided with a Chinese fighter jet. Our hearts and our prayers go out to these young men and women and their families.

One of those crew members is a young man from the district I represent. His name is Josef Edmunds and he is from Long Beach. Perhaps China does not realize how profoundly concerned all Americans are about the well-being of their service men and women. On behalf of Josef Edmunds and his family, I submit this article that appeared in today's edition of the Long Beach Press-Telegram expressing the personal concern and uncertainty that this family—like all the others—is experiencing as a result of this incident.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Members of Congress and I urge the Chinese government to immediately release our service men and women so that they may return home safely.

L.B. FAMILY OF CREW MEMBER FULL OF HOPE
(By Wendy Thomas Russell)

Long Beach.—Josef Edmunds, one of 24 Navy crew members being held in China since their surveillance plane made an emergency landing Sunday, was described by his Long Beach mother as "a very courageous young man" captivated by "the idea of putting on a uniform and standing up for his country."

"I think," Amanda De Jesus said Tuesday, "he's always had a little streak of heroism." De Jesus and her husband, Alfredo, said they were waiting anxiously but patiently for contact from Edmunds, a 30-year-old cryptographer and Chinese interpreter.

"It's just a waiting game," said Alfredo De Jesus, a teacher at La Estrella Argentine Tango and Dance School in Long Beach. "We

have high hopes that it's going to be over soon without any duress to him at least that's what we hope."

Edmunds and his crewmates have been kept at a military base on China's Hainan Island since Sunday, when their surveillance plane was forced to land after colliding mid-air with a Chinese jet fighter. The crew is safe, but U.S. officials have expressed concern that the Chinese may have gained insight into classified surveillance systems by tampering with the plane's equipment.

"I really don't worry that much" about the safety of crew members, Alfredo De Jesus said, "because I know that they're not going to be abused, and it's just a political game. It's just politics."

Amanda De Jesus said she moved to Long Beach about five years ago, after both her sons had grown, but Edmunds still visits her here when he's on leave.

She said she was caught off guard when she got the phone call from the Navy on Sunday; she didn't have a clue that Edmunds would be on a plane over China in the first place. The Navy immediately told her that Edmunds was safe, however, so there was no time for panic.

Edmunds, who is stationed in Japan, joined the Navy about eight years ago, shortly after the birth of his first daughter, Sierra. He had been living with his wife in Davis, near Sacramento, and holding down three jobs at the time, his mother said.

The first job was at a car dealership, the second at a pizza place, and "I don't even remember what the third job was," she said.

One day, Edmunds dropped everything and walked into a recruiter's office.

His colorblind eyes ruled out any chance of being a Navy pilot, so he chose an area well-known in his family: foreign-language interpretation.

His mother once taught French and Spanish, and his aunt is a Russian interpreter for the Air Force who also speaks fluent French and German.

Edmunds' hereditary language skills paid off. He learned Chinese and Cambodian and was transferred to several bases before landing in Japan.

Edmunds is now divorced with four children three of whom, ages 8, 7 and 5, still live in Northern California. The fourth, a son, is only about 6 months old and lives with Edmunds' girlfriend in Texas, Amanda De Jesus said.

"He's a great guy," Edmunds' stepfather said. "He's really a good-spirited person. He's the kind of guy that you make friends with just in the moment. He really is."

Despite the stressful situation in China, Amanda De Jesus said she knows her son is acting courageously.

"He's always been gutsy," she said.

Once, while stationed in Texas, Edmunds was among a group of military men who volunteered hours and hours of their time to help people rebuild their tornado-torn houses after their military shifts had ended. He was given an award for his work, his mother said.

Edmunds told his friends that his mother would be "upset to know that he was working for no money."

"But no," she said softly. "I was proud of him."

ON H. RES. 91 AND H. RES. 56

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to speak on the floor yesterday when

the resolutions on the human rights situation in China and Tibet and in Cuba were debated. I was attending a funeral in my district and on an official leave of absence.

I am an original co-sponsor of both of these resolutions and I am pleased that both were considered by the House.

Given the events in China this past week, it is important that the House adopted H. Res. 56 which expresses the sense of the House urging the appropriate representative of the U.S. to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce at the annual meeting in Geneva of the commission a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China (PRC) to end its human rights violations in China and Tibet.

Mr. Speaker, we can look to the China section of the 2000 State Department's Annual Report on Human Rights to see the deplorable human rights record of the PRC: "The Government's poor human rights record worsened, and it continued to commit serious abuses." This same human rights report says that the "PRC is an authoritative state . . . [that] frequently interfere [s] in the judicial process, and the Party and the Government direct verdicts in many high-profile cases.

It is appropriate that the U.S. introduce this resolution at the U.N. because it is the right thing to do in the face of China's alarming human rights record as described further in the State Department human rights report:

. . . thousands of Falun Gong practitioners . . . were sentenced to re-education through-labor camps or incarcerated in mental institutions . . .

The government continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses . . . [such as] extrajudicial killings, the use of torture, forced confessions, arbitrary arrest and detention, the mistreatment of prisoners, lengthy incommunicado and denial of due process . . .

. . . 100 or more Falun Gong practitioners died as a result of torture and mistreatment in custody"

The Government's respect for religious freedom deteriorated markedly . . . as the Government conducted crackdowns against underground Christian groups and Tibetan Buddhists and destroyed many houses of worship.

It is appropriate that the U.S. introduce this resolution at the U.N. in light of China's detainment of 24 U.S. service personnel attached to the U.S. EP-3E aircraft. China's behavior throughout this incident should make the true nature of the Chinese Government clear—the regime in Beijing will abuse the rights of anyone, even U.S. service personnel who have to make an emergency landing on Chinese territory.

It is appropriate that the U.S. introduce this resolution at the U.N. in light of the fact that China has arrested a U.S. citizen, professor Li Shaomin. Professor Li has been detained by Chinese authorities since February 25. Professor Li's wife does not know why her husband has been detained.

It is appropriate that the U.S. introduce this resolution at the U.N. in light of the fact that China has detained and charged Ms. Gao Zhan, a permanent resident of the U.S. who lives in my congressional district. Ms. Gao is married to a U.S. citizen and is the mother of a U.S. citizen.

After detaining her husband Xue Donhua (now a U.S. citizen) and their 5-year old son Andrew (a U.S. citizen) for over a month, the

government of China has now charged Ms. Gao Zhan with spying. I have met Mr. Xue and his son Andrew and talked about their incarceration. They are a wonderful family. Yet, Andrew was taken away and held separately from his parents for over a month. Andrew needs a mother and needs to be with his mother. What kind of government would separate a family like this? What kind of government would put a 5-year old child through this kind of ordeal?

Similarly, H. Res. 56 instructs the U.S. delegation at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva to obtain passage of a resolution condemning the Government of Cuba for its human rights abuses. As this resolution states, "the Castro regime systematically violates all of the fundamental civil and political rights of the Cuban people, denying freedoms of speech, press, assembly, movement, religion, and association, the right to change their government and the right to due process and fair trials."

It is no accident that both the Cuban and Chinese governments are serious violators of religious freedom. As both Cuba and China are authoritarian regimes, nothing is more threatening to them than people of faith and conviction who are capable and willing to speak truth to power.

I am proud to co-sponsor both of these resolutions because the U.S. needs to be on the side of pursuing justice and of speaking truth to power. I am hopeful that the U.S. will lead in the efforts in Geneva to speak truth to the authoritarian regimes of Cuba and China.

MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, Getting married shouldn't mean saying 'I do,' to higher taxes. In my state of New York over one and a half million couples are burdened by the marriage penalty, nearly 60,000 in my district alone. This occurs when married couples pay more than an unmarried couple with the same income.

For example two individuals, living together, but not married, each with incomes of \$30,000—their combined standard deduction would be \$9,100 and their tax rate would be 15%. If that same couple got married, their standard deduction would drop to \$7,189 and they would move into the 28% tax rate. The only difference is that they got married.

We should eliminate this inequity by widening the 15% tax bracket to allow joint filers to have two times the income of individuals and still remain taxed at 15%. We should also double the standard deduction for joint filers to twice that of singles. We're talking about people who work hard and play by the rules. At a time when parents are working harder for less money, we need to encourage families, not punish them. Ending the marriage penalty is particularly urgent for the middle-class. This is a wrong that should have been righted a long time ago—making the tax code more fair while providing families with meaningful tax relief for the things that matter—buying a home,

ensuring quality family medical care, and sending kids to college.

NAVY EP-3 AIRCRAFT IN CHINA

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the emergency landing of the Navy EP-3 aircraft in China demonstrates the nature of the risk that our service members endure each day. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, brave men and women put themselves in the face of danger.

My heart goes out to those on the ground in China and to their families who anxiously await their return. I call on President Bush and President Jiang to engage in a dialogue that results in the quickest possible reunion of our Navy personnel and their families.

As we all wait, let us remember the dangers abroad and the sacrifices endured by our service members. Let us also remember the demands that military service places on their families.

I recently spoke with a young woman who had just recently married a young sailor. Until now, she had always expected her husband to return home each night. Now the impact of being a Navy wife hits home. There is always the possibility that "he may not come home."

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE MIKE THOMPSON RECOGNIZING DAVID WOLPER FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK AND SUPPORT TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF THE NAPA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize renowned filmmaker and noted philanthropist David L. Wolper. His contributions have made the Napa community a better place for California's youth.

His invaluable aid was instrumental in the construction of the Napa Boys and Girls Club's new facility in the city of Napa. This important endeavor simply could not have been completed without his vital leadership. The new facility at 1515 Pueblo Avenue will be a great asset to the Napa community for many years to come.

Mr. Wolper is a member of the National Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of America and is a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Hall of Fame. In addition, David Wolper is a member of the Foundation Board of the Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa and a member of the Board of the American Center for Wine, Food, and the Arts. He is an asset in so many ways to the community of Napa and the entire country.

Mr. Wolper, in his fifty years in show business, has made over 700 films, which have won more than 150 awards, including 3 Oscars, 50 Emmys, 7 Golden Globes, and 5 Peabodys. He has been specially recognized

at the world's great film festivals for his lifetime achievements, and he has received the entertainment industry's two highest honors—the prestigious Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Oscar Award and was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame.

In addition to his many hours of professional and civic activity, he has remained a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Mr. Wolper and his wife Gloria have three children—Mark, Michael, and Leslie Ann—and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize David L. Wolper for his commitment to building a brighter future for the youth of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. EDWARD C. STONE, RETIRING DIRECTOR OF THE JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

HON. ADAM SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Edward C. Stone, retiring Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. After ten years of distinguished service at JPL, Dr. Stone will be returning to full-time teaching and research at the California Institute of Technology, where he has taught since 1967. Dr. Stone, the David Morrisroe Professor of Physics, has been widely regarded as an energetic and thoughtful leader at JPL.

Since his first cosmic-ray experiments on Discoverer satellites in 1961, Dr. Stone has been a principal investigator on nine NASA spacecraft missions and a co-investigator on five other NASA missions for which he developed high resolution instruments for measuring the isotopic and elemental composition of energetic cosmic-ray nuclei. Using these instruments, Dr. Stone and his colleagues undertook some of the first studies of the isotopic composition of three distinct samples of matter. During his tenure at JPL, Dr. Stone's many accomplishments include Galileo's five-year orbital mission to Jupiter, the launch of Assini to Saturn, as well as a new generation of Earth sciences satellites such as TOPEX/Poseidon and SeaWinds, and the spectacularly successful Mars Pathfinder landing in 1997.

He has transformed the direction of JPL from administering a few large projects to managing many new, smaller exploration missions. Dr. Stone's vision has revolutionized the way JPL does business, thus expanding its impact on the field of astrophysics and planetary science. He is a remarkable scientist, whose brilliance is coupled with his ability to lead. Dr. Stone exemplifies integrity, energy, and leadership, and his deep commitment to JPL and its goals has been the touchstone of the Laboratory's success. I would like to commend Dr. Stone for his extraordinary dedication and thank him for his decade of service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN AIR INVESTMENT ACT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, well over 100 million Americans live in metropolitan, suburban, and even rural regions that are facing a serious environmental and economic problem—attainment of air quality standards of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990. Arguably, the most pressing issue affecting my region's prosperity and quality of life is State Implementation Plans (SIP) to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions (NO_x), which are causing the greater Houston area to exceed the EPA standard for ground level ozone. As an effect to assist non-attainment areas meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act I am introducing today a bill the Clean Air Investment Act, along with my colleague Representative KEVIN BRADY. This bill is designed to assist all non-compliance areas achieve improved environmental quality while protecting their economic prosperity.

Failure to attain compliance risks losing essential federal highway funding. Many of my colleagues know that Atlanta's federal highway funding was frozen for two years for non-compliance with the Clean Air Act. Now, while non-compliance carries costs, compliance also carries significant costs, some of which are the responsibility of the federal government. A study commissioned by the Greater Houston Partnership has showed that the SIP for the Houston-Galveston area will cost area households \$550 million a year, and could reduce job growth significantly.

Under the law implementation plans are designed by the states, and approval must be made at the federal level by EPA. EPA-regulated sources account for a significant percentage of the NO_x emissions in most non-attainment regions, 40% in the Houston region. These sources are mobile interstate and international NO_x sources, such as automobiles, planes, trains, and ships. In the Clean Air Act, Congress clearly intended for compliance burdens to be borne proportionally by state and federally regulated sources. However, in the forming a plan that would meet EPA approval under the Clean Air Act, the State of Texas through its Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission ("TNRCC") could not incorporate promised EPA reductions into the SIP. Many EPA reductions from federally regulated sources are supposed to exist, but do not because EPA has failed to meet their statutory deadlines. With serious economic burdens looming for 114 non-attainment areas in 33 states, EPA must make allowance for federally pre-empted items for which they have not met their own deadlines. The EPA failure to act, whether due to budget constraints, political resistance, or bureaucratic inertia is not the fault of local communities.

For instance, the EPA had a statutory deadline to produce regulations for all non-road engines in November 1992. Of the six regulations that have been produced the earliest was finalized in 1994, and one has not yet been finalized. The EPA was required by law to issue regulations covering locomotive engines in November 1995, but the rule was not promulgated until three years later. The rule

for commercial diesel marine engines, exceedingly important for our area, was not finalized until November 1999. Further emission regulations for commercial marine engines will not be proposed until April of 2002. At this time, we will begin a debate of whether these marine emission standards can apply to foreign-flagged vessels in U.S. territorial waters. As a major shipping and railroad transportations enter, the greater Houston area is very dependent on the EPA to regulate these sources to reduce the burden on the state regulated industrial sources, which are currently being asked to achieve the steepest emission reduction every attempted—90%. I see the Houston area and many other non-attainment areas around the country engaged full force in a good faith attempt to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act, and I believe that we owe them some small amount of assistance.

Along with my colleague, KEVIN BRADY, and I am proposing a way for the federal government to assist the state regulated sources that are bearing an increased burden as a result of regulatory delays by the EPA. The U.S. Tax Code provides for tax-exempt bond financing for a number of public and some private entities for a number of purposes that contribute to the public good. Through reduced borrowing costs, the government encourages investment in airports, maritime transport facilities, commuting families, water treatment, solid waste disposal, and local electric transmission. Prior to 1986, investment in air pollution control equipment was also encouraged in this way. However, during the massive rewrite of the tax code in 1986 air pollution was not recognized as a priority. I feel very strongly that at a time when massive air pollution investments are being mandated for the public good, we should allow for some assistance in financing their implementation as quickly as possible.

The Clean Air Investment Act will assist all industries in non-attainment areas finance the necessary investments that we are asking them to make. By reducing the cost of this investment, even by a couple of percentage points, we can help protect our prosperity and save American jobs. All Americans want clean air but we also want a strong economy. By providing lower costs to achieve reduced point service emissions Congress can aid in meeting both of these goals.

REGARDING CHINA, IS IT GETTING PERSONAL?

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wants to call his colleagues attention to the article by Jim Hoagland in the Washington Post on April 4, 2001. He most assuredly is correct that it is highly unlikely that the collision between a U.S. Navy EP-3E surveillance aircraft and the high performance F-8 fighter interceptor was caused by the American aircraft. That collision, undisputedly, took place in international airspace, so no apology is owed or should be delivered by our Government. The recent harassment of our surveillance aircraft by Chinese interception in the region, as

reported by Admiral Dennis Blair, Commander-in-Chief Pacific, in a recent news conference reported that these interceptors have been flying dangerously close to our aircraft and that we had filed a formal protest. Any apology is not the responsibility of the United States. Unfortunately, the immediate comments from the highest level of the Chinese Government informed the Chinese people and the world that the U.S. aircraft invaded Chinese airspace, but it didn't inform them that was the case only after the EP-3E pilot sought the closest landing base for his damaged aircraft on Hainan Island.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 4, 2001]
REGARDING CHINA, IS IT GETTING PERSONAL?
(By Jim Hoagland)

For reasons physical and political, the probability that an American spy plane deliberately rammed a Chinese jet fighter over the South China Sea on Sunday runs as close to a perfect zero as mathematics allows. Imagine a fully loaded moving van trying to ram a Harley-Davidson motorcycle on an open plain and you get the picture.

So the official Chinese version of the collision that forced a U.S. Navy EP-3 electronic surveillance warplane into a mayday landing on Hainan Island can be dismissed. The Chinese F-8 pilot who went up to harass American spies at work almost certainly overdid his instructions to be particularly aggressive and accidentally flew into the lumbering propeller-driven craft.

But Beijing's false accusation of U.S. responsibility is revealing nonetheless. It tells us much about the air of confrontation that has quickly developed between President George W. Bush's incoming administration and President Jiang Zemin's outgoing leadership team.

The Chinese lie is a reflexive act of pride, and pride is a driving force for Jiang as he draws an ever-clearer line in the sand for Bush. The underlying strategic tensions between the two nations are rapidly getting personal: Jiang sees American actions suddenly threatening his legacy.

Even the best-laid strategies can be blown off course by stray winds. The spy plane incident is the latest in a series of seemingly unrelated, and unplanned, mishaps in American-Chinese relations since Bush's election. Taken together, these incidents illustrate the force of serendipity in politics and policy.

None of their intelligence briefings or position papers would have prepared Bush or Jiang to anticipate that a senior Chinese intelligence officer would defect to the United States in December. News of that defection leaked into Taiwanese newspapers in March. Just as China's deputy prime minister was settling out on a frame-setting trip to Washington and meeting with Bush.

Both the defection and, to Chinese eyes, the suspicious timing of the leak may have put China's heavy-handed security services even more on edge. They terrorized a Chinese-American family visiting relatives in China by arresting the mother, Gao Zhan, on espionage charges Feb. 11, and have arrested at least one other Chinese American scholar since.

Jiang was no more likely to have been consulted on Gao Zhan's arrest than Bush was to have been asked to authorize the specific espionage mission near Hainan that went wrong. But the two leaders must now deal with the consequences of these incidents, and do so at an unsettling moment of dual transition.

Jiang, who is due to retire by 2003, is beginning to gradually yield power, while Bush is trying to grab hold of it with a seriously understaffed administration.

Add to this the reality that China and the United States have never developed the kind of informal crisis-management framework that Washington and Moscow learned to apply to strategic mishap, and the opportunity for the EP-3 incident to become the first crisis of Bush's presidency is evident. It is a time for caution on both sides.

The plane incident comes as Bush moves toward a decision later this month on Taiwan's request to buy new U.S. weapons, including four destroyers equipped with sophisticated Aegis phased radar systems. It was to head off this sale that Jiang dispatched Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen to meet with Bush last month.

Bush refused to give Qian any assurances on a subject that Jiang has made into the make-or-break issue in Chinese-American relations. Pride dictates this stand more than strategic calculation, since the radar systems would take nearly a decade to deliver.

Jiang began his term by promising his colleagues on the Politburo to bring China to the point of reabsorbing Taiwan at a time of Beijing's choosing, according to U.S. intelligence reports. The Aegis sale would be a powerful symbol of failure in Jiang's quest for what he said would be his most "historic accomplishment."

Bush must make the decision on the Aegis sale on its own merits and not allow Jiang to gain leverage over the sale through the spy plane incident. There may be other weapons systems that would meet Taiwan's immediate needs as well as the Aegis, but that decision must be made on military and national security criteria, not under the threat of Chinese blackmail.

The Pentagon may have acted unwisely in sending the espionage plane so close to China at this particularly sensitive moment. But there can be no American apology based on the false Chinese version of events, as Beijing demands. That is not just a matter of pride. It is one of justice.

ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS FIND UNWITTING ALLIES IN CENTRAL ASIAN DICTATORSHIPS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am utterly appalled by the Taliban regime's vicious campaign to stamp out freedom and religious tolerance in Afghanistan. But the Taliban's zeal to propagate a warped version of Islam—and the support for terrorism and drug trafficking that goes along with it—is not limited to Afghanistan. Already, an Islamic movement which was designated as a terrorist group by the United States Department of State has taken root in the Fergana valley area where the borders of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan meet. This insurgency has the full support and assistance of the despotic Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

So far, Kazakhstan has not been directly affected by this insurgency. However, because of its oil and mineral wealth, Kazakhstan is the crown jewel of the region and is thus almost certainly the ultimate target of the Islamic extremists. Kazakhstan's authoritarian regime has taken note of the alarming developments with its neighbors to the south and has taken steps to strengthen its defenses. That's the good news. The bad news, however, is that President Nursultan Nazarbayev has also stepped up domestic repression.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Kazakhstan know that they inhabit a rich country, but they also know that very little of that wealth trickles down to them. They are also not blind to the questionable elections, the stifling of press freedom, and the jailing of opposition leaders that have characterized the country's political life. They are losing hope, and thus they are vulnerable to the siren calls of the Islamic extremists. The parallel to the situation under Suharto in Indonesia ought to be instructive. Fortunately for Indonesia, Islamic extremists were not the beneficiaries of Suharto's ouster, but the same could not be said for Kazakhstan and some of its neighbors.

In the March 3 issue of *The Economist*, there is an excellent article on Kazakhstan's security situation. The author of the article concludes: "Government repression and mismanagement help to nourish extremism and terrorism in Central Asia. An effort to improve social and economic conditions and freedom of expression might make Kazakhstan less fertile ground for militant zealots."

That, Mr. Speaker, is the crux of the issue. I submit the full text of this article from *The Economist* to be placed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, some here in Washington may be tempted to urge U.S. support for President Nazarbayev and the other authoritarian regimes in Central Asia, because they claim to be bulwarks of defense against Islamic extremism. Unfortunately, however, the Central Asian domestic political environment is the problem, not the solution. Only a democratic political system, a free press and respect for human rights will stop Islamic extremists. And the United States must stand with those governments in Central Asia who share these values.

[From *The Economist*, Mar. 3, 2001]

KAZAKHSTAN—IN DEFENSE

When the Soviet Union broke up ten years ago, the leaders of Central Asia's newly independent states felt safe from possible attacks on their region. Their main concern was to promote order, economic reform and the assertion of power for themselves and their families. They were jolted out of their complacency by bomb blasts in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in February 1999 and an attack by Islamic militants in Kirgizstan in August. Last year Islamists again attacked both countries.

Although Kazakhstan was not directly affected by these attacks, they have alerted the country to look to its defences. President Nursultan Nazarbaev has set about making Kazakhstan's armed forces capable of dealing with what he believes are the main threats to the state: terrorism as a result of religious extremism, and organised crime.

He is strengthening defences in the south, in the mountainous border regions from which an Islamic incursion might come. He wants his soldiers to be more mobile. Sniper groups are being formed. Villagers with local knowledge of the terrain are being recruited as guides. The country's defence budget has been more than doubled this year to \$171m, or 1% of GDP. Soldiers' pay is to go up by 30-40%.

One difficulty is that Kazakhstan's borders were not clearly defined in Soviet times, so it is difficult to decide what is a "border incursion". Kazakhstan has 14,000km (8,750 miles) of borders with neighbouring states. It has agreed on its border with China, but it is still negotiating with Russia, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Bulat

Sultanov, of Kazakhstan's Institute of Strategic Studies, worries that "our border troops cannot carry out any operations because there is no legal basis for them."

Last year, Uzbek border guards entered southern Kazakhstan and claimed a stretch of land. Since then, there have been several brushes between Uzbeks and Kazakhs, mostly villagers unclear about which country they are living in. All this is a distraction from the task of making the south of Kazakhstan more secure.

Then there is Afghanistan. Although Kazakhstan is not a direct neighbour, the fiercely Islamic Taliban who control most of Afghanistan are a worry to all of Central Asia. They are believed to provide training for extremists, among them the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which wants to set up a caliphate in the Fergana valley, where Kirgizstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan meet. The IMU was said to be behind the attacks in Kirgizstan and Uzbekistan in the past two years and is thought to be preparing another assault before long.

Most of Kazakhstan's military equipment dates back to the Soviet period. Replacing, say, old helicopters used in the border areas will be expensive, but necessary. In January a Mi-8 helicopter crashed in the south, injuring the defence minister, Sat Tokpakbaev, who was aboard. Another helicopter crashed near the Chinese border two weeks ago, killing six people.

Kazakhstan will receive arms from Russia worth \$20m this year as part of its annual payment for the use of a space-rocket site at Baikonur. It is due to receive over \$4m from the United States to improve border security. The government might also consider some nonmilitary measures. Government repression and mismanagement help to nourish extremism and terrorism in Central Asia. An effort to improve social and economic conditions and freedom of expression might make Kazakhstan less fertile ground for militant zealots.

TESTIMONY OF DR. IRVING
SMOKLER

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues, the testimony of Dr. Irving Smokler, presented to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. Dr. Smokler is the president of the NephCure Foundation and testified regarding the need for increased funding for research and raising professional and public awareness on glomerular injury through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

TESTIMONY REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 2002 FUNDING FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES Presented by Irving Smokler, Ph.D., President of the NephCure Foundation, Accompanied by Brad Stewart to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies—March 20, 2001—10:00 AM SUMMARY OF FY 2002 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue the effort to double funding for the National Institutes of Health by providing an increase of 16.5%, to \$23.7 billion for FY02. Increase funding for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) by 16.5% to \$1,518,443,525 for FY02.

2. Prioritize glomerular injury research at NIDDK (including clinical trials), raise professional and public awareness about glomerular injury, and encourage more aggressive scientific attention to all kidney diseases.

3. Urge NIDDK to develop programs to attract talented researchers to the field of glomerular injury.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, I am pleased to present testimony on behalf of the NephCure Foundation (NCF).

We are a relatively new, non-profit organization with a mission of supporting research and public awareness on glomerular injury, which is related to the filtering mechanism of the kidney. I serve as president of the foundation, and have a son, who has had a glomerular disease since he was eleven months old. Although he is now 24 years old and in remission, eighty percent of those in his situation lose their kidneys or their life by the age of five.

What is glomerular injury?

Mr. Chairman, each kidney contains about one million tiny filtering units called nephrons. Nephrons are the key to the kidney's filtering function, processing a constant flow of waste-laden blood, sorting out the vital fluids, from the toxic and unnecessary elements.

When someone suffers from a glomerular disease, this vital process is impaired. In some instances, an individual will lose protein and sometimes red blood cells in the urine, have high cholesterol levels, and experience severe swelling in the body from too much fluid. Incidence of this disruptive Nephrotic Syndrome is increasing, and this perplexes physicians who cannot identify the cause or cure.

Sometimes damage occurs to the nephrons, specifically, scarring of the glomeruli, which are microscopic capillaries in the nephron. The severe form of this glomerular injury is Focal Segmental Glomerular sclerosis (FSGS). Presently, there is no treatment to reverse this damage. FSGS can lead to end stage renal disease—total, or near total, permanent kidney failure. Costly dialysis treatments become necessary and kidney transplants may be required for severe cases.

The toll of glomerular injury

Glomerular injury affects tens of thousands of patients in the nation, most of them young. While it is unclear exactly how many Americans are impacted, the incidence of glomerular injury is on the rise. Severe forms of glomerular injury are costly to diagnose and treat, and at this time the only relief for these patients is with heavy medi-

cation, usually steroids, which have strong and unpleasant side effects and only work for about 30 percent of patients.

Problems of misdiagnosis often occur with glomerular injury. Most patients and parents have stories about the unusual length of time between the first symptoms and diagnosis. The early signs of glomerular injury, swollen eyelids, are often mistaken for allergic reactions. Health care professionals don't appear to be fully knowledgeable about this disease.

The physical changes, extreme swelling of the face and body, can adversely affect all aspects of a young person's life. With a stronger commitment to research and educational awareness, suffering can be minimized and hopefully eliminated.

There is hope for scientific breakthroughs

At a meeting co-sponsored by the NephCure Foundation, preeminent scientists from around the world have shared their findings about the podocyte, a major filtering cell, with tentacle-like feet. The relationship between the podocyte and the glomerulus may be a key to understanding glomerular injury.

Recently, researchers have discovered certain molecules that are essential to the podocyte's function. As this becomes better understood, scientists are hopeful of finding better ways to treat glomerular diseases, and prevent their progression to more grave conditions.

This spring, NIDDK will begin to establish clinical trials, which will test various treatments for hundreds of FSGS patients. But there is a need for more funds to strengthen the basic science behind these studies. Researchers need to study tissue and fluids from those patients to advance their knowledge of the molecular causes of FSGS.

What needs to be done?

Respectfully, Mr. Chairman, the NephCure Foundation urges this subcommittee to:

1. Continue the support for doubling the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

2. Provide the funding and recommendations for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to aggressively pursue a scientific program which will advance research into glomerular injury, conduct clinical trials, raise public awareness, and recruit talented scientists to this field of research.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Mr. Chairman, we hoped to have Melanie Stewart here to testify today, but her health would not allow her to be here. Her father, Brad Stewart, will read Melanie's statement.

My name is Melanie Stewart. I'm 13 years old and have had FSGS since I was six. Until a year ago I spent most of my life in the hospital or hooked up to a dialysis machine for 8 hours every day. My kidneys finally died last year, so my dad gave me one of his. I've done my best to keep it by taking 20 pills a day, fighting off infections, hemorrhages, and a blood clot in my heart. The kidney my Dad gave me is failing.

There are thousands of kids just like me who would like a change at a normal life. For all of us, I'm asking for your help in finding a cure for this disease.

Thank you for listening.