

Unchecked, we have no idea what the statistics will be in 2015 or 2220—less than 20 years from today.

Children suffer inordinately from the cruel AIDS pandemic. Millions are born HIV-infected even though mother-to-child transmission can be easily avoided if adequate training and healthcare is provided. By the end of the decade, 40 million children will be orphaned as a consequence of AIDS. The impact on developing societies—socially, politically, and economically—is incalculable and threatens the stability of the globe.

The pandemic is not limited to Africa, Mr. Speaker. The Caribbean region has the second highest rate of HIV infections in the world—only a few hundred miles from the United States. Russia had the highest increase rate of any country last year. The social upheaval that could arise in Russia as a result of this crisis could have serious consequences for global security. According to the National Intelligence Council, India is on the verge of a catastrophic AIDS epidemic.

For these reasons, the United States must lead the world in the effort to combat and ultimately rid the globe of this modern-day black plague. The problem is monumental, and our response needs to be both bilateral and multilateral. However, as with any problem, financial resources are not the sole answer to a problem, and the generosity of the American people must be well managed. We must provide resources at a pace at which they can be absorbed and used wisely. We must continue to encourage and support faith-based organizations and churches that are doing good works to educate the poor about HIV and AIDS. We must also insist that other developed nations join us in this global effort. The President has already signaled our nation's intention to lead by committing \$200 million for a multilateral effort to combat HIV/AIDS through a global AIDS war chest that will be designed and implemented in the months to come.

To support these efforts, I have introduced legislation today to address both the bilateral and multilateral pillars of our response to the AIDS crisis. The most immediate and important step to address the HIV/AIDS challenge is for the United States to provide the leadership and impetus for a major international effort.

Consequently, my bill authorizes the Agency for International Development to carry out a comprehensive program of HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and treatment at a level of \$469 million in each of the next two fiscal years. This is \$100 million more than has been requested by the Administration for these purposes in Fiscal Year 2001. Moreover, my legislation authorizes an additional \$50 million pilot program to provide treatment for those infected with HIV/AIDS by assisting the public and private sectors of developing countries in the procurement of HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals and anti-viral therapies. Accordingly, through our bilateral efforts, the United States will demonstrate its commitment to address all facets of the HIV/AIDS challenge and to do so in a responsible and meaningful manner, and thereby challenge, the remainder of the developed world to emulate the example of the United States.

The bill I have introduced today also authorizes the President to contribute to multilateral

efforts to combat HIV/AIDS at a level that the Administration deems appropriate. America will contribute its fair share as we work to leverage additional funds for this crusade from other developing countries. By providing the President with this flexibility, we can ensure that the contributions made by the

The novel bilateral treatment program that my bill authorizes is vitally important, for it gives hope for those already suffering from AIDS. By authorizing a pilot treatment program, we can work to extend the productive lives of those infected by the virus. This is not only the right thing to do—aside from humanitarian concerns—treatment makes prevention work. Without some expectation of hope or care, the poor have no reason to be tested for AIDS or to seek help. I am fully cognizant of the challenge posed by treatment programs in developing countries. However, we have no other option if we are ever to stem the tide of the pandemic.

The bill that I have introduced today also promotes microenterprise development as a crucial component in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. Microenterprise gives the poor who must deal with HIV/AIDS the means to help themselves. I wish to highlight the work in this area by Opportunity International, one of the organizations among my constituency. Opportunity International is a microenterprise pioneer and leader that has helped to create one million jobs for the poor of the developing world over the past thirty years by making loans to small enterprises.

Charles Dokmo, President and Chief Operating Officer of Opportunity International, is an expert in the field of microenterprise development and is working to implement an ambitious plan to combat the spread of AIDS in Africa through education, awareness, and by creating opportunities for those confronting HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate what I think is a consensus in Congress. Simply stated, the AIDS virus is one of the great moral challenges of our era for it is a scourge of unparalleled proportions in modern times. Every citizen has a stake in what tragically could be the black plague of the 21st century. Accordingly, we should do all we can to meet this test by reaching out now to those most in need—it is the right thing to do for our children, our country, and our world. Let us not fail the challenge.

IT IS TIME TO FINISH WHAT WE
STARTED IN 1964

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning the United States Commission on Civil Rights released its report on Florida's election system. To say the least, I am appalled by the Commission's findings. To think that in this day and age we find ourselves trying to justify the racist and prejudicial tendencies that exist in the American election system is both pitiful and disturbing.

From purging the names of eligible voters to increasing numbers of spoiled ballots, the

Commission's report clearly indicates that the problems which occurred in Florida last November disproportionately affected the votes cast by African-Americans and other minority groups. While only making up eleven percent of all eligible voters in Florida, African-Americans cast nearly 55 percent of the ballots that were rejected in Florida. In fact, African-Americans cast nearly 55 percent of the ballots that were rejected in Florida. In fact, African-American voters were nearly ten times more likely than white voters to have their ballots rejected in Florida. Nine of the ten counties with the highest percentage of African-American voters had disqualified ballot percentages above the state average. Of the 100 precincts with the highest numbers of disqualified ballots, 83 of them are majority-black precincts.

African-Americans were also disproportionately purged from voter lists. Under the Motor Voter Law, voters are protected from having their names removed from voting lists unless they move, die, or are convicted of a felony. In Florida, however, it appears as if the Motor Voter Law has been replaced by a system in which the names of eligible voters are unlawfully purged. In Miami-Dade County, the number of African-American names purged from eligible voter lists outnumbered the number of white and Hispanic voters whose names were removed from eligible voting lists three to one.

Moreover, the report's findings that an official of the Florida Division of Elections supported updating voting lists in a manner that removed a disproportionate number of African-Americans from eligible voting lists leaves little question that the State of Florida could have avoided the problems voters faced on election day. The Commission's report makes it clear that both Governor Jeb Bush and Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris were well aware of the potential problems that some of Florida's counties were going to face on election day. However,

Mr. Speaker, the report issued by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights highlights the problems that we face in Florida, and indeed, the rest of the nation. It is disgraceful that America has yet to create an election system that encourages rather than discourages. It is disgraceful that the conversations we are having today on voter accessibility, voter education, purging of eligible voters, and improving voting technology resemble the same conversations we had during the 1960s. Those of us involved in the Civil Rights Movement had hoped that Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 would have ensured that no African-American, or any American for that matter, would be unlawfully turned away from the polls. Unfortunately, the reality is, it will take an Election Reform Act during the 107th Congress to finish what we started in 1964.

HONORING DAVID GROSSBERG

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. GRAY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor to the

accomplishments of Mr. David Grossberg of Ontario, California.

Mr. Grossberg is the outgoing President for the City of Ontario Chamber of Commerce. According to his peers, Mr. Grossberg has demonstrated exceptional personal and civic leadership in his role as President and was actively involved in his community. Mr. Grossberg showed great commitment to the Chamber and was truly dedicated to serving as President.

The Chamber's accomplishments under Mr. Grossberg's tenure as President and Vice President have been numerous and impressive: the Chamber averaged 20 new members a month and ended the year with its largest budget surplus to date. As a result of Mr. Grossberg's leadership, the Inland Valley Chamber Alliance was formed to bring the local chambers closer on regional issues. During his term, the Chamber was successful in partnering with the California Manufacturer's Technology Center, who will co-sponsor the Chamber's Industrial Forum. Creation of the Ontario Chamber Service Club Round Table and Marketing Forum were two more examples of Mr. Grossberg's commitment to providing members with vital networking tools.

During his Presidency, the first Service Club Project was completed. In a joint effort by local service clubs, more than 1,000 rose bushes were planted on Euclid Avenue. Mr. Grossberg was also instrumental in saving the annual Christmas Nativity scenes on Euclid Avenue.

In addition to his duties as President of the Chamber, Mr. Grossberg serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors, Downtown Ontario Business and Professional Association, Director, Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District, member of the Ontario Rotary Club, and was a former member of the Downtown Ontario Revitalization Committee.

Mr. Grossberg's tenure as President of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce brought great leadership in the development of strong economic development programs and public policy. He has achieved an impressive record of career and civic accomplishments and, in doing so, has earned the admiration and respect of those who have the privilege of working with him. I would like to congratulate him on these accomplishments and sincerely thank him for his service to his community. He is truly deserving of the accolades of this Congress.

THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 57th anniversary of D-Day, and recognize the hundreds of thousands of Americans soldiers who fought in World War II.

On July 6, 1944, thousands of men landed on the beaches of Normandy. Thousands of Allied paratroopers landed behind enemy lines, and even more made their way to the shore in small water crafts. More than 175,000 soldiers landed that morning before dawn. Hitler's seemingly strong wall of force had fallen to the Allied troops in less than one day.

Given the code name "Overload," D-Day was a plan so immense that literally thou-

sands of men were involved with the planning of the campaign. This battle marks the allied nations unity and cooperation to work toward one common goal. 4,900 soldiers were lost on D-Day, yet their memory will live on forever in the hearts and souls of American patriots.

Americans united together through determination, patriotism, honor, and faith. Their duty and love of country led them toward victory. 57 years after that day, we continue to commemorate and pay homage to those who sacrificed so that we all could experience peace and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memories of those Americans who fought to conquer tyranny and hatred in Europe. June 6, 1944 forever altered the course of history and united our great nation for one common goal, freedom.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS E. WHITE ON BECOMING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of his delighted friends and neighbors in The Woodlands, Texas, and all the constituents of the 8th Congressional District of Texas, I rise today to proudly congratulate Thomas E. White on becoming the 18th Secretary of the Army.

Rebuilding America's national security for the 21st Century is a top priority for President George W. Bush. Seeking vision, executive leadership, and Army experience, our President chose wisely in his nomination for Secretary of the Army—as did the United States Senate in confirming Secretary White.

This Detroit, Michigan native will lead a dedicated work force of more than one million active duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve soldiers who, with the support of 270,000 civilian employees, proudly comprise the U.S. Army today. As the former Chairman and CEO for Enron Operations Corporation headquartered in Houston, Texas, Secretary White now holds the responsibility for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management.

The seriousness and respect with which he approaches this awesome responsibility was reflected during his Senate confirmation hearings when he stated, "Taking care of people is a sacred duty I will bear if confirmed as Secretary."

A proud graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the four objectives Secretary White has identified for his tenure are right on target: investing in people, assuring readiness, transforming every aspect of the entire Army—doctrine, training, leadership, infrastructure, and more—in a holistic manner, and adopting sound business practices.

Secretary White is exceptionally well qualified for this job. Commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1967, he rose to the rank of Brigadier General in 1990. His distinguished 23-year career as an Army officer included two tours of service in Vietnam, command of the 11th Ar-

mored Cavalry Regiment in Germany, a number of assignments on the Army Staff, and finally, service as Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell.

Finally, and perhaps more important than all of these things, Secretary White believes strongly in his family, describing them as "my supporting foundation." His devotion to his wife Susan and three children—Katie, Tommy, and Chuck—is worthy of imitation in our country today.

On behalf of the entire congressional delegation from the great State of Texas, and for those who wish to restore a strong and vigorous national defense led by the United States Army, I wish the very best for this extremely capable and dedicated public servant. I am confident that Secretary White will serve this nation with honor, integrity, and success.

HONORING CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON OF THE BEECH LADY BUCCANEERS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Beech High School Lady Buccaneers. The Lady Buccaneers had a tremendous season by winning the 2001 Class AAA girls softball state championship.

Residents of Hendersonville, Tennessee, can be proud of their Lady Buccaneers. The team went 45–6 this season and displayed remarkable perseverance and resilience. This season's state championship marks the second time since 1997 the team has won the tournament. And the Lady Bucs have reached the championship game four times during that span.

The Lady Bucs won the finale in dramatic fashion by scoring two runs against their opponents in the top of the 10th inning. The final score was 2–1, with Beech outdistancing another fine Middle Tennessee team, the Columbia Lady Lions.

I commend the Lady Buccaneers and their head coach, Kristi Brinkley, for a fine season and an outstanding win. The following are members of the 2001 state champion Lady Buccaneers; Brittany Barry, Marley Birdwell, Courtney Boynton, Amy Chatham, Casey Duke, Nicole Eckley, Jennifer Grybash, Camille Harris, Cristin James, Courtney Langston, Carissa Lowery, Ashley Sinyard, Brittney Sinyard, Allie Smith, Kristin Stanfill and Amber Warren. Wayne Smith and Mary Day Reynolds also serve as the team's assistant coaches.

HONORING ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to St. Patrick's Church in San Francisco as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Located in the same neighborhood where it was founded, St. Patrick's has been steadfast in meeting