

UNESCO Peace Prize in 2000, and received the Legion of Honor of the Hashemite Kingdom from King Hussein in 1997. Mr. Wallach also founded the Chautauqua Conference on U.S.-Soviet Relations, for which he received the 1991 Medal of Friendship from then President Mikhail Gorbachev. President Clinton saluted Mr. Wallach by writing, "Your commitment to spreading the message of tolerance, justice and human right has helped so many people . . . and planted the seeds for peace in the generation that will one day be leading our world."

Before embarking on a second career as an ambassador of peace and mutual understanding, Mr. Wallach had a distinguished career in journalism and as an author. From 1968 to 1994, he served as diplomatic correspondent, White House correspondent, and foreign editor for the Hearst Newspapers. He was named BBC's first visiting correspondent in 1980, and contributed regularly to CBC, NPR, and BBC. He was also the founding editor of WE/Mbl, the first independent weekly newspaper in Russia. His articles earned many prizes, including two Overseas Press Club awards, the Edward Weintal Prize and the Edwin Hood Award, the highest honor presented by the National Press Club. In 1979, President Carter presented Mr. Wallach with the Congressional Committee of Correspondents Award for his coverage of the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David summit. As an author, he co-authored with his wife Janet Wallach, three books, *Arafat: In The Eyes of the Beholder*, *Still Small Voices*, and *The New Palestinians*. Mr. Wallach has also written *The Enemy has a Face*.

When Mr. Wallach founded Seeds of Peace, many people told him it was a futile undertaking. They told him he would be risking his reputation. Despite the critics, Mr. Wallach persisted. Thankfully, he did, and through his example, he has demonstrated the power of hopeful vision, dogged determination, inspiring optimism, and faith in humankind. Let us join Mr. Wallach in the hope that one day, there will be a pathbreaking international summit, where the representatives of many nations have in common the experience of peacemaking at Seeds of Peace. That will be a great day indeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 305. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I ask unanimous consent that this be noted at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

COLORADO RIVER QUANTIFICATION SETTLEMENT FACILITATION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the story of the American West is one of a re-

lentless quest for our most precious resource: water. Hundreds of rivers have been diverted and dammed, and thousands have lost their lives over this precious resource. Many of these battles continue today as our Western population rapidly grows, environmental regulations increase, and farmers find themselves in the outrageous predicament of arguing over what should have a priority during water shortages: the livelihood of their families and communities—or fish.

Today I am proud to introduce the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Facilitation Act. This legislation will enable California to avoid future water conflicts by establishing the means for new conservation measures. In addition, it will ensure a reliable source of water for Southern California's many agricultural and urban users.

For decades, California has been using approximately 800,000 acre feet per year more from the Colorado River than its 4.4 million acre feet water right. Understandably, the other river basin states, with many of their communities growing rapidly, have long expressed concern. They feel our continued use of their surplus water, with no plan to wean ourselves from such use, will come into conflict with their inevitable need to utilize their full water rights.

In recent months, the California Colorado River water agencies and the other basin states came to an important agreement. This agreement established a time-line for California to gradually, over fifteen years, decrease its dependency on the Colorado River and live within its 4.4 million acre feet annual allotment. The agreement establishes new operating procedures that allow California to continue to use excess river water, while they develop ways to establish agricultural conservation measures. This will make possible increased transfers of water to urban areas and ensure our future compliance. Further, the agreement mandates that California adhere to specific benchmark conservation goals, which if go unmet, California would immediately be forced to live within the 4.4 million acre feet allotment. Such a scenario would prove disastrous to our state.

My legislation will help California avert such a crisis by providing a degree of certainty in completing the agreement's required benchmarks, funding off-stream reservoirs to store surplus water, and insuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act by funding environmental mitigation in and around the Salton Sea. The Sea, in my district, is the largest lake in California and habitat for hundreds of species of birds and fish, which I aim to protect against the effects of any water conservation measures.

Again, I introduce the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Facilitation Act. This bill will promote conservation and enable reliable water supplies for California for decades to come. I urge my colleagues' thoughtful consideration.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again it is with pride that I rise to pay tribute to the

Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, on its thirteenth year of celebrating the culture and contributions of the Puerto Rican community to our nation.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will be held on Sunday, August 5, in my South Bronx Congressional District. The event is the culmination of a series of activities surrounding Puerto Rican Week in the Bronx.

Under the direction of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee, Inc., the parade has grown into one of the most colorful and important festivals of Puerto Rican culture in the five boroughs of New York City and beyond. The Parade brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, including Puerto Ricans from the Island and all across the nation.

It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of thousands of people who will march with pride along the Grand Concourse in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage. The Puerto Rican flag and other ornaments in the flag's red, white, and blue will decorate the festival.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest to the excitement it generates as it brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It is wonderful that so many people can have this experience, which will change the lives of many of them. There's no better way to see our community in the Bronx.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. The Parade will end with live music, Puerto Rican food, crafts, and other entertainment. It is expected that this year's parade will surpass last year's number of visitors.

In addition to the parade, the many organizers have provided the community with nearly a week of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Puerto Rican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Puerto Rican culture, which has brought so much pride to the Bronx community.

RECOGNIZING ANDY AND BETTY BECKSTOFFER FOR BEING CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andy and Betty Beckstoffer for being named St. Helena 2001 Citizens of the Year. As residents of St. Helena for over 25 years, they consistently contribute positively to my hometown.

Two of my great friends, Andy and Betty Beckstoffer, have been at the helm of one of the most successful grape growing operations in the country. Beckstoffer Vineyards now owns and operates vineyards in Mendocino, Lake, and Napa counties, all three of which I am honored to represent in Congress.

I admire the Beckstoffers for their success in the grape growing business and in community service. Andy has always been a leader in utilizing new technologies to increase the quality of wine grapes from Northern California.

The highly respected winegrowing region in my district owes a lot of its success to the innovative style of Andy Beckstoffer.

Betty Beckstoffer is currently a member of the board of the St. Helena Boys & Girls Club. She works tirelessly to improve the lives of the young people in the Napa Valley. Betty has been a real star in generating support for the Club—she has coordinated fundraising efforts to bring thousands of dollars to support the goal of aiding at-risk children.

The Beckstoffers moved to my hometown, St. Helena, in 1975, the same year Andy became a founding director of the Napa Valley Grape Growers Association. Beckstoffer Vineyards came to life after Andy invested \$7,500 to buy a small grape growing company in 1973. The company has grown under the care of the Beckstoffers to a company that now owns over 2500 acres of Northern California vineyards.

Andy and Betty were married in 1960, and are the proud parents of five children. Our community and our country are fortunate to have citizens like the Beckstoffers promoting the wine industry and working to improve the lives of our nation's youth.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the achievements of Andy and Betty Beckstoffer. The town of St. Helena, the entire Napa Valley, and our nation should aspire to achieve the success of these two great Americans.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
"MX MISSILE STAND-DOWN ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Rep. TAUSCHER and I are introducing the "MX Missile Stand-Down Act", a measure to take the 50 MX missiles off of hair-trigger alert.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced on June 27 of this year that the Pentagon would seek to dismantle these 50 MX missiles. Yesterday, the House Armed Services Committee passed by voice vote an amendment by Rep. ALLEN to the Defense Authorization bill to allow such dismantlement, which had been previously prohibited by Congress.

The bill we are introducing today augments these recent steps. According to a preliminary plan by the Air Force, these MX missiles would be dismantled over a 3-year timescale. What our legislation is saying is that there is no need to keep the balance of the silo-busting, heavily-MIRVed MX missiles in a state of ready launch during that time, and therefore we direct the Secretary of Defense to stand-down the MX missiles by removing their warheads over FY2002.

This is a simple but important step. Currently, the United States and Russia have a total of about 4,000 weapons on hair-trigger alert, ready to launch within a few minutes. This state of readiness is unnecessary a decade after the end of the Cold War. As then-Governor George W. Bush observed during the recent Presidential campaign on May 23, 2000, "[T]he United States should remove as many weapons as possible from high-alert, hair-trigger status. Another unnecessary ves-

tige of Cold War confrontation, preparation for quick launch within minutes after warning of an attack was the rule during the era of superpower rivalry. But today for two nations at peace, keeping so many weapons on high alert may create unacceptable risks of accidental or unauthorized launch."

There is a real danger that a false alarm could lead to a nuclear exchange, as evidenced by episodes such as the 1995 incident in which the Russians mistook a scientific launch for an attack and began the process of responding. With the Russian early warning systems having deteriorated since that incident, the hazard is all the more plausible. Therefore, we also direct the Secretary of Defense to make yearly reports to Congress on the condition of the Russian early warning systems, as well as the inventory and alert status of the Russian nuclear arsenal.

This bill continues the process of confidence-building, making a definitive, material statement to the Russians that we do not wish to continue to maintain our nuclear weapons in high-alert and thereby encourage them to follow suit.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
"MX MISSILE STAND-DOWN ACT"

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Congressman MARKEY today in offering this important bill which I believe would take an important step toward making the world safer from the threat of accidental nuclear war.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, the United States and Russia maintain between them, over 4000 weapons on high alert. These weapons are capable of being launched in 3 to 15 minutes and have a combined destructive power nearly 100,000 times greater than the atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima.

Within a few minutes of receiving instructions to fire, American and Russian land-based rockets with over 3,000 warheads could begin their 25 minute flight to their targets. Less than 15 minutes after receiving their attack order, U.S. and Russian ballistic missile submarines could dispatch over 1,000 warheads.

As you know Mr. Speaker, none of these missiles can be recalled or made to self-destruct.

The Cold War is over but the dangers posed by nuclear weapons have increased because of the heightened risk of an attack resulting from accident, miscalculation or unauthorized use. Indeed, I have serious concerns about the steady deterioration of Russia's early warning and nuclear command systems. According to intelligence reports, critical electronic devices and computers sometimes switch to combat mode for no apparent reason. And many of the radars and satellites intended to detect a ballistic missile attack no longer operate.

During the 2000 campaign, President Bush stated that the "U.S. should remove as many weapons as possible from high-alert, hair-trigger status" because an excess number "on high-alert may create unacceptable risks of accidental or unauthorized launch".

This important bill would take a small but significant step toward reducing the risk of accidental nuclear conflict by de-alerting the 50 Peacekeeper Missiles. By building trust with the Russians and showing them we are serious about arms control, this measure is a serious and responsible investment in our country's security.

In 1991, responding to the August Moscow coup, and along with START negotiations, President George Bush took 450 Minuteman II missiles and all strategic bombers off alert.

In response, Russia announced the deactivation of 503 ICBMs and pledged to keep bombers at low readiness levels.

Mr. Speaker, ten years later it is high time we do this again. Let's deactivate the MX Missiles and send the Russians the same message we did in 1991 that we are serious about reducing the threat of nuclear war.

DISABLED VETERANS SERVICE
DOGS & HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2001

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Veterans Subcommittee on Health I am introducing the "Veterans Service Dogs & Health Care Improvement Act of 2001." This legislation improves veterans' health care services in several important ways.

It allows the VA to provide service dogs to disabled veterans. It mandates improvement in VA capacity for specialized medical programs for veterans, such as serious mental illness, spinal cord injury, blindness, amputees and traumatic brain injuries. It modifies the VA's "ability to pay" formula so that low-income veterans can receive the care they need. Finally, the bill establishes innovative pilot programs to help us learn how we can improve veterans' benefits in the future.

We all know that dog is man's best friend, but for many disabled veterans, a dog is much more than a friend. Service dogs can greatly enhance the quality of life for many seriously disabled veterans. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide enrolled veterans with spinal cord injuries, immobility due to chronic impairment and hearing impairment to use service dogs in day-to-day activities. Training, travel, and incidental expenses incurred while adjusting to the dog may also be paid.

This bill also seeks to strengthen mandates for VA to maintain capacity in specialized medical programs, such as serious mental illness, spinal cord injury, blinded veterans, veterans with amputations and veterans suffering from traumatic brain injuries, in each VISN. Although overall capacity has increased in the VA, there has been a decrease in the number of veterans with substance-use and mental illness served in specialized programs. With over 225,000 homeless veterans currently living on our streets, we cannot allow this to continue. Only 11 of 25 spinal cord injury facilities are providing the number of staffed beds specified by a VHA Directive. We must extend the reporting requirement to ensure VA is doing what was directed to care for our at-risk veteran population.