

hard-earned savings last throughout retirement, no matter how long they live.

This proposal is an important step in bringing our nation's retirement system in line with 21st century challenges. Like any solid retirement plan, our reform efforts must be comprehensive. They should account for accumulated funds in pensions, IRAs, 401(k)s, and other qualified plans. They need to help retirees manage their savings to last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has already taken great strides to reform America's private pension system. The bill we introduce today complements previous efforts to encourage accumulation in qualified plans. The Lifetime Annuity Payout Act will help Americans manage those accumulated funds to provide for a stable standard of living in retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 16, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on November 13 and 14, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall votes 436 through 440. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 436, "yea" on rollcall No. 437, "yea" on rollcall No. 438, "yea" on rollcall No. 439, and "yea" on rollcall No. 440.

#### VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2001

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 16, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to help restore and preserve our nation's treasured veterans' memorials.

The freedom we enjoy in the United States has not just been given to us. Men and women have made great sacrifices, some with their lives, to protect our way of life. We have erected memorials to honor these soldiers, sailors, and aviators and their valiant deeds. Unfortunately many of these expressions of our gratitude don't receive the care they deserve. These memorials may not be as large as those on the National Mall or Arlington National Cemetery but they are just as important. My bill would provide grants to rehabilitate those memorials that have fallen into disrepair. The grants would be distributed from a Veterans' Memorial Restoration Fund that would be administered by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs. With the additional resources provided by this fund we would be able to revive those veterans' memorials on public lands to their original splendor.

People should know the hallowed ground where departed veterans have been laid to rest. These are the most important memorials, where families go to reflect on the lives of their loved ones who have passed on. This bill would make veterans' cemeteries eligible for supplemental guide signs placed on any federally aided highway.

Also, this bill would make sure that people who willfully desecrate a veterans' memorial on public land could be fined or put in jail, and they would be subject to civil penalties to cover the cost of repairing damages.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor America's men and women in uniform now fighting in Afghanistan to protect our freedom we cannot forget those who have protected us before. We can do this by making sure memorials to their memory do not fall into disrepair. This bill will help to ensure that our veterans are not forgotten.

For the benefit of my colleagues I have attached a fact sheet that outlines the bill.

#### FACT SHEET: "VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION ACT"

##### "VETERANS' MEMORIAL RESTORATION FUND"

Creates a fund to cover the costs associated with the repairs or restoration of veterans' memorials. These funds are also to cover the costs of continued maintenance and upkeep of veterans' memorials.

The funds made available in this account are to be in addition to other monies designated by the Treasury to be used for repair and maintenance of veterans' memorials.

The funds would be distributed to individuals or entities that are responsible for the upkeep of a veterans' memorial through Federal grants. (The Secretary of Veterans' Affairs would determine the criteria for how the grants are to be awarded.)

(There is not a specified amount of money designated for the fund. The fund would be augmented by donations. Also, money collected as a civil penalty from willful damage to memorials would go into the fund.)

##### DESECRATION OF VETERANS' MEMORIALS

Persons who willfully damage a veterans' memorial on public property can be imprisoned up to 10 years and fined (the fine amount is not defined in this legislation). If the damage does not exceed \$1000 then the defendant cannot be imprisoned for more than one year.

Whoever willfully damages a memorial will be subject to civil penalties in an amount equal to the cost of repairing the damage.

##### HIGHWAY SIGNS RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES

A veterans cemetery will be eligible for a supplemental guide sign placed on any highway that receives Federal monies.

#### TALIBAN'S TREATMENT OF WOMEN

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 16, 2001*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Taliban's treatment of women and in support of H. RES. 281. There are no adequate words to describe the atrocities committed by the Taliban against women since 1996.

The Taliban has denied women the right to work or go to school, to laugh, or to speak above a whisper. Women cannot see physicians who aren't female and they can't practice medicine, which effectively denies women the right to healthcare. Women can't wear shoes that click when they walk or wear white socks. And they can't leave their homes without a male relative, even to go to the market to buy food for their starving children. Worse

when women disobey these outrageous edicts they are often brutally and publicly beaten, flogged, stoned or even murdered.

But we do a disservice to the public and to ourselves if we view the treatment of women in Afghanistan as strictly a women's rights issue or a human rights issue. Women's participation in Afghan society is essential to its economic health. When the Taliban forbade women from working outside the home, Afghanistan lost 74% of its schoolteachers, 60% of its university professors, the vast majority of its nurses, 40% of its doctors, half of its university students, and 30% of its government workers. So, it is no surprise that the Afghan economy collapsed as soon as the Taliban took control. As in every country in the world, Afghanistan's very stability depends on the labor and skills of women.

The Afghan culture fomented terrorism because Afghanistan has no economic power—its people are poor and desperate and angry. And tragically, some are channeling that anger at the West. Killing Bin Laden and his Al Qaeda associates may stem the next round of terror, but it will not result in a sustainable peace. Peace is only possible in Afghanistan if its economy, infrastructure and government recover and become strong enough to provide for its people. And women are not peripheral to that recovery effort—they are central.

The Taliban understood that in order to impose a totalitarian regime on Afghanistan, they first had to remove the women. It is imperative that we understand that in order to eliminate that totalitarian regime, we have to restore to women their rightful, and indispensable role in society.

I urge my colleagues to join me in categorically condemning the Taliban's treatment of women, and affirming the importance of women to the reconstruction of Afghanistan by passing H. Res. 281.

#### AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO FIVE-YEAR HIV/AIDS HOUSING PLAN

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 16, 2001*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, while affordable housing is a national problem, it is particularly serious for persons who also face significant health care problems. I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to an important new study and set of recommendations on this issue prepared by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Recognizing the importance of stable housing to the health and well being of people living with HIV/AIDS, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has published the Five-Year Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Housing Plan. The plan is the result of an intensive year-long community planning process that drew on input from more than 50 agencies, 100 AIDS housing professionals, and 500 consumers of AIDS housing services. AIDS Housing of Washington also served as a consultant to the project.

The plan describes HIV/AIDS housing services and unmet needs across the nine-county Chicago metropolitan area. The plan examines how housing services are distributed to people